

ENVIRONMENT — 1991

OCT. — NOV.

SA coastal environment expedition

(56)

LIBBY PEACOCK
Staff Reporter

A TWO-MONTH expedition around the South African coast organised by the National Environment Awareness Trust (Neat) starts today at Alexander Bay.

According to a Neat spokesman the coastline was chosen as the focus of this year's campaign because it offered a striking cross-section of environmental problems, the solutions to which could contribute to stimulating economic growth and improving the

quality of life of people in the country.

The 2 800km trip, which ends at Kosi Bay, is claimed to be South Africa's biggest environmentally-linked expedition to date.

More than 100 people are taking part and there are 17 endorsing bodies — from Earthlife Africa to the SA Navy — and two dozen sponsors.

It has taken nearly a year to organise the project.

Neat — a non-government conservation body founded in 1989 by wildlife photographer

Mr Marek Patzer, former marketing executive Mrs Robyn Curtis and Unisa faculty member Mr Johan Bakkes — was formed to help foster a national awareness of the environment as a precious resource in which all South Africans had an equal stake.

According to Neat co-founder Mrs Curtis the main "attention-getter" is the "Coastal Relay Hike". Hiking teams, made up of members of the public, nature conservation bodies, the Navy and the Police, will take part.

A Neat editorial team and

media representatives will generate stories on environmental issues along the way and microflight aircraft, inflatable boats and scuba contingents will provide logistical support to hikers and members of the media.

According to Mrs Curtis, the project is aimed at the "unconverted" — grass roots communities who might perceive conservation as something hostile to their needs, and business people who might not recognise that environmental-friendly boardroom decisions ultimately served as "the bottom line".

'Kaunda will lose election'

ZAMBIAN president Kenneth Kaunda and his United National Independence Party (Unip) will lose the October 31 elections by a significant margin, says Kent University International Relations lecturer Stephen Chan. *8/Day 1/10/91*

The likely victors and only other significant party is the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) led by trade unionist Frederick Chiluba, says Chan.

In a paper written for the SA Institute of International Affairs, Chan says the immediate effects of a Unip loss would be a vast loosening of what have been difficulties in terms of trade and other economic interchange with SA.

"I think that you will find SA being very positively and enthusiastically courted by a new government — it would be very anxious indeed for investment . . .," Chan says.

TIM COHEN

UK and US representatives believe Unip could just shade the presidential elections but would have to deal with a parliament firmly in the MMD's control.

"Kaunda would be prepared to accept a situation like that because he had been angling for a new constitutional base which would give the president power over parliament.

"It may mean ditching all of his lieutenants and supporters in the Unip party but he is prepared to do that if it means that he is able to hang on to personal power. The Americans and British are both wrong in thinking that it is going to be a close run affair. My own opinion is that it is going to be quite a decisive defeat — but this is based only on my own intuitive appreciation of the politics of that country."

Rural spin-off from Lesotho power project

MASERU — More than 4 000 Lesotho households are to benefit from the construction of electrical sub-stations, part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Association (LHDA) said in a statement yesterday there were more than 120 villages situated in the project's catchment area and none had access to a reliable source of electricity. *8/Day 1/10/91*

A socio-economic survey was conducted by the LHDA at the beginning of Phase 1A of the project and electrification of the

villages had been determined as a priority.

Although the LHDA is constructing the sub-stations, the Lesotho Energy Corporation is responsible for the supply of electricity to the villages. *SS*

The statement said funds would come from the LHDA while the actual electrification of the villages would be provided for by donor contributions.

Three of the sub-stations would be constructed during Phase 1A of the Water Project, while another would be constructed during Phase 1B. — Sapa.

Talks to solve baboon issue

ET
56 2/10/91

By IVOR CREWS

NATURE conservation officials, environmentalists and ratepayers meet in Kommetjie tomorrow night to try to find a solution to the baboon problem in the area.

Mr Andrew Gubb, a conservation ecologist of the Wildlife Society of the Western Cape, said: "The whole baboon population in the Cape Peninsula could be wiped out by nature conservation officials unless solutions are found."

"We cannot allow whole troops of baboons to be destroyed indiscriminately and we need to know from the Directorate of Nature

Conservation how big the baboon problem is, and how they intend solving it," he said.

Mr Gubb, who will co-ordinate the meeting at Kommetjie Primary School tomorrow night, said the community was concerned about the way the Directorate of Nature Conservation had recently captured and destroyed an entire troop without consulting residents.

He said it was vital that an extensive environmental programme be set in motion by the authorities and that tourists receive leaflets warning them not to feed the baboons.

The public meeting follows fears that a second troop of ba-

boons near Kommetjie could be in imminent danger of being put down after allegations that they were eating food from a local bakery.

Mr Bob Horton, managing director of Compass Bakery, denied that staff were feeding the baboons or that the baboons were causing a nuisance.

"They regularly come down from the mountain to forage and may be attracted by the smell of food," he said.

Of greater concern, he said, was that members of the public fed the baboons.

"I am against shooting them because they are part of the environment."

Third World aims to bargain at 'earth summit'

South (both sides) 3/10-8/10/91

56

THE countdown to the Brazil-UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or "earth summit" — which will bring together world leaders to map out global strategies — has already started in Zimbabwe.

An environmental expert here says if Third World countries are to walk away with any meaningful gains from the 1992 earth summit, now only eight months away, they must define their national and regional environmental problems.

Environment and Development Activities (ENDA) programme manager Davidson Gumbo has said at past environmental meetings that Third World countries have been unable to bargain with the developed nations because they have failed to research and identify problems like environmental mismanagement specific to their continents, and failed to come up with necessary baseline information.

In Africa, where most governments are struggling with structural adjustment programmes to shore up ailing economies, little, if any, funds have been set aside in national budgets for environmental issues.

African countries hope to walk away from the earth summit with funding to enable them to implement recommendations, Gumbo says.

Zimbabwe's environment minister Herbert Murerwa echoes Gumbo's views: "We think that out of the summit will come a statement on the world status of the environment, and that the summit will bring to world attention the issues of the environment.

"One hopes that programmes and projects will emerge from which some funding will come for the region."

Gumbo says countries in the region must stipulate their own terms for the use of environmental funds, rather than bowing to the dictates of donors.

"Money is raised in the north for environmental problems in the south. But the south's problems are not answered, because that money is stipulated by people who define themselves as friends of the earth, and who want the money used for their specific projects."

High on donors' lists has been the conservation of wildlife and the channeling of funds to areas which could lead to the alleviation of poverty. With the absence of information, human resources and technology, arguments from the south on the environment have been based on extrapolations of work being done in the north, which may or may not apply because the realities are often different, adds Gumbo. — AIA

October 3 to October 8 1991

Government to look at kaolin application

56

AUG 4/10/91

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE application to mine kaolin on the slopes of Chapman's Peak will be considered by the government shortly, after the deadline for objections to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) expired this week.

But opponents of the controversial scheme are determined to prevent mining and are probing legal options, as well as "a far more confrontatory and hard-line approach".

The September 30 deadline was set by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, following the publication in August of the EIA which recommended that major negative effects of mining operations could be "largely overcome".

The EIA was commissioned by the mining company Serina, holders of mineral rights to kaolin on the De Goede Hoop Property in the scenic Noordhoek valley.

The chief director of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Willie Voigt, confirmed this week that the deadline had not been extended, as opponents of the scheme had requested.

"We are still waiting for a report or two, as well as for comments from other interested government departments, and we will then consider the matter," he said.

He emphasised that, as far as the department was concerned, the right to mine kaolin on the site had been approved by the previous minister, Mr Danie Steyn, in 1989 and that, in terms of present legislation, the applicant was "entitled to mine".

However, Mr Voigt confirmed that there had been representations that existing mineral rights did not allow for open-cast mining.

Save Chapman's Peak Action Group spokesman John Butterfield said the department's attitude was unacceptable.

"This is not right. The Physical Planning Act does *not* prescribe that once land is reserved, mining and processing of the deposit is a matter of course."

"For the minister (Mr Bartlett) to say that Mr Steyn's decision to allow Serina to mine Chapman's Peak is binding on all concerned is ludicrous.

"The decision was never gazetted and certainly not made public — only the landowners and Serina were advised — and as such cannot be made binding on an unwilling Cape Town community."

In Winnie's wake

Scientists take to the air for annual whale survey

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

SCIENTISTS will fly by helicopter next week to search for Winnie, the southern right whale, and her companions during this year's annual survey of the endangered species.

Southern rights, mostly females about to calf, arrive in shallow bays off the South African coast each year, starting from about June but in greater numbers in August and September. They usually remain until about December.

Winnie — or 81/024A as she is more formally known — is one of 280 adult females and their 220 calves which have been photographed, catalogued and individually identified by marine mammal specialist Dr Peter Best of Pretoria University's Mammal Research Institute.

Using hand-held cameras, South African Museum-based Dr Best and his assistants have taken literally thousands of photographs of southern rights — mostly pairs of adult females and their calves — since the aerial surveys began in 1979.

By studying the whales' pigmentation and the growths around their heads — called callosities and effectively coloured white by the presence of tens of thousands of tiny crustacean parasites — the scientists have been able to identify individual animals like Winnie.

This particular whale was last photographed in 1988 and, as females give birth on average once every three years, the scientists will be on the look-out for her again this season.

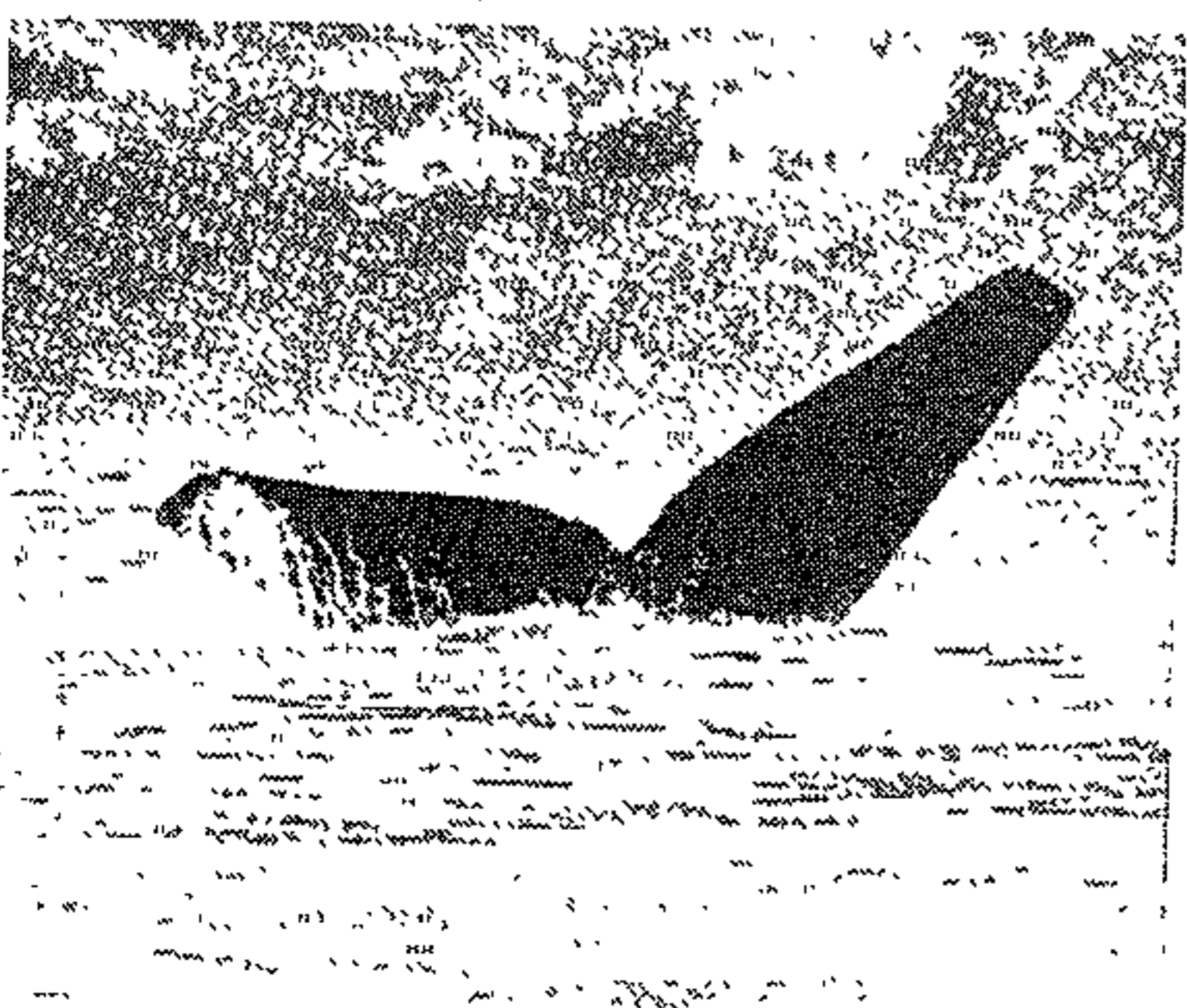
The annual survey allows Dr Best to collect and interpret data on the whales' population size, frequency of calving, survival rate and, particularly, the species' rate of recovery from exploitation.

Southern right stocks are among the most depleted of all whales and were hunted virtually to extinction. In 1940, soon after an international agreement banning further hunting of the species, the southern right population off the Southern African coast was down to an estimated 100 individuals, of which only 25 were adult females.

Now there are an estimated 370 adult females in the population visiting the South African coast and the annual recovery rate of the whole population is just under 7 percent.

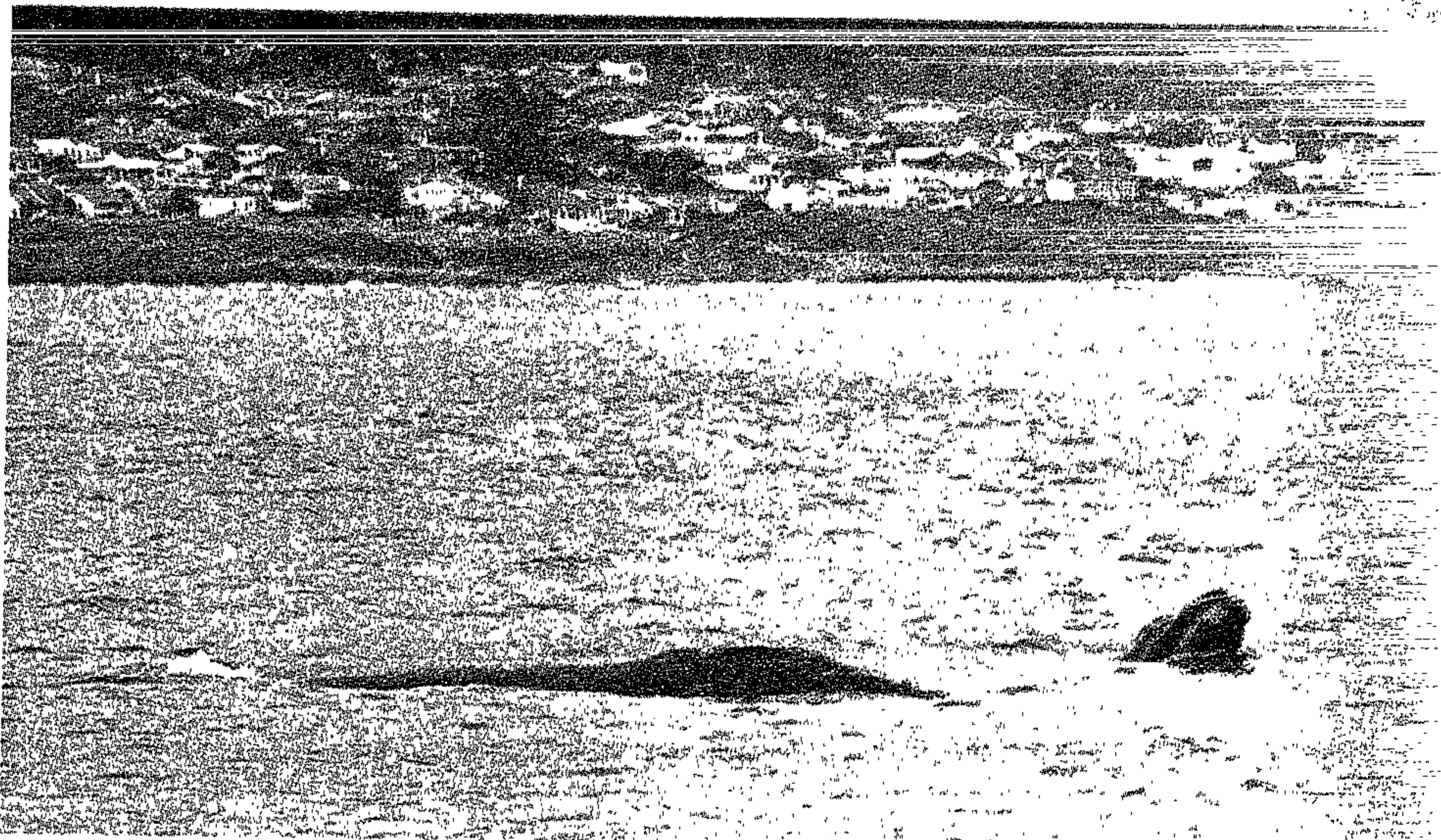
The overall population of the species in the southern hemisphere is estimated to be about 5 000 and other populations, such as that off the Argentinian coast, are also growing about 7 percent.

"The population here is still very small and is less than 10 percent of what it was," Dr Best explained. "Historically, there were about 9 000 adult



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

IF THERE! A southern right whale makes its presence known off Hermanus.



MAMMOTH: A southern right whale suns itself off Hermanus yesterday.

Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

females, including those off the coasts of Mozambique and Namibia."

Because of the costs involved, this year's survey will cover only the coastline between Cape Town and Plettenberg Bay. Previously, a fixed-wing aircraft was also used and the survey included the West Coast — there is a big concentration of southern rights at Dwarskersbos — and the southern Cape coast as far as Port Elizabeth.

The current survey, which will cost about R25 000 over two to three days, is scheduled to start next Wednesday or Thursday, depending on weather.

"Previous surveys have revealed that about 90 percent of the whales are concentrated between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, but over the years the proportion to the east of Plettenberg Bay has become less and less," said Dr Best.

Holiday crowd watches snorting and splashing

PATRICK FARRELL, Staff Reporter

HOLIDAYMAKERS thronged the cliffs at Hermanus yesterday to watch a pod of 10 southern right whales who spent about four hours metres off the Old Harbour wall.

"It was quite a sight with all of them splashing and snorting," said acting curator of the Old Harbour Museum Miss Elizabeth du Toit.

Dozens of people climbed on to the rocks to take photographs and watch the spectacle of the whales, one of which was apparently giving birth.

Miss du Toit said the whales stayed at the harbour for about four hours before splitting into pairs and swimming down the coast.

SA will become centre for shark-watchers — expert

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA will become a centre for tourists wanting to watch great white sharks from the safety of cages.

This prediction comes from expert Dr Len Compagno, curator of fishes at the South African Museum and a key member of the museum's White Shark Research Unit.

Dr Compagno was speaking aboard the unit's new 6,2m skiboat during its first research trip into False Bay to tag white sharks yesterday.

Research here and in Australia showed that white sharks were "definitely resident" in one particular area, he said.

"People with suitable gear can clean them out."

In Australia, hunters had followed close on the heels of those involved in observing and filming white sharks.

There was no legislation — unlike South Africa which became the first country in the world to declare white sharks a protected species — to prevent hunters slaughtering them.

One "shark-watch" operator had been forced to close down because he could no longer find any of the giant

predators for his clients to view, Dr Compagno added.

"The excuse that sharks are man-eating, murderous and nasty creatures has made it very easy for them to be wiped out. South Africa will become the new place for everyone to jump into shark cages and watch these animals," he said.

Yesterday's tagging efforts proved frustrating as no white sharks appeared during a five-hour operation off Macassar Beach.

This was despite an "attractive cocktail of blood, oil, seal meat and fish offal — called 'chum' — being ladled into the sea at regular intervals, backed by several fish and small shark as live bait.

But the unit's researchers are confident they will insert several of the stainless steel darts, backed with plastic coded wires for identification, into white sharks during further operations in False Bay later this month.

They plan to extend operations along the coast and will also use battery powered hydrosonic tags imported from the United States, whose signals will enable them to track the sharks more precisely.

A leading motor corporation is sponsoring the unit's skiboat and four wheel-drive vehicle.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

FM 4/10/91 **Sasol's promising new technology**

New technologies developed by Sasol could reduce the cost of producing fuel domestically and be marketable abroad.

Sasol recently announced that it has perfected the technology for operating two new types of synthetic reactors at large commercial scale. One, a version of the equipment used for producing petrol and diesel as well as chemical intermediates, is the fixed fluidised bed synthol reactor (FFB), also known as the advanced synthol reactor.

The second is the slurry bed reactor, a considerable advance on the Arge reactors used at Sasol 1 to produce high-value waxes for export (as well as some diesel).

Sasol has also announced important plans for extending its manufacture of chemical intermediates and final products.

Sasol Ltd GM Jan Fourie says a commercial scale FFB reactor has been operating at Sasol 1 since 1989. Sasol is now confident it can commit itself to a further major scaling-up. Probable installation of one FFB reactor at Secunda will remove the limiting factor to expansion of fuel and chemicals production (there is a surplus of synthesis gas).

Sasol is busy with detailed studies to confirm the economics of a large FFB reactor. This installation will also improve Sasol's ability to sell the technology internationally — for which it sees great prospects. It has had several inquiries from international clients which have access to fairly cheap natural gas, which could be converted to fuels or chemicals. Sasol considers that some of these projects could be profitable with a dollar oil price of about US\$25.

Sasol Technology MD John Marriott says the FFB's capital cost can be 40%-60% lower than that of the circulating fluidised bed reactor (CFB) with the gooseneck profile. Savings derive from two sources: a much simpler design, which cuts the quantity of steel required, and the far greater scaling-up possible than with the CFB.

The FFB reactor can also bring significant savings in energy consumption and operating and maintenance costs. It is much simpler, uses less energy and produces more of its waste heat in usable form. So there is a big gain in thermal efficiency. It consumes less catalyst — an enormous advance — and, as it operates as a stable fluidised bed system, catalyst can be added and removed continuously.

Sasol believes that the FFB will be able to run for up to two years without needing down time for maintenance or catalyst changes. The CFB reactor can be run for only four to six weeks before it has to be taken down.

Sasol has received inquiries from countries interested in the technology for exploiting cheap and remote natural gas sources,

particularly in the Pacific Rim area, as well as from international oil companies.

Natural gas is a valuable fuel and raw material but costly and difficult to transport. Converted into liquid fuels, however, it is easily carried.

Marriott says Sasol's studies show that an advanced synthol process using the FFB can be profitable if it is applied on a large scale and if the gas is reasonably priced. This should intensify the effort to find natural gas sources in and around SA, because it is not economic to expand the synfuels industry on a coal base at anything like current oil prices.

Sasol has also perfected a new process reflecting a great advance on the Arge method used to make heavier products, including diesel and particularly the waxes much in demand in international markets. This is the so-called slurry bed reactor. At mid-1990 Sasol built the first semi-commercial scale slurry bed reactor at Sasol 1 in Sasolburg.

By mid-1993 a scaled-up slurry bed reactor will be on stream at Sasolburg, which will produce as much as all six existing Arge reactors, so permitting a doubling of output. Sasol believes this will be a world first. It has developed a highly advanced catalyst for the slurry-bed reactor.

Sasol's criteria for new chemical projects recognise the limitations of the local market. So future operations require export orientation and enough capacity to generate economies of scale. The competitive advantage essential in international chemical markets can often be achieved by extracting intermediates from the synthol product stream.

Sasol's competitors usually have to crack naphtha to make the same intermediates. This is more expensive. Unfortunately, Sasol's inland plants labour under a competitive disadvantage — distance from the coast. The aim, therefore, is largely to produce high-value chemicals to reduce transport costs as a fraction of selling price.

A further need is access to the most recent technology for any given synthetic process. This, says Fourie, is the one competitive advantage that may last longer than markets or access to cheap feedstocks.

A third possible source of competitive advantage is tax and capital incentives for export projects.

Several projects will be based on propylene, including the manufacture of acrylic acid, acrylic fibre, and acrylonitrile — the intermediate for nylon and acrylic fibre — which is based on ammonia and propylene, both of which Sasol can produce at attractive prices.

Fourie emphasises Sasol does not have an obsession with "wanting to do everything alone." If any SA chemical company can

add anything to a project's competitive advantage, Sasol will welcome a joint venture.

To illustrate the application of these principles, Fourie explains that the planned acrylic fibre plant (a joint venture with the IDC, to end our total dependence on imports) will be at Durban, the location of the fibre fabricator.

It will also be far cheaper to transport intermediate chemicals to service the fibre plant from Secunda rather than to move the high-volume finished product. The plant will be large enough and cheap enough to produce a competitive export surplus.

Another possibility is to produce "octane enhancers" to replace lead-based petrol additives. Fourie says such plants would be large enough to compete internationally.

Sasol will soon formally announce plans for a world-scale methanol plant, which could supply a major intermediate for lead-free octane enhancers. Other intermediates would be butenes, which can be extracted from Sasol's process stream.

FM 4/10/91 **CORRUPTION BILL**
Weapon for harassment?

The Corruption Bill, drafted at government's request by the Law Commission to tighten up existing legislation, does that — and more.

Businessmen and civil servants could end up serving life sentences if found guilty under the proposed legislation. The problem is that they can't be certain just what corrup-



Poolman



Leon

tion is. Except for a reference to "any benefit not legally due," the Bill does not define corruption — in fact, nothing is defined.

The Bill is short on detail (less than two pages), wide in application (jurisdiction is extended outside SA) and lethal in effect. It could be interpreted to cover everything from a business lunch to an overt bribe.

Says Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut CE Joe Poolman: "The Bill is wide enough to include normal everyday business practice, previously considered legitimate. One doesn't need regulations which interfere with business ac-

Bombshell view On conservation

FRANS ESTERHUYSE
Political Correspondent

A BOMBHELL document with proposals for drastic changes in conservation policy is now being studied at the highest levels of government.

The proposals, if accepted by the government, are likely to have far-reaching repercussions on a variety of controversial issues ranging from air and sea pollution in the Cape Peninsula to the control of coastal development, the management of parks and nature reserves, and control of water resources.

The document is the report of an investigation by a President's Council team into an effective environmental management system for South Africa.

Sources say copies of the report — nearly 300 pages long — are now in the hands of President F W de Klerk, some members of the cabinet and top people in conservation circles.

The report is scheduled to be debated at a full session of the President's Council (PC) in Cape Town from October 22 to 25.

The probe was the first PC inquiry in which all three specialist committees of

Proposals ^(S) for drastic changes

the council — social, economic and constitutional — were involved.

PC chairman Dr Willie van Niekerk has already indicated that the recommendations, if accepted by the government, could result in a big change in the present system of environmental management.

Sources close to the investigation told Weekend Argus the government's response to the recommendations will be a real test of its commitment to the protection of the environment.

Issues expected to be dealt with include:

- The high levels of air pollution in Cape Town — particularly petro-chemical pollution and its effect on health standards.

- Water pollution, especially pollution resulting from the discharge of effluent into the sea at Green Point, False Bay and Hout Bay.

- The controversial issue of privatisation of state assets and the effect this will have on parks and nature reserves.

- Protection of the environment and the need for a more effective control system — an issue related to the kaolin mining controversy in the Cape Peninsula.

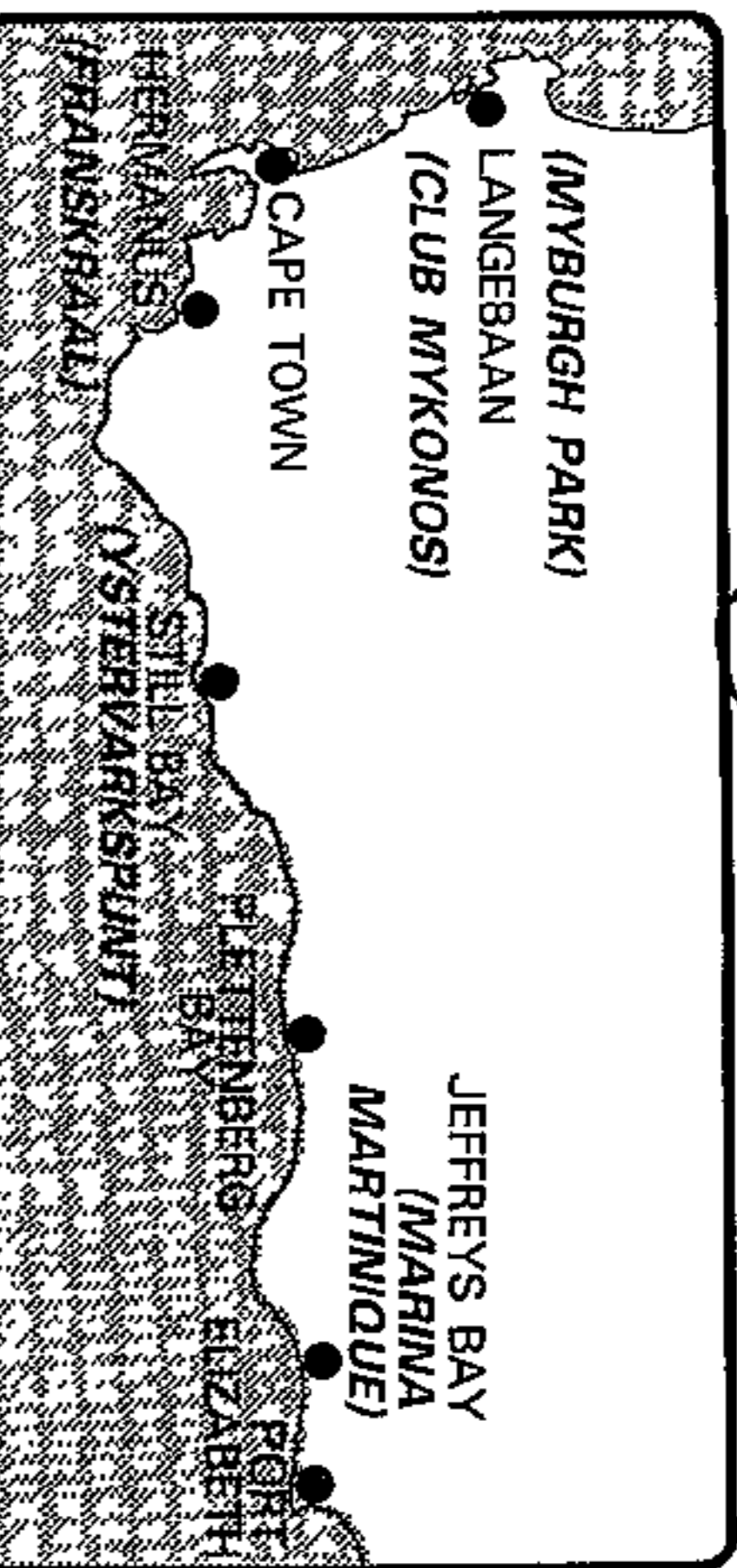
- Possible drastic measures for the management of coastal development, including projects for holiday and pleasure resorts.

Other issues dealt with in evidence to the President's Council at open hearings of its investigating team include:

A call from Stellenbosch botanists for preventing the "new South Africa" becoming a man-made desert; the electrification of 20-million South African homes; improvement of urban living standards at the end of this decade when 80 percent of the country's people are expected to live in the cities; and steps to prevent a predicted water crisis in South Africa when water demand may outstrip supply by the year 2020.

To Develop Or Conserve?

56 APR 5 1991



In a week of dramatic developments at one of the Cape's largest coastal resort complexes, questions are being asked about control of the Cape's precious coastline. With developments taking shape left, right and centre, as this map shows, the conservation versus development debate has escalated. Who draws the line? Weekend Argus Reporter **LINDA GALLOWAY** reports.

THE conservation versus development row is heating up, with free developments highlighted by environmentalists as blatant transgressions of conservation ethics.

With timeshare and resort development proliferating on the Cape coast, conservationists allege that the Cape coastline is being raped by unscrupulous and greedy property developers, with the collusion of the Provincial Administration.

But Provincial authorities say they have been made the "all guys" in the whole debate and that emotional objections are impossible to satisfy, short of calling a halt to development.

The Director General of the Cape Provincial Administration, Mr Herbert Benkes, said it was almost impossible to conciliate parties with developers on one side and loud objections from adjoining landowners and conservationists on the other.

"Controversy will always be with us. You will never stop developers trying to acquire pieces of land to build on. One has to ask what Sea Point, or Hout Bay, or Noordhoek looked like before developers moved in. "Our role is to look at the

Some say Cape coast being raped — not so, say others

development from the point of view of impact on the environment.

"We have learnt the lesson of ensuring that all interested parties know about it, are informed of the implications and that objections are heard.

"We have a responsibility to the whole community. Developers pay taxes and play an important role in building the economy, which is a priority.

"But we have reached the day and age where we have a clear responsibility towards nature conservation and environmental principles.

"We believe the solution is in trying to reconcile differences of opinion in a forum where some satisfaction is ultimately gained and broad interests are served. Obviously there will not be total satisfaction with any solution."

The MEC for Local Government, Mr Koois Theron, pointed out that this process could be lengthy and expensive, and could make it im-

possible for any development to take place at all.

"Just the holding cost of land could totally kill development while the debate rages. What is viable now could become totally unviable by next year."

A complicating factor was that often the CPA was not the only authority involved — "that is a characteristic of our government structure."

Mr Benkes said the CPA was prepared to consider, in cases of potential controversy, to allow an impact study anyway, "to go the extra mile to show our bona fides".

But the conservationist lobby has all but rejected impact studies — which are paid for

by the developers — as biased and unsatisfactory.

Mr Theron said one had to be realistic.

"Impact studies are increasingly expensive. Who is going to pay hundreds of thousands of rands for an impact study and not have a say in who does it. Obviously he wants a favourable result."

Of the perception that nature areas are being ravaged by greedy developers and that authorities are on the side of big business, Mr Benkes said: "One can't argue with perceptions, but it does seem that we have been made the fall guys. Someone has to make a decision."

He pointed out that the

CPA had a Planning Advisory Board made up of private individuals, a lawyer, an architect, a planner, an engineer and an environmentalist, to which sensitive issues were referred.

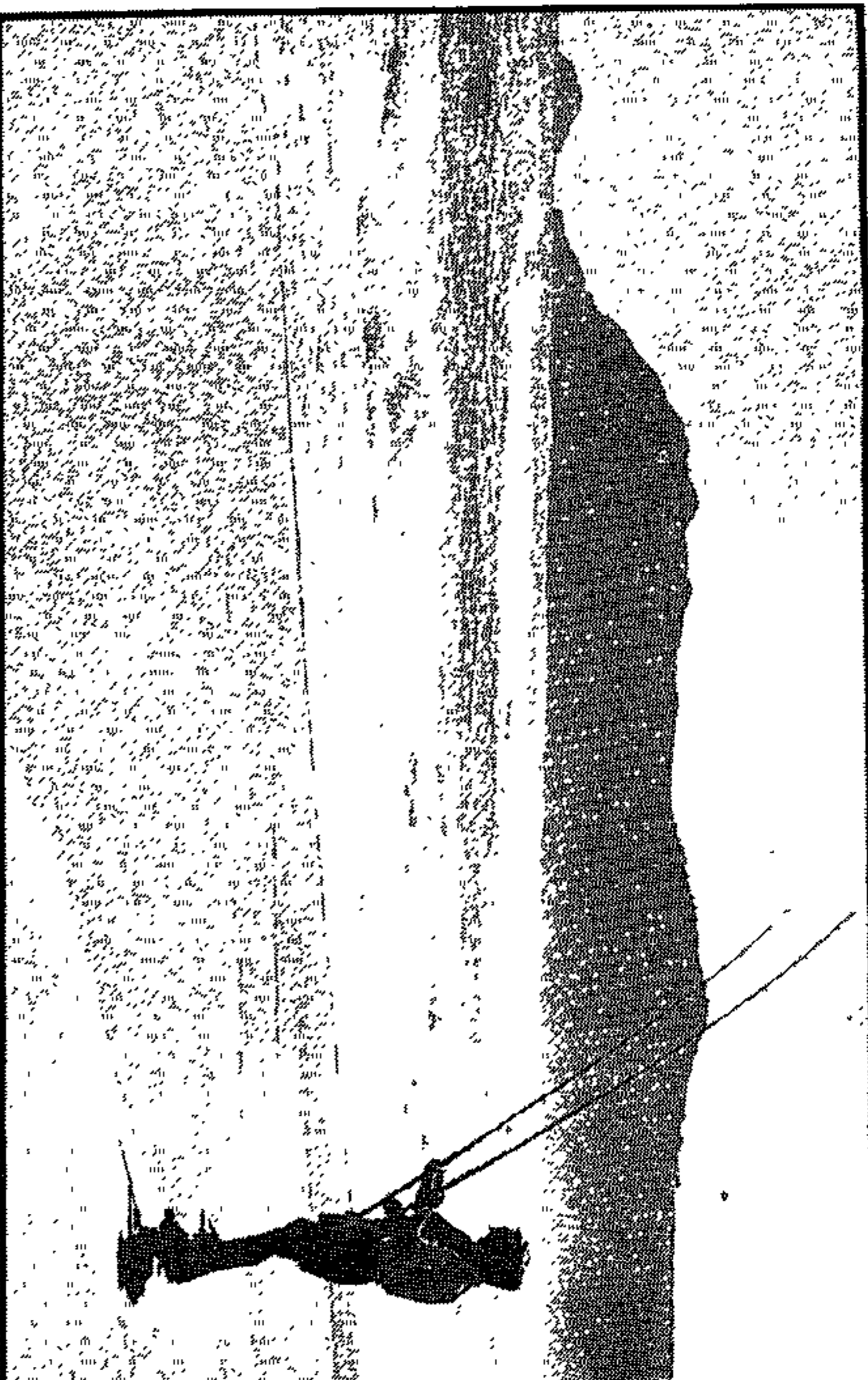
Mr Benkes said he believed there was a need to tighten checks and balances to make sure they were properly applied.

"The fact that we have three controversies on our hands says something."

He said the CPA was "absolutely committed" to respecting the environmental sensitivities of development.

The sub-regional coastal structure plan, drawn up over five years and released in March last year, deals with development and conservation along the Cape coast. It is a guideline document and does not confer any rights or privileges.

Explaining the reasons for the structure plan and its aims, the foreword to the document states: "The coastline



UNDEVELOPED: A tranquil stretch of unspoiled coast at Sedgefield, which has remained a haven for anglers.

has unfortunately in the past not always been adequately viewed in the light of being a national heritage and a limited resource. In fact this zone as a category of wilderness area has diminished at a higher rate than any other category in the country, and warrants the most serious concern."

"The underlying need for this investigation arises from the importance of comprehensive forward planning for the coast and not merely the recreational needs and tourism demands of the regions.

"The main thrust is to provide the preconditions for harmonious development so as to resolve the potential conflict between urbanisation, recreation and conservation.

"The coastline is the fastest-disappearing type of wilderness area, a reality that underlines the urgency for a balance between physical development and conservation of our national heritage.

"An additional objective of the current review of coastal policy and planning is to arrive at a rational basis for determining priority projects, such as swimming pools, abutment blocks, parking areas

or landscaping.

"Public participation is an essential step in all structure planning. The representations, comments and constructive criticism of an informed and concerned public on a given area or any matter of principle, are welcomed at all times for the purpose of further refinements to and progress in coastal planning.

"The primary objective is the preservation of these areas in their natural condition, which therefore receive priority above recreational demands," the guideline document states.

Lead-free petrol 'no easy matter'

Municipal Reporter

INTRODUCING lead-free petrol is no simple matter, said City Council Medical Officer of Health Dr Michael Popkiss.

He was responding to a motion by Mr Arthur Wienburg, adopted in June, that an investigation be carried out on the desirability of introducing lead-free petrol "immediately" and encouraging its use by preferential subsidies.

Mr Wienburg's motion also called for an immediate cut in petrol lead levels, legislation for compulsory use of lead-free petrol by 1996 and that all new petrol-engined cars be fitted with catalytic converters.

Dr Popkiss said in a report that the lead in air levels measured in Cape Town had been reduced so they were no longer a health hazard.

This was achieved by the government's phased reduction of permissible lead levels in petrol.

Devil's Peak fire cost city R4,55-m

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

56
AG 8/10/91

THE cost of the February 8 fire on Devil's Peak and its aftermath, the remedial work and the severe winter, has been set officially at R4,55 million.

A report tabled at a city council utilities and works committee meeting said the original R2,7 million estimate had been overtaken because of extra contouring of erosion barriers, extra work along Tafelberg Road and in streams and stormwater intakes.

Reports on the fire, covering topics from the environmental impact to the use of gabions, presented to standing committees now totalled eight.

A report asking for the R4,55 million said there had been 10 "significant" storms during May, June and July — a winter 10 times as severe as usual.

A major gabion debris trap

was built in Upper Tin Mine Ravine and smaller ones in Lemoenkloof, Lower Tin Mine Ravine and Skottelsloot. Extra "dragon's teeth" were erected at the main Tin Mine and other stormwater intakes.

Other work included contour barriers and sowing grass and flower seed mixtures.

City engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said the main stormwater intakes below Oak Tree Village in Chelmsford and Pine roads were damaged during several emergency cleanouts by mechanical plants and needed to be enlarged and improved.

By the end of the next financial year, Tafelberg Road improvements would total R1,1 million, stormwater runoff control R1,1 million, mountain protection maintenance R1,35 million and stormwater system and road cleaning R1 million.

Wildlife would be safe, vows Mandela

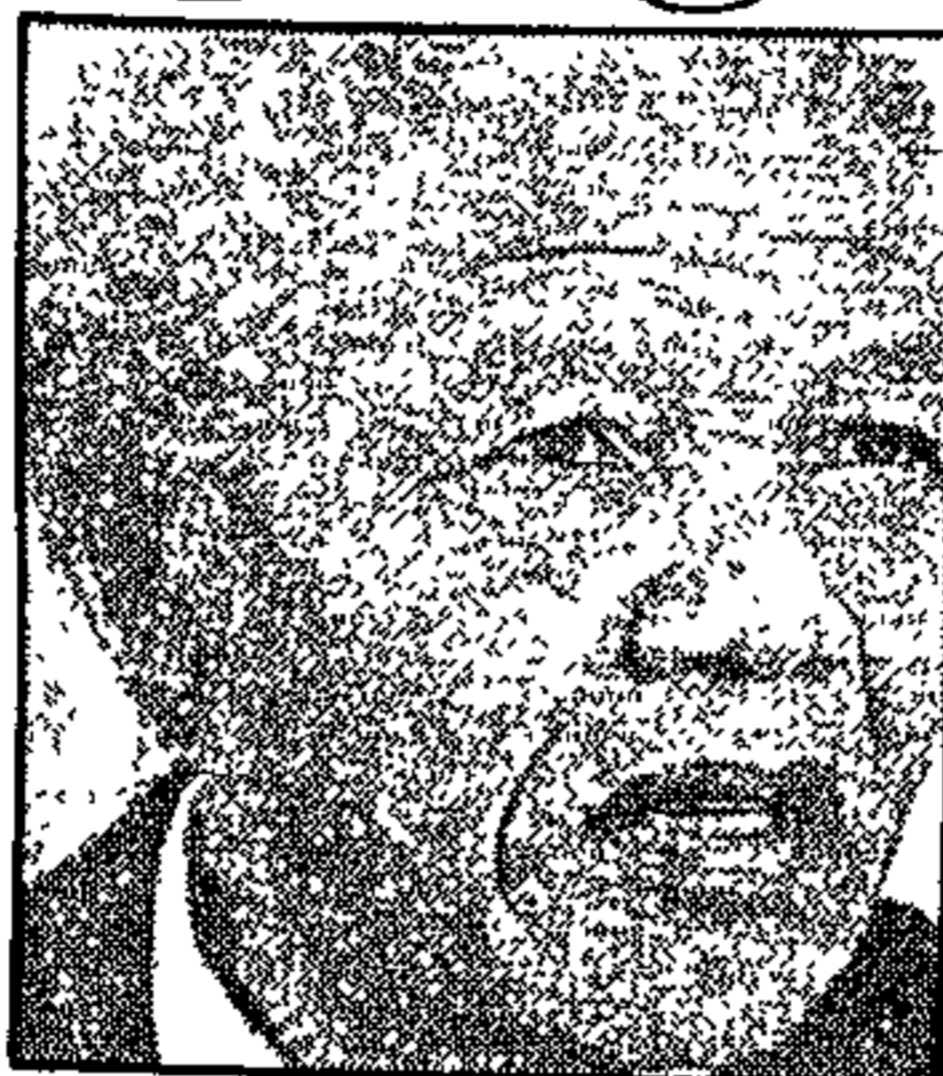
Star 8/10/91 (SG) (A) (B)

By Garner Thomson
Star Bureau

LONDON — Nelson Mandela has pledged that the ANC will remain firmly committed to the preservation of South Africa's wildlife parks and the conservation ideal, despite land-hunger and poverty which are still causes of deep bitterness among blacks in SA.

Even though the legacy of apartheid had created resentment among blacks towards conservation, the ANC — should it become the government of South Africa — would try to abide by the internationally accepted principle that 10 percent of every country should be set aside for reserves, he adds.

In fact, he tells Grant Mansfield of the BBC's "Nature" series, the parks could become part of the solution to the problems of poverty. "They can create jobs and generate a measure of wealth," Mr Mandela



Mandela ... parks could become part of the solution.

says. "... Once people see the benefits, parks would become fertile grounds for us to preach the conservation message."

The ANC leader's interview with Mansfield is published in the latest issue of the BBC magazine, Wildlife, and will form part of a documentary, "Fair Game", to be shown next week.

In it, Mr Mandela acknowledges that apartheid did a great deal of damage to conser-

vation because blacks became alienated from their link with the land.

The treatment of blacks, including forced removals, did "a lot of damage to our attitude towards ecology".

But in order to carry out a commitment to preserve SA's rich heritage of plant and animal life, the ANC would have to make the people part of the conservation process. "The idea of the ANC is that the people themselves should be involved, like, for example, the experiment ... in the Mthethomusha game reserve."

The reserve experiences no poaching because the land is part-owned by the people, it generates a measure of wealth, and the people regard the experiment as their own.

Mr Mandela rules out the possibility of the ANC reclaiming land inside the Kruger Park from where the Tsonga people were forcibly removed.

"The Kruger Park is now an established fact, whether we like or not how it came about."

Nature parks: ANC pledges preservation

56

ARC 9/10/91

GARNER THOMSON
The Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — Mr Nelson Mandela has pledged that the ANC will remain firmly committed to the preservation of South Africa's wildlife parks and the conservation ideal, despite land hunger and poverty which are still causes of deep bitterness among black people in the Republic.

Even though the legacy of apartheid had created resentment among blacks towards conservation, the ANC — should it become the government of South Africa — would try to abide by the internationally accepted principle that 10 percent of every country should be set aside for reserves, he added.

In fact, he told Grant Mansfield, a producer and reporter for the BBC's Nature series, the parks could become part of the solution to the problems of poverty. "They can create jobs and generate a measure of wealth. I think that once the people see the benefits, parks would become fertile grounds for us to preach the conservation message."

The ANC president's interview with Mansfield is published in the latest issue of the BBC magazine, Wildlife, and will form part of a documentary, Fair Game, to be shown on October 14 on BBC-2.

Mr Mandela acknowledged that apartheid did a great deal of damage to conservation because blacks had become alienated from their link with the land. Also, the treatment of blacks under apartheid, including forced removals, had done "a lot of damage to our attitude toward ecology and the environment".

But in order to carry out a commitment to preserve South Africa's rich heritage of plant and animal life, the ANC would have to make the people part of the conservation process. "The idea of the ANC is that the people themselves should be involved, like, for example, the experiment in the Mthethomusha Game Reserve."

The reserve, given by chief Bongani, had no poaching because the land was part-owned by the people, it generated a measure of wealth, and the people regarded the experiment as their own.

"That is the type of approach we would like to develop," he says.

Mr Mandela also ruled out the possibility of the ANC reclaiming land inside the Kruger Park from where the Thonga people were forcibly removed.

"The Kruger Park is now an established fact, whether we like or not how it came about. To destroy a park which already exists would be counterproductive."

By GUY OLIVER, PETER DENNEHY and BARRY STREEK

THE company wanting to mine kaolin in the Noordhoek Valley has bought a second site in the area which it also hopes to exploit.

News of the purchase came as the Minister of Transport, Dr Piet Welgemoed, hinted strongly that the government would approve the application to mine kaolin in the area.

Protests against mining the area have grown since the first purchase of land by the mining company some years ago.

Yesterday the managing director of the mining company, Serina (Pty) Ltd, Mr Carl Tarrant, said the company had bought a 66ha strip of land in the valley to be worked once the ore from the nearby site on the slopes of Chapman's Peak had been exhausted.

Meanwhile at the National Party's Cape congress in the Strand yesterday, Dr Welgemoed said the kaolin at Noordhoek was not only of a better quality than that found in deposits in other parts of the country, but it would also be cheaper to mine.

"If we must take out kaolin, we must do it at the best cost, otherwise the costs will go up," he said.

Heavy-duty mining

The latest acquisition means heavy-duty mining operations will probably become commonplace in the valley and Chapman's Peak for the next 30 years.

A director of the De Goede Hoop Development Company, Mr Jeremy Wiley, said "property values in the area would drop by 20% to 50% with the mining of Chapman's Peak. The Bonanza site (where the mining company has bought) will perpetuate the property depression for the next 30 years".

He said mining was "totally incompatible" with the area and posed an environmental threat to the wetlands and human environment.

Mr Wiley said the disclosures did not change the situation and they would continue to lobby the government to prevent mining.

Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs spokesman Mr Willie Voigt said yesterday that the present situation on mining Chapman's Peak had been summed up in a recent letter from the minister, Mr George Bartlett, to one of the objectors to kaolin mining in the Noordhoek valley.

In this letter Mr Bartlett said the former Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn, had already decided in January 1988 that Serina would be permitted to exercise the mineral rights it had bought on the Chapman's Peak site.

Serina had to obtain a permit in terms of the Physical Planning Act to use the land for kaolin mining. This had not yet been granted, as the neces-

To page 3

Site bought Kaolin: New

CT 9/10/91 (5)

From page 1

sary conditions to ameliorate the effects of the mining had not yet been formulated.

But the permit conditions that the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs will impose are not going to be so stringent as to prevent mining.

Mr Voigt said if conditions so strict as to disallow mining were deliberately imposed the department could be exposed to legal action.

Mining operations on the Chapman's Peak site would probably start in 1993 or 1994 with a R25-million plant built on the site, he said.

The extraction of the kaolin would take about 17 years, Mr Tarrant said.

The Ryan Group-owned Bonanza farm has been bought by Serina for the express purpose of kaolin mining.

Mr Tarrant said the Ryan Group owned the R2,5-million-advertised site which was purchased about 10 days ago for less, but declined to give the final agreed price.

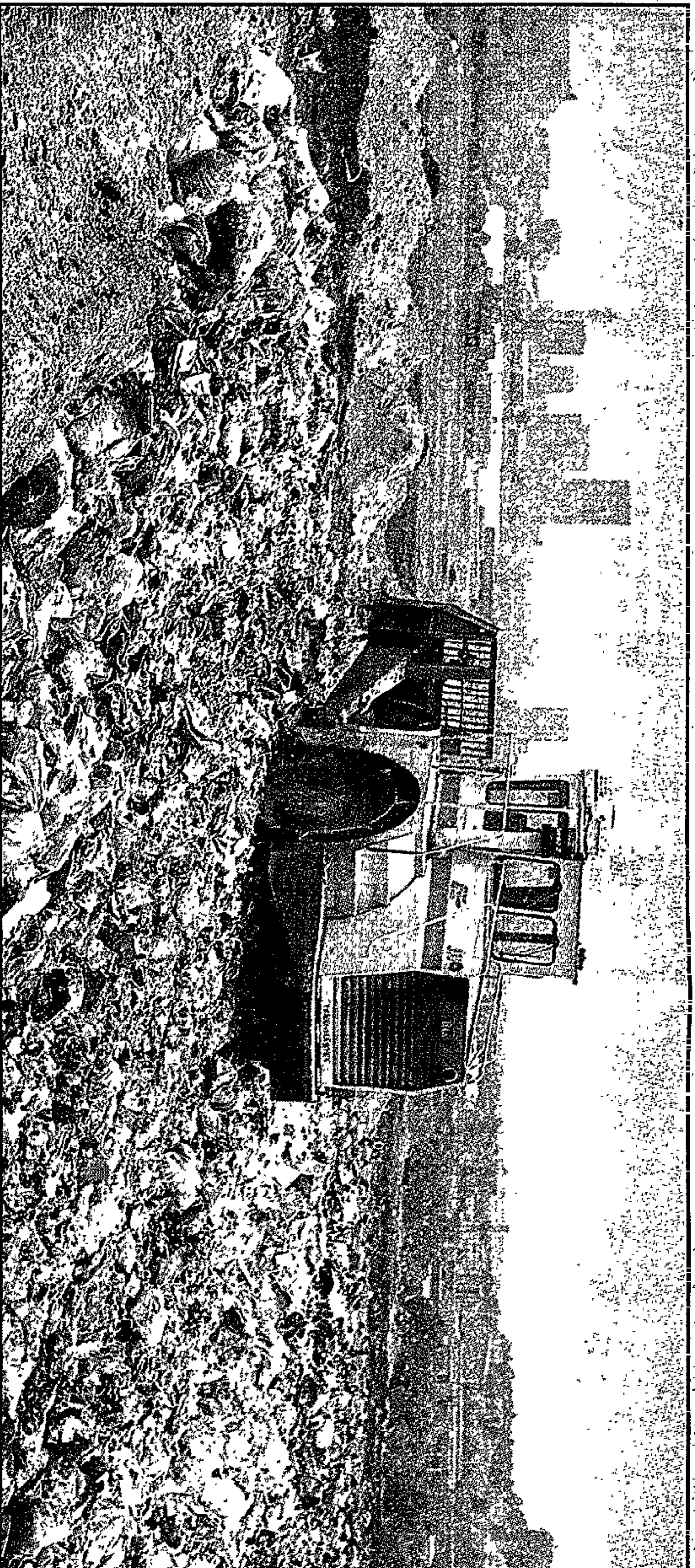
The managing director of the Ryan Group, Mr T Knoesen, refused to comment on the sale and said it was against company policy to talk to the media.

The Western Cape Regional Services Council recommended last month that an application to mine kaolin in the Noordhoek Valley at Kommetjie be refused.

An RSC report said the proposed mine would be "incompatible" with present and proposed surrounding land uses.

56 CT 9/10/91

South Africa's largest municipal rubbish heap — Johannesburg Deep. The big city dumps are usually the safest.



Toxic-waste timebomb ticks away

Spur 9/10/91.

(56)

America had its Love Canal scandal, where a community suddenly became mysteriously ill. The malady was traced to long-buried and forgotten toxic wastes which were bubbling up out of the ground.

Japan had its Minamata, where hundreds of townsfolk died or were paralysed for life when mercury, illegally dumped by industry, found its way into their staple diet.

In Britain, volatile methane, welling up from a rubbish tip, blew up a private house.

Most countries have horror stories of life-threatening leaks from forgotten dangerous waste.

Except South Africa.

Give us time. This century, thousands of tons of dangerous waste have been dumped illegally around South Africa. Even now there are dumps, not properly lined, where

trucks with unchecked cargoes are allowed to dump.

I was told of one near Johannesburg where, for R45, a truck driver can dump "builders' rubble". But there is no check on what drums of waste he may have hidden away. The cost of dumping dangerous material legally, at a class-one dump, can amount to R3 000 a load.

Near Brits there's a dump where, to encourage local industry, the authorities allowed free and unchecked dumping in an unlined quarry. Large companies who should have known better took advantage. Now nobody knows what lies there. Soon a township will go up nearby and children will probably play with the brightly coloured drums...

The CSIR recently found anti-pollution laws in South Africa were inadequate or were being inadequately applied and noted there was no central law regarding waste management and land pollution.

Old turbines have been dumped at many spots — yet the cooling oil in turbines contains one of the most long-lived and dangerous pollutants of all: PCBs or polychlorinated biphenyls. This almost indestructible liquid, like DDT, is today found in the tissues of every species of wildlife on earth.

Ingested by humans, minute amounts can cause serious illness and cross the placental barrier to deform babies.

Many chemical time-bombs around South Africa are just waiting for time and corrosion to set them off.

A holistic picture of the situation should emerge later this month when the Institute of Waste Management (Southern Africa) holds a landmark conference. The three-day event, coupled with an exhibition on solid waste handling, will be held at Nasrec, Johannesburg from October 22.

I asked the national secretary of the institute, Peter Davies (45) of Ivy Road, Norwood what the position was in South Africa regarding the dumping of poisons.

"You can go to almost any small town and you'll find illegal dumping in some form or another," he said. "Some instances are hair-raising.

"I think a lot of things will surface at the conference.

"But generally speaking our waste handling is not too bad. Certainly the big municipalities are very responsible.

"But nobody can deny that some really dangerous practices have been going on.

"For our conference we are teaming up with the South African Institute of Mechanical Engineers whose members play a decisive role in waste management."

A big problem, he said, will be

how to clean up some of the worst sites before the chemicals and other material get into groundwater or even surface water.

"In the United States the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has a superfund financed by a tax on all pollutants and it can be used to clean up an old dump where those responsible are untraceable. We may have to have something similar.

"We need to jack up legislation too. Penalties for dangerous practices are not enough to grind down the really bad polluters."

A topic that will be discussed at the conference is the growing market for waste products.

In the US, spurred by tougher recycling standards, "waste exchanges" are springing up which produce a catalogue of materials companies want to get rid of or obtain. The catalogue has 80 000 subscribers. For conference details telephone: (011) 648-1322.

JAMES CLARKE

Explanation on Mossgas 'coming soon'

55

APR 9/10/94

Political Correspondent

STRAND. — A comprehensive explanation of the costly and widely criticised Mossgas fuel project is expected from the government soon.

Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis told the Cape congress of the National Party here yesterday that a full statement would be made public soon.

However, he denied that taxpayers' money had been wasted.

"Not a cent of taxpayers' money went towards this project. It was financed from fuel levies raised from motorists for this specific purpose."

"Those of us who have looked critically at the Mossgas figures understand that the decision to launch the project was made under particular conditions."

"People forget what particularly difficult conditions prevailed at the time," Mr Du Plessis said.

Noordhoek 'facing 100 years of mining'

56
ARG 10/10/91

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE Noordhoek Valley will be subjected to opencast mining operations "for the next 100 years" if the government approves kaolin mining at the De Goede Hoop Estate deposits on the slopes of Chapman's Peak.

This warning comes from the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group in reaction to news that the mining company Serina, which owns the mineral rights to the De Goede Hoop deposits and which has filed an application to start mining, has bought another property in the scenic valley.

Serina has bought the 66-hectare farm Bonanza, on the eastern side of the Noordhoek valley, which was offered for sale by the Ryan Group at a negotiable price of R2,5-million.

According to the advertisements placed in newspapers, the deal included mineral rights to about two million tons of "high grade, easily accessible" kaolin, with a "potential for mining or rezoning and subdivision into residential plots".

Action group spokesman Mr John Butterfield said they would fight all mining applications in the valley "every inch of the way".

"We didn't exaggerate when we said a mining precedent would be set (if Chapman's Peak mining starts) which could last 60, 70 or maybe even a hundred years," he said.

Serina managing director Mr Carl Tarrant is on record as saying it's his intention to mine all the kaolin in the Noordhoek Valley and he's going to start with Chapman's Peak.

"We are absolutely opposed to mining and will fight every inch of the way. If we keep them off Chapman's Peak, we'll keep them out of the valley. If not, we'll never stop them."

Serina's application is being considered by the government after the deadline for objections to an environmental impact assessment (EIA) expired on September 30.

The deadline was set by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, following the publication in August of the EIA which recommended that major negative effects of mining operations could be "largely overcome".

Mr Tarrant could not be contacted for comment yesterday.

● A spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs said yesterday minister Mr Louis Pienaar had made recommendations to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, but he would not disclose what they were, Argus Reporter Graham Lizamore reports.

The spokesman directed The Argus to approach the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

However, a spokesman for that department declined to comment, saying that it would be most "unusual" for a minister to make public recommendations by another minister.

the right to be heard by his peers — people with no legal training. “The system substitutes emotion for law.”

Coupling it with the contingency fee system, widely used by US attorneys, where the legal team may receive 25%-50% of the settlement figure, led to “courts overcoming the rule of law” and resulted in a “system by lawyers for lawyers.”

Badenhorst referred to the SA Law Society’s decision to allow fee arrangements with clients — an arrangement that has some parallels with the US system but is not directly comparable. The contingency fee basis in SA is intended to allow access to skilled advice to people who cannot afford normal fees, so that cases can be handled by attorneys who think the client has a good chance of success. There are also provisions that should prevent attorneys seeking inflated settlements for the sake of a percentage.

Badenhorst agreed that the new system is designed to prevent abuses. He also noted there was little support at any level for the return of the jury system, though it is possible that expert and lay assessors may in future assist presiding officers in a court.

Concern about importing US-style litigation has already been expressed in the FM’s special report on reinsurance (August 30). Reinsurers have noted that the rising cost of liability settlements far outweighs inflation and are adjusting the cost of cover accordingly. They have already expressed resistance to the reintroduction of the jury system, feeling it will compound the problem if untrained citizens assess damages.

Apart from juries, the other point of difference is that, in the US, damages can be recovered from a party which, strictly and legally speaking, is not at fault. This is not the case in the UK. But Badenhorst, quoting Wits professor Robert Vivian, suggested SA is following the US pattern.

There could be a “natural reaction” from insurers, said Badenhorst, a refusal to issue liability cover. In that case, the only answer might be a pool insurance scheme or even a national fund administered by government.

ENVIRONMENT FM 11/10/91

Too hot to handle (56)

A central insurance fund to cope with major environmental hazards may become necessary, Financial Services Board CE Piet Badenhorst suggested at this week’s SA Risk & Insurance Management Association conference.

Badenhorst offered this as a possible solution to an issue that has become an insurance hot potato. Liability suits are potentially so expensive that the entire theme of the meeting was “Liabilities in the Nineties.”

Not only environmental issues were raised, though most delegates were managers from large businesses that could incur such exposures. There were also references to the size of recent settlements for defamation and motor vehicle accident injuries.

But Badenhorst’s concern was more with the vast potential of environmental suits. He referred to a recent international insurance conference, where the spectre of such claims emerged as runaway leader among insurance executives’ nightmares.

He pointed out that the most extravagant settlements have been made in US courts, where the constitution accords the individual

55
12/10/91
1991

Barend under fire

Minister's last-ditch stand in defence of Moss gas debacle

More scams may soon be revealed

BRENDAN TEMPLETON
Weekend Argus Reporter

DETAILS of fraudulent irregularities in the multibillion-rand Moss gas project may soon be revealed.

A source this week said that an information session planned by the government would probably confirm exposés published by Weekend Argus in recent weeks.

"It will confirm a lot of what you are expecting — and more," he said, but would not elaborate.

The project has been the subject of a 10-month probe by the auditor-general which was completed last month and a 17-month investigation by the commercial crime unit.

A furore erupted around the allegations of fraudulent, sky-high pay packets and excessive wastage as the total cost of the project rocketed from an original R5,5 million to around R12 billion.

This newspaper has since been told of massive over-ordering of materials, of stores which have been stolen, and of an extensive buddy-buddy network controlling the allocation of contracts.

The Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs announced three weeks ago that it would be holding an information session to address issues dealt with in recent newspaper articles.

But this failed to materialise and a spokesman at the ministry this week would say only that "final arrangements have not been concluded".

The announcement of the session followed closely in the wake of the conclusion of the auditor-general's investigation.

The report was handed to Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr George Bartlett and he was said to have been called on by the Cabinet to explain the Moss gas furore.

FRANS ESTERHUYSE
Political Correspondent

FINANCE Minister Mr Barend du Plessis is under fire for his dogged defence of the Moss gas debacle in the face of mounting public criticism.

Some critics suggest he may be taking a last-ditch stand because of his own likely role in the P W Botha regime's decision to embark on the costly fuel project — now estimated to amount to more than R12 billion.

Democratic Party energy spokesman Mr Roger Hulley, MP for Constantia, rejected as "ludicrous" Mr Du Plessis's denial at the Cape National Party congress this week that taxpayers' money had been wasted on the project.

Mr Du Plessis had told the congress: "Not a cent of taxpayers' money went towards this project. It was financed from fuel levies raised from motorists for this specific purpose."

He also defended the project on the grounds that the decision to launch it was taken "under particular conditions".

"People forget what particularly difficult conditions prevailed at the time."

Mr Du Plessis said a comprehensive explanation of the project was expected from the government soon.

On the issue of taxpayers' money, Mr Hulley told Weekend Argus: "The money has come from taxpayers via the fuel levies and from various capital accounts. This is money that could have been used to much better effect in the public interest."

Mr Hulley has persisted with his earlier criticism that Moss gas was a "scandalous waste of money". He suggests the huge sum could have been invested to generate more than 200 000 new jobs and to provide a massive boost for the economy.

Reacting to Mr Du Plessis's argument that the Moss gas decision had been taken under

"difficult conditions", Mr Hulley said:

"That is also nonsense. Moss gas at full production can't even supply five percent of the country's liquid fuel needs. Its output has been put by some observers at as little as two percent of out total needs.

"Even in the worst siege situation of the mid-80s Moss gas was a stupid decision. Perhaps Barend is trying to justify himself after the event for his own participation in the decision on Moss gas. If he were Minister of Finance at that time, he may have been involved."

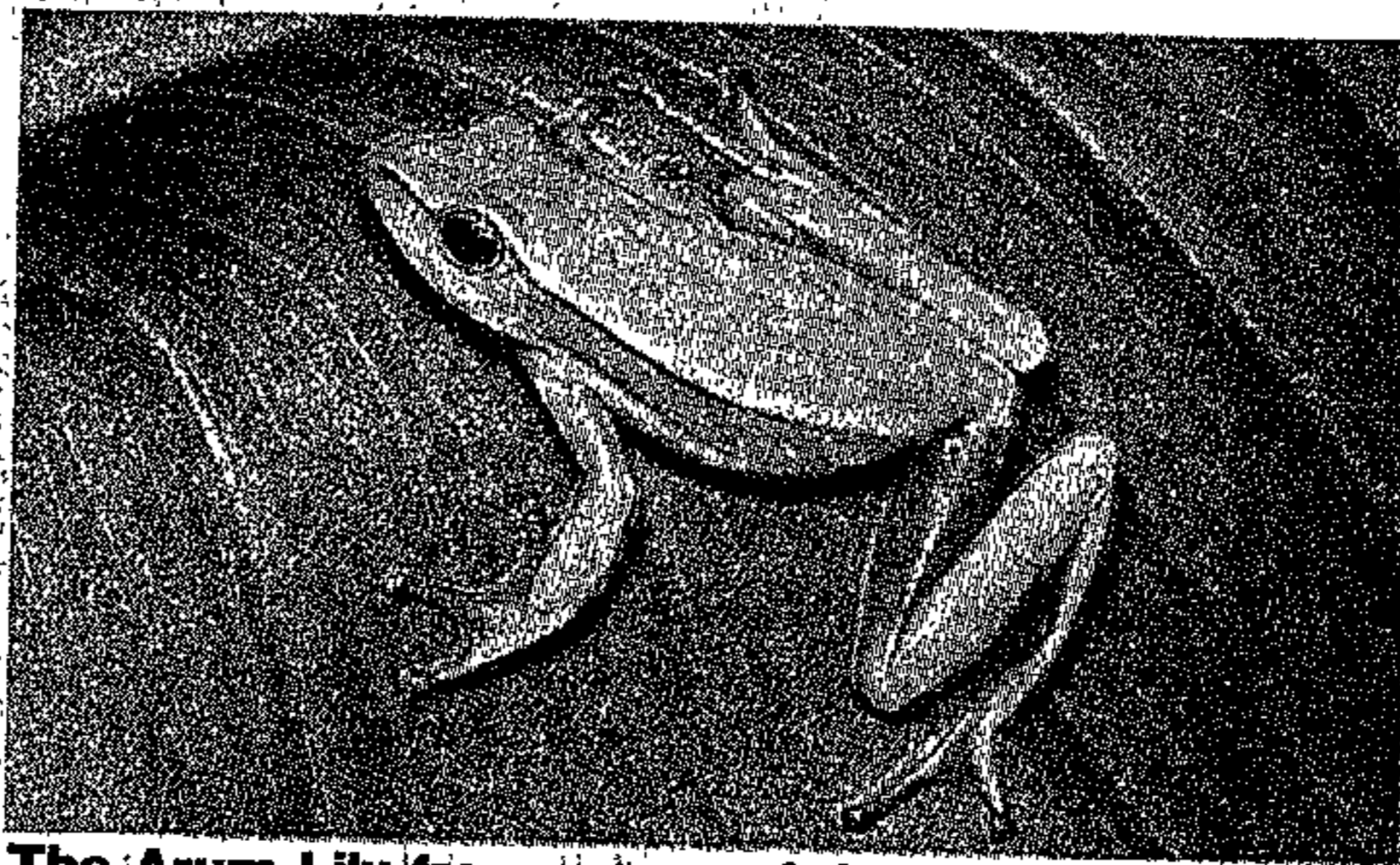
(Mr Du Plessis was appointed Minister of Finance by Mr P W Botha in August 1984. According to the present Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr George Bartlett, a decision was taken by the government in 1987 "to proceed with the Moss gas project". Mr Bartlett says that decision was in the first instance based on strategic and not economic considerations).

Mr Hulley's argument is the that level of fuel production of which Moss gas is capable could not have saved South Africa in the event of a blockade.

"It was never a solution — it was a fancy scheme thought out by grandiose planners."

● Deputy Minister of Finance Dr Theo Alant conceded last month that Moss gas was a bad investment. He told the Free State National Party congress: "With hindsight, Moss gas was a bad investment as much more could have been done with the millions spent on that project."

● Dr Jan Visser, executive director of the National Productivity Institute, named Moss gas this week as an example of a wrong political decision and of a project which South Africa could do without. He told a conference of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut that one of South Africa's biggest problems was the "scandalous" manner in which capital and equipment had been wasted.



The Arum Lily frog ... one of the pictures from the Cape nature conservation 1992 calendar.

Calendar is putting Cape frogs on the map

JOHN YELD (56) 14/10/91
Environment Reporter

CONCERN at rapidly declining frog populations throughout the world is reflected in next year's calendar from Cape nature conservation authorities.

The 1992 calendar is aimed at increasing public awareness of the Cape's numerous frog species. Many of these species have become increasingly scarce because of the destruction of their habitats, such as the draining of wetlands.

More than half of all South Africa's frogs are found in the Cape and 29 of them occur nowhere else in the world, like the Table Mountain ghost frog

which has the smallest distribution area in the country.

The calendar has striking colour photographs of six of the Cape's frog families.

"Each frog has its own story which is told on the calendar," explained a Cape nature conservation spokesman.

"Our aim in releasing this is not only to convey information about these animals, but also to draw attention to the small, unobtrusive and often neglected wonders of nature."

Copies of the calendar, which cost R12, are available from the Director, Financial Administration, Cape Nature Conservation, Private Bag 9064, Cape Town 8000 or 483-4227.

False Bay health risk — sewage report

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

STORMWATER, rivers and treated sewage outlets on the False Bay coast are creating a health risk for swimmers and contaminating seafood, according to CSIR scientists investigating pollution.

They have recommended a short offshore pipeline to discharge treated sewage and stormwater which would virtually eliminate this risk.

Existing outlets discharge straight into the surf zone, seriously affecting water quality for up to a kilometre, and have been the cause of a major public outcry in recent years.

The CSIR report was welcomed by Cape Town's city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton, but will be strongly opposed by some environmentalists

who argue that no waste should be pumped into the sea. They believe all water — including sewage effluent and stormwater — should be recycled.

The CSIR investigation was commissioned by the Department of Environment Affairs and follows intense public controversy in recent years over whether the bay is seriously polluted.

A summary of the report, *Marine Disposal Studies of Stormwater and Treated Sewage Effluent in False Bay*, was released today.

None of the areas in the immediate vicinity of existing outlets comply with microbiological health criteria, and there was a health risk associated with bathing and the collection of seafood near these points.

But the affected areas were relatively small — up to 500 metres on either side of large outlets and about 100 metres at small outlets — and there was no apparent effect outside of these impact areas.

In general, the water quality of the surf zone waters was acceptable and conformed to coastal zone water quality standards.

Another "important" finding was that no obvious deterioration had taken place at 12 monitoring stations along the northern False Bay coast between Mulzenberg and Mitchell's Plain West.

Justifying its recommendation of an offshore pipeline of between one and two kilometres, the report said that to meet water quality criteria, very high dilutions had to be achieved for the discharges.

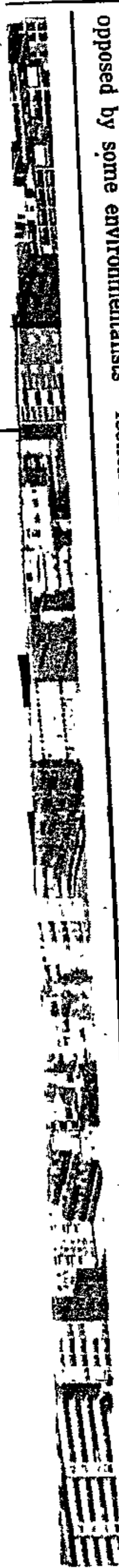
Because of False Bay's physical characteristics, discharges tended to remain trapped within the surf zone over relatively long distances, resulting in low dilutions.

"In future, with higher discharge rates and expected deteriorating discharge quality, the seawater quality at the impact areas can be expected to deteriorate as well.

"The impact areas will also increase in size, especially for the smaller discharges.

A relatively short pipeline discharging beyond the surf zone seemed a "feasible solution" and would eliminate the present impact and health risk associated with shoreline discharges.

The Department of Environment Affairs has not yet reacted publicly to the report.



...teen of the Ntombela family were watching television when there was a knock at the door. Thabo opened up and a

used shotgun fire to ward off a stone-throwing and petrol-bomb attack in Umzinto.

● War on taxi strife, page 5

legs.

Captain Van Deventer said he could not understand how they fell because the balcony wall is about a metre high.

Make a date — save a frog before they all croak

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

5b ARG 14/10/91

IT'S a giant leap for mankind.

Well, perhaps not quite, but it's definitely a hop in the right direction as far as the Cape's amphibians are concerned.

By devoting their 1992 calendar to frogs, nature conservation officials are hoping people will jump on the environmental bandwagon, warts and all. Spawn a conservation culture, so to speak.

To put it crudely, too many platanas have been splattered of late. Not enough tadpoles are becoming toads.

In the meanwhile, the insect population — especially pests like flies and mosquitoes — is burgeoning.

"We'll all croak if nothing is done to help us soon," said a concerned Mr *Rana Fuscigula* from his damp but scenic home on the banks of a Cape river.

Hopefully, the calendar will help restore the ecological balance.

Of course, not everyone likes frogs, although even their detractors concede some good points, like their appetite for mosquitoes.

But if the calendar doesn't have a positive result, conservation officials could always take matters a hop ... er, step further and introduce a charming adopt-a-frog scheme.

Any lonely princesses out there willing to volunteer ...?

● See page 2.

I
pec
om
wea
"pe
aga
life
T
tion
link
TI
reco
rest
thes
resu
an
acti
coun
of th
othe

Paste

Huge ivory deal report causes alarm

5b CT 15/10/91

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — Claims that two South African businessmen bought more than 84 000kg of ivory from the Burundi government in July have resurfaced amid fears that the stockpile may flood the market.

A report in a British newspaper warned that if calls to lift the worldwide trading ban succeeded, the vast cargo would rejuvenate the market and encourage further poaching.

Conservationists are seriously concerned about some 15 484 tusks which were advertised for sale by a Hong Kong-based company in May this year.

Details of the ivory offer were allegedly sent to dealers by Minden International — which stated that the ivory was from Southern-Central Africa and that any buyer wishing to inspect the goods would be met at Johannesburg airport and taken to the country of origin.

The document also said documentation accompanying the purchase would include UN-authorized certificates and export permits from the country of origin.

On July 19 two Johannesburg businessmen approached the UN-administered Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in Switzerland and advised deputy-director general Mr Jaques Berney that they were involved in a deal to buy the Burundi stockpile.

They were told such a move would be in direct contravention of the Cites ban on the sale or export of tusks.

But the same day Mr Berney received a facsimile from the office of the prime minister in Burundi stating that the government had confiscated the country's entire stock of ivory — and had sold it to a South African businessman.

The proceeds of the sale — estimated at \$3,5 million (about R10,5m) — would go to the Burundi Ministry of the Environment, said the memo.

The Cites secretariat advised Burundi against any plans to export the stocks.

Three months later Cites still has no confirmation of the reported sale.

Meanwhile, Minden International has denied any involvement.

'Tit-for-tat' row over ⁽⁵⁶⁾ ivory ban _{CT 14/10/91}

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — In what appears to be a tit-for-tat row over the worldwide trading ban on ivory and rhinoceros horn, landlocked Zimbabwe is leading calls for a world trade ban on herring.

Backed by Botswana, Namibia and Malawi, last week's proposal to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) claims that the fish, "cornerstone of British cuisine", is being over-harvested.

But suggestions have emerged that it represents a "revenge attack" on Western interference in African conservation policy.

A leading Sunday paper in Britain has reported the move as having "a thinly veiled ulterior motive — revenge on Western nations that are using CITES to block Southern African steps to revive the ivory trade".

The Observer goes on to quote Mr David Cleghorn of the Sea Fish Industry Authority who says: "A lot of herring is canned and goes to Africa. And maybe we should decide to strike back by refusing to take their sardines."

In March next year, the 110-nation CITES organisation of the United Nations Environment Programme will

meet and vote on the proposals. At its last meeting in 1989, Zimbabwe headed a group of Southern African states who unsuccessfully campaigned to continue trading in ivory.

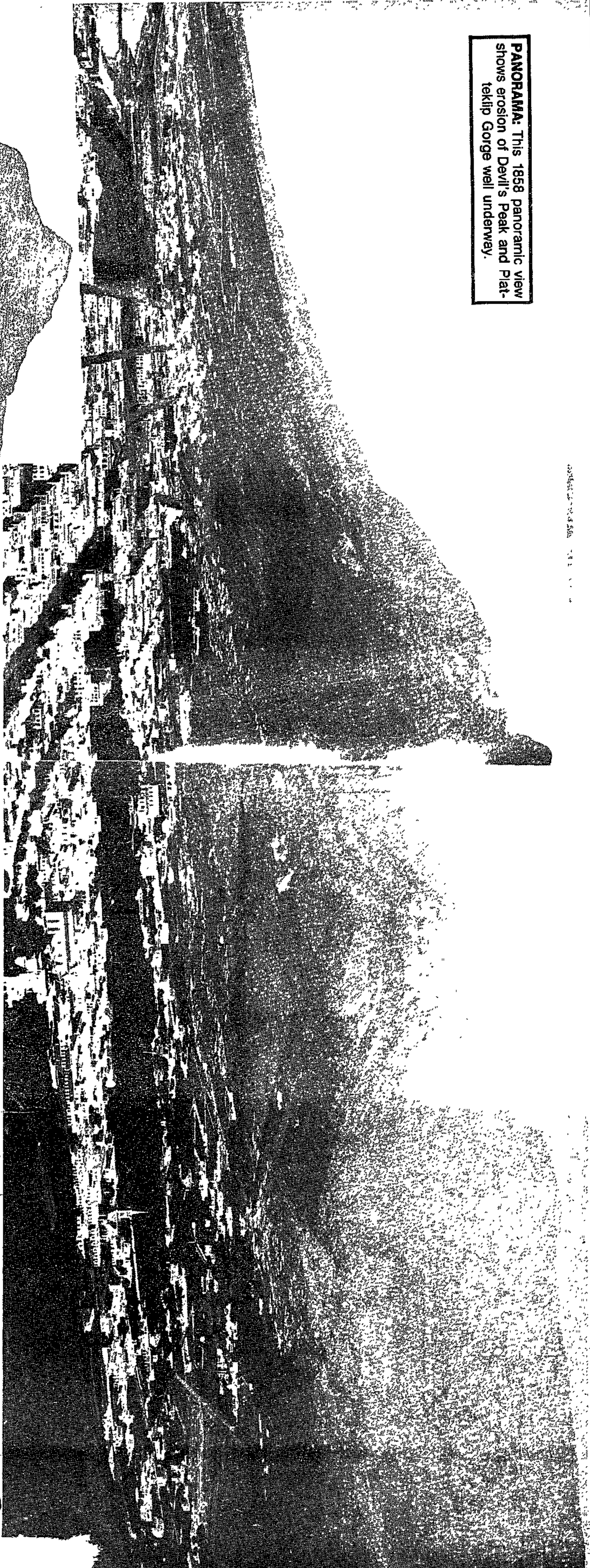
Zimbabwean conservationists told the Sunday Telegraph that they resent what they see as interference in internal policies.

"Zimbabwe, which is also calling for an end to the restrictions on trade in leopard and cheetah skins, believes that if animals such as the elephant and rhino are to survive, local communities must be given an incentive to conserve them such as controlled trade in stocks of confiscated horns and tusks," says the report.

Whether the proposal succeeds or not depends on the seriousness of the claim that the herring population is endangered. A five-year fishing ban on herring stocks until 1983 was effective in restoring depleted populations in the North Sea, but CITES officials say over-harvesting is still a problem.

Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi and Namibia — all members of the 50-nation Commonwealth — this year set up a co-operative Southern African Centre for Ivory Marketing to press their case with the 110-member CITES.

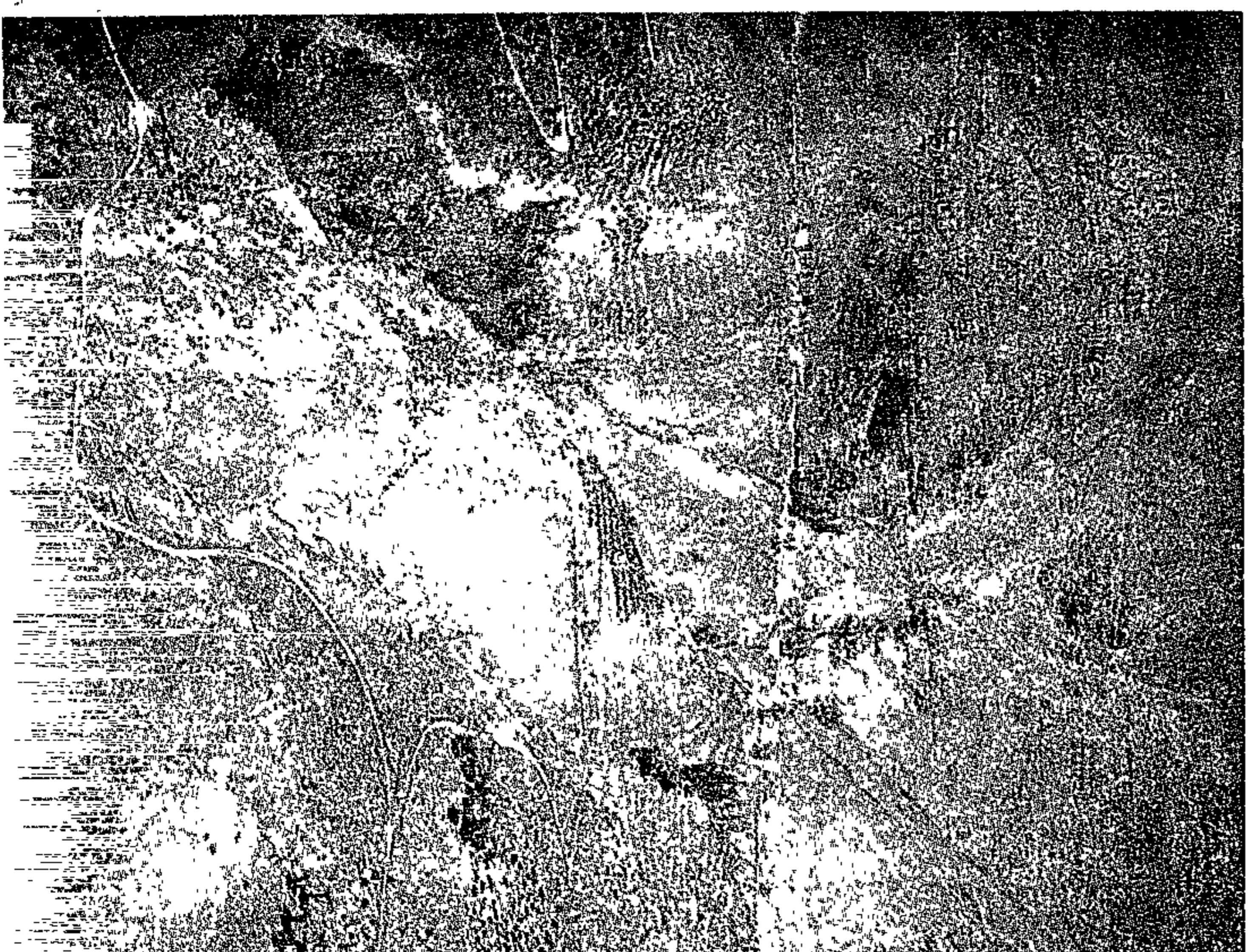
PANORAMA: This 1858 panoramic view shows erosion of Devil's Peak and Platteklip Gorge well underway.



EROSION: Signs of erosion on Devil's Peak are visible in this turn of the century photograph. On the right is a recent picture showing the latest state of erosion on Devil's Peak.



BEAUTY: Erosion is a threat to scenes like this which have made Cape Town famous with tourists.



Illustrations courtesy of the City Council

Mountain's ^(5b) future strewn with red tape _{ARG 15/10/91}

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

THE path ahead for Table Mountain is tangled by overlapping jurisdiction and conflicting laws.

The landmark backdrop to the city and the spine of the Peninsula is the subject of a City Council exhibition opening on Thursday which covers aspects including geology, hydrology, fauna, flora, fire protection, fire-fighting and related problems.

Fires and erosion ravaged the mountain long before the first European occupation and today millions of rands have to be spent on combating human and natural effects on the embattled environment.

Accurate records of fires have been kept only since the 1970s and analysts have to rely on newspaper reports and community recollection for incidents before then.

However, the official list is alarming considering that causes include arson and negligence.

A maze of administrative procedures and laws complicate the challenges facing planners, to control access and to combat the threat of flame and crumbling rock.

For instance, the Table Mountain nature reserve is administered by the Cape Town City Council as a curatorship, but falls into the larger area of the Table Mountain Natural Monument Area.

This is controlled by the National Monuments Council in terms of the National Monuments Act which, as an Act of Parliament, overrides the ordinance controlling the nature reserve.

However the whole area falls into the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment, where an advisory board advises the Administrator how to rationalise development.

In the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment and National Monument area there are State forests, administered under the Forests Act.

The Forests Act itself, however, is administered under two Cabinet portfolios — Environment Affairs and Forestry.

Further complicating matters is the

number of private owners whose land is in the protected natural environment, but who have development rights in terms of the controversial Land Use Planning Ordinance.

Everything from regulations controlling access for dogs to fighting mountain fires is complicated by the twisted twine of laws and decision-makers.

On Signal Hill hang-gliders swoop from unauthorised launching places, while the parking lot is polluted by smashed glass and food wrappings.

At the other end of the Peninsula, massive tracts are not protected — including the Sentinel at Hout Bay, large parts of the Karbonkelberg and areas adjoining Simon's Town and Fish Hoek.

Surveys showed most popular venues for walkers are Platteklip Gorge, Kasteels Poort, the bridle path from Constantia Nek, Skeleton Gorge and Newlands Forest.

Spending on anti-erosion measures is considerable. In Blinkwater Ravine the cost of rehabilitation is so high the path has had to be closed indefinitely.

In spite of the risk of R2 000 fines (or six months' jail) some hikers braai on the mountain.

Plans are afoot to devise a complex forestation policy based on compromises between forestry officials, rate-payers and special interest groups.

Controlled burning on the mountain has also sparked debate, most recently when the City Council was accused of allowing "firewood" to build up before the February 8 blaze.

While City Council officials admit the burning programme is behind schedule, they point out it is not a simple task. If the weather is right for a burn, staff have to be withdrawn from the area and all parties notified.

Notifying the public in advance that controlled burning is to be done is difficult.

● The exhibition is in the Civic Centre Gallery in the concourse during business hours and an audio-visual display will be screened in the lecture theatre. Appointments for groups to view the audio-visual show can be made with Mr Paul Britton ☎ 210 2369.

Kirstenbosch offered land after protest

56
MAY 15 10/91

Next move hangs on whether payment would be sought

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

THE LAND next to Kirstenbosch environmentalists are rowing about is to be offered to the National Botanical Institute, but it is not yet clear whether payment is involved.

The offer was made yesterday by the director-general of the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs after 12 000 signed a petition against the sale of the land that borders Kirstenbosch.

The Public Works and Land Affairs director-general, Mr T P C van Robbroeck, said that although representations to stop the sale of the land had not been studied fully, his department would consider a "motivated request for acquisition" of the land by the institute.

The city councillor for the area, Mrs Joan Kanley, said she hoped the land would be transferred to the institute, but wanted clarity about what was meant by "acquisition".

Developers were said to have offered R6 million for the site, a sum the institute might find it difficult to match if it was asked to pay for the land.

The announcement was welcomed by the petition organiser, Mrs Mária-gret Gregorowski, who said: "I shall get on to Kirstenbosch right away and tell

them to get the request (for acquisition) organised."

She was optimistic plans for private development could be stopped.

The deadline for the institute's application, which is to be made with the help of the Department of Environment Affairs, is November 15.

The chairman of the National Botanical Institute, Professor M C Botha, also welcomed the announcement.

He said he would meet the institute's executive director, Professor Brian Huntley, and its finance manager, Mr Gerard Krone, tomorrow to draft a response.

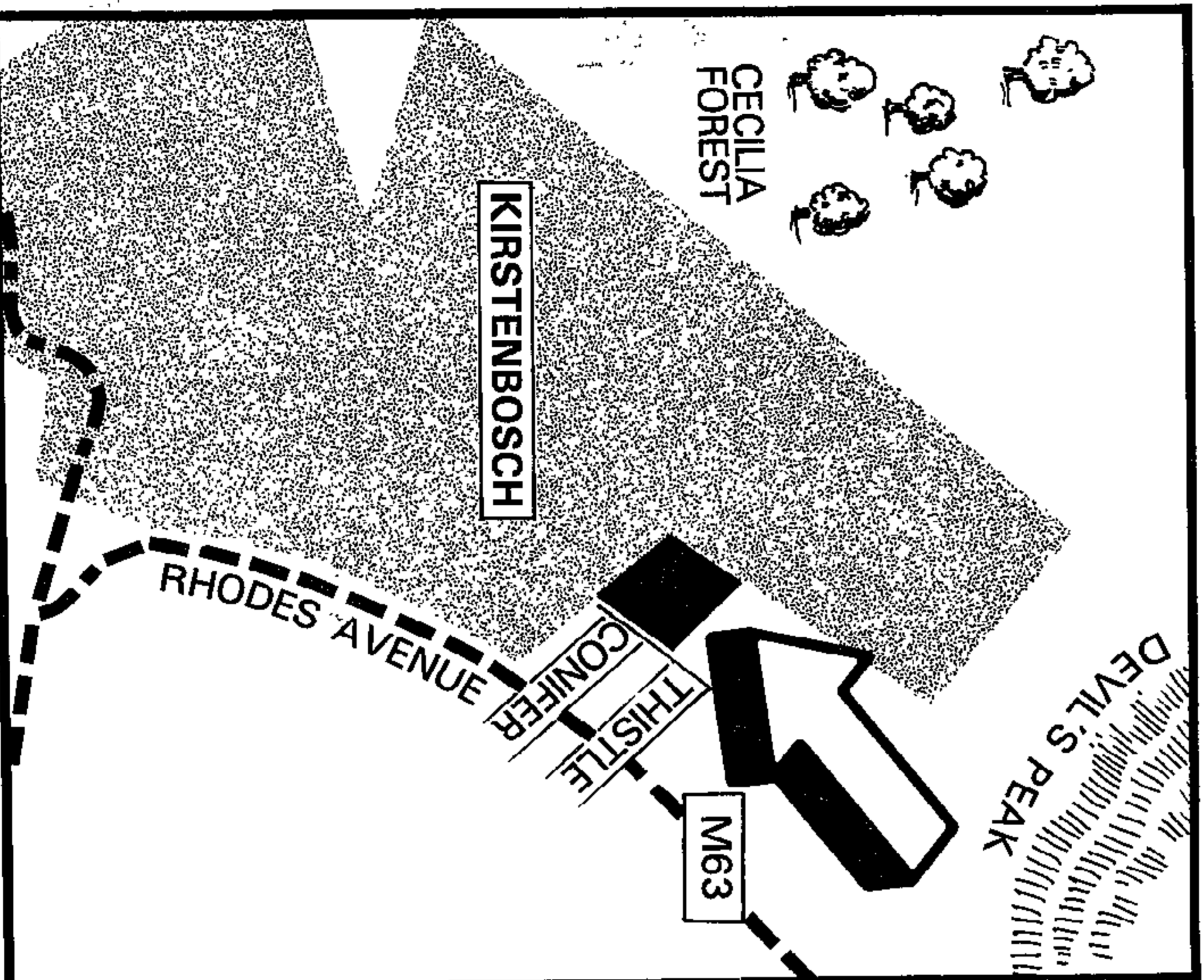
Urgent attention would be given to motivating the transfer, he said.

Professor Botha has been involved in negotiations with the government about the controversial proposed sale, and said he would comment further when he had studied Mr Van Robbroeck's statement.

"I am encouraged that the petition, signed by thousands of visitors to Kirstenbosch, caused the rethink," Mrs Kanley said.

It is understood the institute would like to build new headquarters or a research laboratory on the 4,5 hectare site, while private developers planned to revive proposals made 10 years ago for townhouses on the site.

Planners investigating a laboratory or offices on the site are keen any buildings be low-rise and unobtrusive, and accepted by the public.



DEVELOPMENT: The 4,5 hectare site, arrowed, on which developers wanted to build townhouses, and now offered to Kirstenbosch after 12 000 environmentalists protested against its sale.

and offer K'bosch

(56)
cr 15/10/91



By ANDRE KOOPMAN
THE National Botanical Institute will be allowed to bid for a strip of land next to the Kirstenbosch Gardens.

This surprise development in the controversy over the land came in a government statement last night.

The land is said to have been sold to a private developer who intended building townhouses on the site.

The Department of Land Affairs and Public Works yesterday gave the National Botanical Institute the official go-ahead to bid for the land, which is zoned so that townhouses may be built on it.

Storm of protest

The move follows a storm of public protest against the proposed land sale. More than 12 200 people signed a petition against the sale, which was handed to the department, and in addition the 9 000 members of the Botanical Society registered their objection. The plan also received international condemnation.

Neither the institute nor local residents were consulted about the proposed sale.

The department said late last month that the process of selling the 4,5ha of land was so far advanced that it could not be stopped.

Mr T P C van Robbroeck, director-general of the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs, said in a statement yesterday: "(The) department is prepared to consider a motivated request for acquisition by the National Botanical Institute.

"The Department of Environmental Affairs has already been requested to arrange for a formal application from the institute."

When told of the statement, petition organiser Mrs Margaret Gregorowski said last night

that it was "wonderful news".

"I'm quite sure that they will find that Kirstenbosch has a valid claim to the land. We really don't need developments bordering Kirstenbosch," she added.

Mr John Winter, curator of the gardens, said the announcement was "very encouraging".

The land, if obtained, would be used to build much-needed office facilities and this would take pressure off the rest of the gardens as there was very limited building space.

If the land were not obtained, offices would have to be sited in part of the natural garden.

Professor Brian Huntley, executive director of the National Botanical Institute, said he was "very encouraged by the positive attitude" of the department and that it had responded to the opinion of the people of Cape Town.

Disputed property

"We will want to get the opinion of residents in the area and of Cape Town people to determine how they feel about us making use of that land for research laboratories, particularly for fynbos research, and for other uses."

The Department of Public Works said in a statement that the disputed property had been expropriated from a property developer in 1987. It was to have been used for additional ministerial residences.

When the property was obtained it had already been zoned for residential purposes and the necessary engineering services had been supplied.

The need for the use of the property for this purpose had ceased to exist and it had been decided to make it available to the private sector.

The application by the Botanical Institute should reach the department before November 15, the statement said.



Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

MONITORING RECOVERY: Woodbridge Island resident Mr Gerry Taylor takes a reading at the Cleo station on Milnerton beach which is recovering from extensive erosion.

CT 16/10/91

56

Beach-lovers of all ages seduced by Cleo

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

SCORES of beach-loving South Africans of all ages have been introduced to Cleo over the past three years and are proving devoted fans.

Cleo stands for Continuous Low-Level Environmental Observations and is a community-based, volunteer coastal monitoring programme launched by the CSIR.

The object is to obtain concise data on short and longer-term physical changes to beach profiles and associated parameters such as wave heights.

This information — which is likely to become increasingly important as long-term changes associated with global warming impact on the coastal environment — is of vital importance to ecologists, planners and owners of coastal properties.

With the completion of the developmental phase, Cleo has just reached maturity and is about to become fully operational, but already volunteers are contributing by recording data at 30-odd beach stations along the Natal and Cape coasts.

CSIR coastal ecologist Mr Tom Heineken said Cleo was a project of profound environmental significance.

Speaking this week during a media visit to the Milnerton beach site, arranged as part of the National Environmental Awareness Trust's 1991 Coastal Awareness Campaign, he explained that the programme's exclusive objective was the "judicious management" of South Africa's coastline.

"In order to manage this valuable resource, one has to understand the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate coastal systems and — most importantly — the changes that are taking place, where they are taking place and why they are taking place on a site-specific basis," he said.

Because of financial restraints, it was out of the question to set up a system of instrumentation operated by qualified researchers around the coast. However, interested volunteers were able to provide valuable readings for the Cleo databank, he added.

"There is a tremendous potential all around the coast. The value of this lies in picking up trends over a long term. The more data you've got, the more valuable it becomes."

Cleo volunteers include school pupils — some of them at primary level — and the programme has been incorporated into some syllabuses.

Peninsula beaches being monitored are Milnerton, the longest running Cleo site and where Zonnekus Primary School has become involved in monitoring the estuary, Noordhoek, Fish Hoek and Strand, which is looked after by Strand High School pupils and staff.

Cleo is supported financially by Mobil and is likely to link up with the Wildlife Society's environmental education programme.

● The last of a three-part television series on the Cleo programme will be shown on TV1 on Saturday at 9.10am.

Spill poisons spruit, ends wild life

By Julienne du Toit (S6)

Star 16/10/91

Pollution has sterilised a major part of Moganwe Spruit which runs into the Hartbeespoort Dam, say those who live along it.

A fluoride spill from the Atomic Energy Corporation in July, stopped only three weeks ago, put paid to what was left of the river-life.

A pH factor of 12,5 — making it lethally alkaline — was recorded on AEC property on July 18.

This pH factor said one ecologist, would make the water more corrosive than caustic soda.

Residents say raw human sewage from Atteridgeville has also been washing down into the spruit since 1986. Labourers often drink water from the stream.

Rhona Taylor, who owns property where a donga from AEC land meets the Moganwe, said a luminous greenish-brown liquid had regularly, almost at yearly

intervals, spilled down the donga into the spruit, killing fish.

The spills had occurred since 1979, but Mrs Taylor said she did not report them because friends told her she would get into trouble.

The Department of Water Affairs said it would not have picked up

any indications of the spill because it did not do checks on the Moganwe Spruit which, a spokesman said, was an "insignificant little stream".

Mrs Taylor said about 90 percent of her animals had died of cancer, and she thought this was related to the spills.

According to a scientist, however, fluoride has not been linked to cancer.

But, fluoride is toxic. It could kill organisms and even a cow if it drank enough of the contaminated water, says Robert Hancock, professor of inorganic chemistry at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Department of Water Affairs officials denied this, saying the levels of fluoride found would benefit man.

Water Affairs told The Star it had done fluoride tests on the stream in

July, but declined to give results.

In results shown to Ms Lotter, they admitted they had done fluoride tests only in early August.

One of these tests showed a fluoride count of 9,2 parts of a million. Fluoride should not exceed 2 parts of a million for drinking water, according to the AEC.

Water Affairs officials found the spill on July 17 after meeting unhappy residents.

AEC had not been aware of any spillages, admitted spokesman Nic Ligthelm. He said it seemed the spill began on July 25. On that date the pH measured 11,8 on AEC property.

He said the AEC was still unsure of where the spill came from, but the situation was being monitored and the donga leading into the spruit had been dammed up.

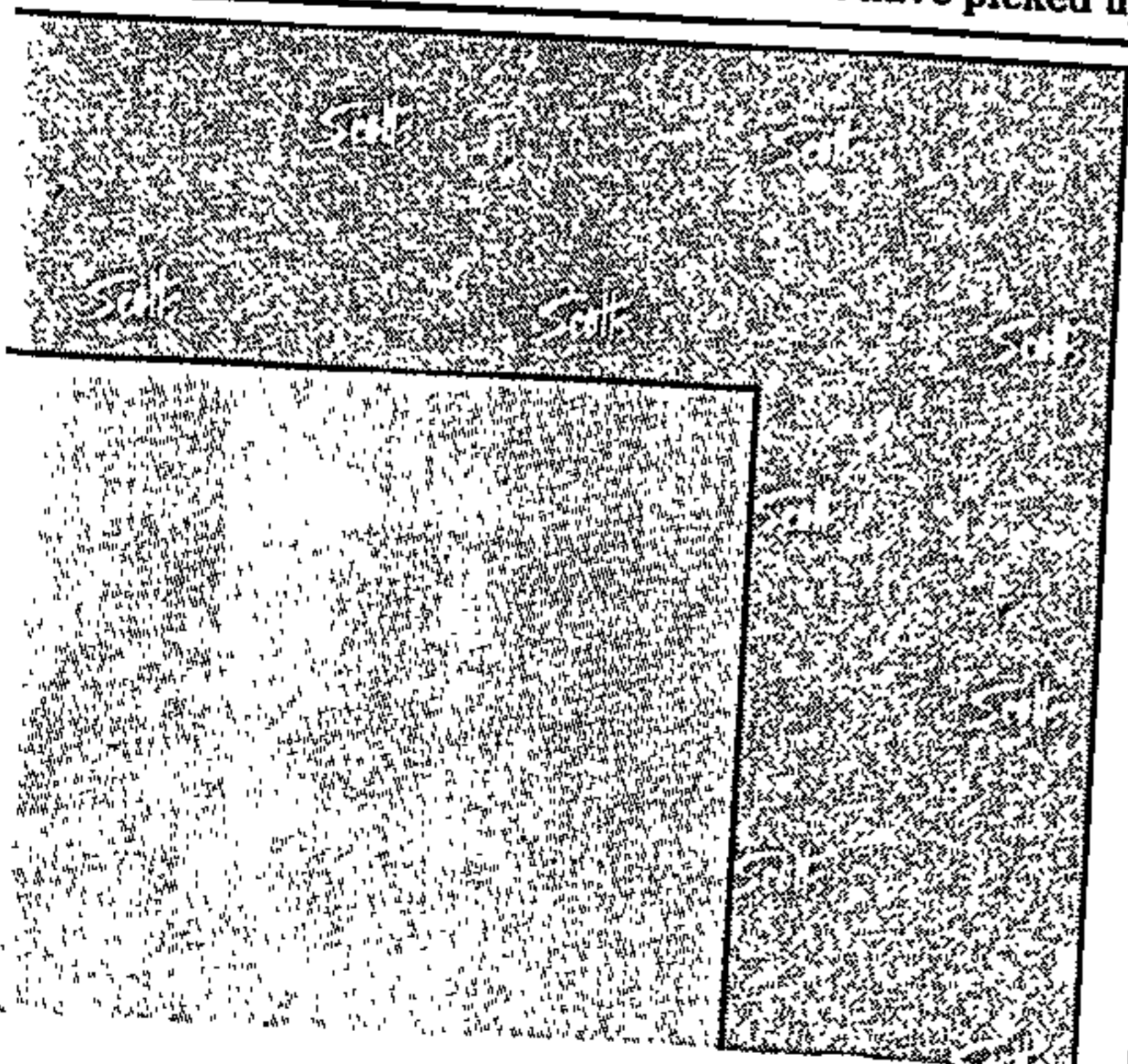
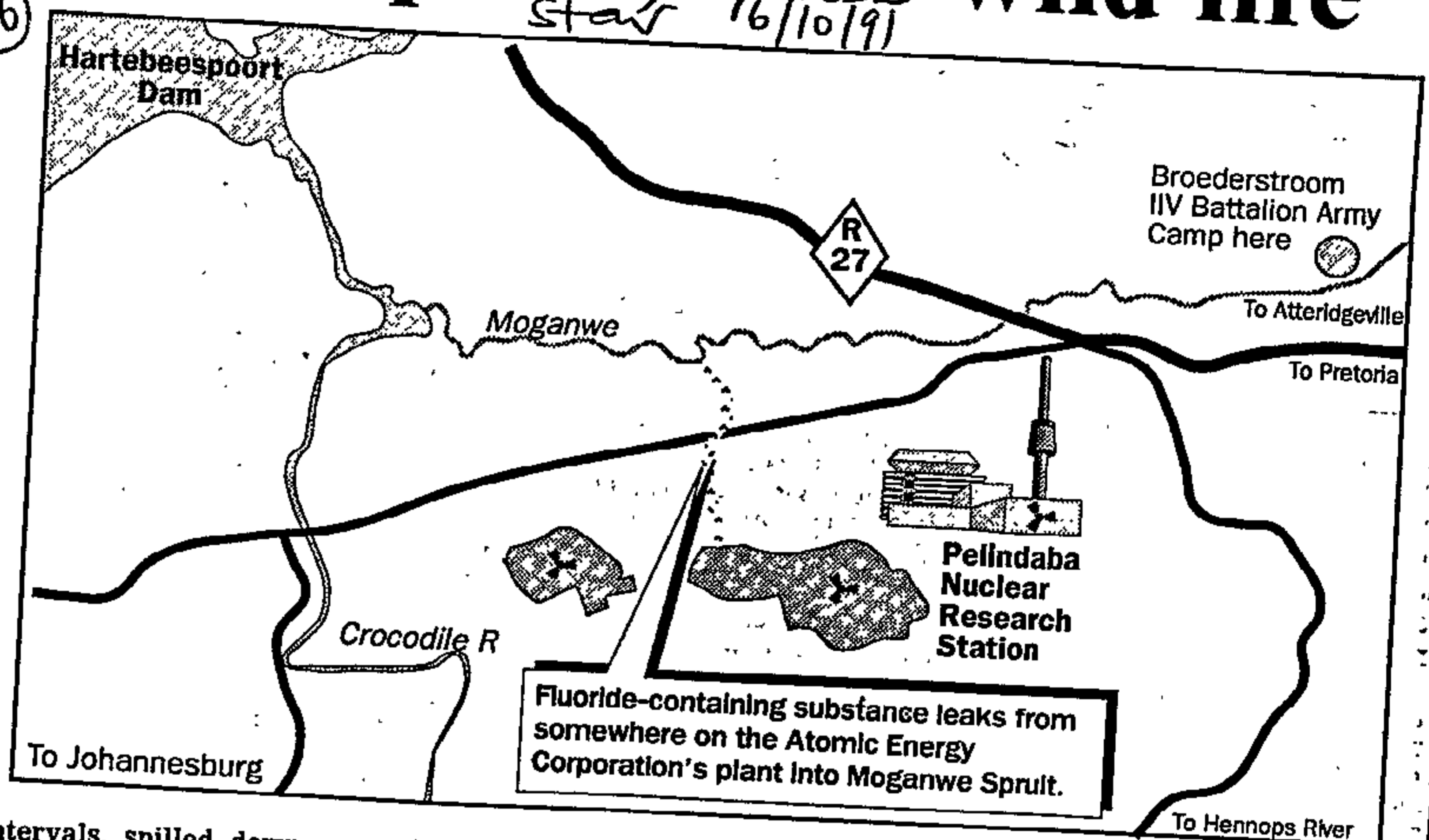
The leak could have come from the hydrofluoric acid plant or the conversion plant where uranium hexafluoride is produced, he said.

Although officials at the Department of Water Affairs say there is now nothing wrong with the stream, Jenny Lotter, who owns Seven Hills farm through which the Moganwe runs, said the spruit was greasy green and dead.

Mrs Lotter said they used to walk to the stream and watch the otters. "Leguaans chased our dogs. There were fish. Sometimes you had to put your hands over your ears the birds were so loud.

"Now there is nothing, not even a frog. All the crabs have gone."

According to the Department of Water Affairs, the sewage spill from Atteridgeville has been stopped.



Aid-for-environment deal goal for summit

STOCKHOLM — A deal involving aid in exchange for population control and environmental protection in poor countries would be the best outcome of next year's world environment summit, a population expert says.

"The conditions are really set for a very constructive deal," said Nathan Keyfitz of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, an Austrian environmental think-tank.

Mr Keyfitz called for "a great exchange, a bargain, between the more-developed and the less-developed countries by which we can provide appropriate technology and funding and do something about economic debt".

In return, developing countries would tackle environmental and population problems, he told reporters after a four-day conference of international researchers aimed at highlighting links between population, development and the environment.

The conference, sponsored by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Swedish Council for Planning and Co-ordination of Research, will offer its findings to the UN-sponsored summit in Brazil next June.

Intensify

Mr Keyfitz and other researchers at the conference said growing population in poor countries was inextricably linked to poverty and environmental degradation.

"Efforts to dampen the population increase must be intensified," the conference participants said.

They also said industrialised nations must hasten development of resource-saving technology that does not harm the environment.

Mr Keyfitz said an aid-for-environment deal was a realistic goal for the summit. "People are in a receptive mood. The Third World is really in trouble. Population control is stalled and the development process is stalled."

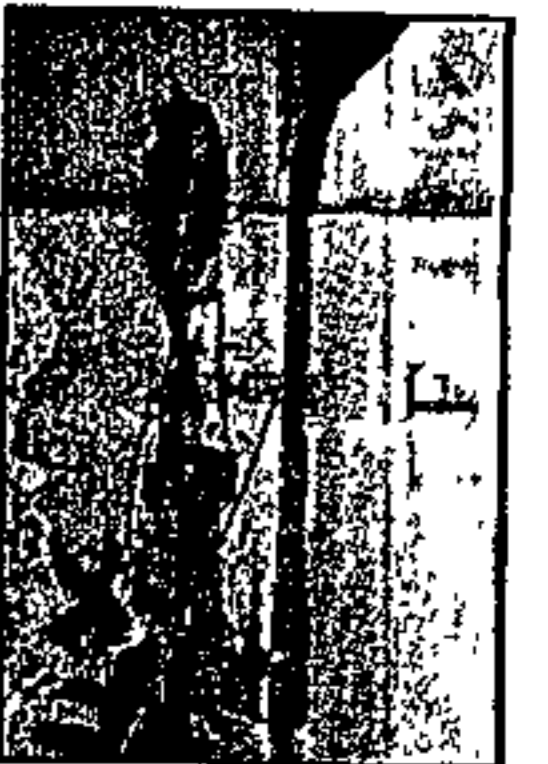
But Tatsuro Kunugi, a former UN assistant secretary general for humanitarian aid and population, said a global consensus had not yet developed for such a deal, in part because many nations were still spending heavily on weapons.

SAPA-AP

TRENDS

Earth Watch

A tramp might be run out of a British town for being a "blot on the landscape". A Wiltshire council is deciding how to get rid of Keith Waite. — Daily Mail.

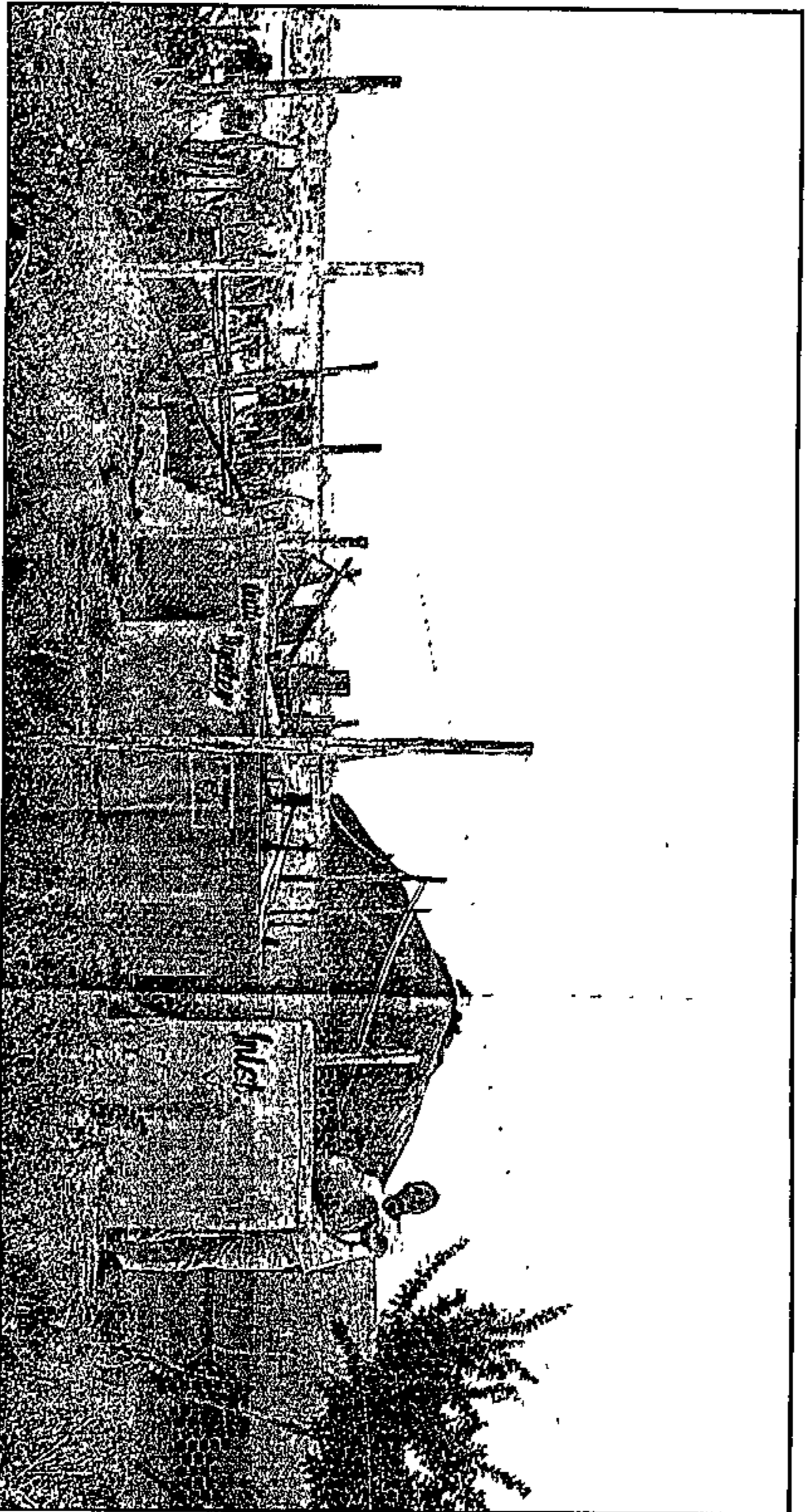


South Africa's abalone grounds in the Cape are under heavy poaching pressure now that abalone (perlemoen) is fetching R280/kg in Japan. — Trends Reporter.

Detergent firm Albright and Wilsor was fined R10 000 with R100 000 costs for polluting the Irish Sea after Greenpeace mounted a private prosecution. — The Independent.

Home-built power station proves a bushveld boon

A family in a small village in Gazankulu uses a "digester" to turn dung from cattle into methane gas for cooking, ironing clothes and boiling water.



DIY . . . Freddie Mathabela with his bushveld "power station".

Star 16/10/91

MILLIONS of people throughout Africa continue to ransack dwindling woodlands for fuel or burn cattle pads for natural fertiliser.

Now the Mathabela family in the village of Timbavati in Gazankulu's bushveld has come up with a better way — a small home-built power station next to their village.

But instead of using coal they put the dung from their nine head of cattle into a tank (digester), tap the resultant biogas (methane) and burn the gas for fuel.

They use the heat for cooking, ironing clothes and boiling water.

The fertiliser remains available after the gas has been tapped. Building the digester was a joint effort between the Appropriate Technology Group and the University of the Witwatersrand's Rural Facility and the Mathabela family which had to dig the pit as a demonstration of their commitment to the project.

One of the sons, Freddie Mathabela, has been interested in biogas for some time and he and a brother are responsible for the monitoring of the plant.

A similar digester, for a family of seven people, can be built for R2 000. Reductions in costs are being investigated. Fuel would be free once the power plant has been paid for.



The Mathabela's gas plant was built in about ten days and has operated for a year.

And what's more, the gas is of good quality according to Cecile Thom of the CSIR's Watertek.

She says winter proved something of a problem in that the quantity of dung dropped and the colder temperature decreased the methane-producing bacteria but measures to improve this situation are being investigated.

The dung added to the digester is mixed with water and fed in through an inlet pipe. A metal drum floats on the sludge, collecting the gas.

Outlet

The excess sludge leaves the system through an outlet pipe, and can be used during the rainy season as a fertiliser for vegetables.

The Mathabelas sell excess sludge to neighbours.

Mrs Mathabela used to cook once a day on a fire after collecting and chopping wood. The biogas digester cuts down on time spent collecting wood, and could ease the pressure on forests.

The digester, said Ms Thom, has generated considerable interest in the Mhala district of Gazankulu, and Wits Rural Facility have received several requests for them.

JULIENNE DU TOIT

Kirstenbosch: No money for new land

Staff Reporter

THE National Botanical Institute is being asked by the government to tender competitively for land next to Kirstenbosch gardens to prevent developers building townhouses there.

But the chairman of the institute, Professor M.C. Botha, said the institute could not raise the money to pay for the land. (5) CT 17/10/91

He was puzzled that the institute was now being asked to pay about R6 million to the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs. The department owned both Kirstenbosch and the adjoining land.

The institute had more important priorities, such as education facilities and tourism centres, he said. Professor Botha was reacting to confirmation by the department that the institute would have to compete on the open market for the property.

Departmental spokesman Mr Ken Snyman said: "The institute mustn't see acquisition as a donation or free transfer of property from us to them."

October 17, 1991 5

ANC policy on game parks

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — Mr Nelson Mandela committed himself to the preservation of the Kruger National Park in a BBC television programme screened here last night. He added that the ANC would "not be inclined" to alter any of the other game parks.

But he said that under a future ANC government the people would have to be made "part and parcel of conservation".

In a lengthy interview Mr Mandela said the ANC would also seek to increase the area of land for conservation in South Africa from the present 4% to around 10%. ~~56 C175/10/91~~

17/10/91

Putting green in the balance sheet

Weekly Mail Reporter

PROPELLED by a rising environmental consciousness and the fear of falling foul of the law, an increasing number of businesses are putting in place programmes aimed at assessing their environment friendliness.

An addition to the environmental profession's armoury is the audit. The concept of environmental auditing is defined by the International Chamber of Commerce as "a management tool, comprising a systematic, documented, periodic and objective evaluation of how well environmental organisation, management and equipment are performing".

The ICC adds that environmental audits should have the aim of "helping to safeguard the environment by facilitating management control of assessing environmental practices and assessing compliance with company policies, which would include meeting regulatory requirements".

Although the concept gained a foothold in the major industrialised countries in the mid-1980s, in this country it only really started getting off the ground in 1989. Now major corporations such as Anglo Ameri-

can, Eskom, AECI and Pick 'n Pay have such audit programmes in place.

But, according to AECI senior environmental officer Arend Hoogervorst, "very few companies are really into serious environmental auditing. Many have only just carried out one audit and you need to do at least three in order to have a good assessment of your programmes."

The relevance of this growing industry is emphasised by Di Soutter in her book, *Environmental Auditing-Guidelines for Managers*. Soutter argues that its introduction in South Africa should not be a case of imposing First World concepts on a Third World country. Environmental management, she notes, is central to a sustainable growth path.

"It is precisely because South Africa needs sustained economic growth and development — to provide jobs, food and medical care for its growing population — that environmental management is relevant in this country."

Furthermore, environmental management, of which environmental auditing forms an integral part, doubles as a cost-control measure since it compels companies to reduce re-

source usage and wastage.

It reduces the likelihood of environmental disasters which result in corporations having to fork out millions in compensation and also helps companies comply with legal environmental requirements — although the penalties for breaking these are still low in South Africa.

Eskom chief executive Ian McRae says "good environmental management is sound business management".

There are many forms of auditing of which the three major ones are:

Compliance auditing which uses minimum legal standards as a yardstick; site auditing which checks industrial sites and plants; and activity auditing which evaluates a group's activities

Hoogervorst says companies which have implemented environmental audits, have done so in a rushed manner. In some cases, it was probably a cosmetic response to stave off unwanted attention from environmental pressure groups.

Hoogervorst says the environmental audit goes further than a financial audit in not only testing stated ideals against field practices but in also giving guidance to future improvement.

w/mail 18/10-24/10/91

56

Business gears up for the Brazil bash

N/Mail 18/10 - 24/10/91

Southern Africa's industrialists seem to be taking next year's Earth Summit in Brazil seriously.

They, and grassroots organisations, are meeting in Cape Town next week.

By FERIAL HAFFAJEE

BIG business in southern Africa is getting ready to put its environmental concerns firmly on the agenda of the Earth Summit to be held in Brazil next year. (56)

Industrialists from across southern Africa will jet into Cape Town next week to attend a conference aimed at hammering out the first-ever comprehensive environmental policy for businesses operating in the region.

The Southern African International Conference on Environmental Management is to prepare for the Brazil convention, organised by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and set to be the biggest international summit ever staged.

It is expected that heads of state from around the world will attend and develop an Earth Charter to regulate economic development and environmental behaviour around the globe.

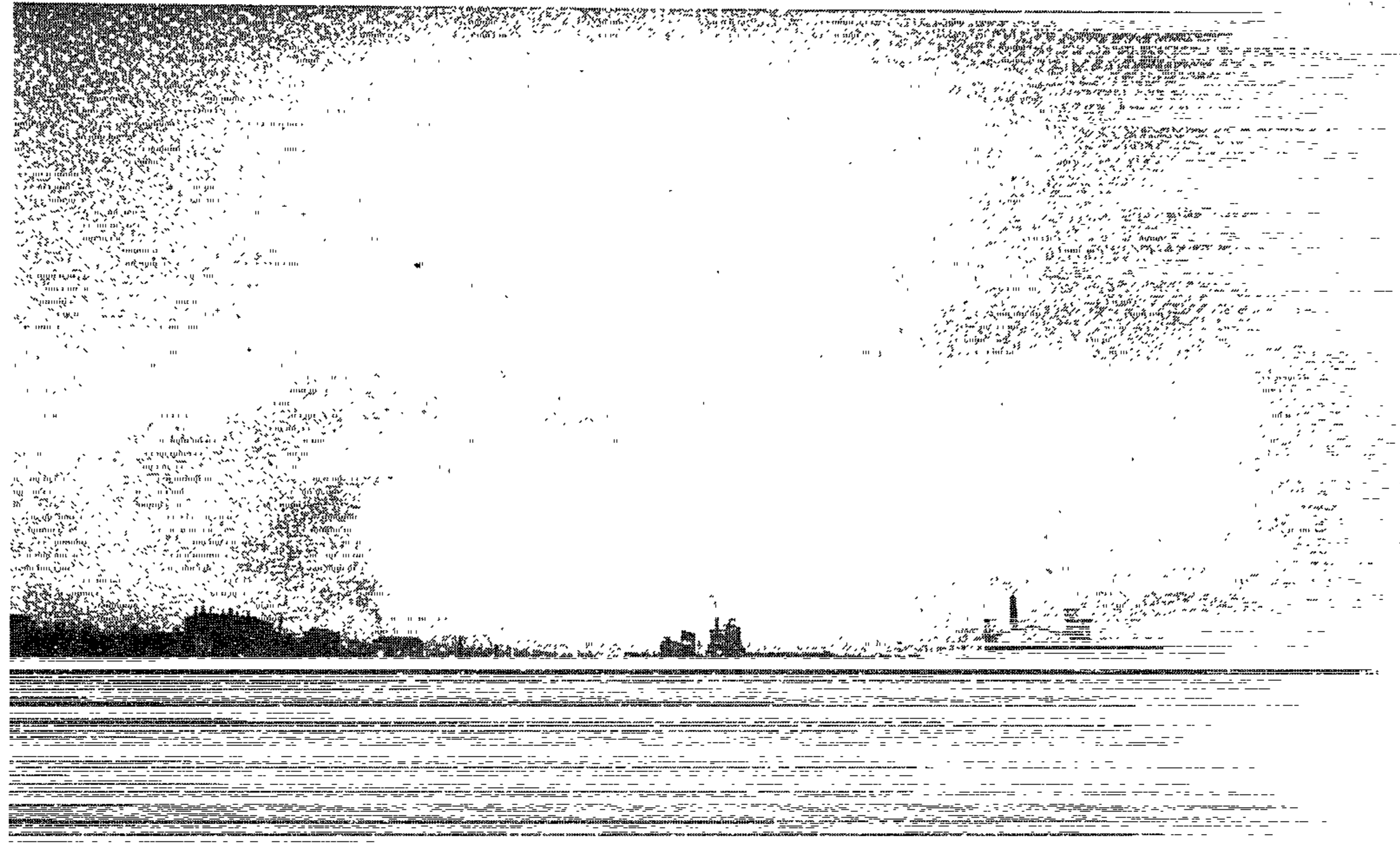
Business leaders from South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia and Botswana will attend the Cape Town conference to examine common issues that they face. And a team of international experts will summarise the southern African proceedings so that these can be tabled and discussed in Brazil.

"This will be the most significant environmental conference the region has ever seen," says conference coordinator Jonathan Hobbs, Eskom's corporate environmental advisor. "It will bring together many influential people who can effect changes pretty quickly."

A keynote speaker will be American Nigel Blackburn, the head of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and one of the architects of the Business Charter of Sustainable Development. He will also prepare input for Brazil.

Speakers from the Business Council for Sustainable Development, a coalition of top executives from around the world interested in the greening of industry, will also attend.

Another speaker, Hugh Faulkner, from Switzerland and head of the ICC's Environmental Unit, is de-



Environmental laws exist to control pollution but are seldom enforced. Perhaps business will now start policing themselves

scribed as "one of the leading lights in environmental thinking in the business community" by Hobbs.

The Cape Town conference has its roots in the successful formation of a new body called the Industrial Environmental Forum. The forum was started last year by about 30 South African business leaders committed to the continual improvement of environmental awareness in their companies.

The success of their venture prompted them to attempt to open the dialogue to a wider audience of political leaders, unions and academics through the medium of the conference. It is also aimed at "providing feedback, review and regional follow-up from the World Industry Conference on Environmental Management held in Rotterdam in April this year", says Hobbs.

The Business Charter was launched at the Rotterdam conference. Drawn

up by the ICC, it is intended to underpin big business' environmental policies worldwide and will be integral to next weekend's conference.

"It will also be tested for its Africa relevance," says Hobbs.

Various working groups will debate and discuss aspects of the Business Charter. Among the most important is the charter's premise that "versatile, dynamic, responsive and profitable businesses are required as the driving force for sustainable economic development and the resolution of environmental challenges".

The charter's first principal is that environmental management should be among the highest corporate priorities and should be integrated into all levels of management. It also upholds the importance of environmental impact studies in all project planning. And it commits companies to develop and provide services that:

- Have no undue environmental impact
- Are safe in their intended use
- Are efficient in their consumption of energy and natural resources
- Can be recycled, reused or disposed of safely

A large part of the charter stresses the importance of environmental education, advice and research as well as the importance of relevant and regularly updated environmental audits.

Delegates will decide how to undertake this task in South Africa.

A potential flaw in the landmark conference is the lack of genuine labour participation. Hobbs has no confirmations from the country's biggest union federations, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions, that they will be sending representatives.

The National Union of Mineworkers, Cosatu's biggest affiliate, has

confirmed, however, that it will be sending a delegate.

The labour perception of environmental protection is one of crucial importance to the growing body of environmental activism in South Africa and could bring important new dimensions both to the Cape Town conference and to the Brazil conference.

An African National Congress representative from the organisation's environmental desk, Stanley Samgwani, will attend the conference. Samgwani, who is based in Kenya, also works for the UN. In addition the Environmental Development Agency, the Environmental Monitoring Group and Earth-life Africa are sending delegates to the Cape Town conference.

Hopefully, the conference will go some way toward changing the "negative environmental perceptions and attitudes of many black people.

The right environment can create jobs. Or will it?

w/mail 18/10 - 24/10/91

56
400 100

EITHER we lose jobs. Or we lose the environment.

There's a temptation to sum up the great ecology debate with those two simple opposites.

But a recent *Worldwatch* paper, "Jobs in a Sustainable Economy" by Michael Renner, argues that the ever-changing interplay between jobs and the environment is far too complex to be reduced to slogans.

He throws up interesting points for economic debate.

However, the paper itself makes some questionable assumptions economists will associate with followers of the free lunch approach to economics.

Renner's thesis is the movement towards an environmentally sustainable global economy will create far more jobs than it eliminates.

"Less damaging ways of producing, consuming, and disposing of goods are consistent with the goal of full employment because they tend to be more labour intensive."

He goes on to say that governments will have to show the way. A host of government policies both encourage pollution and discourage job creation, he says. "By shifting the tax burden away from labour and toward capital and energy, job creation can be spurred."

South Africans are familiar with the perennial problem of drive towards high productivity costing bigger and bigger lumps of capital without creating more jobs. Capital productivity in South Africa is worse than labour productivity, a common scapegoat for our economic problems. The West reflects the same phenomenon.

Renner's observation that high unemployment stems from the same economic choices that cause industries to destroy the environment deserves some attention. He contends the quest for labour productivity lies at the root of structural unemployment as well as unsustainable levels of resource use and environmental destruction.

But he arrives at this conclusion by defining labour productivity increases as the substitution of capital and energy for human labour. This is not the only definition. Labour productivity can be increased in two ways. Either you can cut the number of la-

The link between economic growth and environmental conservation is complex enough to cause plenty of confusion. A new study offers some excellent arguments for going green — and a few rather dubious ones.

REG RUMNEY reports

bourers producing X number of widgets or the same number of labourers produce more than X widgets in the same amount of time. The second option may use more energy and capital — but it doesn't lose jobs.

Looking too narrowly at the interplay between capital and labour also creates a misconception.

Take an example closer to home, such as the pending Columbus Stainless Steel project. The project only creates 1 500 jobs for a cost of up to R3-billion. Moreover, the production of stainless steel is the kind of necessarily polluting, materials-intensive technology Renner would probably want the world to move away from.

"If environmental degradation is to be reversed we're talking about much bigger economic changes than 'tailpipe' controls like smokestack scrubbers — we're talking about fundamental changes in the way products are manufactured, used, and disposed of."

Renner goes on to argue that the mainstream industries of manufacturing, transportation, and energy will undergo pronounced change and create substantial new employment opportunities as they restructure every stage of their operations to minimise the input of natural resources and the output of pollution.

"Just as automobiles, synthetic chemistry, and throw-away products have characterised life during much of the 20th century, so will the features of a sustainable economy — energy efficient appliances and homes, bike paths, solar power plants, and recycling centres — reshape life in the 21st."

However, Renner fails to address the role of materials production in the industrial life of any country. The Columbus project, for example, will

benefit South Africa in earning much needed foreign exchange. Whether it should be subsidised by the taxpayer is another issue. And yet to be proved is that the availability of stainless steel will spur downstream production of value added products, for example, surgical instruments. Nonetheless, without foreign exchange we would have to borrow to buy the stainless steel to produce those products.

So South Africa is faced with a seemingly intractable problem. Labour-intensive projects are desirable, but they may not be internationally competitive. However, internationally competitive industries will bring in foreign exchange.

For South Africa, where pollution is not yet as much of an issue as the developed world, the question is rather how trends in the developed world will affect us.

Renner contends sustainable technologies such as windpower are not starry-eyed visions of a far-off future. The sceptical response is that if they were commercially attractive, they would already have been adopted.

But let's assume the First World does swing to labour-intensive, earth friendly industries like recycling and away from steel and chemicals production. That will hand the developing countries a gift in the form of new opportunities to build such plants. While products are becoming less materials intensive, cars, for example, still need metal, plastic and glass.

In effect, the First World will be exporting pollution abroad, just as electric cars shift pollution from cities to the power stations.

Clearly, this will help cut down on noxious emissions at home but will leave intact the greenhouse effect.

Renner seems aware of this in arguing that the world community must work "co-operatively to create new industries that will both enhance the environment and provide millions of rewarding new jobs".

Quite how this will be done is not explained, for Renner's focus is on the industrialised countries. But it sheds light on the difficulties of grand plans to combat pollution, especially those that involve international effort.

Green Pages / A focus on the environment

War: A competition for scarce resources

by David

18/10 - 24/10/91

Is there a direct link between unwise development, environmental degradation and bloody conflict? Panos Institute's new book, *Greenwar: Environment and Conflict*, answers this question with a resounding yes in its study of the political instabilities of Africa's Sahel, the region that spans the continent east to west along the southern fringe of the Sahara desert — an area that has seen too many famines and too many wars.

As productive yet fragile land is severely stressed by factors such as drought, overpopulation, overgrazing, intensive development and agricultural projects dedicated to profit rather than sustainable yields, its productivity drops, giving rise to competition between people who depend on its resources for their survival. As environmental pressures increase, competition gives rise to conflict, which can be as desperate and violent as natural resources are scarce.

This is the greenwar factor — consistently neglected by politicians, diplomats, the media and the military, but urgently crucial if violent conflict is to be alleviated and sustainable development implemented in the area.

This book is not a collection of objective facts and stale academic analyses by outside experts. It is the collective work of 15 Sahelian journalists intimately aware of the problems. These writers create a complex tapestry of information, using as threads various case studies and interviews with peasants, farmers, pastoralists, refugees and bandits, interwoven with the proverbs, legends and wisdom of these people whose lives directly affect, and are affected by, the deteriorating situation in the Sahel.

The numerous fields of political conflict that span the Sahel have unique and complex histories, but they all share a single common denominator — increasing numbers of people competing for rapidly waning resources. Traditional nomadic cattleherders of Chad, Niger, Mali and Sudan find themselves trespassing as their seasonal grazing pastures are transformed into mechanised farms. After years of catastrophic droughts, increasing numbers in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia are forced to concentrate their families and livestock around diminishing water sources. The people of Eritrea in northern Ethiopia — a once fertile and produc-

ive region — have seen their people and their land ravaged by a bloody civil war that has continued since 1961. War is the final, and most devastating stage of the relationship between environment and conflict. For war is waged not only on a people, but on their land. As a region's ecology and resources are destroyed, the seeds are sown for further strife. Thus the greenwar factor becomes a vicious, self-perpetuating spiral of destruction. The editors of this book urge us to realise that "... there is no single solution to the Sahel's slide into environmental bankruptcy and bloodshed, just as there is no single cause. But the first element of any solution must be an understanding of the greenwar phenomenon and the way that it links violence to the environment with violence to humankind."

Sustainable solutions to environmental degradation require co-operation between, and consideration of, all peoples and governments dependent on a region's productivity.

I like this book; it is concise, coherent, informative and interesting. It also carries a few photographs of such fine quality that they are done little justice by the small, simple format. And most important is its message: that to deny the people of any region just and democratic access to its natural resources is to tear apart the fabric of society itself.

Blake Owens
GREENWAR: Environment and conflict
edited and published by Panos Institute

Green Pages / A focus on the environment

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY BRIEFING

AUDI INNOVATORS for the Environment is hosting a symposium aimed at instilling an environmental responsibility and understanding among business and industry and offering practical solutions for action. To be held on November 11 at the Audi Conference Centre, Midrand, the symposium will cover a range of topics including new ways of controlling air pollution, the benefits of environmental auditing, future trends in environmental law and the mechanics of environmental risk management.

The emphasis is on providing an overview of how environmental conditions will impact on business and industry and will provide an opportunity for industry to begin formalising the integration of environmental concerns into business strategy.

The cost of attendance is R250 a person. Enquiries: (011) 648-6110

EARTHLIFE JOHANNESBURG AGM

THE Johannesburg branch of Earthlife Africa will be holding its AGM

The business of greenbacks

on October 24 at 7pm. Earthlife is run by volunteers and although there are hundreds of members, very few are active. This is a good opportunity for prospective members to find out more about the organisation. For more information, contact Carlen Engelbrecht or Peter Lazarus at (011) 447-3087.

ORGANISATIONS' WORKSHOP

SOUTH AFRICA is experiencing an awakening of environmental consciousness, which has resulted in a proliferation of groups. The Gencor Development Trust is organising a workshop on October 25 to enable as many environmental organisations as possible to meet and attempt to eliminate overlaps. The workshop will be held at Nasrec near Johannesburg and the attendance fee is R60 a person. Arrangements can be made for financial assistance. Contact Sandy Dennison at (011) 376-2124 for more details.

MATURE STUDY GROUP

THE VSG, a working group of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, will be holding a lecture on November 7 at RALU, Johannesburg. The programme starts at 6.30pm with a talk by the director of EWT, Dr John Ledger. VSG chairman Duncan Butchart will discuss the activities of the group. Dr Gerhard Verdoorn will deliver a lecture on identification of African vultures. This is an opportunity to find out more about the group, its activities and the birds it aims to conserve.

NETWORK NEWS

By BEV GEACH



For more information, telephone Beth Peterson at (011) 482-3248, before the end of October.

AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

A CONFERENCE to address the issue of government and agriculture in a new South Africa is being organised by the Agriculture Department of the University of the North on November 13. The keynote address, on the role government should play in agriculture in the future, will be given by Dr Simon Brand of the Development Bank. Contact Dominique at (01522) 4310 ext 2203. The cost of R30 includes teas and lunch.

TERRA NOVA AWARDS

THE Audi Innovators for the Environment was launched a year ago and the first annual Terra Nova Awards will soon be made. The purpose is to encourage anyone who is concerned about the problems facing the planet to

come forward with creative and practical solutions. The awards will be made in four categories — air, land, water and all living creatures.

Winners in each category will receive R50 000. In addition a Young Innovator's Award will be made in each category with a prize of R5 000, for entrants under 18 years of age.

Entries must be received by November 30. Entry forms can be obtained from the Institute of Inventors and Innovators at PO Box 93498, Yeoville, 2143 or telephone (011) 648-6110.

CHEETAH IDENTIFICATION PROJECT

EWT and the National Parks Board are asking anyone visiting the Kruger National Park and adjacent reserves to submit all photographs taken of cheetah. Each animal's spots are unique and researchers are able to identify individuals and build up data regarding the animals' movements, habitat and home ranges. The cheetah project has been running for a year and so far only 118 cheetah have been identified. Phone (011) 486-1102 for details.

Eskom dream taking shape

ST Times (Bus) 20/10/91

By DON ROBERTSON

ESKOM's aim of a power grid involving all countries in southern Africa is no longer a dream — it could be completed by the end of the century.

Ian McRae, chief executive of Eskom, the fifth-largest electricity utility in the world, says negotiations continue with several of countries and others have expressed an interest in joining the grid.

Mr McRae says: "It is no longer a dream, it is recognised in Africa, but it might only be achieved by the end of the century."

Mr McRae says the South African National Committee of the World Energy Council (Sancwec) will host the annual executive assembly of the World Energy Council (WEC) in Cape Town in October 1994.

Sancwec's offer to host the conference was accepted almost unanimously at an assembly meeting in Budapest in September. Delegates from about 90 member countries are expected to attend the conference.

"The world is keen to cooperate with SA in all matters," says Mr McRae, who is also chairman of Sancwec.

Eskom has signed co-operation agreements with a large utility in Germany and two in Britain. A similar

agreement is expected to be signed with an electricity company in Spain to add to those with Portugal, France and Taiwan. (SS) (250)

The agreements allow for the transfer of information, technology, staff and the establishment of joint ventures or projects.

Eskom has had discussions with Zaire, Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Zambia, all of whom are keen to join the grid.

The proposed Ipupa Falls hydro-electric scheme on the Kunene River in Namibia and the Inga project on the Congo River could form part of the grid.

Bend

The Inga project has the potential to produce 100 000MW of power without the necessity of damming the river. The flow of water on a bend in the river at the proposed site would be sufficient to drive turbines and produce electricity. The largest of Eskom's power stations produce 3 600MW.

Eskom has also agreed with Mozambique to allow the transfer of power to Harare.

INTERNATIONAL

Call for new environmental watchdog to monitor conservation efforts

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

56 APR 21 10 41

A WORLD organisation similar to Amnesty International should be established to act as a watchdog over the environment and monitor countries' application of a new universal conservation ethic.

This is one of the major recommendations of a new world conservation strategy published today.

Entitled *Caring for Earth: A Strategy*

for Sustainable Living, it was compiled jointly by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) and the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Collaborators included the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank, the World Resources Institute and the International Labour Office (ILO). The document follows the IUCN's first World Conservation Strategy published a

decade ago, which was criticised for not being "people-oriented" and not incorporating an environmental code of ethics.

In an introductory section headed *A Message to the World*, the document says humanity must live within the carrying capacity of the Earth.

"There is no other rational option in the longer term. Unless we use the resources of the Earth sustainably and prudently, we deny the human future."

The strategy's new approach has to meet two fundamental requirements.

"One is to secure a widespread and deeply held commitment to a new ethic, the ethic of sustainable living, and to translate its principles into practice.

"The other is to integrate conservation and development — conservation to keep our actions within the Earth's capacity and development to enable people everywhere to enjoy long, healthy and fulfilling lives."

Bid to draw business closer to the 'greens'

DAVE LOURENS

OVERSEAS environmental experts have been arriving in SA for a high-level conference designed to put businessmen in closer contact with the "green" movement. *Bl Day 21/10/91*

Conference convenor Jonathan Hobbs says 50 international environmental experts will join 280 SA delegates in taking stock of international trends and developments, and assessing their relevance for SA businessmen.

The Southern Africa International Conference on Environmental Management (Saicem) will be held at Somerset West on October 28 and 29. Sir Laurens van der Post will deliver the keynote address.

Hobbs says the business community is perceived as vital to environmental management because it has the power to effect immediate policy changes and the financial muscle to implement them.

Working groups will be held to highlight key issues. This will afford business leaders the opportunity to hear and debate the views of international experts.

Hobbs says the critical issues identified by Saicem will be presented to the Business Council for Sustained Development in Geneva, the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris and the International Network for Environmental Management in Hamburg. These organisations will add the results to a global business report to be presented to the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio, Brazil, in June 1992.

Pharmaceutical giant Glaxo Holdings' group environment officer Mark Rhodes will lead the workshop on tools of environmental management, focusing on problems facing developing countries, such as a limited knowledge base and the cost of modern techniques.

He believes the key to solving these problems lies in ensuring the health and safety of workers and the environment and effective risk management.

Oil companies set sights on Africa

SOUTH Africa's oil industry, headquartered in Cape Town, is setting its sights on capturing refined oil markets in Africa and has embarked on massive capital expenditure programmes to increase its refining capacity. *(Daw) 21/10/91*

Strong demand from the east coast of Africa and the Indian Ocean islands is expected.

Shell and BP are spending R450m to expand capacity at the jointly owned Sapref refinery in Durban, the largest refinery on the continent.

Its present capacity of 200 000 barrels per day (bpd) is to be expanded by 30%.

The project will start this year and is due to be completed by end-1993.

Engen, which owns Mobil SA and Trek Petroleum, is planning a R2,2bn expansion to its Genref refinery in Durban, with the new capacity intended for the export market.

Caltex SA is spending R240m to double its daily production of 55 000 barrels.

If all three groups are looking to expand their horizons into Africa, they are also looking inwards to their social responsibility programmes.

Shell has donated R5,8m so far this year to educational institutions and is also involved in job creation, art and culture, environment and socio-political programmes.

Caltex has contributed R75m to the corporate social investment programme over the last 15 years since the introduction of the Sullivan Code, with R14m being contributed in the last year.

As far as Engen is concerned, the Energos Foundation (previously Mobil Foundation) is involved in about 150 projects involving funding of over R9m a year.

EVOLUTION TO

Rand Water Board to upgrade services

55

3/Day 21/10/91

BRENT VON MELVILLE

THE Rand Water Board is set to embark on a capital spending drive worth between R800m and R1,5bn in a two-year programme to upgrade services.

At present the board is spending about R120m annually on maintenance and minor upgrading. However, board CE Vincent Bath said yesterday that it was now necessary to look at providing additional purification and pumping plant, and upgrading of the pipeline and reservoir distribution network.

Bath said that work would have to start in 1993 to have the plant completed by 1995. For the most part, funding would come from the Rand Water Board's capital market loans. The board sources about 50% of its funding requirements on the capital market.

He said total expenditure had still to be decided as, depending on growth rates over the next few years, supply would have to be enhanced by between 600 megalitres and 1 000 megalitres daily. Supply is currently peaking about 3 000 megalitres daily, with capacity of about 4 000 megalitres.

As a result of VAT and the water levy, the board pushed up its base-cost to 71c/kl this month, compared to 62c/kl last month. That cost, according to latest figures from the National Utility Services (NUS), jumps to an average of 217,5c/kl for the Johannesburg consumer — the highest price in SA.

Second most expensive is Pretoria where water costs are 116c/kl, followed by Durban at 114,5c/kl, Cape Town at 110c/kl, Port Elizabeth at 92,9c/kl and East London at 84c/kl.

According to NUS marketing director Peter Cornelius a steep rise in water costs is also on the cards over the next few years, taking into account the effect of VAT and any increase in contributions to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. Water from the project is due to start flowing in 1997.

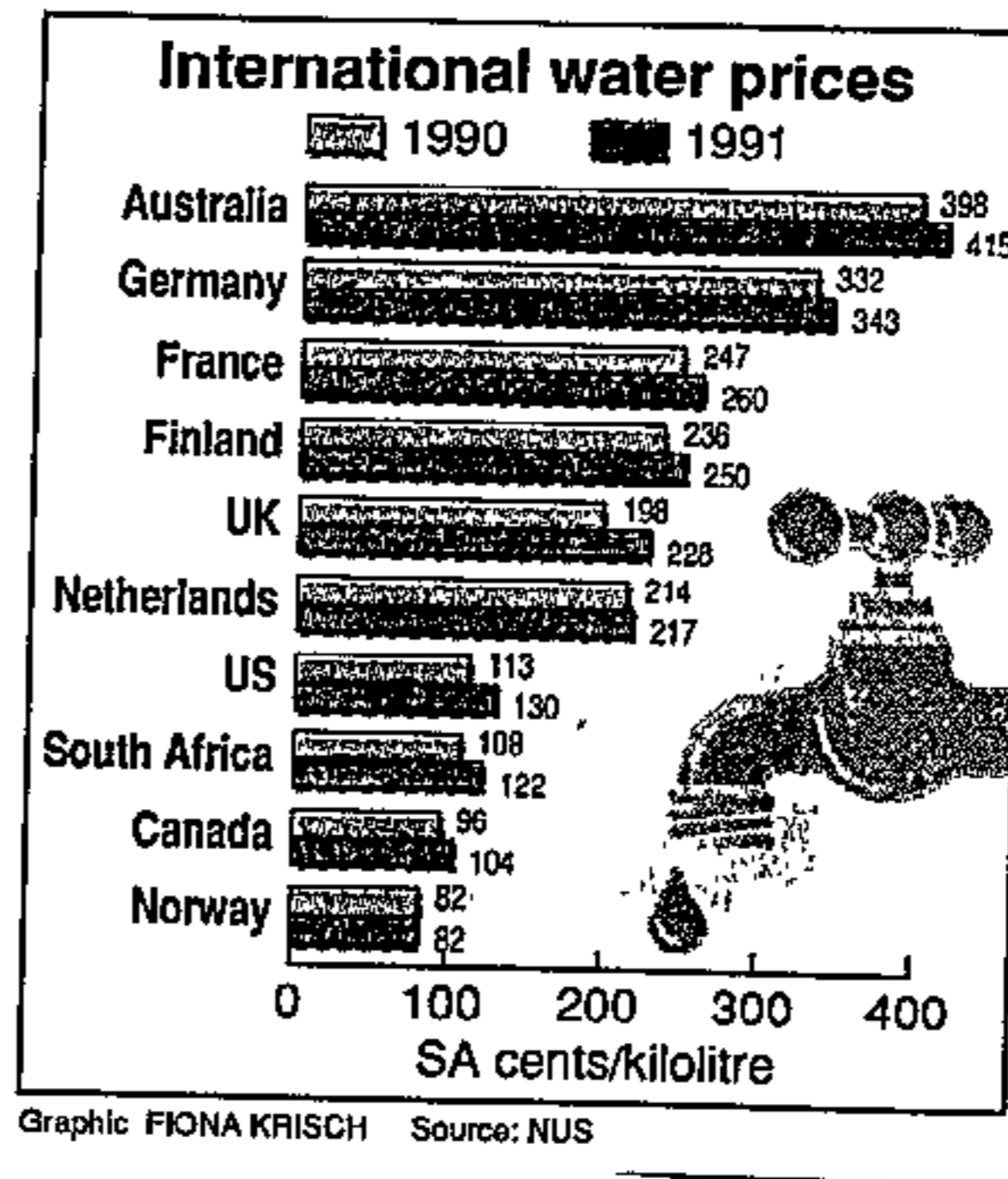
Water Affairs water resources develop-

ment deputy director-general "Tiny" Krige confirmed that PWV users were already paying a 10c/kl levy to finance necessary work on infrastructure by the board, and that the levy was increasing at a level of 2c/kl annually plus escalation.

Krige said according to latest estimates, water from the Vaal would have to be augmented not later than 1998, at which time the additional cost to the consumer would be about 25c/kl to 30c/kl, excluding purification or articulation costs.

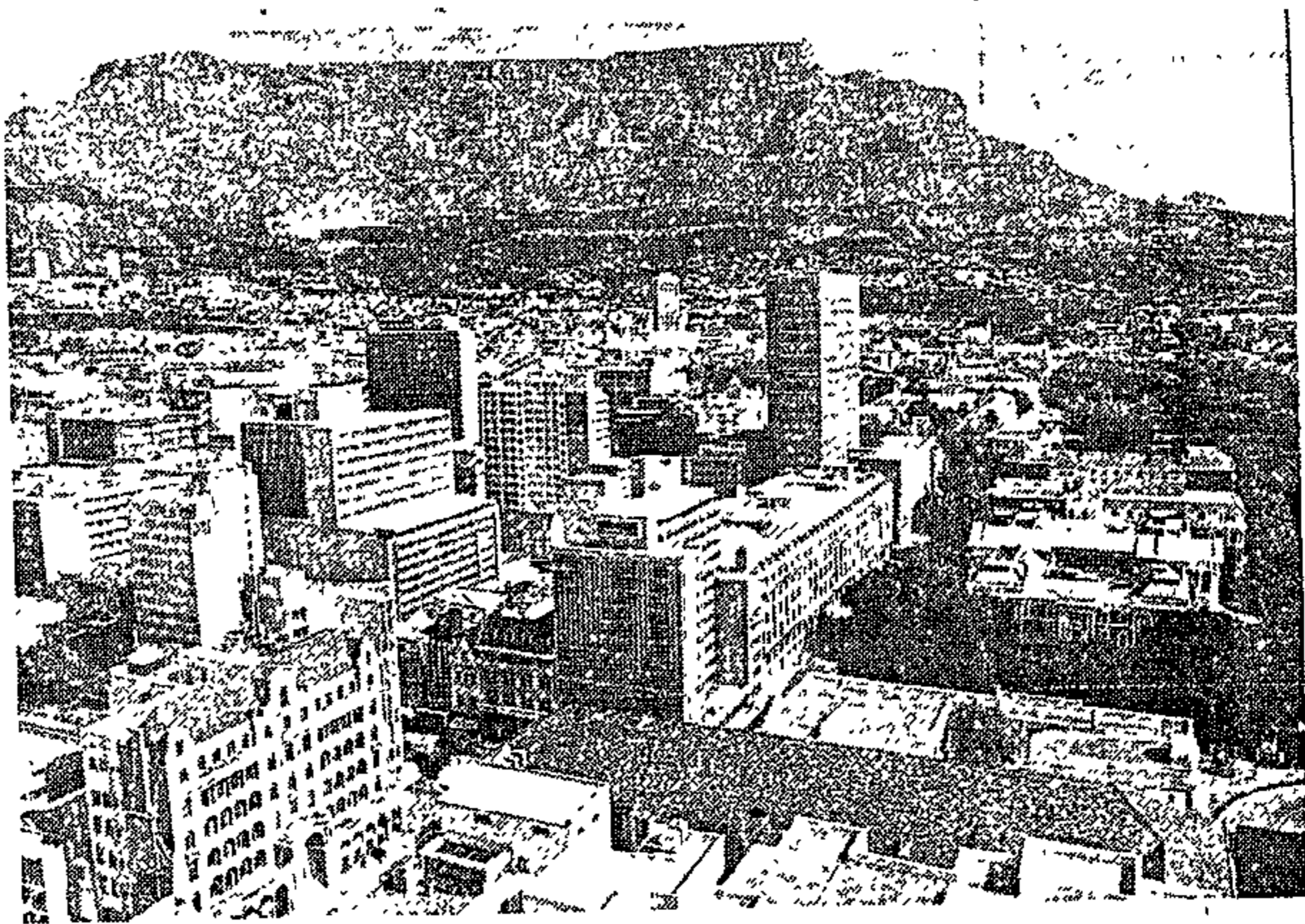
The increased cost of supplying water to consumers was reflected this year in an average 13,8% rise in the price of water, the fourth highest increase in NUS's survey of 14 industrialised countries. The national average of SA water prices is now 122,37c/kl, still the cheapest in the world other than Canada and Norway.

NUS figures show that the Australians pay the most for their water, about 415,22c/kl, while the UK pays an average of 227,87c/kl and the US 130,22c/kl.



Business Day SURVEY

Cape Town has the qualities to become the corporate centre of SA. The country's oil industry is already headquartered there and there are plans to develop a world class conference centre in the city. The Graduate School of Business is rapidly becoming an international centre of learning. LINDA ENSOR reports.



Robben Island could draw in tourists

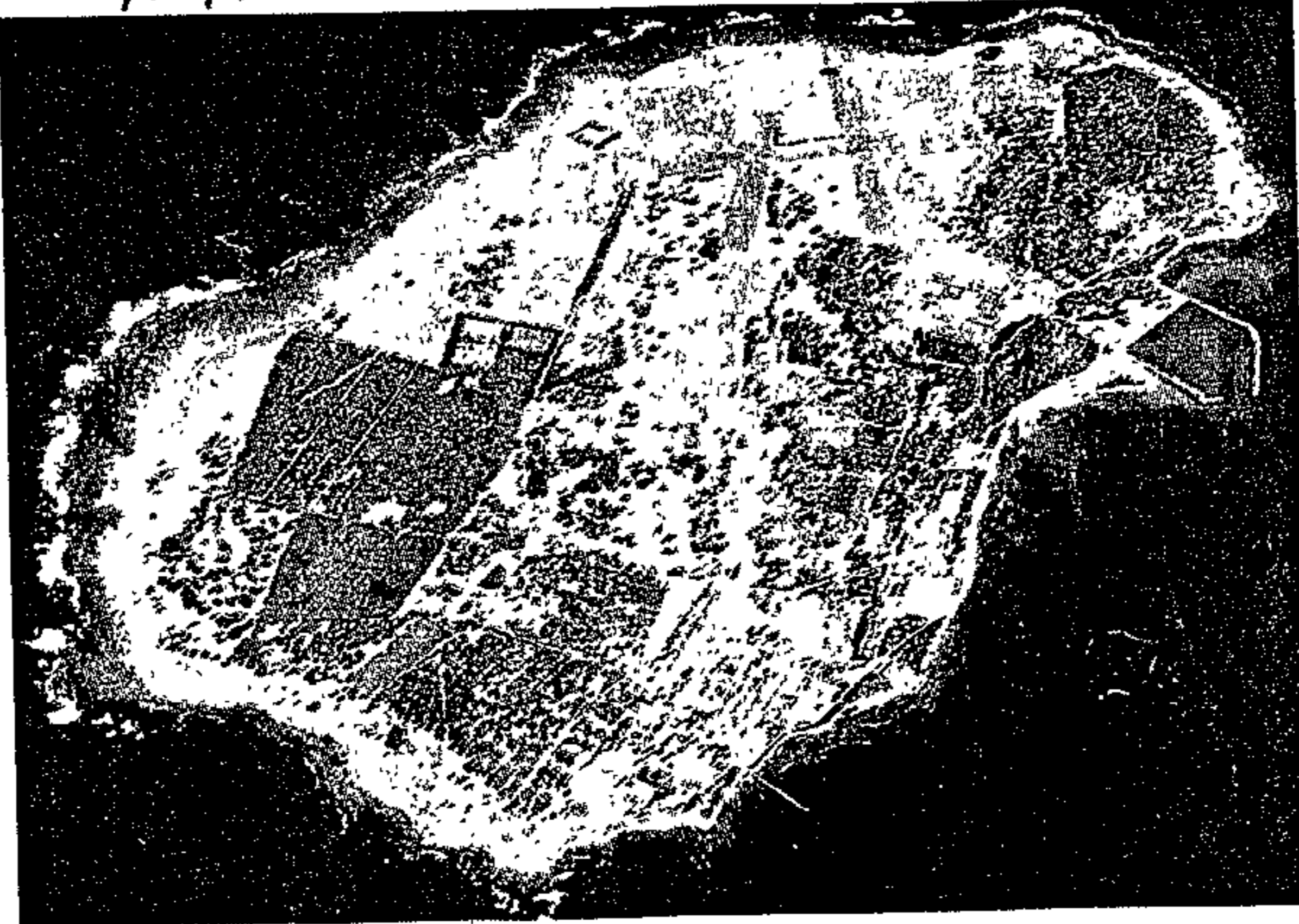
THE Department of Correctional Services is being lobbied by an influential group of Capetonians to relinquish its lease on Robben Island to allow for the development of a tourist resort under the control of the Department of Nature Conservation.

The group, which has formed the Future of Robben Island Committee, has the support of the city council chambers of commerce, Captour, the Cape Administrator, Western Cape Growth Organisation, Small Business Development Corporation and other bodies.

This year, part of the island was placed under the control of Nature Conservation, but the prison, once the jail for SA's and Namibia's political leaders, is now been used for common criminals.

Future of Robben Island Committee chairman Nick Malherbe says the conversion of Robben Island into a tourist attraction would have terrific spinoffs for Cape Town's tourist industry.

The committee estimates the number of foreign visitors to Cape



Town would increase by 10% and domestic visitors by 15%, and that an additional R430m would be spent in the city.

Furthermore, 22 000 new jobs would be created.

These calculations are based on the fact that foreign tourists spend three days in Cape Town — to see

the peninsula, the wine-lands and the mountain — and would spend four if Robben Island was opened to them.

"The Cape cannot afford to let this potential income and job creation linger."

Malherbe says the Victorian village which presently houses prison staff has a

Herbert Baker church, a Malay mosque, a leper's church and 22 quaint Victorian houses.

The island has forest areas, 52 species of land birds and the possibility exists for luring tourists with a wreck trail, historical walks, swimming and snorkelling off the beaches, bicycle rides etc.

The idea is for a low-key natural resort along the lines of Pilgrims Rest, conserving present structures, rather than a glitzy affair.

"The environment is the most important thing and Nature Conservation would have a dominant say in how the island is developed," Malherbe says.

He estimates the cost of converting the island into a resort would be about R34m.

Arguing against the continued use of the island as a prison, Malherbe says only 6ha of the 574ha island is used for incarceration purposes, and that keeping prisoners there costs the taxpayer R18m more than jailing them in other prisons because of the need to transport provisions, house warders etc.

He says the Future of Robben Island Committee would consult with the ANC, PAC, Azapo and Swapo on the future of the prison, but the maximum security section of the prison would be ideal as a museum dedicated to the history of the struggle against apartheid, while the remainder could be used as a youth hostel.

Bipay

21/10/91

483

56

288

Langebaan landowners battle for conservation

LIBBY PEACOCK
Staff Reporter

56
ARC 22/10/91
LANGEBAAN lagoon landowners have applied for an urgent Supreme Court interim interdict to prevent development of a residential area in a nature area near the lagoon.

Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd, the Ministers of Local Government and Housing in the House of Assembly, National Education and Environment Affairs, of Planning and Provincial Affairs, the Administrator of the Cape and Langebaan municipality are respondents.

The application is coupled with a review application.

Yesterday Mr Justice L A Rose-Innes postponed the matter to October 30 "as a matter of urgency".

He ordered the developer, Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd, to file opposing affidavits to the applicants' attorneys before Friday.

He also ordered that, should Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd do any work on tarred roads on the area in dispute — known as Myburgh Park, Phase 2 — between yesterday and October 30, they would have to undo it if the applicants succeeded in the review application.

According to the review, the

applicants, Corium (Pty) Ltd, Meeuklip Boerdery (Pty) Ltd and Oesterwal C C, seek an order setting aside the granting of a permit in September 1990, by the Administrator of the Cape, for the area to be developed.

Against Langebaan municipality they seek an order reviewing and setting aside their granting sub-division of the Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd property.

According to the interim application, the applicants seek an order that, pending the adjudication of the review application, Myburgh Park (Pty) Ltd be restrained from installing services, building, or from any development or alteration of Myburgh Park, Phase 2.

In an affidavit, Mr John Richard Grindley, a member of the South African Institute of Ecologists, said he was "strongly opposed to the intended development of Myburgh Park, Phase 2" based on the "visual impact" the development would have, and its influence on vegetation.

"The destruction of natural vegetation has a snowball effect. The natural habitat of fauna is removed," he said.

The applicants' attorney is Mr JWS van Zijl of Herold Gie and Broadhead.

Environment report out

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE President's Council report on a national environmental management system for South Africa is to be tabled in the council today.

It was compiled after the council's three committees considered written evidence in the form of 178 memoranda and a wide variety of literature, and heard submissions from 50 government departments and organisations represented by 188 individuals.

The report will interest many of South Africa's major conservation organisations, prominent academics and researchers, industrialists and businessmen, and individual State depart-

ments concerned with conservation who made submissions.

They hope the report will recommend tightening environmental legislation and give government departments — particularly the Department of Environment Affairs — more teeth to deal with pollution and environmental problems.

The department has been increasingly criticised over the past few years for its perceived failure to act effectively.

A major problem affecting the acceptability of any recommendations the President's Council may make is its own constitution.

● Full reports will be carried in later editions of The Argus.

56

AR22/10/91

Highly critical President's Council calls for drastic action

Shock report on pollution

Star 22/10/91

By James Clarke

The President's Council, after more than a year of hearings, this afternoon released a stark and alarming report on the parlous state of South Africa's environment.

The report, which warns of serious air pollution, waste problems and desertification, recommends what should be done to ensure sus-

tainable development.

In parts it is highly critical of the way environmental affairs have been handled, and calls for urgent moves to control the situation before it is too late.

The purpose of the exercise, which involved all three committees of the President's Council — constitutional, social and economic — was to find a way to manage South Africa from now.

The report should delight

environmental lobbyists.

It calls for a greatly expanded Department of Environment with more branches, more staff and more money.

It calls for an environmental policy. It says there should be a moratorium on deproclaiming or "aligning" any existing game reserves and calls for the urgent expansion of existing national parks.

Other points made in the

360-page report:

● An all-embracing environmental protection agency (as in the US) should not be considered before constitutional negotiations begin.

● The Department of Environment Affairs must be extensively enlarged and take over pollution control from other departments.

● The fragmented approach to environmental management must end.

● The law must be changed so that the Environment Minister does not have to seek permission from other Ministers and all four administrators before deciding on policy matters.

(There is no environmental policy at present, the PC found.)

● Industrialists should be obliged to disclose what they are putting into the air.

● Secrecy over energy should also end.

● The public must have a greater say in all environmental matters and easier access to information.

● A well-paid, regionally-based "integrated inspectorate" of specially trained people should track down polluters.

● Government departments must no longer be exempted from anti-pollution laws.

● All pollution fines must be

● To Page 2

Pollution problems 'alarming'

S6

Star 22/10/91

● From Page 1

updated because some are "absurdly low".

● IEM (integrated environmental management) should become policy in South Africa for all big developments including those by Government.

IEM entails declaring all expected environmental effects at the planning stage and producing "environmental audits" annually so the public can ascertain how the project is complying with required environmental standards.

● Environmental auditing by all appropriate industries should be compulsory.

Experts

● An "Environmental Council" to advise on policy should be established comprising no more than 25 experts of which eight can be appointed by the Minister. Among the eight must be an expert on air and one on "rapid urbanisation". The rest would be nominated by the private sector.

● An annual "State of the Environment" report must be tabled in Parliament.

Tomorrow's Star will carry full details of the President's Council's report.

Engen's earnings up 34% to R286m

55
B/Day 22/10/91
ROBERT GENTLE

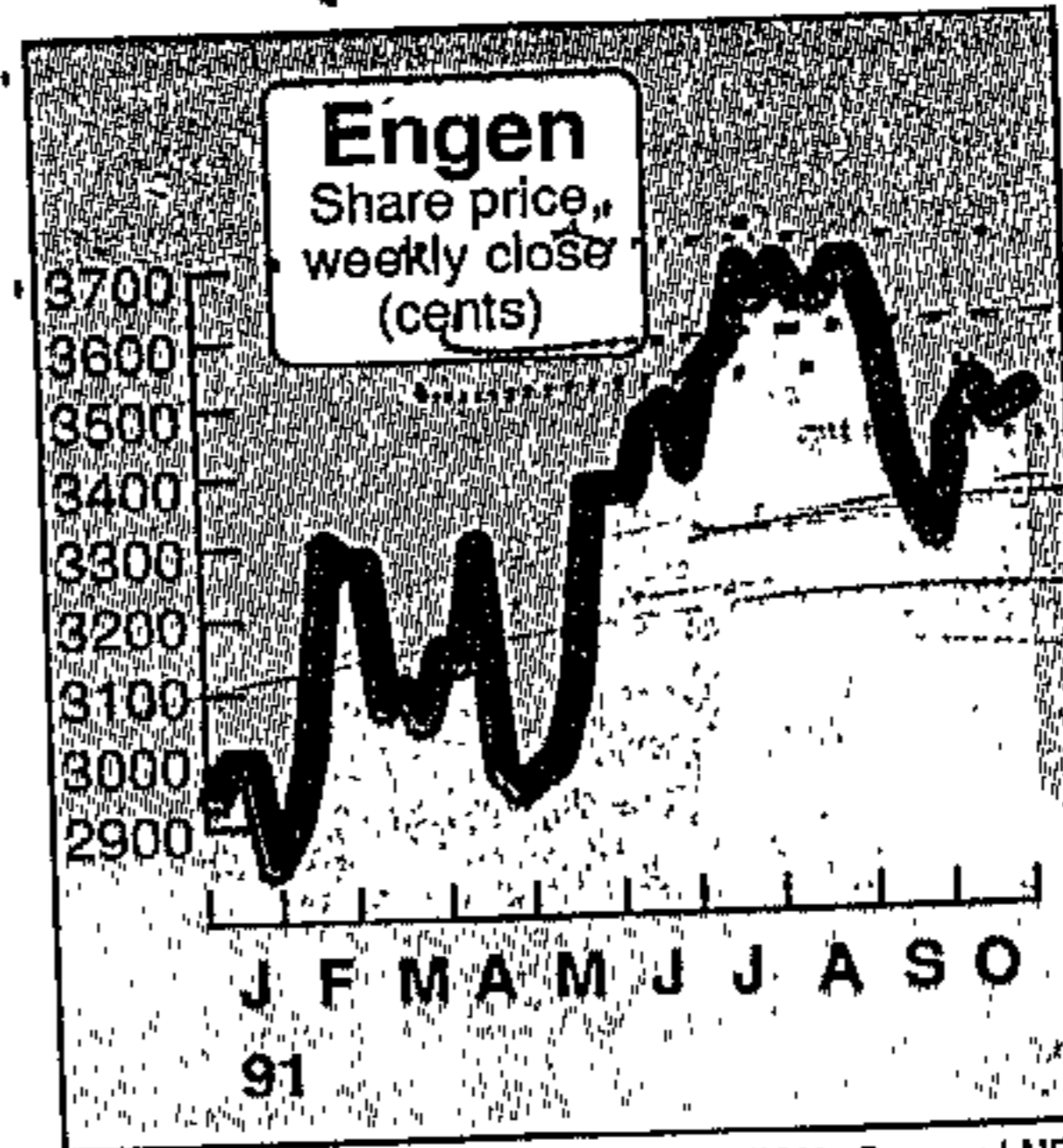
ENGEN, the oil and energy giant in the Gencor stable, has boosted attributable earnings for the year ending in August 34% to R286m (R214m previously) on the back of sharply higher interest income.

The R71m turnaround in interest income, the result of proceeds of the R1,1bn rights issue earlier this year, helped cushion the effect of higher-than-expected cost inflation and boosted the bottom line.

The cost inflation, which rose faster than selling prices, offset initial benefits of the company's rationalisation programme and savings flowing from the integration of Trek product distribution into the Mobil network. It was reflected in operating income rising only 17,3% to R379m (R323m) despite turnover rising 20% to R6,1bn (R5,08m).

Yesterday, Engen MD Rob Angel said that because of the rights issue and the greater number of shares in issue, earnings per share were "slightly diluted".

These rose 20% from 194c a share to 233c a share. "However, the increase is well ahead of the results reported by other



Graphic: LEE EMERTON Source: I-NET

major industrial companies," said Angel. The dividend per share rose 20% to 116c (97c), leaving dividend cover unchanged at two times.

Angel said refinery margins fluctuated during the early part of the financial year

To Page 2

Engen

55
B/Day 22/10/91
because of the Gulf crisis. "Margins returned to sustainable levels after the Iraq invasion and we anticipate they will remain stable during the next year."

The Gulf crisis had pushed crude oil prices beyond long-term sustainable levels, which in turn generated inventory profits, he said.

"These could, however, reverse when petroleum-related prices and exchange rates revert to long-term inflation expectations, and because we as management aim to reflect a sustainable profit performance, we have excluded pre-tax income amounting to R84m from our results."

55 From Page 1
Expansion of the Genref refinery in Durban — to be financed out of the proceeds of the R1,1bn rights offer — was proceeding on schedule and on budget. Phase 1, which would increase capacity 30%, should be completed by July 1992.

Looking at the coming year, Angel said growth in domestic markets depended mainly on the recovery of the SA economy. Engen was confident of real earnings growth.

Engen was formed in February 1990 in the wake of the disinvestment of US energy company Mobil. It is the second largest company in the chemicals and oils sector after Sasol.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

National Parks 'should be allowed to raise loans'

d
A
Y
S
r
L
S

CAPE TOWN — The President's Council report on a national environmental management system recommends that the National Parks Act be amended to authorise the National Parks Board to raise loans on the open market.

These would be used to buy land or upgrade rest camps.

The report said the parks should be self-supporting as far as possible.

However, privatisation of national parks and nature reserves was not considered to be in the long-term interest of the country and would be unacceptable to most conservationists and members of the public.

Nature reserves suffered from a chronic shortage of funds and lacked field staff.

The report said the 1987 commission of inquiry into the deterioration of Table Mountain had recommended that uniformed field rangers be appointed to patrol the Cape Peninsula nature area on a regular basis. This

recommendation had never been implemented.

Scope existed for the investigation of an end-user tax on hunters and anglers modelled along the lines of taxes levied in the US.

The report recommended that the Environmental Conservation Act be amended to provide for a fund for environmental management.

The revenue for this fund would come from various sources, including hunting and fishing permits and licences, fines and confiscations for illegal hunting or fishing, culling, the sale of wild animals to game parks and farms, and fines for pollution.

The fund should be used to improve the monitoring of the environment, research and acquiring land for conservation.

Government had to ensure that a healthy environment was among the provisions of any new constitution negotiated.

Law enforcement on the collection

of edible marine species was ineffective, it said. Blanket protection for all species should be considered.

The report proposed that species which could be collected in limited numbers be listed, and said a ban on export of threatened species — such as perlemoen — had been suggested during evidence to the council.

The report recommended that law enforcement be reorganised and strengthened to protect marine resources.

A thorough survey of the entire coastline was needed urgently to designate sensitive ecological areas.

A coastal development plan, based on these surveys, should be completed as a matter of urgency to ensure orderly coastal development.

The promulgation of a general Coastal Zone Management Act was overdue, the report said.

Coastal development should be subject to integrated environmental management procedures. — Sapa.

B 10 day 23/10/91 (56)

592
292
0.0
%
SI
96
4
7
5
3
2
6
1

Manpower shortage hit



Manpower shortages hit land conservation efforts

B/pan 23/10/91.
CAPE TOWN — The effectiveness of legislation on the conservation of land was seriously undermined by the lack of staff to enforce it, evidence before the President's Council committees for the investigation into a National Environmental Management System showed.

The report appealed for market-related salaries for these posts to attract and retain extension officers and resource conservation inspectors in particular.

The Department of Agriculture's Resource Conservation Directorate employed resource conservation officers who supplied information to farmers but, as a result of "a critical shortage of staff", the 14 officers available countrywide could only reach about 1% of farmers a year.

The report said it was evident that there was a chronic shortage of skilled staff in the Department of Water Affairs and a serious shortage of scientists.

Personnel shortages also impeded

the effective application of air quality standards, it said.

"It is disturbing that there is not a single air pollution official for the entire Free State, and only eight for the entire country," it said.

The report said there was also a serious lack of field staff.

It recommended that each region of the Department of Environment Affairs should establish an integrated inspectorate in which the resources of all inspectors and peace officers concerned with the policing of environmental legislation would be pooled.

With suitable in-service training, individual inspectors would be able to perform a variety of different inspectorial duties.

The recommendation includes the suggestion that the system of honorary nature conservation officers should be extended and those interested should be encouraged to attend training sessions and then be sworn in as peace officers with limited powers. — Sapa.

Handwritten: audited



Cahora Bassa to be revived

DAVE LOURENS

A R280m project to rehabilitate the dormant Cahora Bassa power scheme is planned for early next year following an undertaking by Mozambique's Renamo rebels not to sabotage powerlines, Eskom CE Ian McRae said yesterday.

McRae, outgoing chairman of the permanent joint committee on the Cahora Bassa scheme, said the Italian government had granted a R117m loan and the SA Merchant Bank would provide a further R50m. The World Bank had undertaken to underwrite the outstanding amount of about R120m if no other financing could be found.

An agreement had been reached with Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama whereby the rebel group had undertaken not to sabotage the power lines and to assist with the rehabilitation wherever possible. More

than 1 500 transmission towers were damaged during the fighting in Mozambique, bringing the Cahora Bassa scheme to a standstill.

McRae stressed contact had been made by a committee representative and not by Eskom. He said reports implying the committee and Eskom were supporting Renamo were "completely untrue".

Speaking at the committee meeting at which the Portuguese ambassador to Mozambique, Manuel Lopes da Costa, assumed the chairmanship, McRae said Cahora Bassa was vital to the development of the entire southern African region. He said a deal had been reached with the Zimbabwean government whereby Zim-

□ To Page 2

Cahora Bassa

babwe would be able to extract 500Mw of power from the scheme until 2003.

"The reason we agreed to this is we have a surplus generating capacity in SA at the moment," said McRae. He expected the surplus to last until the turn of the decade, after which SA would probably take up the 500Mw allocated to Zimbabwe in terms of the deal, giving SA access to a total of

800Mw from the scheme.

The R280m would effectively cover the rebuilding of power lines, transmission towers and other hardware on the Mozambique side of the border.

It was hoped work could begin in April, with a target of three years for the scheme to become fully operational once again.

● Picture: Page 3

□ From Page 1

B/day 23/10/91

SS (48)

Luxury lodges for Phinda

PETER GALLI

ONE luxury game lodge has already been built on the 13 000ha acquired near St Lucia by the Conservation Corporation for the Phinda Resource Reserve, and three more are planned. All are expected to be complete by 1994, says director Howard Geach.

The lodge is to be launched next week and the company plans to refinance the lodge, and additional drawdowns will finance more lodges, land and infrastructure.

The plan is to raise R83,3m and Hambros Bank in London has come up with a structure that meets the SA Reserve Bank requirements and facilitates international investment in wildlife tourism and the country, he says.

The structure features parallel companies, the Conservation Corporation International (registered in the Isle of Man) and The Conservation Corporation SA.

"A total of 740 investor units in the two companies will be offered. The SA units are being offered at R112 500 each, with a minimum subscription of four units. Units in the Conservation Corporation International are being offered at £21 600 each, also with a minimum of four units," Geach says.

The investment plan projects a 37% rate of return on the investment.

Local entrepreneurs running the Phinda operation have a 12,5% stake, which could rise to a maximum of 50% depending on performance.

Call to probe effect of
fuel change on economy

31 Dec 1971 LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — Lead-free petrol should be made available as soon as possible even though the estimated cost to the refineries of the conversion would be about R1bn, the President's Council's report says.

It says a higher tax rate should be imposed on leaded petrol to ensure that vehicles using this petrol are gradually phased out.

Social Affairs Committee chairman Ben Piek said yesterday that the recommendations on lead-free petrol were based on the Energy Council's findings.

The report estimates that lead-free petrol would cost about 9% more than leaded petrol, that it would involve a one-unit reduction in octane level and that petrol consumption would increase 2% to 3%. It says the total effect of conversion on the economy needs to be investigated urgently.

As a transitional measure, exhaust catalysts should be made available for vehicles which cannot operate on lead-free petrol. The report recommends that changes in octane levels be reinvestigated using — for example — ethanol, as this would save fuel, reduce pollution and create jobs. Alternative sources of energy for vehicles should also be investigated.

Govt urged to crack down on polluters

56

B/Daw 23/10/91

A SEVERE crackdown on mines and industries guilty of causing pollution has been recommended to government in a report by the President's Council.

The report calls for a hefty increase in fines for firms exceeding pollution limits and suggests the closure of mines as a penalty for land damage.

The wide-ranging report on a national environmental management system was compiled by all three committees of the President's Council.

It has recommended a total restructuring of the environmental control process, with an emphasis on stricter law enforcement. The Environment Affairs Department should be enlarged and its powers increased, the report says.

It also calls for more national parks, tighter marine conservation controls and greater public involvement in a national environmental strategy.

The council has recommended that:

- Mines which do not adhere to rehabilitation plans as laid down by a government mining engineer should have their operations suspended;
- The process of enforcement of the Atmospheric Pollution Act should be considerably simplified, and fines for industries polluting the atmosphere increased;
- Industries should no longer be able to keep the extent of their air pollution confidential;
- Definite and unquestionable maximum emission limits should be set for each pollutant and these should be monitored by means of an annual "national air audit";
- Unleaded petrol and exhaust catalysts

DARIUS SANAI

for cars should be made available as soon as possible, and leaded petrol should be taxed at a higher rate than unleaded;

- No further permits for the discharge of effluent into the sea should be granted; and
- Farmers should be fined for failing to perform specified conservation actions.

The report notes that "experience has shown that a policy of close co-operation between the (pollution) control agency and the industries that are controlled may adversely affect effective enforcement.

"The negative public perception of air pollution control is fortified by the protection of information in terms of the Pollution Control Act relating to any manufacturing process. There should be no obstacle to information, should the public interest demand it," the report continues.

Environmental audits should be required of all industries involved in atmospheric pollution, and "appropriate economic incentives and disincentives should be investigated to supplement legal controls". Compensation is proposed to encourage polluters to clean up their acts.

The report notes that the phasing out of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) will be expensive, particularly for the mining industry, and recommends that the costs incurred by the mining industry in replacing CFCs be given special attention.

Government structures dealing with the environment and pollution should be reorganised into a new and more powerful Environment Department, it says. The Environment Minister is currently severely

To Page 2

Pollution

56

From Page 1

constricted in his options and has to gain the approval of almost the entire Cabinet and the four provincial administrators for any policies. This situation should be changed, the report says.

The council recommends an end-user tax be imposed on hunters and anglers in SA, along the lines of taxes levied in the US, with revenue generated being employed to augment a proposed fund for environmental management.

The privatisation of national parks is warned against and there is a call for more land to be purchased by government and

given over to wildlife. The establishment of a coastal park on the Transkei coast is strongly recommended.

Farmers should be compensated for conservation measures and more emphasis should be placed on the duties, and less on the rights, of a landowner.

Farmers would be fined or rewarded for their land use. Monitoring of farm pollution would also be increased.

The report also proposes that SA follow international developments in pollution control to a greater extent than now.

● See Pages 4 and 5

Baby boom 'greatest threat'

Blomay 23/10/91

56

CAPE TOWN — SA's rapidly increasing population is the biggest threat to the environment and all environmental conservation action will be futile unless the excessively high growth rate is drastically reduced in the near future.

The President's Council report on a National Environmental Management System emphasised that government was deeply aware of the threats to the environment posed by rapid population growth and the associated impacts of urbanisation and industrialisation.

The report expressed its appreciation of the efforts of the Population Development Programme, but appealed to the responsible department to intensify its programmes so as to bring down the population rate in the significant future.

"If this cannot be achieved, SA's most valuable assets — collectively, its environment — face a dismal future, despite whatever positive recommendations are made in this report."

Evidence heard by the council, which had taken two years to complete its re-

port, was that SA's population would grow to an estimated 59,7-million by 2010, which represented a virtual doubling in 25 years.

The growth in black population overshadowed all other macro-demographic trends: from 21,1-million in 1980 to 48,5-million in 2010, an increase of 138%.

"It is clear that every attempt will have to be made to slow down the growth of the population."

Pressure

The report said evidence in many other countries had shown that family planning programmes not supported by meaningful upliftment of the poor, had little chance of success.

It was not merely the disturbing rate of the population increase which was going to put increasingly serious pressure on the environment.

There was also the uneven distribution of the population.

It was expected the greatest concentrations of population would be found in the metropolitan areas and the most rapid

growth would occur in the PWV, Durban and Cape Town areas.

The estimated population of these areas in 2010 was 16-million in the PWV, and six-million and four-million in Durban and Cape Town, respectively.

The rate of population growth in smaller cities like Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Maritzburg and East London, and in the Free State Goldfields, was expected to be about as high as that of the three metropolitan areas.

Nearly 69% of the black population would be urbanised by 2010.

Biggest factor responsible for this rapid growth would be natural increase, with only one-third of the increase attributable to migration.

Inadequate provision of essential services was a reality already facing the country.

Unless there was a drastic revision of urban management and a greater allocation of funds, a chaotic future was predicted with intractable problems for the environment. — Sapa.

Forum for mass electrification proposed

A NATIONAL electricity working group involving Eskom, Cosatu and political parties is being discussed to guide a mass electrification programme in a future SA.

Trade unions Numsa, the NUM and the Electrical Workers' Union said in a joint statement after a two-day meeting of electricity workers in Soweto earlier this week that electrification could not be left to government and Eskom "without negotiations with mass organisations".

The unions planned, through Cosatu, to propose to Eskom an electricity forum involving township civics, unions and poli-

ANTHONY NDLOVU

tical organisations to implement an electrification programme. (210) (55)

Eskom CE Ian McRae said last night Eskom would welcome discussions with all parties on electricity supply and electrification. He supported the principle of negotiations on electrification.

The unions accused Eskom of unilaterally conducting its own study into restructuring for commercialisation without consulting them.

They said they rejected the plan.

B/P day 23/10/91.

Call to probe effect of
fuel change on economy

18 Day
23/11/91 LINDA ENSOR

55

CAPE TOWN — Lead-free petrol should be made available as soon as possible even though the estimated cost to the refineries of the conversion would be about R1bn, the President's Council's report says.

It says a higher tax rate should be imposed on leaded petrol to ensure that vehicles using this petrol are gradually phased out.

Social Affairs Committee chairman Ben Piek said yesterday that the recommendations on lead-free petrol were based on the Energy Council's findings.

The report estimates that lead-free petrol would cost about 9% more than leaded petrol, that it would involve a one-unit reduction in octane level and that petrol consumption would increase 2% to 3%. It says the total effect of conversion on the economy needs to be investigated urgently.

As a transitional measure, exhaust catalysts should be made available for vehicles which cannot operate on lead-free petrol. The report recommends that changes in octane levels be reinvestigated using — for example — ethanol, as this would save fuel, reduce pollution and create jobs. Alternative sources of energy for vehicles should also be investigated.

Mixed reaction to PC report

24/10/91
ET 3/10/91
(56)

JOHANNESBURG. — The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa yesterday welcomed the President's Council (PC) report on the environment but said it represented "establishment" views.

The society emphasised a broad consensus should be reached with extra-parliamentary organisations about environmental issues.

Spokesman Mr T I Steenkamp said the society applauded the PC's recommendations to consolidate all provincial nature conservation statutes and rationalise criminal penalties, the proposals to establish an environmental appeal tribunal and the amendment of the Environment Conservation Act to allow the minister to determine policy without consent from other ministers.

However, the society was critical of certain key issues which had been omitted or neglected in the PC's report — such as effective controls from the private sector on the proposals for greater and more expensive environmental controls by the central government.

The report was also criticised for its "short-term profit-oriented philosophy of resource use".

The chairman of the management advisory committee of Table Moun-

tain, Dr Douglas Hey, and city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton yesterday supported the PC's recommendation that Table Mountain have a higher status.

Mr Clayton said additional resources would be essential in such a situation, to "manage the mountain and implement plans" for which the city council did not have the means.

Dr Hey also said that it was estimated that about R15 million would be needed annually to manage the mountain effectively.

Mr Clayton said a suggestion in the PC report that land-based sewage treatment was a viable alternative to marine effluent discharge was an "oversimplification".

According to the report, which also advocates not issuing further permits for the discharge of effluent into the sea, "the fact that inland municipalities and industries are able to treat their effluent satisfactorily demonstrates that the land-based option is viable".

Mr Clayton said that apart from land-based systems being six to eight times as expensive as discharge into the sea, a number of difficulties made such systems unpractical.

He said Cape Town would not be affected by a halt to marine discharge as further pipelines would not be necessary. — Sapa and Staff Reporter

'Great value of city's natural environment'

(56)

ARC 24/10/91

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE huge economic value of Cape Town's natural environment has been re-emphasised in two reports which will give new ammunition to conservationists.

Table Mountain, Cape Point, Chapman's Peak and Sandy Bay are among the city's focal points for what is now called "eco-tourism", and threats in the form of poor management or insensitive development will face even stronger opposition in future.

Tourism can be regarded as South Africa's potentially biggest economic sector of the future, possibly even surpassing the gold industry in importance, according to the President's Council.

In its report on an environmental management system for South Africa tabled this week, the council also warned of concern that South Africa's major tourism assets — "which are predominantly environmentally-linked" — could be squandered through unbridled development.

The second report is a Captour document, *Tourism in Cape Town and its Environment*, which has just been released to create awareness of the value of tourism and of the organisation's role.

Captour director Mr John Robért, who attended an international conference in the United States last year, said there had been a general belief that the world economy would in future be driven mainly by tourism.

The conference was told that countries which most conserved their natural assets would become the prime tourism countries of the future, he added.

"I was surprised to note the importance given to Southern Africa's natural attractions and how our natural assets could help us to become a major tourism region of the world.

"It was pointed out that local au-

thorities need to take the lead when it comes to conserving natural and historic environments."

The Captour document points out the economic benefits of tourism through tourist expenditure, job creation and stimulation of wider economic activity, and said direct tourist expenditure in Cape Town was estimated at R750 million last year.

"The indirect effect, through the so-called economic multiplier which indicates the flow of tourist expenditure throughout the economy, is conservatively estimated to push the overall input to at least R2 billion."

Cape Town now attracts at least 20 percent — or 600 000 — of the domestic South African tourist market of about three million, and an estimated 278 000 foreign tourists.

About 49 percent of foreign visitors to South Africa indicate that Cape Town is on their itinerary and the city's attractions feature high on their motivations for visiting this country: "scenery, natural landscapes, natural vegetation, flora and cultural assets".

The Captour document also points out that tourism is a labour-intensive industry and that in many areas one new job is created for every 11 additional tourists.

"About 75 000 individuals are directly employed in the tourism industry in Cape Town, with as many as 300 000 people being indirectly dependent on tourism activity for their jobs."

Cape Town and its environs have some of the most spectacular, but also ecologically highly fragile, natural assets in fauna, flora, mountains and landscapes, as well as valuable cultural-historical assets, the document states.

"The best utilisation of these natural and man-made assets, and appropriate financing for its perpetual maintenance, are made through integrated tourism and environmental management in which Captour plays a vital role."

Eskom to risk millions on

Cahora Bassa power project

By Ken Vernon
Star Africa Service

55

The decision to go ahead with the rehabilitation of the powerline from the Cahora Bassa hydro-electric scheme to South Africa amounts to a top Eskom official has admitted.

Dries Loots, secretary to the Permanent Joint Commission (PJC) on Cahora Bassa, said the decision to go ahead with the project despite the absence of any ceasefire in the Mozambican civil war, and with no categorical undertaking by the Renamo rebel movement not to sabotage the operation, was not without risk.

"It is an act of faith by (Eskom managing director) Ian McRae in the future of Mozambique and the future of the

southern African power grid," Mr Loots said.

However, knowledgeable analysts believe it is an act of faith that could go badly wrong.

Despite reports to the contrary, Renamo has not made a categorical undertaking not to halt the rehabilitation operation. Instead it has signed a declaration of intent to sign an agreement, which is not binding on the organisation — especially in the volatile civil-war politics of Mozambique.

Mr Loots agrees with other analysts that a ceasefire in the 15-year-long war is highly unlikely this year, or even before work on the rehabilitation project is due to start early next year. But Eskom remains determined to press ahead, he says.

"We simply cannot wait for the Mozambican peace process to run its course because the economics of the entire project is becoming critical.

"We are not prepared to buy power from Cahora Bassa at a higher price than we can generate it locally, and that point will soon be reached as the interest repayments on the capital costs of the project continue to mount."

Apart from the Renamo question, Mr Loots said it was recognised that Mozambique was plagued by banditry and armed bands who did not belong to any political grouping, any of which might sabotage the reconstruction.

"There are more than 7 000 power pylons along the 900 km of line in Mozambique, so it is impossible to protect the line if anyone with a rifle wants to sabotage it," he admitted.

In addition there are logistical problems, including thousands of landmines laid by Renamo and the Mozambican and Zimbabwean governments that will have to be found and neu-

tralised, the construction of a road for the access of rehabilitation teams, and the clearing of bush — all of which will have to take place before a nut is turned.

The possibility of a ceasefire received a fillip this week with the signing of a protocol between Renamo and the Mozambican government recognising each other's political status and laying down guidelines for future peace talks.

However, those talks promise to be long and hard, with Renamo insisting that all outstanding political questions concerning the new Mozambican constitution and ground rules for a future election be resolved before any ceasefire comes into operation.

As Mr McRae pointed out in his address as outgoing chairman of the PJC, the real challenge is not the rehabilitation of Cahora Bassa, but to get it done while the civil war continues.

Pig farmer convicted of polluting dam water

Staff Reporter

A MOORREESBURG pig farmer was found guilty yesterday of discharging unpurified effluent from his premises and was handed down a fine of R5 000 or six months' imprisonment, both suspended for five years.

Mr Johan Kotze, of Alexandershoek, Moortreesburg, appeared in Malmesbury Regional Court in the first case of its kind to be brought to trial in the Western Cape.

Mr Hadley Kavin, legal officer for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry,

said that at the time of the offence the farmer was operating a piggery with between 6 000 and 10 000 animals.

The number of pigs had since been reduced, he said.

The department brought charges against the farmer under the 1956 Water Act after investigating a complaint by a neighbouring farmer that stock had become sick after drinking from the Misverstand Dam.

Mr Kavin said the unpurified effluent had flowed into the dam from Mr Kotze's farm.

Mr Kotze was also ordered by the court to dispose of the effluent under conditions laid down by the department.

This was the 46th case brought by the department against pollution of water courses in the past five years, Mr Kavin said.

A spokesman for the Cape Town branch of the environmental group Earthlife Africa, Mr Michael Kanthey, welcomed the decision as the case had set a precedent, but said the sentence was "not much of a deterrent".

Report reaches for the roots

W/Mail 25/10-31/10/91. (56)

ESKOM welcomes it. The mining industry, mostly, thinks it's well-researched and balanced. The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa applauds several of its sound recommendations. And most green-minded people will warm to the importance it attaches to all things environmental.

The President's Council report on the environment, released this week, indubitably contains some good ideas.

In particular, suggested moves on consolidating and rationalising environmental laws and amending the Environment Conservation Act to strengthen the hand of the minister are probably long overdue.

Indeed, good ideas, suggestions, remarks and plans, proliferate.

But notably lacking in a report which calls at one stage for an integrated approach to environmental management system is some sort of overarching vision.

The report, which gives new meaning to the phrase wide-ranging, is a strange beast, as befits something designed by three committees.

Oral evidence came from 50 departments and 188 individuals with more than 180 documents submitted to the council. The three PC committees spent 206 hours hearing oral evidence and a total of 562 hours in finalising the report.

The result is idealistic in places and commonsense in others.

One of the first paragraphs in the introduction reads: "South Africa has a deservedly good reputation, built up over a long time, for environmental conservation."

Several paragraphs later, however: "The effect of this belief (that natural resources are unlimited) on South Africa is all too evident today in the form of degraded landscapes, soil erosion, polluted waters, air pollution, depleted wildlife resources, resulting in the endangering or extinction of many species of fauna and flora."

That contradiction is merely amusing. Others, more dramatic, underline the difficulties ahead.

Take a central idea, that the success of any new environmental policy will, to a large degree, depend on resolving the twin problems of population growth and poverty.

"Equally, general degradation of the

Despite internal contradictions and a certain 'wood for the trees' blindness, the President's Council report on the environment could form the foundation for a sound environmental policy.

REG RUMNEY reports

environment is usually, though not exclusively, linked to the poverty of communities."

It has been suggested by this newspaper that the twin problems have one solution — economic growth.

But while accepting that family planning programmes have little meaning without upliftment of the poor, the report also says the government's Population Development Programme should intensify its efforts.

Moreover, while accepting the dire necessity of rapid economic growth the report, in the words of the Wildlife Society's Tony Ferrar, "emphasises greater and more expensive control by central government".

Ferrar adds it does this without exploring aspects of self-regulation by elements of the private sector, including grassroots organisations.

Actually, the chapters devoted to economics do look at incentive methods of controlling pollution, including subsidies, and sophisticated instruments such as creating marketable pollution permits, as well as tax and fines.

The report steers clear of an entirely free-market approach, recognising the need for intervention when the market fails to take care of the resources needed by future generations. It acknowledges the interdependence of economic development and conservation.

In the end, however, the report comes down more firmly on the side of standards than on incentives, with which it finds major difficulties, for controlling pollution.

The report doesn't seem to be able to make up its mind about energy policy either. It suggests in one breath that energy policy should be directed in terms of "conservation pricing" to consumers — that is, take a long-term view of natural resources — and that energy should be made more affordable.

I understand this to mean that energy efficiency, and thus sustainability, depends on realistic pricing of forms of energy such as electricity, which are



Poverty and environmental degradation go hand in hand

Photo: GIDEON MENDEL

now derived from a non-renewable resource, coal. But how does this square with affordability?

Another looming and quite separate problem is the possibility that the report may be tainted by association with the tri-cameral parliament. PC may stand for President's Council, but in South Africa it does not stand for Politically Correct.

Ferrar notes the representations however useful were essentially "establishment" views. A next step is the building of a broad national consensus around the report, in concert with extra-parliamentary groups. He suggests the

coincidental publication of the global strategy document "Caring for the Earth" could be used by the Wildlife Society for this purpose.

It's essential that the ideas brought forward by the report not be lost in bureaucracy and politicking. On the other hand, recent events around the implementation of VAT show negotiation and consultation, as interpreted by the African National Congress and its allied political groupings, cannot be ignored.

At last here is an official environmental document with enough substance to build on.

Greenhouse effect: In SA coal is the real villain

56

W/Mon 25/10-31/10/91

ALTHOUGH the depletion of the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect are not pressing issues yet in South Africa, they can't be wished away.

An environmental system that addresses only local issues would not be looking at the big picture.

So where does South Africa fit into that picture, according to the President's Council environmental report? Chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs) gases, found in aerosols, air conditioners and fridge and the like, have been identified as a threat to the ozone layer.

The report notes that South Africa's contribution to the total world consumption is a mere one percent or 12 000 metric tons. Of this total, 50 percent was used during 1986 for aerosols, 30 percent for cooling systems, and 20 percent to make plastic.

South Africa is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol, which commits countries to phasing out the use of CFCs, but the mining industry has said phasing out will be expensive. The report recommends "special attention" to the problem.

CFCs also contribute to the greenhouse effect, which promises to make things literally hot for earthlings. But the most plentiful greenhouse gas is common or garden carbon dioxide. After CFCs comes methane in order of importance.

South Africa's calculated proportion of the contribution to the greenhouse effect amounts to two percent of the estimated world total.

"However, in terms of carbon dioxide emissions over our own territory, the picture is less rosy." In 1987 South Africa produced around 332-million tons of carbon dioxide, most of it from the energy industry, with motor vehicles a close second.

The villain, of course, is coal, which provides more than 80 percent of our energy consumption.

Re:
th?

New petrol is to cost more

So welan 25/10/91 (55)

LEAD-FREE petrol should be made available in South Africa as soon as possible and vehicles using leaded petrol should be gradually phased out by supplying this petrol at a higher taxed rate.

This is view of the President's Council report on a National Environmental Management System, which was tabled in Parliament this week.

This should be done as soon as possible after the economic impact of the total removal of lead had been established.

The report says it is estimated that the costs of lead-free petrol would be nine percent higher than at present and it would probably involve a one-unit reduction in the octane level. This would increase petrol consumption by two to three percent.

"Such measures will obviously have inflationary consequences and may involve increased pollution as a result of the higher emission of other gases."

Octane increase was, however, possible from a renewable resource such as ethanol. This would not only create jobs, but it could simultaneously reduce pollution to its "original levels". It was essential that ethanol or any other source which

could increase octane levels in petrol should be thoroughly investigated.

The report recommends that consideration should be given to the installation of exhaust systems which removed lead from the emissions of those vehicles which could not operate on lead-free petrol, but this should only be regarded as a transitional measure.

Exhaust catalysts or other related methods or apparatus which purified vehicle emissions of other harmful gases should simultaneously be made available.

The lead content of petrol was reduced in 1986 from 8,36g a litre to 4g a litre and the further reduction cost the refineries an estimated R1 000 million - *Sapa*.

~~55~~ (55)
~~25/10~~
**Unions campaign
on electrification**

A campaign aimed at securing greater union participation in the restructuring of Eskom and in South Africa's mass electrification policy was launched at a joint union meeting in Soweto last weekend. W/Mcu 25/10 - 31/10/91.

The National Union of Mineworkers, the National Union of Metalworkers and the Electrical Workers' Union, all of which have members at Eskom, are demanding that Eskom immediately halt all restructuring and that a working group consisting of civics, mass organisations and the Congress of South African Trade Unions be set up to "enter into negotiations with the government and Eskom on electrification".

The campaign also aims to unite all Eskom workers under one union.

Beauty beneath the bay threatened by pollution

S/Times (Cm) 27/10/91 (56)

BENEATH the waters of the Cape coast lies a hidden treasure trove of colourful beauty, offering great opportunities for both scuba and commercial divers.

But, conservationists have warned, the future of this delicate beauty and the balance that nature provides can be damaged not only by inconsiderate divers, but by using the sea as a dumping ground for human waste.

A report released by the CSIR last week revealed that pollution in False Bay was reaching unsafe levels for humans. And when this happens — as I have observed while diving in the much more polluted waters of the Mediterranean — the small, beautiful sea creatures suffer first.

Beneath the waves in the area from Fish Hoek to Smitswinkel Bay, there is a beauty to be discovered which can only be dreamt of on land.

The Strawberry Anemones are so delicate that you feel they may break if you get too close to them.

It is because of the colder waters of the Atlantic that this type of beauty can only be found along this section of the South African coastline.

Active

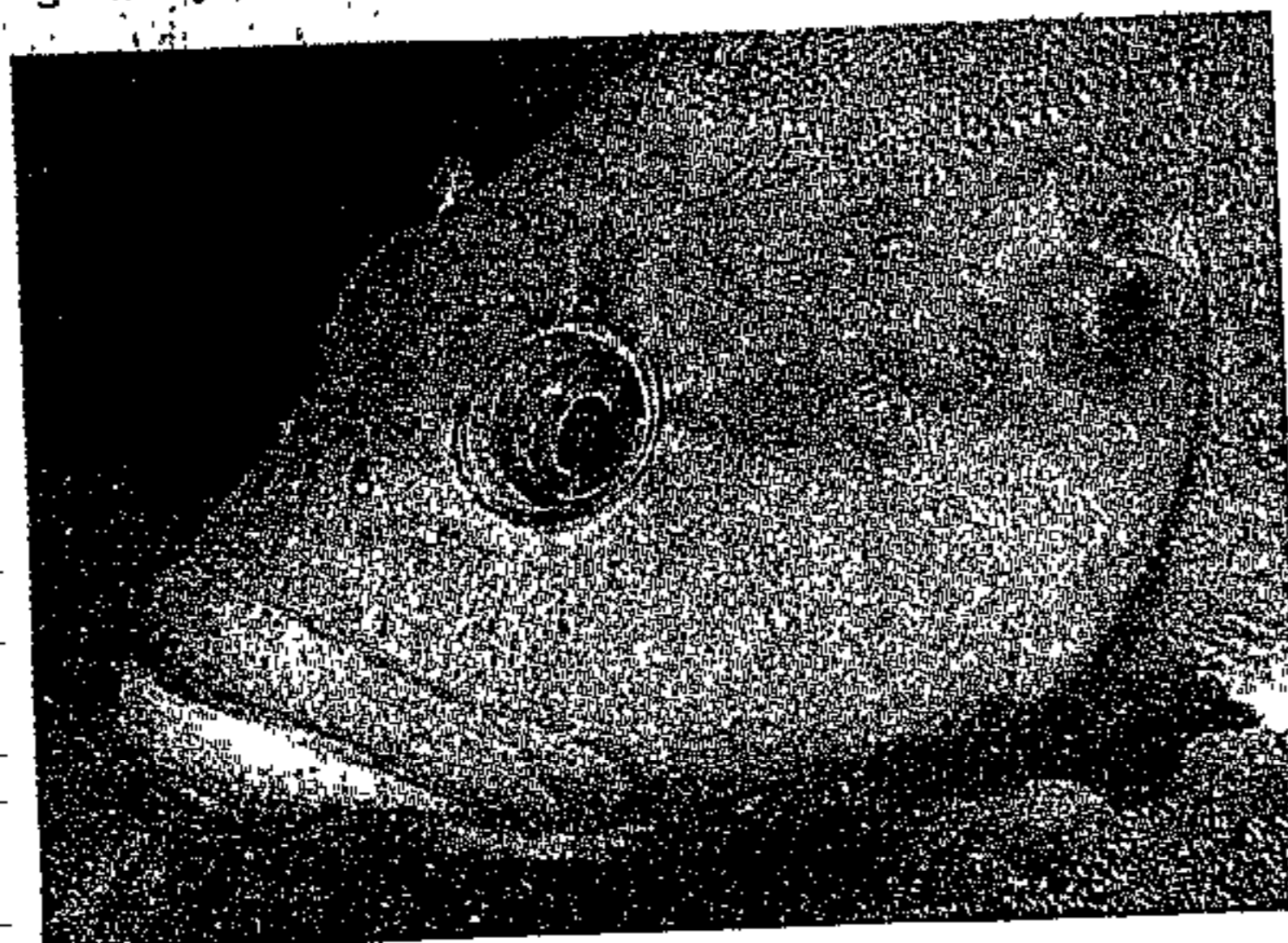
Finger Coral, which feeds off the rich waters, is also dependent on unpolluted water to survive.

NEAT (National Environment Awareness Trust) is currently on a Coastal Awareness Campaign exploring the whole of the South African coastline. The group includes a scuba team, consisting of my wife Karin, an assistant, Mark Campbell, and myself.

Karin and I are both experienced underwater photographers with diving experience from around the world and our main reason for taking part in the campaign is to increase public awareness of the need for everyone to take an active role in maintaining and protecting the underwater world.

Human beings are the only creatures who can control the role they play and the impact they make on the marine environment — and our aim, through our underwater photography, is to bring the issues of the aquatic world into the public debate.

Not only will we be looking at the plant and animal life underwater, but also at the fish life. The yellow Klip fish might well be asking: "Do you know that we



SEA LIFE ... the yellow Klip fish

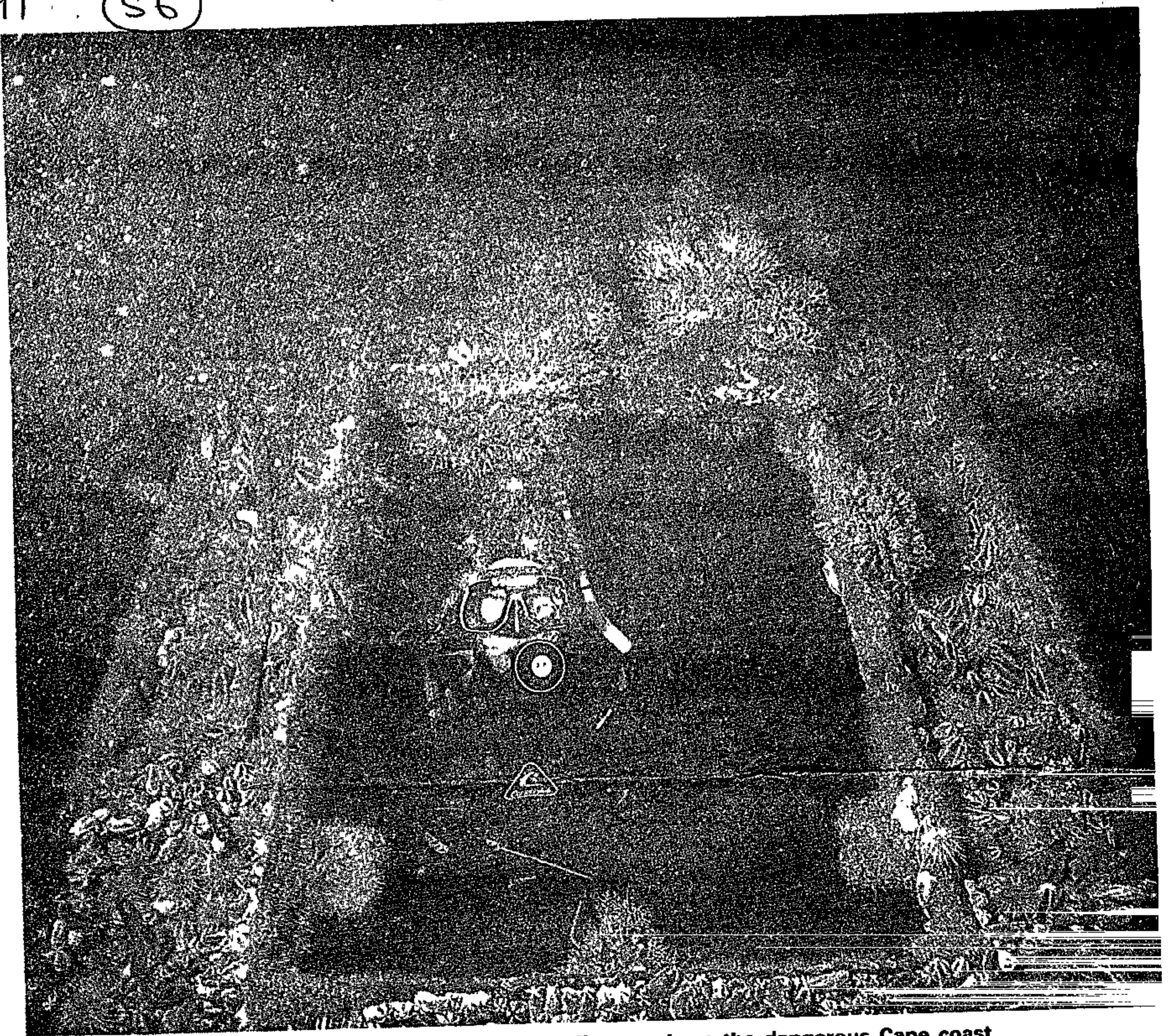
Report and pictures by PIET VAN ZYL

exist, or don't you care?" Underwater, every single plant, animal and fish has a role to play. Humans can retain that delicate balance and benefit from it, or they can disturb it — and at some time in the future, face the consequences.

This does not mean we must stay out of the ocean. To the contrary, by managing it properly we can live off the ocean forever.

But by neglecting these delicate creatures, the balance can change. We could destroy the food chain and deprive ourselves of a needed resource in years to come — and future generations may have only pictures to look at to see the extent of the beauty that once was.

A focus of controversy among sport divers are the wrecks around the dangerous Cape coast, the issue of whether to exploit them or preserve them being hotly debated. An example of the role these wrecks can play in becoming a haven and sanctuary for sea life is graphically illustrated by the SAS Transvaal, a Navy ship scuttled in Smitswinkel Bay 13 years ago to form an artificial reef as well as a recreational diving spot. Such wrecks can provide a



TREASURE HUNT ... a diver comes off a wreck on the dangerous Cape coast

new habitat for aquatic life and over the years the SAS Transvaal has been transformed into a colourful spot for all sport divers.

The beauty on this wreck is difficult to illustrate in a photograph and even more difficult to describe in words — but it is a prime example of a case where humans have played a positive role.

Heritage

Another issue that must be addressed is that of salvage divers, who can make a

living diving for the treasures of ships that came to grief over the centuries off the Cape of Storms.

Like everyone else, they have a responsibility towards the ocean. While they work the wreck for commercial gain, they must keep in mind that this is a heritage that must be preserved.

The museums are committed to preserving this rich history, but they need the help of the salvors to recover the treasure, as they have limited resources.

Here balance comes into play again.

Everything cannot be preserved or left in the ocean — nor, for that matter, taken out for its scrap value.

Ancient

We have a positive role to play in the South African coastal belt — and we must think both big and small starting with the tiny, beautiful sea creatures and extending to the conservation of ancient relics that lie on the ocean floor.

BY DIANA STREAK

THE future of False Bay and its pollution levels have come under the spotlight with the release of two environmental reports.

Last week the CSIR reported to the Department of Environmental Affairs that an overall management plan for controlling pollution in False Bay was essential — but its suggestion of an offshore pipeline discharging effluent into the sea has been rejected by at least one environmental watchdog group.

And this week a President's Council report called for a comprehensive national marine and coastal management policy and the recycling and purification of all water where possible.

It recommended that parts of the coast be declared a limited development area until a new Coastal Zone Management Act replaces the old Seashore Act 21 of 1935.

A major problem is that there is absolutely no co-operation between different government departments and municipalities," said Mr Tom Fijen, a CSIR researcher. He suggested that a study be done on the long-term effects on False Bay as there could be a slow build-up of pollutants.

"Personally I think there is no problem although I don't have hard facts to back me up," Mr Fijen said.

The CSIR report, Marine Disposal Studies of Stormwater and Treated Sewage Effluent in False Bay, said there had to be a clear set of environmental objectives which defined a final goal.

The results of all environmental and pollution studies should be evaluated against these objectives before any action was tak-

TWO reports focus on False Bay's future and pollution levels

en and the impact of such actions had to be monitored.

"Until such a set of environmental objectives have been formulated for False Bay it is very difficult, if not impossible, to suggest future scenarios or even possible solutions," the report said.

The report found a health risk was posed by swimming or collecting seafood at pipelines discharging stormwater, river water and treated sewage but this could be avoided by implementing a "relatively short pipeline that combines existing treated sewage effluent with stormwater base flows, which will be discharged beyond the surf zone," the report suggested.

The proposal was totally rejected by environmental group Earthlife Africa.

"It is not in the interests of nature or health to have sewage going into the bay," spokesman Mr Stephen Smith said after studying the report.

"It's a short-term study which has budgetary restraints which negate the findings."

He suggested that no further permits be given for discharging effluent into the sea and those asking for them should "clean up their act at source."

"The turnaround time in the bay is slow and we could land up with a totally deoxygenated bay with absolutely no fish," Mr Smith said.

He said the CSIR report had only concentrated on areas around existing pipelines but if all the pipelines were taken into consideration in a holistic approach the cumulative effects would be revealed.

"Filter feeders like mussels, if dissected, can tell us exactly what is wrong."

Mr Fijen said an effective solution would be an artificial reed bed system which would clear the stormwater outflow "until it is nearly normal water with zero bacterial level."

The CSIR report said the seawater quality at the impact areas would continue to deteriorate because of expected higher discharge rates and worse discharge quality.

The brown patches at Sunrise Beach near Muizenburg were neither sewage nor pollution. They were a natural phenomenon, blooms of a surf zone organism called *Anatulus australis*, which occurred the world over, the report stated.

The problem of uncontrolled polluted water flowing into False Bay stemmed partly from squatter settlements which had no sewerage systems.

The President's Council report on a National Environmental Management System recommended stringent controls on discharging effluent and said local authorities should have more effective control of stormwater outlets. A human health risk of 20 percent would be unacceptable although this was presently used as an acceptable guideline.

"False Bay may have become irreparably distorted by the total amount of effluent discharged into it, while none of the individual discharges in itself constitutes a particular environmental hazard," the report stated.

Mr Arthur Clayton, Chairman of the False Bay Water Quality Committee, welcomed the CSIR report and said the water quality at all the bathing beaches in False Bay in 1991/2 summer holiday season would be acceptable from a contact recreational point of view.

Fortunately for the Cape Town tourist industry, the worst of the polluted stormwater runoff occurred in the winter rainy season.

Mr Clayton said the committee, which was striving to get the management of False Bay onto a more holistic basis, would release its Annual Report in early November.

Nature: 'SA can't afford overkill' (56)

SOMERSET WEST. — South Africa could not afford emotional overkill in response to environmental issues, the chairman of the Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa said yesterday.

Dr John Maree, who is also chairman of Eskom's Electricity Council, was addressing a conference on industry and the environment.

He said the balance between development and economic growth in Southern Africa was not easy to keep.

"We need development and this development must be responsive to the environmental constraints that mother Africa sets for us."

A British environment management consultant, Mr Martin Houldin, said yesterday much of businesses' response to environmental issues would depend on the extent to which market forces operated in a future SA. —

Sapa

CT 29/10/91

'Adapt lifestyles to suit nature'

CAPE TOWN — The President's Council report on an environmental management system presented SA with an enormous opportunity to institute a world-class management system, Geneva-based Business Council for Sustainable Development executive director Hugh Faulkner told the Southern African International Conference on Environmental Management (Saicem) in Somerset West yesterday.

Faulkner said the political changes in SA would succeed only if the economic process was successful and this required a marriage with environmental processes.

World Wide Fund for Nature director Charles de Haes said there was a need for human beings to adopt lifestyles and development patterns which accepted nature's limits.

"Our civilisations are at risk because of the way we are misusing the world's resources and are threatening its ecosystems," De Haes said. He said there was a need to secure com-

8/004 29/10/91
LINDA ENSOR

mitment to a new ethic of sustainable living and to translate this into practice. "Caring for the environment is the responsibility of everyone."

Governments would have to reorganise themselves so all aspects of economic policy were taken together from an environmental point of view, Oxford's Green College Warden, Sir Crispin Tickell, said in a video-recorded speech.

He said governments needed to have national environmental audits to see how their countries' renewable and non-renewable resources were being used. He also recommended the use of fiscal incentives and disincentives to achieve environmental objectives.

London-based KMPG Management Consultants' Environmental Unit manager Martin Houldin said UK companies were coming under increased investor and banking pressure to embark on environmental management programmes in areas

56
where there was a potential market gain or loss, or potential liability.

"Banks and other financial institutions are concerned to minimise their exposure to industries that will be forced to invest heavily to meet legislation or that will have their markets severely affected."

Industrial Environment Forum of Southern Africa chairman John Maree told the conference the challenge facing SA was to find a balance between development and economic growth and the protection of the environment.

Maree said it was not always appropriate to uncritically import all the environmental standards from the northern hemisphere and apply them in SA as there were many people living in abject poverty.

Standards applicable to Africa and other underdeveloped countries had to be identified, he said.

The conference has drawn about 350 delegates from 20 countries representing large corporations, companies and interest groups in SA.

'Go green or go out of business'

8/Day 30/10/91

56

SOMERSET WEST — Companies would go out of business unless they addressed the challenges of the current green revolution in a positive way, head of the Confederation of British Industries Environment Management Unit Andrew Blaza said yesterday.

"If their customers don't desert them, their shareholders, investors and insurers probably will," he said in an interview at the Southern Africa International Conference on Environmental Management.

"Certainly in the UK, bankers, insurers and investors are getting very nervous about putting money into organisations that have any environmental risk."

In the UK 80% of pollution was caused by smaller companies, he said.

It would be in the long-term interest of the SA business community if larger companies with the necessary resources were to form non-paternalistic partnerships with smaller companies aimed at improving their environmental performance.

Blaza said SA businesses might want to develop their own voluntary agenda on the environment without waiting for the government or other outside agencies to set that agenda for them. Such an agenda was about to be introduced in the UK.

"We've shown that voluntary action achieves much more than legislation. So if business really does mean action on the environment, it can start tomorrow."

The drive to sound environmental management would be business-led rather than consumer driven.

Companies were realising that their businesses could profit from sound environmental performance.

"We don't promote environmental initiatives as a charitable act. We promote them in terms of benefits and profits to the company."

□ The business community was uniquely equipped to spearhead the implementation of sustainable development in SA, the conference was told yesterday.

Jane Nelson, executive director of the US-based Darwin Scholars Foundation which is developing an international environmental leadership programme, said the potential for combining financial and industrial sector leadership in the promotion of sustainable development was enormous both in SA and regionally.

The ability of the financial sector to mobilise savings, both domestic and international, and the way it allocated these savings to production, consumption and investment uses, was a crucial determinant of the environmental soundness and sustainability of economic activities.

She suggested the financial sector be drawn into the recently created Industrial Environmental Forum.

She added that the global record of the financial sector in promoting sustainable development had not been particularly good. — Sapa.

US 'is beginning to neglect environment'

8/20/91
30/10/91 LINDA ENSOR (56)

SOMERSET WEST — While the US spent \$115bn a year — about 2% of its GNP — on environmental issues, it was beginning to compromise the environment, Aspen Institute of Southern Africa Policy Forum associate director Steven MacDonald said at a conference this week.

Speaking at the environmental management conference, MacDonald said there had been a vast improvement in the quality of the US environment in his lifetime.

However, President George Bush was beginning to compromise environmental concerns in favour of developmental and political needs.

There had been a "chipping" away at environmental law, proving that the administration was more concerned with business than the environment.

Critical

MacDonald said the growth of environmental legislation in the US had been marked by a struggle between business, energy, industrial and manufacturing concerns on the one hand and public representatives and environmental groups on the other.

"The problem lies in a system of government that allows private concerns to bring to bear their opinions in whatever way they can to influence the legislative process and that, at the same time, makes those who control the legislative process — overly dependent on the support of those same interests. It seldom becomes a question of what is right or wrong."

Environmental legislation in the US was not universally or effectively administered.

"The problem in the US is that there seems to be no sharing of 'bottom line' goals, no realisation of how critical the issues are and very little ability to respond to the long term as opposed to the immediate constituency problems that draw media attention," said MacDonald.

Sasol to launch non-fuel project

IN A major move away from fuel production and into higher-value chemical products, Sasol has announced plans to build a R250m plant for the purification of exportable specialist chemicals.

The plant, which will use existing streams from Sasol II in Secunda, will be capable of producing 750 000 tons of alpha olefins annually, which will make Sasol one of the world's biggest producers.

The total world market for all alpha olefins, used in the plastics industries and in the manufacture of high-grade synthetic lubricants and biodegradable detergents, is more than a million tons.

Sasol MD Paul Kruger said Sasol had a significant competitive advantage in the field, and the international market value of

alpha olefins was "at least" five times its fuel value. (55)

He said about 95% of production would be exported, but he would not place a value on forex earnings.

Markets included Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and to a lesser extent Europe and the US.

Kruger said the plant would be based on a newly developed low-cost recovery and purification process, which would make Sasol one of the cheapest producers of alpha olefins in the world.

Sasol spokesman Jan Krynauw said the production of the olefins would be one of Sasol's most lucrative moves.

By way 30/10/91
BRENT VON MELVILLE

Expensive lead-free petrol fuels inflation

THE push to introduce lead-free petrol in SA held several inflationary dangers, the AA warned in a statement yesterday.

An AA spokesman said that the introduction of lead-free petrol would result in an immediate increase in the price of petrol.

Total removal of lead from petrol also held serious cost implications for the oil refineries, he said.

The AA was reacting to the recent President's Council report calling for the introduction of lead-free fuel as soon as possible.

A Sasol spokesman said lead-free petrol would require further refining to boost the octane level and this would mean further alterations to Sasol's refineries. Lead is currently used in petrol as an octane booster and lubricant.

The spokesman could not indicate the extent or cost of adapting refineries to produce unleaded fuel.

An analyst said the likelihood of government introducing tax concessions as an incentive to motorists to use lead-free fuel was remote.

Barely enough revenue was being generated from fuel sales at present.

Econometrix's Tony Twine said oil com-

310ay 30/10/91
55
MARC HASENFUSS

panies could replace lead with other octane boosting minerals, but he said the use of these alternative minerals would be more costly.

Twine believed the relatively low traffic densities in SA did not warrant the immediate introduction of lead-free petrol.

The National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA (Naamsa) supported the early introduction of unleaded fuel.

Executive director Nico Vermuelen said it was important for local vehicle manufacturers to keep pace with international advances in automotive engine technology.

The AA said that although government committed itself in September last year to removing lead from petrol, no deadline was set.

"We understand the National Energy Council and various oil companies are carrying out an in-depth investigation into the economic and technical implications of reducing the level."

A National Health spokesman said the department was in favour of reduced lead levels, but added that the problem was an economic rather than a health one.

BATTLE FOR OLD AND NEW GROUND:

Is this man fit to guard the environment?

South 31/10 - 6/11/91



General Magnus Malan assumed responsibility for protecting the country's limited water and forestry reserves from October 1. However, as the former Minister of Defence, Malan has not exactly endeared himself to the country's conservationists. **DAVE LEWIS** reports on the SADF's environmental record:



POACHING IN NAMIBIA: A conscript took this picture in the seventies of game-killing by SADF soldiers.

MAGNUS Malan took over as the new Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry on October 1. Malan's previous post as Minister of Defence prompted a range of environmental protests concerning the impact of South Africa's militarisation on water, forests and wildlife.

The SADF's track record for environmental sensitivity in all spheres under his command has been controversial as this catalogue of local and regional environmental disasters shows:

Polluting the seas

Until activities were phased down after the cuts in SADF spending recently, Somchem, the Armscor factory near Somerset West, was responsible for discharging chemical effluent in False Bay. The manufacture of military propellants, missile systems and explosives at the plant, resulted in effluent containing large amounts of undiluted nitric acid and sulphuric acid being discharged only one metre into the surf area of the bay every day for years.

Permission to dump this effluent was given by the Department of Water Affairs, according to the annual CSIR report on marine outfall.

Polluting a water catchment area

Somchem was permitted by the regional services council to occupy the dam site in the mountains behind Rooi Els where they now test propellants for weaponry. The site is in the heart of the proposed Kogelberg biosphere reserve, a world heritage site soon to be submitted to Unesco for recognition. A court case has been brought by the residents of Rooi Els to have the military evicted on environmental grounds. Another Armscor subsidiary, Houwteq, an armaments think-tank, has build massive headquarters in the Kogelberg forest reserve at the top of the catchment.

Mr Andy Gubb, chairman of the Western Cape branch of the Wildlife Society told South that he had been consistently denied access to the Kogelberg site and that it was impossible to conduct independent monitoring of the military's environmental impact.

"Somchem's environmental impact report is not independent, to say the least," he said.

"Where you have industrial activities that involve the use of chemicals, one may have water purity problems. The area is the major botanical core region of the Cape

floristic kingdom, one of the major natural assets of the Western Cape."

Weapons testing in vulnerable ecosystems

Armscor also tests weapons at another site on the coast popularly known as Waenhuiskrans, near Arniston, the so called Overberg test range which includes the De Hoop nature reserve. The area is home to a wide variety of fynbos vulnerable to the stresses of military chemicals. The military have helped one aspect of conservation work in the area, though, by removing extensive alien vegetation and promising to make documentation of fynbos available in the near future. Environmentalists fear that the frequent testing of explosives could disrupt the Southern Humpback Whale's breeding site off the coast.

The SADF maintains testing sites in vulnerable areas all along the coast although many of these now face closure due to a lack of funding. The controversial St Lucia testing site in the St Lucia Nature Reserve in Natal was closed earlier this year for this reason.

A mixed record on nature reserves

South Africa's game reserves were

used to secretly train members of the special forces in terrorist tactics, according to a former major in the SADF, Nico Basson. The SADF has maintained strong links with conservation administration in some cases even training members of anti-poaching units, according to press reports.

● The SADF and environmental destruction in neighbouring states:

ANGOLA

Destruction of teak forests

A report commissioned by the Commonwealth sponsored Southern African Research and Documentation Centre in January 1989, noted that the once great Angolan teak forests had been stripped and the timber carried off to South Africa to pay for the war against the Angolan government. Tropical hardwoods were used as a form of reimbursement for arms sold to Unita.

In April 1984 the Windhoek Observer reported that "hundreds of tons of super teak" were piled at a railhead in northern Namibia.

"The trunks [are] so heavy and so aged, that they are not from South West Africa," the report said.

The devastation of the teak forests

in Angola is extensive enough to be visible in satellite photographs of the area.

Chemical warfare

The SADF used Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant, to strip the cover provided to Swapo by the Angolan forests, according to unconfirmed reports received by environmentalist Dr Jacklyn Cock. It is only now that the war in Angola has ended that such rumours can be checked. Plans are afoot among a Johannesburg-based group of environmentalists to send a monitoring group to southern Angola to carry out tests on these areas to establish whether chemical warfare was used on the Angolan forests.

Ivory trading

In southern Angola 40 000 elephants were slaughtered and the ivory carried south by Unita to pay for the war. The culled ivory, along with hardwood, was traded illegally on world markets in return for weapons. In 1988 South Africa exported 50 tons of ivory, of which only 14 tons could be accounted for from legal sources, according to a report by the Worldwatch Institute.

Although allegations of Unita's ivory poaching had been circulating

for years, it was only in September 1989 that they were irrefutably confirmed when a truckload of almost 1 000 tusks was intercepted by Namibian authorities — the world's biggest illegal shipment.

Two months later official secrecy was broken by a retired SADF colonel, Jan Breytenbach, who told the Sunday Times: "Elephants were mown down indiscriminately by the tearing rattle of fire from AK-47 rifles and machine guns. They shot everything — bulls, cows, and calves — showing no mercy in a campaign of extermination never seen before in Africa."

Breytenbach insisted, furthermore, that Unita had no way of moving the ivory out of Angola without the assistance of the SADF.

MOZAMBIQUE

Renamo's Ivory trading

Documents captured from Renamo in April this year disclosed the movement's intention to indulge in ivory smuggling due to financial problems. "I would like to know the price of every missile. I would also like to know the price of every kilogram of ivory. Renamo can arrange ivory," wrote a Renamo commander.

According to Mozambique's chief wildlife officer, Robert Zolho, the country's elephant population fell from about 55 000 in 1979 to no more than 17 000 in 1987 and may be half of that today.

The Worldwatch report on Apartheid's Environmental Toll, also made mention of a former Renamo member's testimony that South African aircraft had flown into Renamo bases with loads of arms and subsequently left loaded with ivory.

Deforestation

Refugees from the conflict in southern Mozambique in the 1980s have deforested a "fuelwood ring" 55km wide around Maputo. The national parks have been used as base camps by Renamo.

NAMIBIA

Deforestation has occurred in northern Namibia as a result of military activities. Large tracts of forest and vegetation were cleared by the SADF in Ovamboland, causing extensive damage to the area, according to a Namibian conservationist, Dr Allan Marsh.

The Namibian Department of Wildlife and Tourism refused to comment on the state of the environment in the country or on degradation caused before independence as such information was "diplomatically sensitive".

Reply to allegations on ecology

The pollution of False Bay is "simply not true", according to Mr D Henning, a spokesperson for Armscor.

"A recent CSIR test done on that stretch of beach confirmed that there is virtually no detrimental affect on the coastline," he said.

Regarding the Kogelberg and Houwteq area, Henning said: "Our activities in this area have had no detrimental effect whatsoever on the Kogelberg catchment area."

An environmental control plan had in fact been drawn up by an independent Environmental Monitoring Committee prior to Armscor's acquisition of the area, although this document was classified and unavailable to the public.

According to Henning, the committee was still monitoring Armscor's activities on a regular basis. "Members include well-known environmental experts such as Dr Heydorn, Prof Charlie Boucher and Prof Manie van der Schijff. Our activities have in fact had a beneficial effect on the flora

of the Haasvlakte," he said.

Mr Henning added that Armscor was very proud of what had been achieved environmentally on the Overberg test range.

Armscor denied the accusation that its activities had disrupted the breeding site of the Southern Humpback Whale and referred to press reports showing that the whale population was increasing.

Armscor distanced itself from activities undertaken by the SADF. "We are an independent state corporation and do not fall under SADF control."

According to Commandant A H Louw the defence force was never involved in the transport of timber from Angola. "It is known that Unita made use of private contractors to transport and sell timber," he said. Regarding the use of chemical defoliants in Angola, Louw denied the allegation, but did not elaborate.

Regarding the misuse of ivory, SOUTH was referred to a press statement released by the SADF in

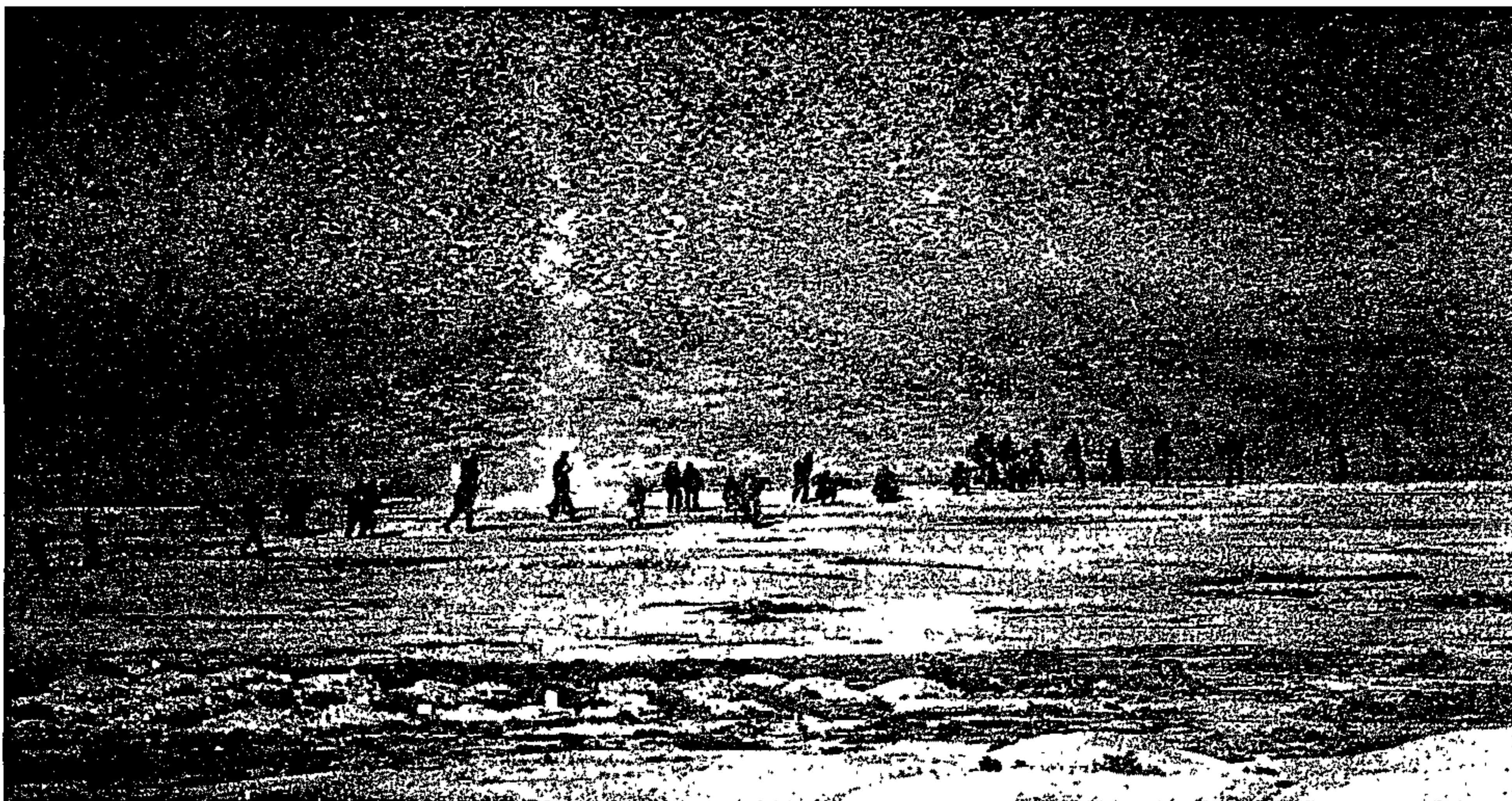
1988 which insisted that it was never involved in ivory trading. An SADF board of inquiry had found that "there was no evidence to prove that the defence force was responsible for or involved in the killing of elephants".

However, the statement also noted that "small quantities of ivory, captured by Unita from poachers and others in Angola, were transported by the SADF on behalf of Unita over an 18-month period from mid-1978 to the end of 1979".

Louw admitted that a 100m strip on the Namibian side of the international border between Angola and Namibia was cleared for security reasons in the 1970s and that an agricultural insecticide with a "temporary effect" was used as a defoliant in the area.

Louw could not comment on the alleged use of game reserves for military training but said that statements made on this subject by Mr Nico Basson were "at best questionable".

CONSERVATIONISTS LOCK HORNS WITH ARMSCOR AND THE SADF



ON THE MARCH: Members of the Cape Corps on manoeuvres at Rooiberg in the barren Knersvlakte.

Rooiberg menaced by boys and their toys ...

South

31/10 - 6/11/91

(S6)

By Bronwyn Davids

PHITT-swoosh-boom sounds shattered the morning air as the defence force bombarded the Rooiberg veld with mortars and rockets during a mock battle.

Rooiberg in the Knersvlakte is an arid, inhospitable region stretching from Vanrhynsdorp in the south to Bitterfontein in the north, some 373km from Cape Town.

It is an environmentally sensitive area and rich in many varieties of succulents which thrive in extremely dry conditions. This is where the 2 South African Cape Corps battalion trains for four months of the year, using heavy artillery.

According to the SADF, Rooiberg is "not so sensitive". As a matter of course, impact studies on the environment had been done before the SADF moved in.

"The SADF considers itself as the environmental trustee for the land under its control. Sound environmental management is valued highly," according to an SADF statement.

A Cape Provincial Administration nature conservationist, Mr Kobus Kritzinger, who is based at Vanrhynsdorp, said the SADF had been asked to shoot only at a stretch of surrealistic bumps which were once an old gypsum mine.

"We asked them not to ride heavy vehicles or shoot at the koppies which are covered with rare succulent plants, endemic to the area," said Kritzinger.

CPA nature conservationists are hopeful that this will be the SADF's last training camp at Rooiberg and that the 12 000 hectares of land will be handed over for nature conserva-

tion. Botanists recently discovered unknown fish species in the Salt River while indigenous trees such as the ghawarrie and tamarisk can still be found there.

Vlakte tortoises, lizards, rabbits and small buck species still roam the quartz outcrops unique to the Knersvlakte.

Before the mock battle recently,

journalists who had been invited along, were told not to dig up the succulents as the SADF was trying to preserve the area.

As the forces gathered for attack, rabbits scurried across the dry veld, away from the danger.

Mortars and rockets rained on the old gypsum mine, soldiers crunched over the plains, shooting R4 rifles which spewed out spent shells over a three-kilometre stretch.

"The mortars actually create growth. The plants get blown and the seeds are spread over a wider area," said Major Malcolm Robertson of 2SACC headquarters.

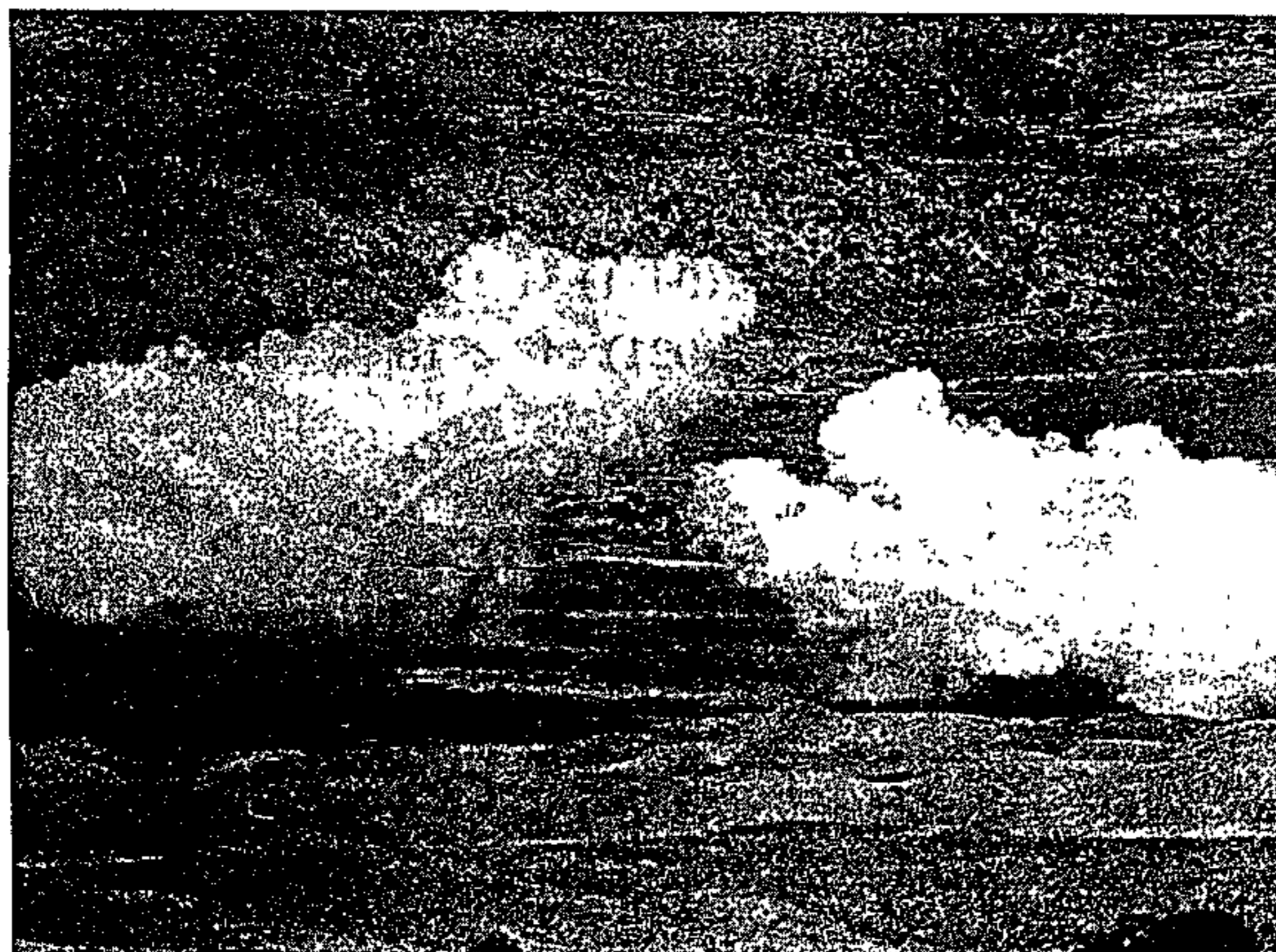
"Rubbish," said Kritzinger, "bombs cause deep holes in the ground which completely uproot the plants."

Environmentalists continue to question the use of sensitive areas like Rooiberg for the use of army activities as these isolated regions have not been tainted by alien species.

"Rooiberg should be kept pristine as a contribution to nature conservation," said Stellenbosch University ecologist Professor Jan Giliomee.

A SADF public relations officer, Lieutenant Johan van Schalkwyk, said the soldiers go over the battle area afterwards and pick up the brass casings of small arms ammunition which are then sent to the Logistics Command in Pretoria.

The casings are then sold on tender for recycling. Larger casings and hells are sent back to the armaments factories for re-use.



BOMBS AWAY! Training ground for the the Cape Corps battalion, under fire.

Business takes friendly look at environment

Finance Staff

(56)

(2/2/91)

The abject poverty in which many African people live is part of the environmental quandary facing business, Dr John Maree, chairman of the Industrial Environment Forum of Southern Africa (IEF) told a conference in Somerset West this week.

Business would have to find a balance between creating jobs and hope for people and the need for development and economic growth, he said.

"We have an industrial and mining component in our society which is of the first world but we also have many people who are suffering abject poverty. The poor are forced, by circumstances which are no fault of their own, to disregard the sustainability of the environment around them. They are concerned with survival. We need to address

this."

Opening the Southern African International Conference on Environmental Management (SAICEM), Dr Maree said business needed to create jobs and opportunities so that the people of the region could share in the development process. At the same time, there was a need to protect the environment.

"The challenge is to find a balance between the development and economic growth and the protection of the environment. We walk a difficult tight rope in Southern Africa — it is a balance which is not easy to keep."

Dr Maree said the environmental legacy of the communist experience suggested that progress towards sustainable development was better achieved within the framework of the market economy. The framework needed to reflect en-

31/10/91.
vIRONMENTAL costs more appropriately but — by and large — good environmental management makes good business sense, he said.

The Industrial Environment Forum (IEF) is an example, he says, of businessmen taking greater ownership of environmental problems, accepting the challenges and sincerely addressing them in a co-operative and proactive fashion.

"In the climate of rapid change that we are now in and in the spirit of shared responsibility the members of the IEF want this conference to be a catalyst for a significant new direction in environmental awareness in Southern Africa.

"We in business are facing up to the role that we have to play in addressing environmental challenges before us. We will do our best to play our role constructively."

Sharp fuel rise looms

Star
Finance Staff 31/10/91

The petrol price will increase substantially in March to make provision for a depreciating rand.

This is the prediction of Dr. Ockie Stuart, director of the Bureau for Economic Research at Stellenbosch University.

"There can be no doubt that the Government will be looking for ways to raise revenue at Budget time and an increase in petrol tax is a likely option.

(55) (227)
"It is very likely that petrol will be used as a fiscal policy instrument and the tax component will be increased."

Industry sources believe petrol could rise by up to 16c to R1,50 a litre for 93 octane at the coast in the first half of 1992.

Rob Lee, chief economist at The Board of Executors, expects there will be fuel price increases next year.

● Grim outlook for the economy — Page 30

By Sven Linsch



World Bank may back SA electricity plan

YAOUNDE (Cameroon) — The World Bank is set to emerge as one of the financial backers of Eskom's plan for a southern African power grid, it has been disclosed in Yaounde.

Eskom's chief executive, Dr Ian McRae, said here yesterday that the World Bank viewed South African involvement in sub-Saharan African projects as positive "because we can provide the ex-

perience to make the projects viable.

"This would have been inconceivable two years ago when the World Bank refused to allow South African companies to tender for its projects," Dr McRae told delegates gathered in Cameroon for the first All-African Business Conference in Sidco '91. The World Bank was al-

ready involved to the tune of R32 million in the construction of the Cahora Bassa Dam, he said.

Cahora Bassa should begin providing electricity for Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa in two to three years time.

He said that in contrast to commercial backers of projects, the World Bank set strict conditions for its aid.

These included:

- That there must be a reasonable rate of return.
- That projects must be of mutual benefit to all countries.
- That a market for the product must exist.

Dr McRae said political considerations were not a major obstacle.

However, the collapse of normal political rule in

Zaire would slow down some of the work involved in the viability study of the southern African grid.

He said electrification was essential to lift the region from its present depressed economic state.

"Less than 10 percent of southern Africa's 150 million people have access to electricity, ranging from 30 percent in South Africa to less

than three percent in Malawi.

"If we can get this level up to 50 percent in 10 to 15 years time, electrification could emerge as a major source of economic development."

He cited the case of Taiwan whose rapid growth over the past two decades had been preceded by extensive electrification.

A delegation of 150 South African businessmen is attending Sidco '91.

Energy pact soon signed

YAOUNDE — Eskom CE Ian McRae said yesterday the bilateral agreement between Zimbabwe and Mozambique to build a power line from Cahora Bassa to Harare would be signed within a month.

All the technical aspects of the project had been agreed on and Eskom would complete the power link within three years, he said. *B/Dcm 3/10/91*

The power link between Zimbabwe and SA appeared to be "very possible" following the recent completion of a feasibility study.

But this would not bypass the direct Cahora Bassa-SA link, the restoration of which Eskom was committed to, he said in an interview.

Speaking earlier at the

TIM COHEN

first all-Africa businessmen's conference in Yaounde, McRae urged Africans to "make it happen now".

Despite some constraints, Africa was blessed with ample resources.

These needed to be mobilised urgently, he said.

Eskom had managed to raise new money abroad and was seen in a positive light by the World Bank, he said.

"Two years ago it would have been impossible (to raise money from the World Bank for a project involving Eskom).

"Now, Eskom involvement is viewed positively by the World Bank," he said.

AA warns on fuel

Southern
THE Automobile Association has warned that the introduction of lead-free petrol would result in an immediate price increase.

The AA News Service expressed its concern this week over the President Council's report tabled last week, which called for the introduction of lead-free petrol in South Africa as soon as possible.

In a statement, the AA said the total removal of lead from petrol also held serious cost implications for oil refineries.

It said according to a 1989 agreement between the Government and the oil industry, lead content would not be lowered

31/10/91. (SS)
further before January 1994.

The current permissible level of 4gm a litre was introduced in January 1989.

The AA pointed out that although the Government had committed itself in September to removing lead from petrol, no deadline had been set.

AA spokesman Mr R Scholtz has also asked that the Government drop the Petroleum Products Secrecy Act, which was introduced at the height of the sanctions campaign against South Africa.

"The AA supported the call for the lifting of the veil of secrecy on energy matters," he said. - Sapa.

Fm 11/11/91

THE ENVIRONMENT **56**
More rules for business

Old-style environmentalists love nothing more than having government slap rules and regulations on businesses. And if the President's Council report last week is adopted, the business community may find itself faced with more environmental controls than it

continues →

ever thought possible.

The 350-page report recommends forming an all-encompassing American-style Environmental Protection Agency before constitutional negotiations begin. Also, the Department of Environment Affairs would be substantially enlarged and endowed.

There would be an increase in fines for companies that exceed pollution limits. Mining houses, too, would face penalties — such as mine closure — if they are caught causing permanent damage to the land.

The report also recommends pollution audits — similar to financial audits — to determine what's up in the ozone and who put it there. Polluters would be compensated if they clean up their act.

New-style environmentalists have been pushing "pollution credits" for years. For instance, a company would have to purchase a permit to unload its leftovers. The permits would be limited and traded. "We should move away from rules and regulations, stop looking at governing the situation and use the best deterrent to pollution: money," says Frank Vorhies, an environmental economist who lectures at Wits University.



Vorhies

Critics of the report take issue with what they see as knee-jerk responses to complex issues. The council came out against privatising national parks because it would be unpopular. It recommends minimising the use of plastics, though industry officials argue that the production of plastics is one of the cleanest processes. And it urges government to step up population control programmes, which naturally is seen by some blacks as an attempt to limit their numbers.

The report also calls for no further discharges of effluent "of whatever nature" into the sea. Ecologists have been wrangling over this issue for decades, with a body of experts claiming that the ocean can take — and in fact must take — our leftovers.

Paul Skivington, a chemical engineer and water quality specialist at environmental engineering group Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten, says the requirement for an annual national water audit by the Department of Environment Affairs may be "onerous in practice." Some of the other recommendations, however, look acceptable in concept but probably would be hard to implement.

"We feel that effluent treatment will become viable only when the costs of water are raised to its true value, making this scarce resource costly enough to make retreatment an economic option."

Skivington adds that the lack of emphasis on ground-water supply and pollution was surprising considering its importance.

Fanic Geldenhuis, a partner at Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten, says the report was a good attempt at a daunting task, but a number of issues had not been dealt with ade-

quately. He questions the ability to staff the various regulatory bodies that are proposed.

"One of the greatest problems with the establishment of the American Environmental Protection Agency was the staffing," he says "They ended up employing inexperienced graduates who had little feeling for real-life problems, with the result that many of the rules and regulations were not realistic and brought the agency into conflict with industry."

Another issue in the report that is under fire was the recommendation that lead-free petrol be made available as soon as possible and leaded petrol be taxed at a higher rate to help phase out vehicles using leaded petrol.

Nuclear physicist Kelvin Kemm says the country could not afford the large price increase that the proposed measure would incur. Speaking for the Green and Gold Forum, which promotes economic growth in balance with environmental awareness, he says lead was intentionally added to petrol to improve modern engine performance and, if it were to be removed, other additives would have to take its place.

"Other possible additives, such as ethanol, produce emissions that could be worse. SA does not have the traffic density problems of Tokyo or Los Angeles and so lead-free petrol should not even be considered in SA for years."

Race is on to guard

PWV's 'green lung'

By Shirley Woodgate

Star 1/11/91

The race is on for control of agricultural land to the north of Randburg, Sandton, Krugersdorp and Roodepoort where smallholders have presented Pretoria with far-reaching plans to form a controlling Local Area Committee.

Chairman of the Greenbelt Action Group, Anthony Dugan, said the initial blueprint had been favourably received by the Council for Local Government Affairs (previously the Transvaal Board for the Development of Peri Urban Areas), but details would have to be thrashed out in negotiations.

The nucleus of the area includes Kalkheuwel, Broederstroom, Roodekrans, Hennops River, Riverside Estates, Vlakfontein, Vlakplaas and Hills and Dales.

Problems include individual applications and existing LACs within GAG's proposed LAC which is bounded roughly by the

four existing towns.

CLGA spokesman Henning Visser said viable regions were encouraged to apply for LAC status, which was the first step towards autonomy taken by municipalities such as Midrand and Sandton.

But, he added, the shaping of the latest LAC would also have to include debate on proposals by Randburg, Sandton, Roodepoort and Krugersdorp to extend their boundaries to the north.

The region under the microscope was one of the last areas within the PWV where there was still little control, Mr Visser said.

Mr Dugan said central to the LAC concept for the region was the Kareebos Conservancy, a nature concept which had taken off in Natal and the Free State, but which was still in its infancy in the Transvaal.

The 100 ha reserve straddling three rivers and a mountain range from Diepsloot Nature Reserve to Broederstroom, was launched in 1988 by landowners in the Diepsloot area after plans

for the controversial township Norweto were scrapped.

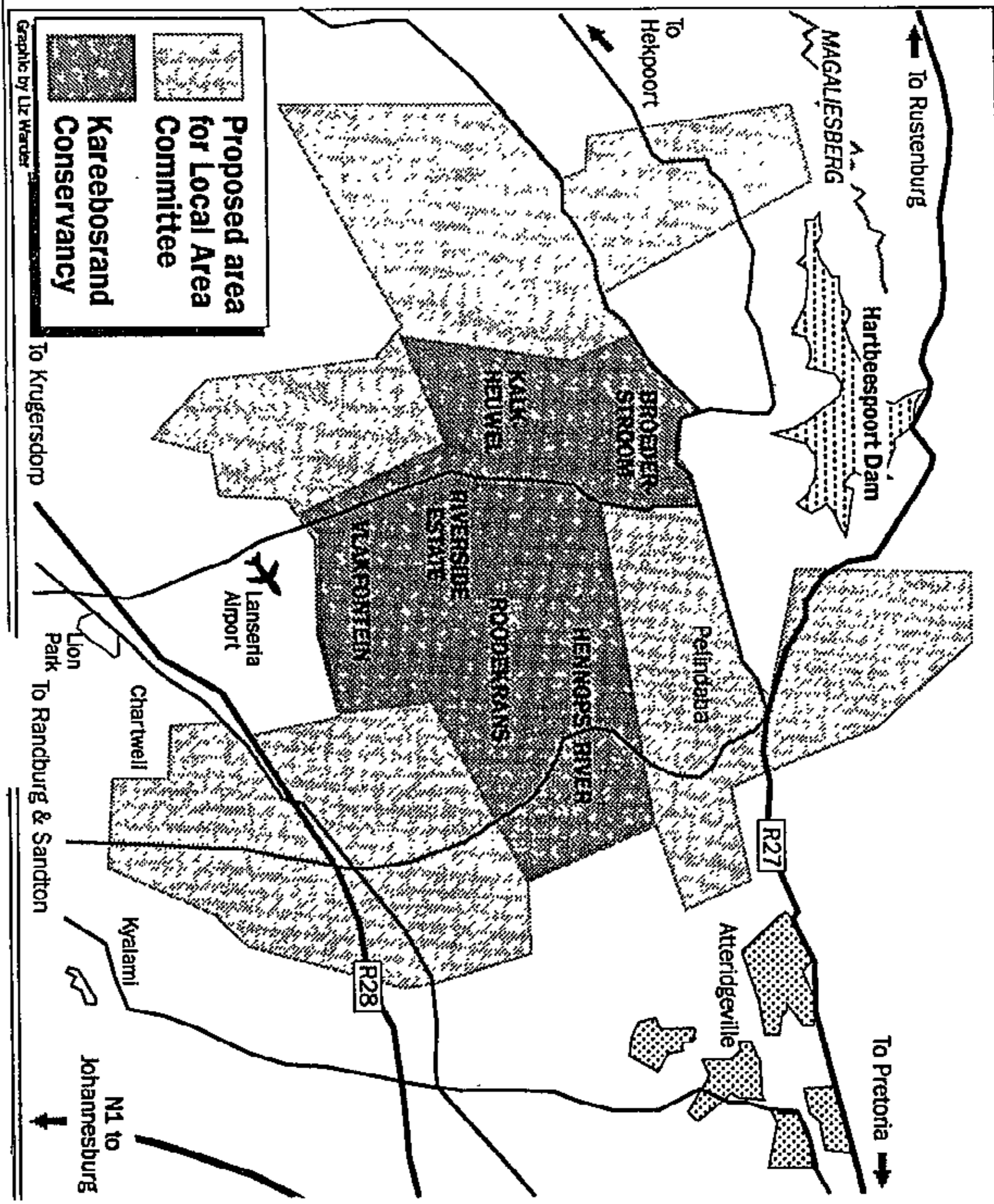
Seen as a future recreation area for the entire PWV area, GAG vice-chairman Bert van de Pijperkamp said: "Working towards a goal of a united nature area, we have developed hikes and bird walks."

"The aim over the years has been to link the Magaliesberg, Hartbeespoort Dam and the areas around the Crocodile, Hennops and Jukskei rivers into a single green lung for planning purposes."

"The fact that we have got together such a large area for the walks has strengthened the concept of an integrated planning area covering about 23 areas in the greenbelt zone," he added.

A major benefit of a LAC would be the blocking of ad hoc planning which destroyed tracts of land, said Mr Dugan.

He was confident that although the actual boundaries of the proposed LAC were very much in the melting pot, planners were presented with a viable area in terms of the proposed recreational Mecca.



Graphic by Uz Wender

"Sustainable development" is a new catchphrase which could — literally — save the world. And, stemming from it is a change in basic business philosophy which is slowly transforming the operations of corporations across the globe. A report by
JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter.

'Green' blueprint is a survival strategy

(56) ARG 2/11/91
MANY South African businessmen were introduced to the concept of sustainable development at the Southern African International Conference on Environmental Management (Saicem) at Somerset West this week.

The conference attracted more than 350 delegates from 20 nations and was hosted by the Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa, whose 15 members constitute some of the biggest names in South African business. The list includes Eskom, Rand Mines, Anglo American Industrial, Rand Mines, AECI, Toyota, Nissan, Shell SA, BP, Engen and Sappi.

Key personnel in industry and business learned that sustainable development had been introduced in 1987 by the UN's World Commission on the Environment and Development.

Headed by Norwegian Prime Minister Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, the commission produced the blueprint, *Our Common Future*, based on sustainability, which for the first time offered a reasonable compromise to end the decades-old "conservation-development" conflict.

The concept was further refined in *Caring For The Earth*, the new "improved" world conservation strategy published jointly this month by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep).

It defined sustainable development as "improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems".

A "sustainable economy", in turn, was defined as the product of sustainable development, which maintained its natural resource base and which continued to develop "by adapting and through improvements in knowledge, organisation, technical efficiency and wisdom".

More important for business, it offered a vision of how to maintain profits without threatening the future supply of raw materials and resources such as energy.

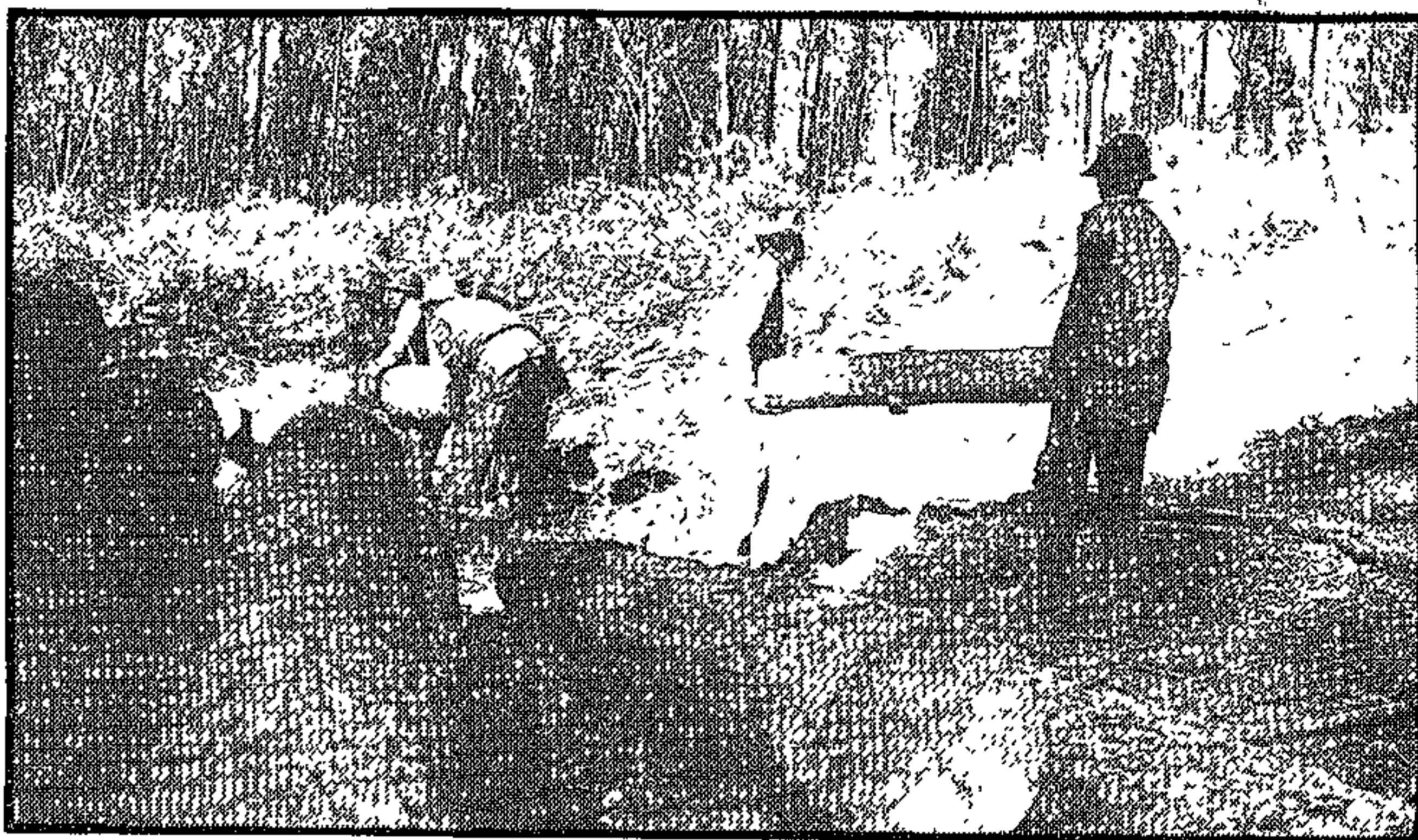
In a video message to the Somerset West conference, Sir Crispin Ticknell, warden of Green College at Oxford University and a former British representative to the UN Security Council, said sustainability was the key to creating a society in which wealth could be generated over many generations.

It was a simple concept, but one which had been "very painful" to people when first introduced, but if successfully embraced, it could mean making more money.

A keynote address at the Somerset West conference was given by former Canadian cabinet minister and current chief executive of the Business Council for Sustainable Development, Mr Hugh Faulkner.

The Geneva-based council was formed in February on the initiative of Mr Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June next year.

Dubbed the "Earth Summit", UNCED is being billed as one of the most important



□ **SAVE THE TREES:** Western environmental activists and groups have targeted south-east Asian countries in their anti-logging campaigns and have called on governments to stop importing their timber products.

global events in post-war history at which heads of government are expected to sign vital environmental conventions.

Just under 50 of the world's top business leaders have agreed to serve on the business council.

They are all chairmen or chief executives of major corporations, including some of the world's largest.

The council's chairman is Swiss multimillionaire industrialist Mr Stephan Schmidheiny, who, in an address to the governing council of Unep in Nairobi earlier this year, said they had accepted the challenge to prepare a global business perspective on sustainable development for UNCED in Brazil.

Just as business had not been on environmentalists' agendas, so the environment had not been on the agenda of many business enterprises, he said.

"These facts lie behind the challenge we face jointly. As long as governments do not introduce measures designed to make environmental protection a worthwhile proposition for business, and as long as business is not involved in designing long-term policies aiming at sustainable forms of development, then both the environment and business will suffer and degrade over time."

In his address, Mr Faulkner told the Somerset West conference their new approach was "not Utopian", and did not imply extra costs.

"It's a question of choice, it's not a trade-off. We're just trying it differently," he insisted.

"The key is not to over-react, but to get the balance right. That is the big challenge facing you."

He also warned that if environmental concerns were allowed to "totally preempt" developing concerns at the UNCED conference, there would be no co-operation from the developing world.

"There are primordial questions to be resolved. The thing that is really going to

determine the success or failure in Rio is our ability to reach out and go beyond the 'developed-developing' country divide", he said.

His words were prophetic.

As he was speaking, telex lines to newspapers around the world were carrying a wire service story from Reuter in Kuala Lumpur, quoting Malaysian Prime Minister Mr Mahathir Mohamad as saying he would boycott the "Earth Summit" if developed nations and environmental groups used it to criticise his country's logging activities.

Western environmental activists and groups have targeted Malaysia and other south-east Asian countries in their anti-logging campaigns and have called on governments to stop importing their timber products.

A senior government official said Mr Mohamad's statement underlined fears that the summit would focus on environmental issues instead of discussing them jointly with development.

"When environmental issues are tied with development, there will be a balance at the summit," said the official.

A clearly concerned Mr Strong urged the West not to use the summit to attack Third World logging nations.

"Heads of governments will not be coming to the summit to throw bricks at each other, although they may have differences in views on the environment," he was quoted as saying. "While we hope there will be no bashing of anybody, we are well aware that participants will not be singing a song of unity."

Not surprisingly, there is still a healthy amount of scepticism from conservationists about the conversion of business to sustainable development and the political will of developing nations to curb excessive exploitation.

There may not be any songs of unity at UNCED, but at least the concept of sustainable development offers the possibility of some harmonious melodies.

'Secretive' Langebaan project stopped

56
ARG 2/11/91

JOHN VILJOEN
Supreme Court Reporter

WORK on a controversial township development at Langebaan Lagoon has been halted temporarily by a judge who expressed unease at the "alarmingly secretive" way in which the go-ahead for the project was obtained from authorities.

In the Supreme Court yesterday, Mr Justice J H Conradie granted three Langebaan Lagoon property owners an interdict preventing developers Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd from proceeding with the project.

Property owners Corium (Pty) Ltd, Meeuklip Boerdery (Pty) Ltd and Oesterwal CC requested the interdict pending the review of a decision by the Administrator of the Cape granting developers a permit to build a township in a nature area.

Other respondents are the Minister of Local Government and Housing in the House of Assembly, the Minister of National Education and Environment Affairs, the Administrator of the Cape and Langebaan Municipality.

In terms of the order, the developers may not proceed with the installation of services or with building or alterations until the outcome of the review.

On August 6 1985, a permit was granted by the then Minister of Education and Environment Affairs allowing develop-

ment on the property. On February 22 1988, the Administrator, acting in terms of the Land Use Planning Ordinance, granted an application for rezoning and subdivision of the property for development.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Conradie said he believed the applicants had every prospect of succeeding in having the permit withdrawn at the review hearing.

He agreed with argument by counsel for the property owners that the Administrator had acted beyond his authority in granting the permit, said the judge.

The applicants feared that if the developers were allowed to continue with civil engineering they would be able to present the authorities with "hair-raising tales of disruption and loss" unless they were allowed to continue with the project, he said.

The developers had undertaken not to transfer stands to buyers until the review, but this did not go far enough, said the judge.

The more stands that were sold at the development, the less the chances would be of reversing the development.

Dr G A Robinson of the Parks Board had told the court that plans for the extension of the West Coast National Park would be severely jeopardised by the development, the judge said. That such harm would be irreparable had not been challenged.

The developers would suffer loss because of the interdict and this deserved sympathetic recognition.

However, he was called on to consider not only the interests of the applicants, but those of the general public who may be affected. The granting of the permit effectively negated the earlier proclamation of the land as a nature area with a view to its eventual incorporation into the West Coast National Park, he said.

This was a matter of "great public importance".

These parks were "a national asset of immense value" and he would be loath to permit the developers to continue with any activities in the nature area which might make it difficult to reverse the development, said the judge.

The developers had been warned as early as May that they were proceeding with the project at their "peril". The developers must have been aware of the risks involved in proceeding.

They should have stopped to think that the development was likely to provoke a lot of criticism, not least from people who had not had advance notice of the project.

He had "the uneasy feeling" the applications for rezoning and subdivision appeared to have been dealt with in an alarmingly secretive fashion, said Mr Justice Conradie.

He could not understand how the Minister of Local Government and Housing and the Langebaan Municipality could agree to a development in a sensitive area forming part of the national heritage, without expecting anyone to be detrimentally affected.

Row over rescue of Hout Bay wetlands

DI CAELERS, Weekend Argus Reporter

A MAJOR row has erupted over efforts to rescue Hout Bay's ecologically fragile Longkloof wetlands with one prospective developer threatening to shoot her neighbour, the Cape Wetlands Trust's Dr John Gardner.

Landowner Mrs Lyn Cooper launched her "attack" following a recent Weekend Argus article highlighting the crusade by some residents of the area to halt more building in the Disa River floodplain.

The properties at the centre of the controversy are 15m-wide "pencil plots" which were originally designed to allow all owners access to the river, but which were later subdivided.

Mrs Cooper, who three years ago submitted plans to build a "small cottage" on the other part of her now-subdivided property, has accused Dr Gardner of "trying to blacken our name" and making her "look like a bad person".

She labelled as "ludicrous" residents' fears that a "limited development option" proposed by consulting engineers Hill, Kaplan, Scott Incorporated would result in high-density housing there.

Mrs Cooper said she wanted to plant her land "as garden" and claimed she was terrorised by Dr Gardner every time she or her husband tried to do anything to their property.

"I feel it is grossly unfair that he says we can't do anything to property that belongs to us, particularly when he has no environmental qualifications. I'd like to shoot him," she said.

Dr Gardner confirmed he had had several clashes with Mr and Mrs Cooper, one "involving a chainsaw" and that they had previously threatened to shoot him.

"But, the real irony of the situation is that consulting engineers have confirmed that the earthworks I have been doing on my property since 1983 have stopped a huge erosion hole from moving upstream and destroying her property," he said.

His real concern was not with the Coopers as such, but rather that any destabilisation of the Longkloof could potentially threaten the Orange-kloof Reserve which he believed should be treated as a valuable resource for Cape Town's people.

He said Mr and Mrs Cooper had cut down the palmiet reeds on their property.

"The palmiet acts as a sponge. It holds water which prevents possible flooding and acts as a stabiliser of the river banks. Without that palmiet we'll certainly see destabilisation of the area."

With regard to the proposed cottage, Dr Gardner said development of any sort could change the flow pattern of the river.

"Already the Longkloof weir is in danger of collapse and one shouldn't do anything to destabilise the river upstream.

"Aside from that, their cottage will set a precedent. If building goes ahead, the area could never be restored," he said.

Mrs Cooper claimed she had conducted a survey of Hout Bay residents on the future of the wetlands. "About 90 percent of the people didn't even know the area and nearly all said they were not prepared to pay extra rates for anything to be done there."

Mr Rod Tritton, a Longkloof resident who has mounted a crusade of opposition, told Weekend Argus he believed the wetlands were of national importance and should receive national funding.

Mr Tritton conducted an opinion poll in the area and said residents were overwhelmingly in favour of the "no-development option".

"Residents who want to voice their opposition to proposed development of the Longkloof wetlands can sign a petition today outside Shoprite in Hout Bay," he said.

Builders in nature area told to stop

5) et 2/11/91

By RONNIE MORRIS
Supreme Court Reporter

A SUPREME Court judge yesterday ordered a halt to building work on a controversial West Coast development.

The judge also criticised the "secretive" way in which permission had been given for the development, which lies in a nature area.

The order against Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd followed an application by Corium (Pty) Ltd, Meeuklip Boerdery (Pty) Ltd and Oesterwal CC and was a sequel to an earlier application for the review of a decision to grant the developers a permit to build the township in a nature area.

In granting the order, Mr Justice Johan Conradie said applications for the rezoning and sub-division of land at Myburgh Park — a Langebaan development in a nature area on the lagoon shore — "appeared to have been dealt with in an alarmingly secretive fashion".

He said he believed the applicants had every prospect of establishing that the issuing of the permit had been ultra-vires (bad in law) and have it set

aside on that ground.

Evidence by Dr G A Robinson of the National Parks Board that plans for the extension of the West Coast National Park would be severely jeopardised if the development went ahead had not been challenged.

The developers had been warned in May that an application would be brought "and had continued with development at its peril".

"By plunging head-long into the development without the sensitivity to its neighbours which it claims to display for the environment, it was to an extent the author of its own misfortune," Mr Conradie said.

"I cannot for the life of me understand how the second Repondent (Minister of Local Government and Housing) and the fourth Repondent (Langebaan Municipality) could have come to the conclusion that the granting of the permit for the development of a township in an area as sensitive as this ... would be so uncontentious that no person could maintain that he was detrimentally affected."

Mr A P Blignault SC, assisted by Mr S Oliver, instructed by Mr J W S van Zijl of Herold Gie and Broadhead, appeared for the applicants. Mr Henri Viljoen SC, with Mr Nic Treurnicht, appeared for the company.

New SA urged: adopt environmental code

S/TIMES 3/11/91

56

A NEW constitution for South Africa would be flawed if it did not specifically address environmental issues, delegates to a high-powered conference on environmental management suggested this week.

Established businessmen who were concerned about the impact of industry on the environment, were ideally placed "at this uncertain stage in the political and economic future of the region" to submit to a voluntary "code of ethics" to provide leadership in environmental management, they said.

The Southern African International Conference on Environmental Management held at Somerset West this week, was attended by more than 400 delegates from 20 countries, including Mr Steven McDonald, associate director of the Aspen Policy Institute's Southern Africa Policy Forum in Washington.

Painful

Guest of honour was philosopher and author Sir Laurens van der Post.

The conference was the first held under the auspices of the Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa (IEF), set up last year by businessmen concerned about environmental deterioration and its implication for business and industry.

Among the 20 founding members are the major oil companies, Rand Mines, Anglo American, Sappi, the Chamber of Mines, the Premier Group and Engen.

In an interview, conference convener Jonathan Hobbs, who is also corporate environmental adviser to Escom, said the number of high-profile businessmen and respected international delegates who attended the conference

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

illustrated the concern about environmental matters in Southern Africa.

He said a number of delegates had expressed concern at the lack of attendance by black businessmen. The R900 conference fee might have been a factor.

Mr McDonald told the conference environmental issues should be addressed during negotiations and introduced into a new constitution for South Africa.

"In many ways you are in a very, very privileged position as you have a rare opportunity to do that right from the beginning."

Dr John Maree, chairman of Escom and the IEF, said he believed a major challenge facing South Africa was to find a balance between a need for economic development and protection of the environment.

He said the country had a First World industrial and mining component but was also a society in which

people suffered abject poverty.

He said there was a need to create jobs and opportunities so that people could take part in the development process.

Balance

The people of the region were crying out for some hope of a better life.

"At the same time there is a need to protect our environment. The challenge is to find a balance between development and economic growth, and the protection of the environment, he said.

"We believe industry is the main instrument of economic growth and the alleviation of poverty."

There were plans for a similar conference in the next five years, he said.

"We consider ourselves partners in the search for improving society's relationship with and stewardship of our environment," he said.

A statement outlining their concerns would be forwarded to the UN "Earth Summit" conference in Rio de Janeiro in June.

~~223~~ ~~58~~
star 4/11/91
**R200-m yearly
for Cape Town**

56

CAPE TOWN — Provisional estimates indicate the use of Cape Town as an international supply base for research stations in the Antarctic may provide a capital injection of more than R200 million a year.

The Department of Environment Affairs said last week negotiations with the Soviet Union and Britain were advanced, and four other countries had approached the Government on the use of Cape Town as a permanent supply base.

The second Soviet Antarctic expedition in less than two months arrived last week. — Sapa-Own Correspondent.

Environmental auditing will shake up local corporations

BUSINESS can never be the same again. Not here. Not anywhere.

That was the opinion of most who attended the big international environmental conference in Somerset West last week.

The conference, all about how to continue developing without using up the world, was packed put — mostly by businessmen.

First World businesses, whether they make small girders or run a small town accountancy, tend to pollute or at least create costly waste.

Businessmen including executives from the top 10 biggest South African corporations and companies agreed in principle to assess the precise environmental impacts of their firms — and, after that, define better standards and publicly state goals for eliminating pollution and waste.

Agreement

They also agreed to produce an annual audit — open to external auditors — showing their progress.

Dr Denis Cowen, outspoken doyen of environmental lawyers in South Africa, said afterwards: "You can't ask for more than that."

This remarkable agreement emerged from the Southern Africa International Conference on Environmental Management — Saicem as it became known to the 370 who attended.

A measure of the conference's success was that after two heavy days of plenary and working sessions the auditorium at the Lord Charles Hotel remained packed to the end.

There were delegates and speakers from the US, Britain, Russia, much of Europe, the Far East and Africa as far

How to continue developing without using up the world was the subject of a conference in Somerset West last week. JAMES CLARKE reports.

north as Kenya.

The event coincided (accidentally) with the release of the President's Council report. This report recommended what should be done to improve South Africa's environmental behaviour. It called for harsher penalties, more inspectors and a bigger Department of Environment.

There is now a race against time.

On the one hand there is industry which, after years of enjoying permissive pollution laws, has now promised to reform. On the other is a suddenly impatient Government whose advisers are telling it: "Hit the polluters. They are giving South Africa a bad name."

There is a third pressure: overseas customers are asking their South African suppliers about their environmental track record.

Already some South African companies have lost orders because their environmental attitudes did not impress European importers.

The concern among local businessmen was palpable at the conference. They listened with a palpable earnestness to overseas speakers' advice. Few speakers bothered to crank out the shock facts about ozone holes growing bigger and the greenhouse effect deepening.

Many speakers were from countries where environmental auditing, the latest thing in environmental management, has been going for some time.

Environmental audits are

like financial audits but are about environmental profits and losses.

A piece of advice on such auditing came from Charles de Haes, director-general of the World Wide Fund for Nature in Switzerland: "Nobody expects all industry to be clean. But the public would rather see a really bad polluter demonstrate progress than see a lot of little companies boasting about their environmental awareness. These audits are about progress, not bragging."

There were very few black delegates at this conference and the ANC's spokesman on environment and economics, Stanley Sangweni, who was given a major speaking slot, failed to appear.

Almost a fifth of delegates were women.

It was probably the most internationally representative meeting in post-apartheid South Africa. "Overseas speakers practically fell over themselves to come," said Eskom's Jonathan Hobbs, the conference organiser.

Saicem was South Africa's gesture towards the "Earth Summit" — the huge UN global congress on the environment which takes place in Rio de Janeiro next June. The "summit" tag is because governmental heads from most large nations will attend.

Only South Africa has not been invited. This is because at the last world conference on the global environment — in Stockholm when the UN Environ-

mental Project (Unep) was established any country "practising apartheid" was barred from such gatherings.

Nevertheless, Jeremy Shearer, deputy director-general of Foreign Affairs, assured delegates that South Africa shared the Earth Summit's aspirations and would, if necessary from the sidelines, go along with it.

Hugh Faulkener, former Canadian Cabinet Minister and now a development consultant in Geneva said: "Rio will change the way we do business."

Clearly, in the local context, so will last week's Saicem.

Jane Nelson, ex-Natal University student and Rhodes Scholar now living in Washington warned of another pressure — banks and lending agencies.

US banks foreclosing on businesses were finding they were faced with huge pollution clean-up costs which sometimes exceeded the assets of the company taken over.

Lloyds had suffered huge losses because it failed to consider environmental risks of undertakings it insured.

Insurance companies were now taking environmental costs and risks into account in policy valuations.

"There is a greening of aid," said Ms Nelson. "Both bilateral and unilateral aid agencies have started to incorporate environmental criteria into their lending and project activities. The World Bank now insists all projects submitted for funding be environmentally benign."

The conference was arranged by the one-year-old Industrial Environmental Forum (IEF) of South Africa — a forum set up exclusively by big corporations but which admits any firm will-

ing to abide by its rules. Its objectives are to improve environmental performance of industry.

There was suspicion among non-Government organisations at the conference that the IEF, heavily influenced by Eskom, AECL, oil and motor companies and the mines (all involved in environmentally offensive processes), was established as a public relations front.

But John Maree, chairman of Eskom and chairman of the IEF assured, in his opening remarks, that the IEF was established because of concern about the environment "and the implication that industry and commerce are among the principal agents in this trend." It believed that "good environmental management made good business sense."

Rewards

The IEF believes it essential that firms encourage workers to participate in the drive for a better environmental record and that rewards be given for achievements in pollution and waste control. Unions should participate and the public kept informed.

At the workshop session on education and awareness the media was singled out as one of the weak links in South Africa's environmental progress. Delegates were unanimous that newspapers and television were not doing enough.

Consultant Eric Marfune of Johannesburg said the people of Diepsloot had dire pollution problems "yet all we see on television is whales and dolphins".

It was also found that not one business school includes environmental considerations in its course. □

Bomb blast damages dam

JONATHON REES

A BOMB blast which damaged a dam wall near Schweizer-Reneke on Monday could be linked to the recent suspension of water supplies to nearby Ipalageng township for non-payment of bills, western Transvaal police said yesterday. *Blow 6/11/91*

An arson docket has been opened following the pre-dawn explosion which blew an 18cm by 10cm hole in the dam wall, but did not penetrate the concrete.

It has not yet been established what kind of explosive device was used in attempts to destroy the 10-million-litre dam. There have been no arrests.

JSE appoints Andersen as executive president

THE JSE has confirmed the appointment of Ernst & Young executive chairman Roy Andersen to succeed Tony Norton as executive president.

Speaking to Business Day from Hong Kong last night, Andersen said: "I am excited about taking up the position as I believe the JSE has an important role to play as we move into the new SA."

"There are tremendous challenges ahead but I thrive on challenges and there will be opportunities to make the stock exchange relevant to all sectors of the population."

"I have some ideas of what I would like to do and have done a fair amount of background work. But I have a lot to learn and it would be presumptuous of me to say much more at this stage."

"I only start work in March and I am looking forward to working with Tony Norton before his departure. I would like to see an open relationship with the Press but I first need to understand the issues which will confront me," he added.

Andersen is to take up the position at the beginning of March 1992 so there will be a two-month overlap with Norton who leaves at the end of April, the JSE and Ernst & Young

8 Day 6/11/91
MERVYN HARRIS

said in a joint statement yesterday. JSE chairman Humphrey Borkum said Andersen's strength in strategic management made him well qualified for the position. "We are delighted to have attracted a candidate of Roy Andersen's calibre."

Borkum added: "In making this appointment, the JSE would like to stress that it believes the decision taken seven years ago to appoint an executive president was the correct one."

"Thanks to the able leadership of Tony Norton, the position has been successfully established. Andersen's proven leadership capabilities equip him well for the task ahead."

Another JSE member, who did not wish to be named, expressed dismay that details of the appointment had been leaked to the media before members were informed.

Market talk yesterday was that Andersen's package would be in the region of R600 000 a year.

Andersen, 43, who qualified as a CA in 1972, has been with the firm for 25 years in SA and the US, and was chairman and CE of Ernst & Whinney in SA at the time of the merger.

Ernst & Young deputy chairman Tom Wixley said: "We knew when we appointed an executive chairman of such a young age that the appeal of challenges beyond the firm was inevitable. Therefore our emphasis has been on building a strong team to support Roy Andersen."

He said that under Andersen's leadership, the firm had experienced significant growth and Ernst & Young had emerged from the merger as one of Southern Africa's largest accounting firms, with 186 partners and over 1 800 staff.

Andersen's successor at Ernst & Young will be voted by the partnership. An announcement will be made shortly.

Born in May 1948, Andersen attended Wits University and was awarded prizes as the top student in two of five academic years. After completing articles with Ernst & Whinney in Johannesburg, he was transferred to the firm's Dallas office until 1975.

His promotion in the firm was rapid on his return to SA and in 1988 he was elected senior partner and CE of Ernst & Whinney at the age of 39, and later executive chairman of the merged group.

Andersen is married with three children.

Bomb blast damages dam

JONATHON REES

A BOMB blast which damaged a dam wall near Schweizer-Reneke on Monday could be linked to the recent suspension of water supplies to nearby Ipalageng township for non-payment of bills, western Transvaal police said yesterday. *Blow 6/11/91*

An arson docket has been opened following the pre-dawn explosion which blew an 18cm by 10cm hole in the dam wall, but did not penetrate the concrete.

It has not yet been established what kind of explosive device was used in attempts to destroy the 10-million-litre dam. There have been no arrests.

Maggie Mines goes under with debts of nearly R12m

SUSAN RUSSELL

A COAL mining company which owes its creditors almost R12m was placed under final liquidation in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday. *Blow 6/11/91*

The order winding up Maggie Mines Pty Ltd was granted by Mr Justice D van Zyl following an appli-

cation by Pied Piper Investments Pty Ltd, a shareholder in the mining company. *Blow 6/11/91*

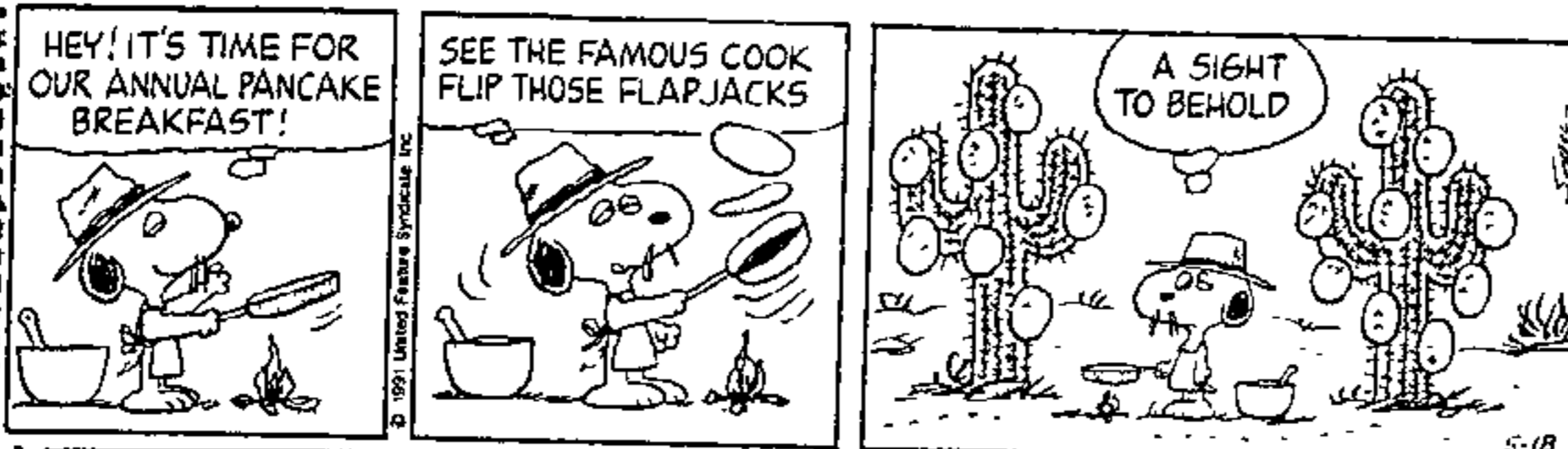
Pied Piper's sole director David Wassung, who is also a director of Basil Read Civil Engineering Pty Ltd, said Maggie Mines owed R2,6m to Basil Read.

He said the mine's accountant had informed him in June that the company had financial and cash flow difficulties because sales of its processed coal had not materialised.

The company's books and financial statements as at May 31 showed Maggie Mines had liabilities of R11,9m and assets of about R3,9m.

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz



Widening hole in ozone layer blinds fish, rabbits

The Argus Foreign Service

SANTIAGO. — Fish, rabbits and sheep in southern Chile are being blinded by ultra-violet radiation as the grim effects of the widening hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica start to be recorded.

Last month satellites from Nasa measured the destroyed area as the biggest ozone-layer hole ever recorded, extending more than 21 million sq km — or more than four times the size of the United States.

It is affecting parts of southern Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and almost half of Chile, and is spreading.

Some tree buds are showing deformed growth, while certain types of marine algae are secreting a red pigment never seen before.

In Punta Arenas, there is fear and concern over the invisible bombardment of UV-B radiation. Nobody leaves home without protective hats or sunglasses. Doctors are being besieged by patients with allergies and eye irritations.

UV-B radiation stunts growth in plants and can penetrate the ocean to depths of up to 40m, affecting the growth and reproduction of phytoplanktons, the basis of the marine food chain.

SB ARG 7/11/91

Earthlife slates CSIR's False Bay waste report

(56) CT 7/11/91

by CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

EARTHLIFE AFRICA this week rejected a recommendation made in the CSIR's latest report on stormwater and treated effluent in False Bay, that an offshore pipeline was a viable proposition for the bay.

Earthlife said: "The report is outdated and is a rehash of previous reports. Industrial contributors to the effluent load of False Bay such as Gant's and Somchem have ceased to operate and scaled down their operations.

"Sufficient evidence exists internationally that negates the option of a marine outfall pipeline. Fish caught in Boston Bay, where a similar pipeline option was implemented, cannot be consumed because of the high levels of toxic substances found in its flesh. The health risk attached to swimming there goes without saying.

"More recently, a cholera epidemic was found to be a direct

result of marine pollution spread along the Peruvian coastline and killed more than 1 500 people.

"Finally, inland municipalities and industries treat their effluent satisfactorily, which demonstrates that the land-based effluent treatment option is viable and more suitable.

"Much-needed commodities such as energy in the form of biogas, recycled water and compost can be extracted from a land-based effluent treatment plant.

"Earthlife Africa — Cape Town asks that no further permits be issued for the discharge of effluent into the sea and that parties presently discharging into False Bay be asked to adapt cleaner production practices.

"We also call for a moratorium to be declared on further development of the False Bay coastline subject to a more holistic environmental assessment taking into account local, regional and global impacts."

However, one of the CSIR re-

searchers, Mr Ken Russel, told the Constantiaberg and False Bay Review that he thought the criticism was misinformed as the report was referring to stormwater drains and not sewage effluent in its recommendation.

Eliminate risk

He said that in some areas "everything" lands up in the drains where all sorts of bacteria breed in it. This is more concentrated during the dry season and a little rain would wash it down on to the beaches.

He said: "We are just saying that this should not be allowed to get on to the beach — there are a number of points where it can be taken beyond the surf line."

In its summary, the CSIR report stated that if discharges in the surf zone led to locally unacceptable conditions, then an offshore pipeline discharging beyond the surfzone could be a feasible solution and eliminate the present health risk.

Controversial coal depots to go ahead

56

ARG 7/11/91

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PAARL municipality has ignored an appeal by Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar and granted a trade licence for coal depots at Dal Josafat close to the Berg River.

Although the licence is subject to strict conditions, the applicants have not been obliged to commission a full environmental impact assessment, as requested by Mr Pienaar.

They are also not obliged to advertise for objections, as recommended by the Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC).

Environmentalists believe the depots' effect on the Berg River in particular should have been fully assessed beforehand.

A first licence application by Oakley Investments and Carbon Fuels Marketing was approved by Paarl municipality earlier this

year but lapsed because the companies did not fulfil certain conditions.

The controversy was then brought to the attention of Mr Pienaar, who wrote to the municipality, the RSC and Spoornet, drawing their attention to the findings of the 1986 Van Zyl Commission of Inquiry into the operations of Coalcor at Maitland.

He also appealed to the municipality to reconsider its decision to allow the coal distribution depots without an environmental impact assessment.

The Van Zyl Commission found that coal distribution depots could have considerable impact. It pointed out the importance of the wine industry and the wine route to the Western Cape and the sensitivity of viticulture to coal dust pollution.

The RSC's policy is that applications to establish coalyards

should be advertised for comment and that as coal depots have a regional impact, the RSC — as the regional planning authority — should be approached for comment.

Paarl municipality town clerk Mr Hennie Liebenberg supplied The Argus with the list of conditions attached to the licence. These had to be fulfilled within 60 days of approval, although the applicants were "almost finished already", he said.

Conditions include:

- A weir must be built above the 1:50 year flood level to prevent possible pollution by rain water from the depots;

- The entire surface of the depots must be covered with an impervious layer of concrete or other suitable material; and

- The maximum quantity of coal stored must be less than 10 000 tons.

SELF-REGULATION. This catchword passed the lips of many a captain of industry when some 300 of the country's top businessmen gathered in Somerset West last week for a landmark conference to look at how to protect South Africa's fragile environment.

The laissez faire approach to industrial regulation, which ran through many of the proceedings of the Southern African Industry Conference on Environmental Management (SAICEM), is likely to be the focus of major debate.

"Industry needs to take the initiative, regulate itself and involve its associates and employees in environmental management," says the summary of a high-powered discussion group in which businessmen looked at the country's environmental law.

"Business must have an integral environmental component which we must be prepared to audit," says the conference statement. It adds the cautious note that such audits be conducted only "where relevant" and as "initially an internal management tool".

Trade unions and environmental pressure groups have already responded to such phrases with serious reservations. And the issue is likely to generate more debate as a range of political organisations — including the President's Council, not known for adopting militant views — have recently argued for more direct state control over the industrial despoilation of the environment.

Bev Geach, who attended the conference on behalf of the Group for Environmental Monitoring (Gem), says the conference was marked by a reluctance on the part of local business to accept state regulation and independent monitoring of the impact that their plants have on the environment.

"Reference was made to the financial inability of government to do this and the feelings that industry should be encouraged to promote sustainable development policies rather than be penalised," said Geach.

This flew in the face of opinion from some international experts. Cornelius "Bud" Smith — who was given the awesome responsibility for health, safety and environmental issues in the Union Carbide Corporation in 1985, a year after Bhopal, the world's worst industrial accident that shot that company into the limelight — strongly disagrees. "No industry in the world can regulate itself," was the simple lesson he drew from the tragedy.

"The chemical industry must have clear accountabilities, progress must be measured and the industry should be willing to let any member of the public scrutinise the progress. It is time to move away from the bunker men-

Industry wants to regulate itself. But can it be trusted?

South Africa's businessmen have taken the first step towards cleaning up their act. Should they be left alone?
EDDIE KOCH reports on a major ecology conference last week

tality if the chemical industry is to survive to the year 2000."

International consultant to the United Nations Environmental Programme Dr Bob Boland, who set up the Graduate School of Business in Cape Town, concurs. He said all companies should have an annual external environmental audit, with full public disclosure. He pointed out that when all companies do this, it ceases to be a media sensation, and allows industry to concentrate on the issue at hand — survival.

But most of the SAICEM delegates felt that government should set only minimum standards and that each industry will then strive voluntarily to improve on these when and where it is able to do so.

Said Geach: "Given the somewhat questionable record of industry in South Africa — the country has some of the worst air pollution in the world, its water is limited in quantity and seriously polluted in many areas, and its marine environment is under increasing threat — businessmen and industrialists must understand that this is likely to be viewed with extreme cynicism by the public."

Which is how Rod Crompton, general secretary of the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union, responded to news of the conference. "The last hundred years of capitalism are enough to show the disastrous effect that unregulated industry has had on the environment," he told *The Weekly Mail*.

"Sustainable development has to do with discounting the future. It involves a decision

about whether to exploit natural resources now and turn these into capital or whether to preserve resources for future generations.

"Industry is unsuited to creating this kind of equity between generations. All companies are responsive to the needs of their shareholders and are under extreme pressures for a quick return on profits. Environmental resources are a collective inheritance and we cannot accept the approach that says 'leave it to us, we'll regulate ourselves'."

Crompton, one of the few trade unionists in South Africa who takes environmental issues seriously, believes a future government — democratically elected and responsive to pressure from the public, civic groups and organised labour — has a vital role to play in deciding how our natural resources are to be wisely utilised and shared between this generation and those that will follow us.

"If private property reigns supreme and there is an absolutely free market, then it will not be possible to protect worker rights nor all our rights to a healthy and smooth functioning environment. It is increasingly clear from the experience of industrialisation — be it capitalist or socialist — that we have to acknowledge collective rights ... we have to nurture and facilitate them by allowing people to organise around the protection of these collective rights."

Jonathan Hobbs, organiser of the conference and senior environmentalist for Eskom, agrees that local businessmen have responded to environmental issues with more caution than their overseas counterparts.

"Many delegates stressed the need for economic growth to counteract poverty and that we cannot uncritically import principles from the industrialised countries," he said.

Hobbs explained the stress on self-regulation by saying that industrialists wanted at all costs to avoid restrictive controls by the government on their ability to expand operations.

"What we need to do is find the right mix between compliance with standards, regulation and imaginative approaches to environmental management," he said.

"The business community has finally started to accept responsibility for environmental management. Most delegates accepted that the political and social changes taking place in southern Africa at the moment provided a good opportunity for businessmen to review their environmental policies."

The organisers have yet to produce a detailed report on the proceedings of the conference. A summary of the deliberations will be sent to preparatory meetings of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Brazil next year.

w/Mail 8/11-14/11/91

56

...knew about it at that time
...Mr Gibbins said he had found
...lowered soon afterwards. This

Clean up or lose out, foreign investors warn SA business

Star 9/11/91

SOUTH Africa is being bundled into taking action to clean up its environment — but the pressure is coming from outside, not inside.

In the last two months there has been an unprecedented number of moves to begin the big clean up.

Fear is the driving force.

Industries from fish exporters to metal fittings manufacturers are inundating environmental consultants for advice.

Overseas trading partners — themselves pressured into cleaning up — are sending out letters asking their South African counterparts: "What are YOU doing? We need to tell our shareholders."

One local company whose production was geared to supplying a German-based international company was recently told that its production methods were not in line with acceptable environmental standards. It was given three years to come up to scratch and this was to have entailed large capital expenditure and changes in management.

Three months later the Germans cancelled the contract, saying they had found a company which already complied with their standards.

Commenting on the incident, Dr Dirk Grobler, head of the CSIR's division of environmental services, said that while such contract cancellations were still rare, the German incident was "an indicator of what lies ahead".

Europe, North America and Japan are determined to clean up and stabilise their impacts on the global environment and this is causing them to be wary of whom they do business with. Japan's policy is to grab the high ground in environmental sensitivity because it sees it as good for business. But Europe is also spending billions going green.

Energy conservation and the avoidance of waste production

South Africa is about to begin The Big Clean Up, writes JAMES CLARKE.

have become part of a new industrial ethic. There are the first signs of this happening here too. Some industries have even become leaders in the "green revolution".

But, generally, environmental conditions in South Africa are below par for a country whose trading partners consider her "industrialised" rather than Third World, and the Government's attitude has been to protect industry rather than people.

The fear of a crippled "Spaceship Earth" baked by the greenhouse effect and bombarded by ultraviolet rays coming through the ozone holes has become entrenched in the northern countries.

South Africa has no such global perception.

This could be because it lacked television at a crucial period in the world's history. Unlike the rest of the world, South Africans never experienced the sight in 1969 of their planet appearing "live" on the screen as man, for the first time, left Earth. The sight of the blue and shining planet had a profound effect on western thinking. Nine months later came Earth Day.

Signs that South Africa is about to start the Big Clean Up include:

● The President's Council has called for more power, staff and money for the Department of Environmental Affairs and recommends bigger fines for polluters. It wants an end to secrecy regarding energy resources and pollutants and tougher controls over marine fishing. It wants firms to employ environmental management systems and it wants an annual re-

port on the environment tabled in Parliament.

● Businessmen and industrialists attending last week's SA International Conference on Environmental Management (the conference was packed out) stated they were urgently devising new voluntary environmental standards.

● Industrialists of the Industrial Environment Forum — formed by South Africa's biggest corporations — have committed themselves to doing annual audits to demonstrate how they are improving their environmental management.

● In the last two months there have been dozens of conferences — international and regional — on environmental issues.

● The CSIR produced a frank report on Waste Management and Pollution in South Africa — finding both needed urgent attention. The report-back is next week.

● There have been several workshops and seminars on environmental management — Audi is holding a big one in Midrand on Monday.

● The ANC, PAC and Inkatha have issued position papers aligning themselves with the global ethic of allowing only development which can be sustained without diminishing the environment for future generations.

● The Minister of Environment Affairs last week launched a comprehensive policy for coastal zone management, saying if developers do not voluntarily comply, he would declare the entire coast a limited development area.

● The suggested Bill of Rights contains the following clause: "Everyone has the right not to be exposed to an environment which is dangerous to human health or well-being or which is seriously detrimental thereto, and has the right to the conservation and protection of that environment."

Audits mooted to aid pollution fight

B (day) 12/11/91

(56)

DARIUS SANAI

GOVERNMENT and industry attitudes towards environmental protection had to change if SA was to avoid risking world censure, several speakers told an industrial environmental awareness conference yesterday.

"Environmental audits" for business and a radical change in current laws were vital if SA was to prevent worsening pollution and environmental degradation, the conference heard.

The conference for business and industry, hosted by Audi at Midrand, was addressed by speakers from business, government, legal and academic circles.

AECI senior environmental officer Arend Hoogervorst said SA business should introduce a system of environmental audits similar to those being implemented in the US and Europe.

Environmental auditing involved companies assessing their environmental performance against pre-set environmental goals, Hoogervorst said.

Concern

Among the reasons firms needed to be interested in environmental audits were that they would reduce the risk of environmental penalties, would develop the image of an environmentally responsible company — important in the context of greater public perception of environmental "soundness" — and would give access to credible "green product" marketing.

Hoogervorst said one of the most compelling reasons to conduct environmental audits was emerging public concern about environmental risk and liability, rising in part from major disasters such as the Exxon Valdez oil tanker spill, the Union Carbide Bhopal chemical spill and the Chernobyl nuclear accident, and partly from concern at perpetrators of smaller-scale pollution.

The President's Council's recent report

on a national environmental management system also suggested that thorough environmental audits might become law.

Another reason to introduce a comprehensive scheme of environmental auditing was to pre-empt in a controlled manner any new environmental legislation.

There were various methods of conducting environmental audits, Hoogervorst said. A basic compliance audit would simply seek to establish whether the company was acting within environmental law; other audits would seek to evaluate whether company-set goals for environmental protection were being complied with.

Supplier audits could also be carried out, he said. These would involve a company checking to see whether its suppliers had met standards set by the company.

Leading environmental lawyer Jeremy Ridl told the briefing that SA environmental laws in the 1990s would evolve rapidly to accommodate social demand.

He said self-regulation by business was insufficient to meet environmental needs. "Environmental lawyers do not regard it prudent to leave a rabbit to look after the lettuces."

But he added that a balance needed to be struck due to understandable business concerns at the possibility of over-regulation.

The current administrative system on environmental affairs was highly inadequate and often illogical, he said. Some of the drawbacks had been pinpointed by the recent President's Council report, but the report did not adequately address the structural weaknesses in the current environmental management system.

Ridl also said uniform — and publicly known — environmental auditing would eliminate inequalities where some firms took less environmental precautions and produced at lower cost than others.

Probe into highveld water

Staff Reporter **(56)**

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has launched an investigation into pollution of rivers and streams by mines in the eastern Transvaal highveld, particularly Witbank.

The scientific probe will establish the water quality, identify sources

of pollution and evaluate the available options to rehabilitate the waterways.

A department spokesman said the investigation was under the guidance of a steering committee comprising representatives from provincial and local government authorities, industry, mining and agricul-

ture, assisted by environmental engineers who will focus on rehabilitation and pollution control at abandoned coal mines.

The task force will also provide a strategy for curbing pollution and improve water quality so that it will be fit for use by downstream consumers and which will support aquatic life.

'Holistic' management urged for False Bay

56

ARG 13/11/91

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

UNTREATED stormwater from rapidly developing areas like Khayelitsha could threaten the ecological future of False Bay, and a comprehensive management system for the entire bay should be constituted by the Department of Environment Affairs.

This is the opinion of the False Bay Water Quality Committee, whose annual report was released today.

False Bay formed an "exceptionally important" natural system, committee chairman and Cape Town city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said in the report.

It was the country's largest bay and had considerable economic potential for the region, mainly through recreation.

The water quality had been under close scrutiny recently, he added.

Regular checks at beaches in the Cape Town municipal area had shown that quality was the same as — or better than — 10 and 20 years ago, with the exception of the area near the Mitchell's Plain treated sewage outlet.

But because of rapid urbanisation, stormwater was no longer seeping into the ground or forming pools but was rapidly drained and discharged into False Bay. This was the major source of pollution, Mr Clayton said.

There is a growing concern that the massive urbanisation taking place on the northern shore will threaten the future of False Bay as an environmentally sound natural system. The concern for the well-being of False Bay is thus not so much about the present but about what the bay might become.

Although his committee had clearly improved the management of False Bay — such as standardising bacteriological monitoring — it was unable to overcome all the shortcomings. In particular, this was because it was not officially constituted and had no legislative power, Mr Clayton said.

"The ideal is holistic management in which a comprehensive management plan for False Bay and its catchment can be generated, and for that an officially constituted body with the necessary powers would be required to assume overall responsibility for False Bay," he concluded.

● A forum entitled *False Bay — The Future* is being hosted at Simon's Town next Thursday, November 21, by the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society in conjunction with the Wildlife Society and the Royal Society.

Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar will give the opening address and topics to be discussed include a management strategy for the bay, pollution, marine resources and tourism.

For further information contact Ms Pam Joubert, 210 2068.

SA anti-dumping law on the cards

Business Staff (5) ARG 13/11/91

JOHANNESBURG. — Under pressure from various industrial sectors, the government has announced plans to implement anti-dumping measures to protect local manufacturers.

Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Org Marais said yesterday that import tariff protection policy was being reviewed with the aim of gradually reducing tariffs.

"The reduction of tariffs is, however, subject to the creation of measures for effective action against dumping," Dr Marais said.

He said draft legislation for action against dumping, subsidisation and other forms of disruptive competition had been released to private sector organisations for comment.

It is widely believed that the proposals will take their lead from the Anti-Dumping and Subsidies Code of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

Gatt defines dumping as the selling of foreign goods on local markets at prices below the ruling prices in the country of export.

The draft policies are in line with a proposal by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), which earlier this year recommended a break-up of South Africa's extensive protectionist policies and a stronger export-orientation.

The IDC also urged that South Africa become a signatory of Gatt's Anti-Dumping and Subsidies Code to provide some measure of protection as tariffs were reduced.

However, the IDC report, which is set to form the basis of South Africa's future trade and tariff policy, has been criticised by various industrial sectors and organised business.

In its response to the report, the SA Chamber of Business warned in August that if SA industry "were to be cut adrift through trade liberalisation" adequate protection against predatory pricing from imports was required.

Recently the textile industry complained about cheap imports, particularly from the Far East, which were affecting the local industry — as was clearly illustrat-

ed by the poor results turned in by such companies as Frame and Unispin.

Chemical giant AECI last month asked the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for an increase in tariffs on PVC because cheap imports had slashed local prices of the product and cut profit margins drastically.

Economists said yesterday that the government was in danger of giving more prominence to the concern of local industrialists than to the overriding need to restructure the country's outdated tariff protection policies.

South African producers are currently protected from dumping and low-cost imports by high import tariffs, which effectively create a floor for minimum prices at which imports can enter the country.

This practice is unacceptable to Gatt, of which South Africa is a founder member, although it does not as yet subscribe to its anti-dumping code.

In drafting new anti-dumping legislation, the IDC said South Africa should draw on the experience of other Gatt members, but adapt policies to specific needs.

Larger role for nature group?

Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town Environmental Advisory Committee has requested that it be given a more pro-active role in projects of environmental concern in the city.

The CTEAC has written to the Executive Committee of Cape Town City Council to ask for wider-spread consultation on environmental matters.

(Sb) 27/13/11/91
"At recent meetings concern was expressed by the CTEAC at the fact that it is often by-passed in the consideration of major projects in the city which are of environmental significance," the memo states.

Powers

The CTEAC would like to be in a position to make recommendations on any matters involving environmental management procedures and applications affecting the environment.

Any relevant department head and the Building Control Officer should have discretionary powers to refer plans to the CTEAC, it requests.

The CTEAC was given permission yesterday to study the proposals for the development of government-owned land adjacent to Kirstenbosch Gardens.

The proposed sale of the land for townhouse development recently led to a storm of protest.

Joburg revives recreation plan

By Shirley Woodgate

Plans to create the biggest man-made dam on the Witwatersrand have been revived and Johannesburg's City Council has voted R100,000 for a preliminary investigation.

The proposed 3 km-long Klip River Lake and recreation area in southern Johannesburg was the brainchild of ex-Johannesburg mayor Issy Schlapobersky more than 25 years ago, and included a recreation park on 750 ha.

Space

But the project, which would have almost doubled the water space on the Reef, was abandoned in 1986. About R20 million needed from private enterprise to build the dam at that stage failed to materialise.

The ambitious scheme resurfaced recently and former city engineer Eric Hall has been appointed to head a team of senior council officials to conduct a preliminary investigation.

In its latest form, the development may be linked to the extensive Klipriversberg Nature Reserve, creating a huge leisure area in the region.

With the bulk of expansion in Johannesburg now taking place south of the city, the need for recreation space in that region has become urgent and Mr Schlapobersky is confident the investigation will have positive results.

Mr Hall has emphasised that public participation would be vital if the go-ahead was given. At this stage the investigation will focus on the quality of the water, the available land, designing a preliminary development plan, assessing the problems and benefits and then handing the findings over to the management committee.

According to Mr Schlapobersky, land was bought for the 250 ha dam about 19 years ago. Feasibility studies were positive and the scheme had the go-ahead from the Water Affairs Department.

The latest council move includes reference to "opening leisure opportunities unparalleled on the Witwatersrand" and the fact that "Olympic requirements for relevant aquatic sports" would be noted.

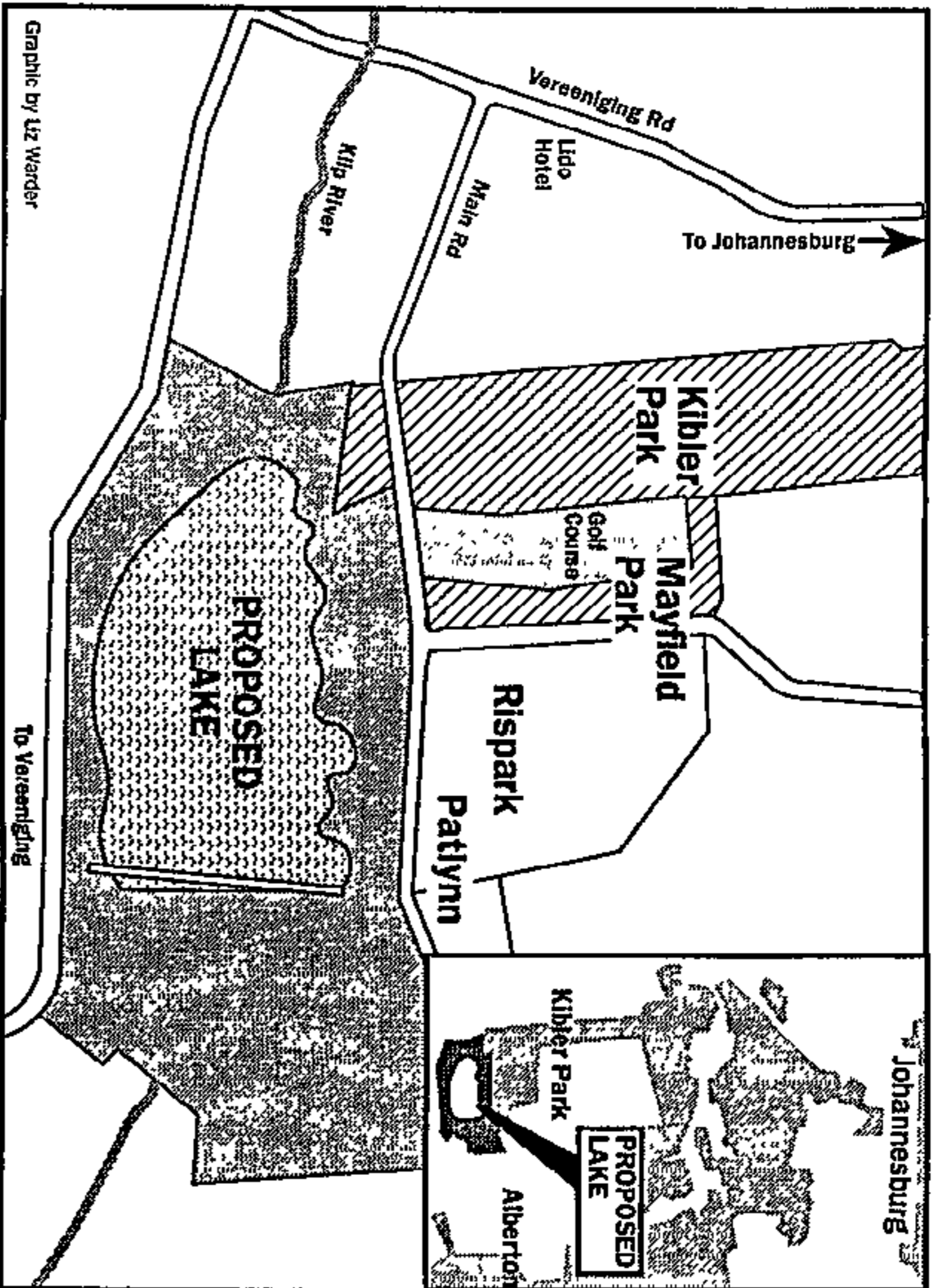
Rowing

Mr Schlapobersky's vision originally saw the project as the answer to the Reef's 124 rowing clubs since the lake would be long enough to include a 2 000 m long Olympic rowing course.

Mr Schlapobersky also urged that 500 sq m surrounding the dam should be landscaped and developed to include a nature reserve, a waterside village with a harbour for luxury boats, a holiday resort for the public, a vast picnic area and a fish-breeding area to stock the dam.

SL
13/11/91

Witwatersrand's biggest man made dam ... former city engineer Eric Hall has been appointed to head a team of senior Johannesburg City Council officials investigating the revival of the 3 km Klip River Lake first proposed more than 25 years ago by ex-mayor Issy Schlapobersky. The development may be linked to the Klipriversberg Nature Reserve.



Graphic by U2 Wender

**A NEW REFERENCE
24 HOUR NOTICE
CASH INVESTMENT**

Everything's connected, man — that's really deep

Southside 14/11 - 20/11/91

(56)

B EING "GREEN" is not only trendy, it is easy. In fact, it's hard to find anyone of public standing who will not testify whole-heartedly to being a closet greenie. Who could admit otherwise in the "decade of the environment"?

George Bush loves the environment (when he's not busy loving the Persian Gulf) and so does Nelson Mandela, who shot a gemsbok to prove it. Even Louis Pienaar, Minister of Education and Environment, has shown outstanding environmental acumen by attempting a debate on the springbok as national sporting emblem.

While the battle to keep wildlife off lounge walls and monogrammed jerseys has yet to begin, ordinary folk are wondering whether that "green word" is just another imported fashion soon to be forgotten, like other colour-coded ideological weapons.

Arne Naess, the Norwegian philosopher, made a groundbreaking conceptual distinction between shallow and deep ecology. By asking deeper questions, Naess reasoned, we would arrive at fundamental connections.

The deep ecologist, therefore, refrains from seeing things in isolation and instead attempts to look at the larger picture.

An example of a shallow approach would be studying a cow without looking at the milk industry, the grass or the impact of the methane from cow farts and their eventual influence on the Greenhouse Effect.

Shallow ecology finds expression in the notion the environment has value only in relation to humans. Followers of this idea find inspiration in the religious belief: "God gave man dominion over all creatures, great and small" or the belief in the supremacy of science and logic.

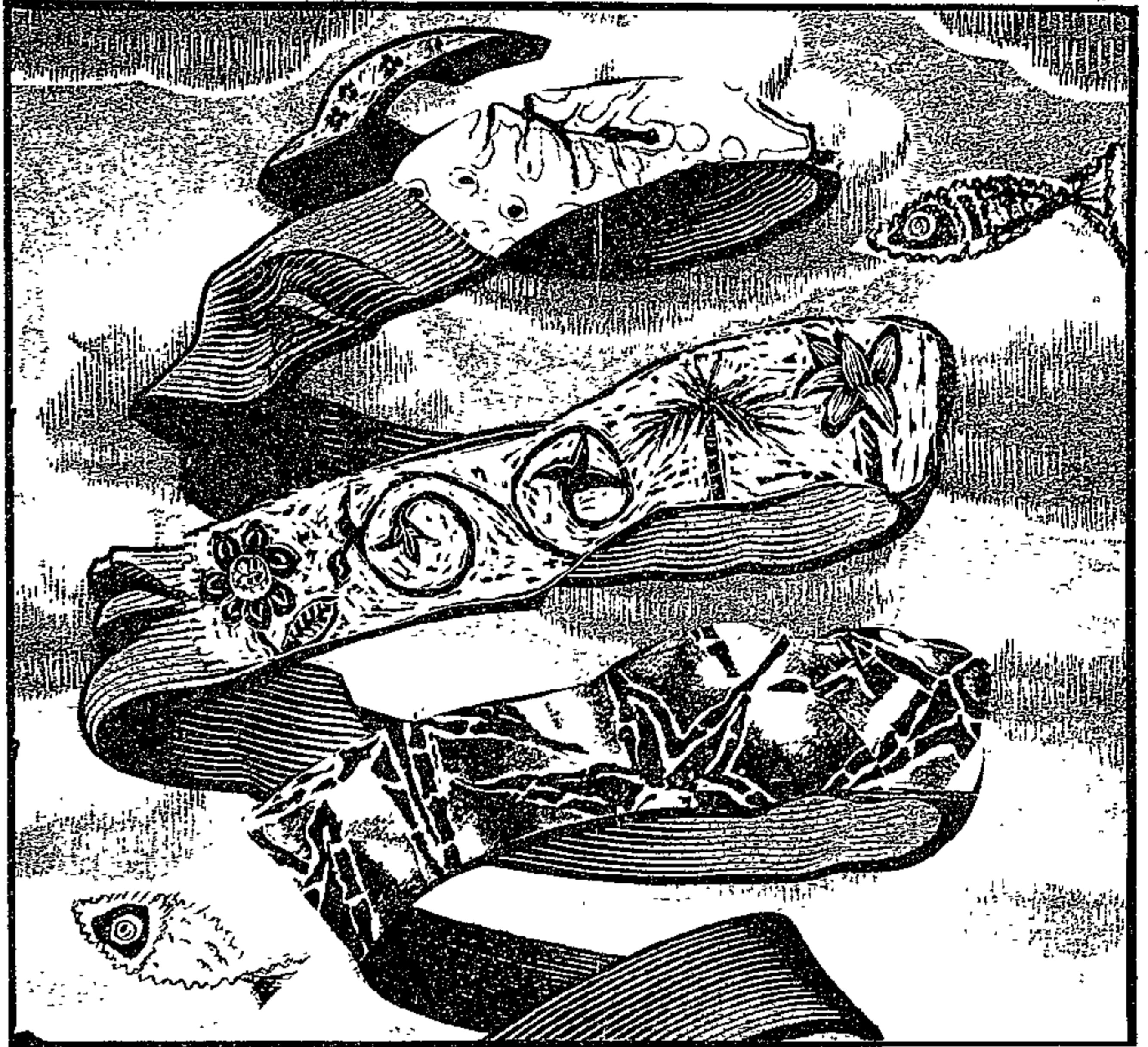
In this way the living and non-living are given worth only in terms of our ability to define "use-value". If something appears useless to us there is no reason to conserve it.

This makes life considerably easier for those involved in the destruction of the 1 000 or so species of flora or fauna that disappear every day. If the public complains about the destruction of something like a unique dune ecosystem, all they have to do is replace it with something similar and everyone is happy.

"It's all green anyway," they reason, "so what's the difference?"

The problem inherent in this man-centred belief is the same problem at the root of our religious-scientific traditions. We can never fully

Believing the environment has value only in relation to humans makes life easier for those who help destroy over 1 000 species of flora and fauna daily, argues DAVE LEWIS:



ascertain the *real* value of anything because we have no scientific way of measuring things adequately. Which is why we continue to discover new levels of data. In short, we do not have the faculties of a god, although we often act as if this is the case.

Deep ecology, on the other hand, accepts the limitations of science. Understanding we are perhaps not in the best position to decide the fate of anything other than our own, deep ecologists refrain from any action which might harm the environment. This biocentric or earth-centered approach sees all life as having intrinsic value

regardless of the scientific opinion of the day.

The realisation humans are here *because* of the environment and not the other way round, makes ideas such as land ownership seem ridiculous.

THE IDEA we cannot own the sky or the land predates capitalism as well as monotheism. Many cultures, such as those of the San, the Aborigine and the Hopi Indians, hold the earth sacred.

Understandably, they have not been tolerated by those who would like to possess and rule the planet.

In renouncing the rights conferred on us by religion and science, deep ecology attempts to protect the environment by implying we have a duty to speak up for the environment without having to justify its existence in economic or religious terms.

The ultimate expression of deep ecology is the view the earth is a living organism which has value independent of humans.

There is much evidence to suggest the planet regulates itself much in the same way a living organism does. While this may bring hope life will always exist on our planet, we cannot say the same for the human species.

The ability of humans to survive the environmental upheaval caused by our disregard for the earth is still uncertain. We depend on a very specific set of circumstances. A few degrees shift in global temperature is perhaps all it will take to end our relatively short civilisation.

Much is unknown and we are really conducting an experiment, using ourselves and the environment as guinea pigs. The only certainty is long after we are gone, this planet will still be around, albeit in a significantly changed form.

There are quite evidently many ways to qualify the word "green". Adding content to the term will certainly involve significant discussion on whether a "shallow" or "deep" approach is the one to follow.

Nevertheless, it is time those who call themselves green come clean on what they value, otherwise it will remain just an empty fashion for the masters of rhetoric. □

Urgent application to halt sawmill building

By BRONWYN DAVIDS

A COMMUNITY worker in Suurbraak near Swellendam yesterday brought a Supreme Court application to halt the construction of a sawmill on village trust land, as it could cause environmental damage and contamination of drinking water.

Miss Bridget van Rensburg of the Suurbraak Children's Project brought the application against the Suurbraak Management Board, the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Culture in the House of Representatives

and Mr Thorold Doubell of Kingswood Sawmills.

In an order yesterday building will cease and contracts between the respondents will be suspended until the outcome of the hearing, which has been postponed till November 22.

Mr Doubell is to file answering papers by Monday.

Miss Van Rensburg said Overberg Regional Services health official Mr Riaan Du Toit was concerned about possible pollution of the water supply of Suurbraak village.

(56) CT 14/11/91

CT APR 15/11/91

Doc's all bluster when it comes to litter

Staff Reporter (56)

THE Cape Doctor does wonderful work against air pollution, but fares a lot worse when it comes to keeping the streets clean.

Cape Town City Council public relations officer Mr Ted Doman said in response to a query about rubbish-strewn streets yesterday that the central city cleansing staff were doing their rounds as often, or even more often, than they usually did.

The wind — which has been blowing powerfully almost all week — was to blame for the unusually dirty streets, he said.

Just before the Remembrance Day ceremony on Monday, Mr Doman said, he called the cleansing branch to ask them to tidy the streets.

He had been told that the workers had finished tidying them less than three hours previously and that they could not do so continu-

ously. They were unable to cope with the wind.

● Refuse-removal rounds in the Southern Suburbs had been reduced because quantities picked up on any given round were greater now that removals took place only once instead of twice a week, Mr Doman said.

He was responding to complaints from the workers that their conditions of service had deteriorated with the new once-a-week system.

Experts push for lifting of ivory trade ban

HARARE — SA should be allowed to resume international trade in ivory under strict controls, say experts from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites).

The recommendation was disclosed in an interview by Cites representative Peter Dollinger, who is leading a delegation to study the elephant populations of Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana, which are also demanding to resume trade.

Dollinger said a Cites delegation visited SA in June and found "that this population qualifies for downlisting to appendix two,

MICHAEL HARTNACK

which means the population is healthy".

The Cites delegation was brought to SA by the Environmental Affairs Department to prove SA's elephant population was securely established and competently managed, said environmental conservation chief director Sydney Grobler. SA had submitted an application for consideration at the Cites general assembly in Japan next March.

The Kruger National Park culled about 300 elephants annually, and the unused

ivory represented potential income of up to R2m, park executive director Salomon Joubert said.

While SA's elephants were listed on Cites' "appendix one" they were regarded as seriously endangered, and all international trade in products derived from them, such as ivory and hides, was banned.

Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Malawi, with the tacit support of SA, have threatened to resume ivory auctions next year at a special centre in Botswana, in defiance of Cites. The elephant population in southern Africa exceeds 250 000.

11/11/71
BIP 15/11/71

(56)

Circumspection needed in the drive for profits

B/day 15/11/91

56

THE man in charge of the National Parks Board's finances says the parks must make a profit, but not at any price.

Klasie Havenga says making profits cannot involve pricing the Kruger Park in dollars or implementing any tariff structure which denies access to ordinary South Africans.

The Parks Board's executive director: finance says all activities are being commercialised and the aim is to run all parks on strict business principles, just like any private sector operation.

The difference is that he would be happy with 20% return on investment, where the private sector might seek 60%.

He says the Parks Board's mission is firstly to conserve national parks and secondly to make them available to the people.

"We are approaching not the new SA, but the real SA, the reality of Africa.

"That reality is not mak-

ing 60% return on investment and becoming the playground of the rich.

"The parks are jewels, but they belong to the people, not to the National Parks Board.

"Our job is not to run them for the profit of the Parks Board, but to keep them intact for the people in the most economical way.

"Our way is not to put up tariffs simply to make a lot of money."

Upgrading

Havenga says he believes firmly in cross-subsidation, which means the profitable parks like Kruger Park subsidising the provision or upgrading of tourist facilities in other parks.

These are not covered by government subsidies, which are only for nature conservation.

It is that cross-subsidisation which ensures that all parks, and particularly the

small ones, remain open and are accessible to all at reasonable prices, he says.

It is the profits which pay for new accommodation, restaurants, roads and picnic spots in established parks and for the development of the newer ones.

Profits are to be made, but in harmony with nature conservation.

Havenga says this imposes constraints, such as denying the bands some might like at restaurants and rest camps in order to ensure the peace that others have come to enjoy.

Profits are not viewed as an end in themselves, but as a means to an end: fulfilling a conservation mission.

"We must realise that the National Parks Board doesn't have any assets; the parks belong to the the people," Havenga says.

"What we are doing is for the total population of SA, and not only for today.

"We are trying to preserve this for generations to come."

R333m loan could lead to self-sufficiency

31 Day 15 / 11 / 91

56

FINANCIAL independence is not just a goal — it may be the key to the continued existence of South Africa's national parks system.

They are both reasons why the National Parks Board's chief director of finances is keen to borrow money in order to make the parks self-supporting within a few years.

Klasie Havenga is an enthusiastic supporter of the financial independence plan proposed by the Department of Trade and Industry last year.

The aim is to put the National Parks Board on its feet by doubling its accommodation capacity.

The DTI report says the

new accommodation planned for the national parks will add a further 4 194 beds.

Most projects could not be started because of a shortage of capital.

The DTI recommends the Parks Board take out a loan for the entire R333m required, and build all the accommodation needed as quickly as possible.

Repay

The money should be raised at market rates on the capital market with government subsidising all but 5% of the interest.

According to DTI calculations, the additional income from new accommodation would enable the

Parks Board to repay the loan in 10 years and to be financially independent two years before this.

Conservation subsidies, currently R33m and projected to rise to R103m at the turn of the century, would cease in 1998.

Havenga says the plan may safeguard the national parks system.

"If we can put these developments in place as soon as possible, we can eventually generate enough money to relieve the state of its obligation to subsidise nature conservation.

"The reality of SA today is that if we don't develop the areas under our control in such a manner that they are not a drain on govern-

ment finances, the question might be asked why the land isn't used for something else.

"The National Parks Board must contribute to the welfare of the region in which parks are situated and to the economy as a whole, otherwise government might come under pressure to take away from us the areas we are trying to conserve for the future."

Feasible

Havenga has no doubt the DTI scheme is feasible and would enable the National Parks Board to become self-sufficient.

It would also have the benefits of creating jobs and earning foreign currency.

"The income generated at the higher turnover parks with bigger profits would enable us to develop smaller parks and then be in a position to repay the loan."

Havenga says the interest subsidy is justified.

Because parks are in re-



KLASIE HAVENGA

mote areas, the provision of infrastructure accounts for 48% of the cost of building a new rest camp.

"That means we would be borrowing money to build infrastructure. Only 52% of the investment generates income."

That subsidy would be "a small downpayment" which would free the state of all future subsidies, once the Parks Board was financially independent, Havenga says.

Financial independence in turn would be a downpayment on the future for the National Parks Board itself.

An increase in tourism would boost economy

8/1 Dec 15/11/91

AN INCREASE in tourism is being looked at as one of the ways to boost South Africa's flagging economy. As SA's isolation ends, the country could attract a flood of foreign tourists. The result would not only be an inflow of foreign money, but the creation of jobs in the travel and hotel industries and an economic fillip for the main tourism regions.

A Board of Trade and Industry (BTI) report into the tourism industry said last year: "SA has hardly begun to exploit the potential of tourism." It concluded that "the long-term prospects flowing from the development of the industry are excellent".

It also notes that Satour projects an annual 8% growth in foreign tourism "while the infrastructure of the National Parks Board cannot accommodate any growth".

The demand for accommodation in the Kruger Park is five times what is available.

Central to the BTI proposals is a scheme to double accommodation in the national parks.

How government proposes to exploit the potential for additional foreign exchange earnings is expected to be set out in a White Paper on tourism due to be published soon.

National Parks Board chief executive director Robbie Robinson says the parks should feature prominently in any government plan, and not just because the famous ones like the Kruger Park are among the main reasons tourists come here.

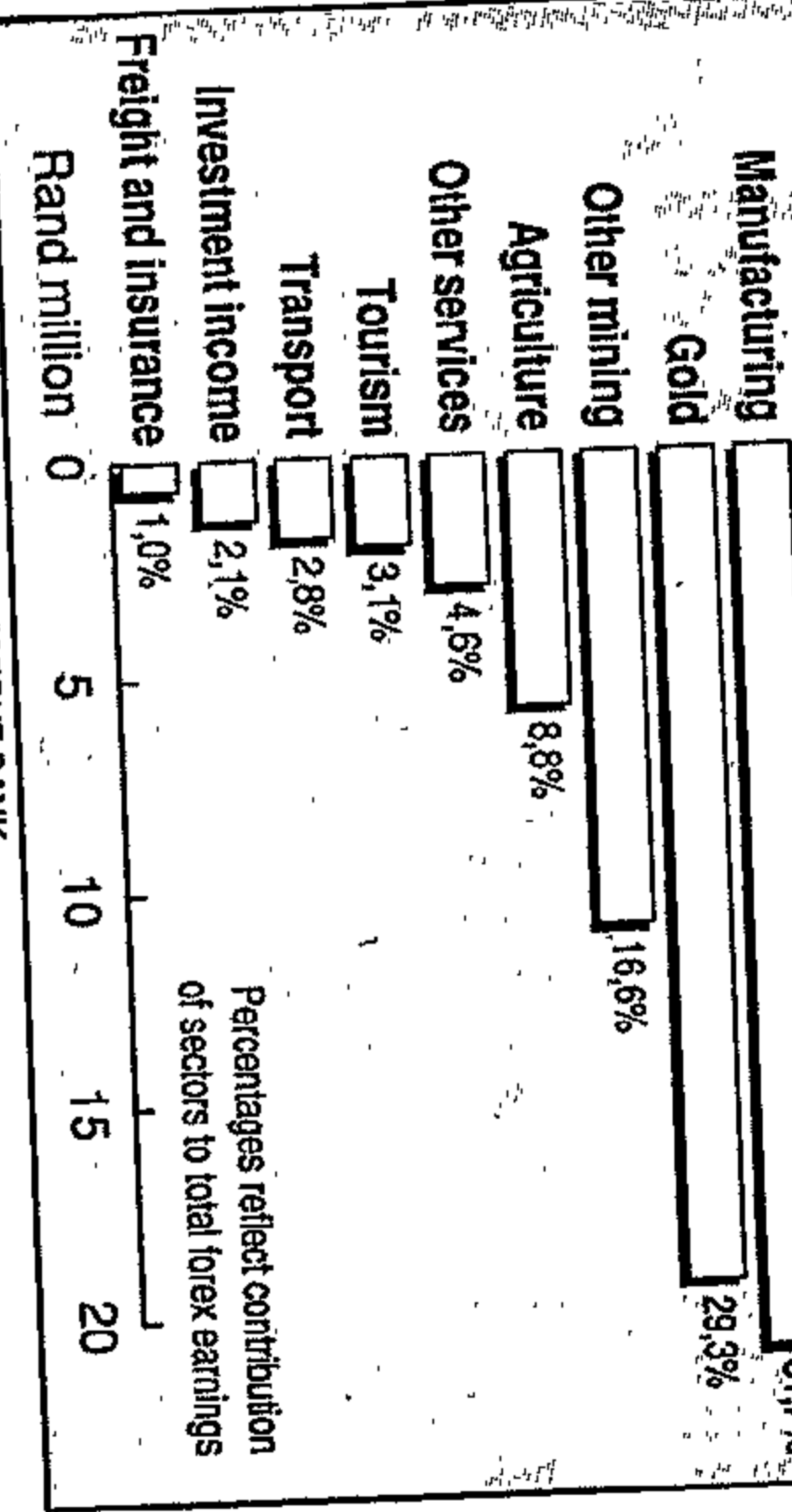
56 Growth

"Tourism is a growth industry. The gold mining industry is running into dire straits," he says.

"If government wants to kickstart the economy, it can't do any better than by putting money into tourism."

Apart from being "the goose that lays the golden

Foreign exchange earnings by sector - 1989



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH Source: SA RESERVE BANK

egg" as far as attracting tourists is concerned, Robinson says the parks are not only employers but spark regional development.

The BTI report says the international norm is that one new job is created for every 11 additional tourists a country attracts.

It also notes that political factors have kept the growth in tourism to SA at less than half the rate of increase in world tourism. SA's share of world tourism declined steadily over

the period from 1978 to 1988. The BTI says in some countries tourism is the largest single foreign exchange earner.

Political

In SA, the manufacturing industry topped the list with 32% in 1989, followed by gold at 29%. Tourism was a lowly 3%.

While plans are being made to improve tourist accommodation and build new facilities, including ex-

pansion plans for the national parks, the problem is more political than physical.

The kick start to the economy based on a rapid increase in tourism is predicted on political stability: the tourists will only come if SA offers an environment in which they feel they and their possessions are safe.

If that comes about, the national parks and the tourist industry as a whole are gearing up to receive a flood of new visitors.

Planning for the tourist demands of new decade

B/Daw 15/11/91

285 (56)

THE decade of the '90s is probably the most testing the National Parks Board has faced.

Executives are optimistic about the future, however, and are planning for the tourist demands of a new SA.

Those demands will be both local and foreign.

The Parks Board is devoting money and effort to attracting black people to the game reserves and to spreading local demand away from the Kruger Park and into off-peak periods.

Flood

With SA once again open to foreign travel, a flood of visitors is expected from countries whose nationals were prevented or discouraged from coming here and from people who saw the country as obnoxious or dangerous.

If the curiosity factor is one drawcard for people wanting to look at a new, nonracial SA, the national parks system is a bigger one.

Most tourists are drawn here by our wildlife and even those who come to peek at politics are likely to spend a day or two game watching.



G A 'ROBBIE' ROBINSON

Picture: CATHERINE ROSS

There are plans to expand accommodation in all price ranges, both at the ever-popular Kruger Park and in other reserves, to upgrade existing accommodation, to improve other facilities and make everyone feel welcome.

New chief executive di-

rector G A "Robbie" Robinson is enforcing his philosophy that parks are for people as well as animals and that the parks system must become "visitor friendly".

Robinson has also restructured and streamlined the organisation since he

took over in April in a move his colleagues describe as bold and brave and which they admit caused some pain.

Robinson is in charge of a huge organisation controlling 17 national parks and proud of what it has achieved since the proclamation of the Kruger Park in 1926.

"My objective is to position the organisation in terms of its acceptability in the new SA."

He and his fellow executives know they are responsible for millions of hectares in a country short of land for housing and agriculture: their stewardship includes millions of animals in a country where many are short of food.

Precious

They believe the parks are the "pride of the nation", a precious heritage that must be preserved and kept accessible to all South Africans — and invaluable contributors to regional welfare and the national economy with the potential to earn more for the country than the mining industry.

These interlocking virtues are the reason for the Parks Board's optimism

about the future.

It believes the national parks will thrive in the new SA once they are accepted as treasures to be enjoyed by all, and as economic assets providing jobs and foreign currency earnings.

There is also an ambitious plan for a rapid increase in accommodation levels which would increase earnings to the extent that the Parks Board could become self-sufficient within a few years, and certainly by the end of the decade.

Deter

The main threat to tourism, and therefore to the national parks, is seen as political instability, which would deter foreign visitors.

While that is a major concern to the National Parks Board, it is beyond its control.

What it can do is to improve facilities and accommodation, increase the number of domestic tourists and seek to raise its acceptability among all sectors of the population.

It is doing all those things, and sees the next decade not as a threat but as an opportunity.



Finding money for Table Mountain

Table Mountain, as much a symbol of SA as the springbok and as important a national asset as Kruger Park, is sliding towards serious neglect due to a lack of staff and funds for maintenance.

A devastating fire on the slopes of Devil's Peak this year, and then mudslides following torrential winter rains, have again focused attention on the mountain's future. Cape Town city engineer Arthur Clayton says about R2,3m will be needed to repair damage caused so far.

SA Tourism Board regional director Colin van Zyl says Table Mountain is Cape Town's most valuable natural resource. The political changes that make SA an increasingly attractive destination for foreign tourists mean that the mountain will become even more important. But attention will now have to be given to utilising the resource to the greater benefit of the region.

Van Zyl believes that the maintenance of the mountain, as well as the Table Mountain chain, could be funded from income generated by tourism — provided that the tourism infrastructure is developed in a way that avoids the overcrowding that tourism sometimes brings. The challenge is to increase the access for tourists but maintain ecological safeguards so that the resource is not abused, he says.

Tourism is an important cog in the western Cape's economy. Last year it generated R2bn in spending and it now provides about 75 000 jobs in the region. International research shows that for each 11 tourists to an area, one job is created. It is therefore clearly in Cape Town's interests to keep its attractions in top shape, but spending on the maintenance and management of Table Mountain is declining.

The mountain chain stretching from Signal Hill to Cape Point is owned by 179 local authorities, State department, corporations and individuals. The Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment's management advisory committee advises the provincial administrator on the mountain's management.

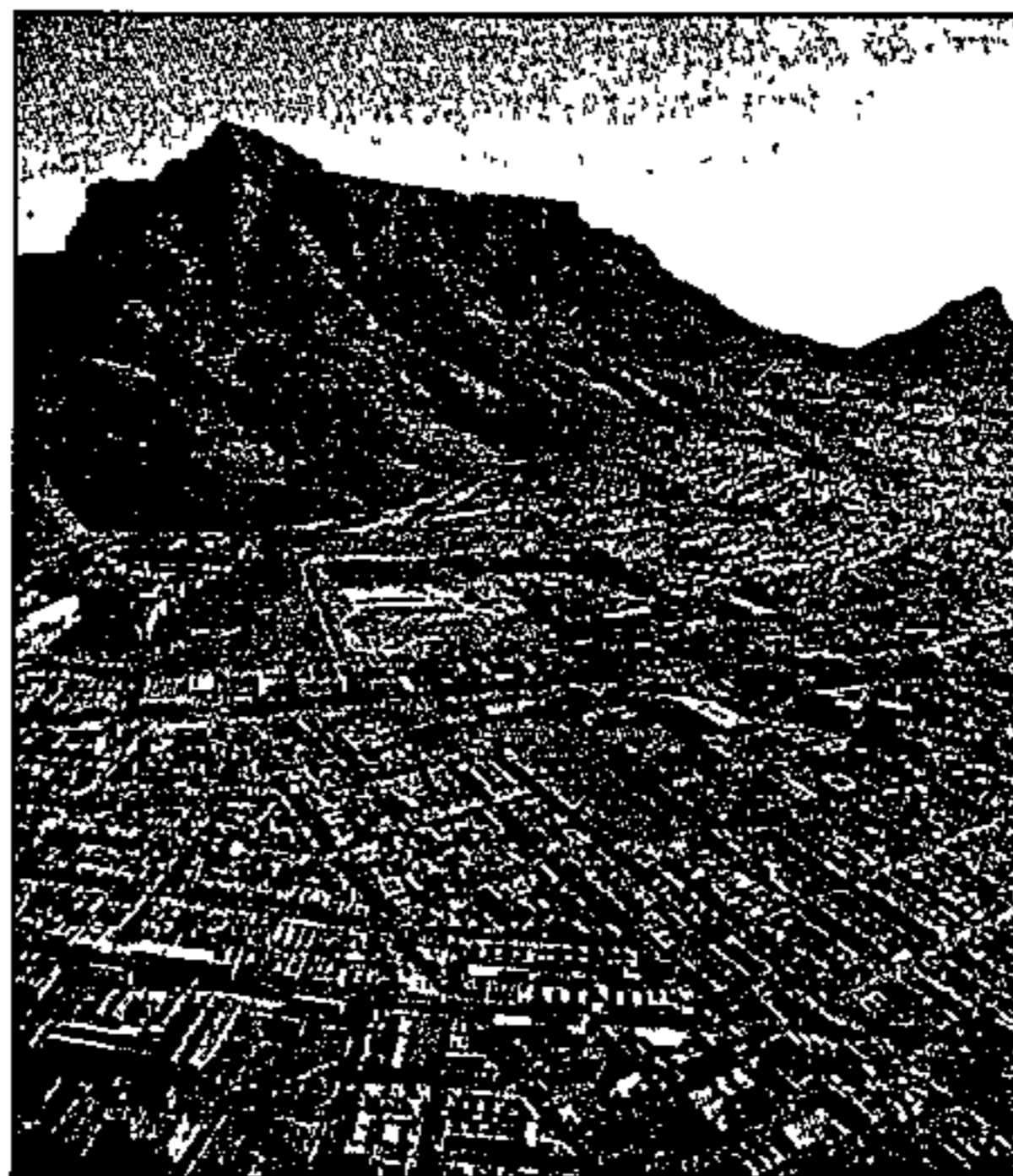
The management plan sets the policy for access paths, the eradication of alien vegetation, restoration of indigenous flora and related issues. The owners staff and fund their own areas and the committee co-ordinates the different bodies in an attempt to unify

management and maintenance efforts.

Committee chairman Douglas Hey, a former director of nature conservation in the Cape, says the federal system of maintenance and management works relatively well. A uniform policy was voluntarily prepared and accepted by all the owners.

But should there be a single executive authority to control the entire area? That appears impractical considering the costs of expropriation and the legal implications. Cape Town Chamber of Commerce executive director Alan Lighton believes a single management committee with executive powers would be more effective.

University of Cape Town botanist Eugene Moll agrees. He believes that Table Mountain should be run along the lines of a business venture, responsible to an ecological



Cape Town landmark ... do too many owners spoil the mountain?

committee. Moll says there is now no scientific management plan. A scientific subcommittee of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment has only recently tried to determine the priorities for research.

But there may be a simpler solution. Cape Administrator Kobus Meiring says the time has come to consider declaring Table Mountain a national park. He says the mountain is an exceptional asset but divided control makes management extremely difficult.

Meiring adds that the National Parks Act provides for the management and control of

private and local authority land without the State having to purchase it. The Act allows the National Parks Board to negotiate the management of particular areas with their landowners.

Finance seems to be the critical issue. Cape Town City Council Parks and Forests Director Peter Rist says the maintenance of Table Mountain cost about R1,3m last year. The provincial subsidy has been whittled down from 50% to its present 20% and will be phased out by 1994.

Both Hey and Rist believe there should be a tripartite system of financing the maintenance of Table Mountain. They argue that, because it is a national asset, the State should contribute towards its upkeep together with the province, local authorities, private owners and users on a pro rata basis.

But the central and provincial authorities have far higher priorities, such as housing, health and education. It seems, therefore, that users of the resource will pay for its management and maintenance. Whether this will include the tourism and related industries that benefit from the mountain's drawing power is open to debate, but State subsidies are clearly on their way out.

Suggestions for raising additional income have included licensing, but the necessary policing would be a problem. Entrance fees are equally impractical because of the vast area covered by the mountain. A fence to control access would be costly, unsightly and ineffective. A toll charged at the road gateway to Table Mountain seems feasible but would need a thorough investigation.

The Silvermine Nature Reserve in the southern part of the chain had an income of about R80 000 last year from entrance fees. A similar system could be instituted on the road to the cableway and at picnic areas.

Another possibility is a levy on cable car tariffs but Denis Hennessy, chairman of the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway Co, believes this is unwarranted. "The royalty we pay to the city council in the course of the 99-year lease is adequate."

About 420 000 people use the cable car annually. Hennessy declines to say what the total income is but it is believed to be well in excess of R3m. Demand for the cable car during peak periods causes considerable delays but a second cable car is not financially viable at this stage.

National Parks Board

PRIVATISATION is not a popular word at the National Parks Board.

PRIVATISATION AND CONSERVATION NOT A HAPPY MIX

Top officials believe neither the parks nor their principal tourist activities should be sold to the highest bidder.

While there are no serious suggestions at the moment that the parks be sold off, there is debate about who should run the rest camps, restaurants and other shops in places like the Kruger Park.

The official objection to privatisation of the parks has been made in recent reports on the future of tourism and is expected to be endorsed in a coming White Paper setting out government policy.

The main argument is that conservation, the responsibility of the state and the principal function of the Parks Board, would suffer because privatised parks would concentrate on attracting visitors.

The public, it is said, would also suffer as private parks cater for the affluent.

Then there are fears that private sector buyers would rush for money spinners like the Kruger Park, ignoring smaller, less profitable parks where valuable conservation work is being done.

The argument about commercial facilities within the parks has yet to be resolved.

The National Parks Board says it should control and benefit from these facilities, and it has been supported in recent re-ports by the tourist author-ity, Sautour, the Department of Trade and Industry and the President's Council.

The dissenting view comes from the Development Bank of Southern Africa, which says all new commercial activities, including the expanded accommodation planned by the Parks Board, should be built and run by the private sector.

It dismisses the cross-subsidisation argument that Parks Board profits from accommodation, food and other services would reduce the need for state subsidies for conservation.

These profits are an essential part of the National Parks Board's belief that, given expanded capacity to attract more visitors, it can become financially self-sufficient within three years.

Other Parks Board arguments for controlling rest camps are that it would resist the temptation for discos or casinos to increase profits and that the advice of American conservationists is "don't make the mistakes we did".

Officials recount tales of neglected buildings and poor service because the contract is about to expire and the leaseholder either may not intend to renew it or cannot be sure of securing another term.

They are quite happy with the term commercialisation, because they say all Parks Board activities are now run on business lines.

But privatisation, parks and conservation are not considered a happy mix at Parks Board headquarters.



The lucky few on a wilderness trail through the Kruger National Park.

Huge demand to hit the wilderness trails

THE Kruger Park can't keep up with the demand for wilderness trails and is not going to try.

Too many people on too many trails would spoil the wilderness experience for those who want to spend two days walking in the bush.

Trailing in the Kruger Park started in 1978 and there are now seven of these two-day, three-night adventures, each with two trails a week.

They cover various climatic and vegetation areas from the northern tip of the park to the south, all in pristine areas where no vehicles are allowed and entry is on foot only.

The trails are so popular that they could be filled eight times over. There is little chance of joining one unless you book a year in advance.



A hut on the new Napi wilderness trail.

Head of wilderness trails in the park Mike Landman says the trails are a nature experience, not a photographic expedition.

People on a trail are told not to photograph big or dangerous animals without permission from an accompanying ranger.

You'll get better pictures from your car because the animals are used to vehicles, on a trail, anyone who clicks a shutter near a

angry animal charging at him.

"The main feature of the trails is not to observe the big and hairies at close range.

"Trails make people feel touch, smell and hear the bush."

The "big and hairies" do get observed, sometimes from closer than Landman would like.

Each group of eight trail-ers is accompanied by two armed rangers and when there is an unexpected encounter with a large animal in the bush they try for a quick and strategic retreat.

They have had to shoot 16 times in 13 years, mainly buffalo and hippo which threatened trailers.

The focus, however, is not on large animals.

Each trail takes eight people and they are often booked by one group.

There are no set paths to get to the night's rest camp, so the trails go where weather and the inclinations of the group take them.

"If we have a group of birders, we will stick close to the riverine habitat."

Rangers spend a lot of time explaining what people are seeing.

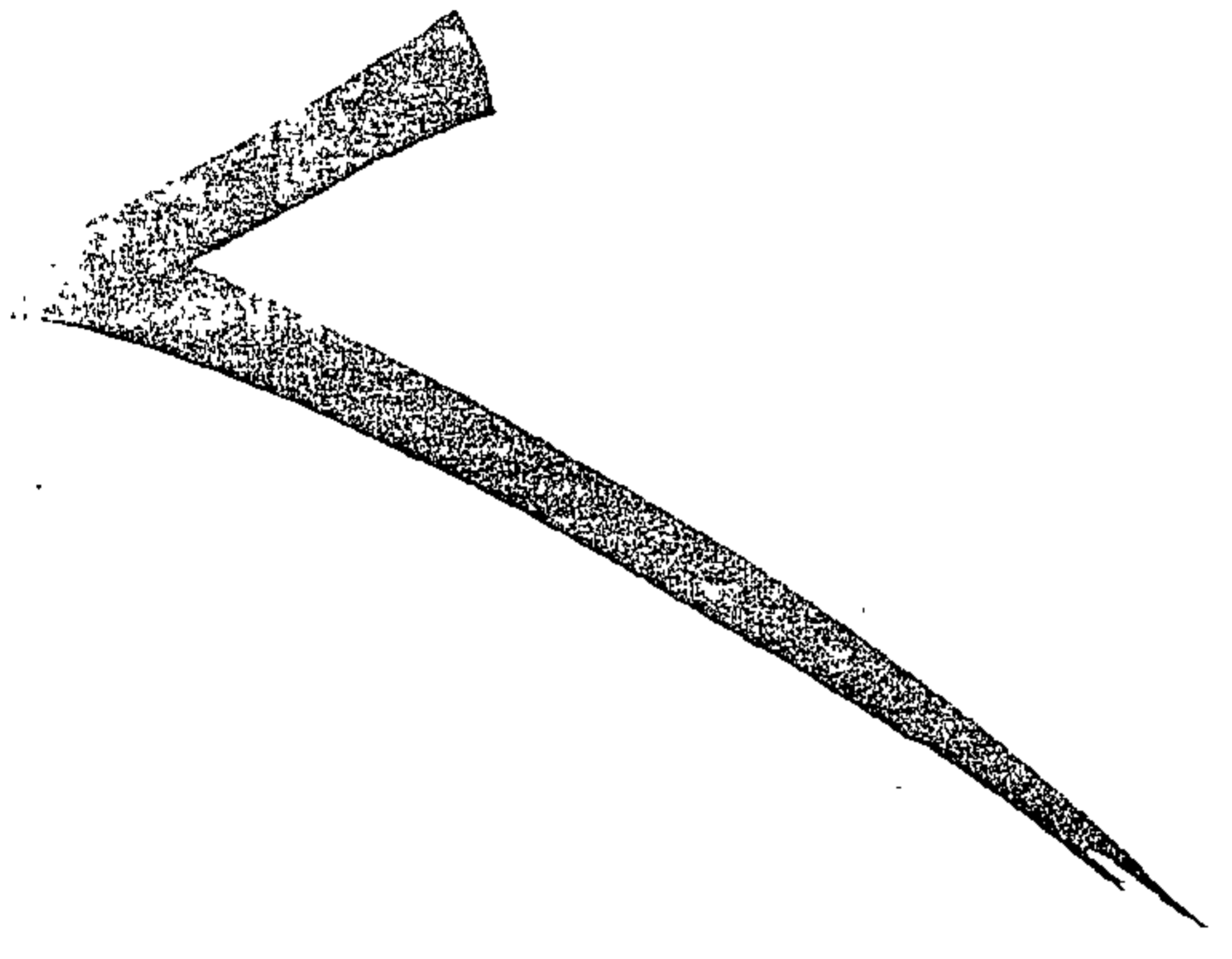
Trailers learn about the feeding habits of various animals and find themselves examining rhino

or a black rhino says.

"We can spend hours talking about dung beetles, 40 000 people and is one of the Kruger Park's most

Nature

It's the type of expert-ence that has attracted the Kruger Park's most



conservationists is "don't make the mistakes we did".

Officials recount tales of neglected buildings and poor service because the contract is about to expire and the leaseholder either may not intend to renew it or cannot be sure of securing another term.

They are quite happy with the term commercialisation, because they say all Parks Board activities are now run on business lines.

But privatisation, parks and conservation are not considered a happy mix at Parks Board headquarters.

the wilderness trails

THE Kruger Park can't keep up with the demand for wilderness trails and is not going to try.

Too many people on too many trails would spoil the wilderness experience for those who want to spend two days walking in the bush.

Trailing in the Kruger Park started in 1978 and there are now seven of these two-day, three-night adventures, each with two trails a week.

They cover various climatic and vegetation areas from the northern tip of the park to the south, all in pristine areas where no vehicles are allowed and entry is on foot only.

The trails are so popular that they could be filled eight times over. There is little chance of joining one unless you book a year in advance.

Nature

Head of wilderness trails in the park Mike Landman says the trails are a nature experience, not a photographic expedition.

People on a trail are told not to photograph big or dangerous animals without permission from an accompanying ranger.

You'll get better pictures from your car because the animals are used to vehicles; on a trail, anyone who clicks a shutter near a rhino is likely to find tons of

angry animal charging at him.

"The main feature of the trails is not to observe the big and hairies at close range.

"Trails make people feel, touch, smell and hear the bush."

The "big and hairies" do get observed, sometimes from closer than Landman would like.

Each group of eight trailers is accompanied by two armed rangers and when there is an unexpected encounter with a large animal in the bush they try for a quick and strategic retreat.

Threatened

They have had to shoot 16 times in 13 years, mainly buffalo and hippo which threatened trailers.

The focus, however, is not on large animals.

Each trail takes eight people and they are often booked by one group.

There are no set paths to get to the night's rest camp, so the trails go where weather and the inclinations of the group take them.

"If we have a group of birders, we will stick close to the riverine habitat."

Rangers spend a lot of time explaining what people are seeing.

Trailers learn about the feeding habits of various animals and find themselves examining rhino dung to see if it was a white



A hut on the new Napi wilderness trail.

or a black rhino.

"We can spend hours talking about dung beetles, looking at termite nests or discussing the park's birds and reptiles," Landman

says.

It's the type of experience that has attracted 40 000 people and is one of the Kruger Park's most popular features.

Computerised phones keep callers happy

THE days when prospective visitors to the national parks couldn't get through the Parks Board's reservations section are over.

Thousands of calls are received daily in busy periods: before February this year the reservations exchange was unable to handle the demand.

An organisation striving to become more customer-friendly found it was alienating people before they made contact.

The few who got through were angry and aggressive, but the majority would hang up in frustration and disgust. The letters of complaint flooded in.

Not any more.

A computerised telephone system fields all incoming calls, putting people on hold and connecting them with the first of up to 20 booking staff who is free.

Senior reservations officer Ruth Manuels is delighted at the change, which has improved the efficiency of her staff and relations with the public.

Computer monitors enable senior staff to watch the flow of calls and see where delays or difficulties may be.

Inquiries

Many calls are inquiries, and some people who want a reservation don't know where they want to go, or even when.

Despite these delays, most calls are handled in about three minutes — efficiently and to the satisfaction of callers.

Other improvements to the reservations system are now being considered as the Parks Board reminds itself it is a service organisation.



Whose trail are we on?

Marketing scheme to attract the locals

PARKS such as Kruger are overpriced, they're always full and they're crammed with foreigners who get priority booking because the locals don't matter.

Not true on all counts, says the Parks Board.

The board is planning a marketing campaign to attract local tourists, particularly in off-peak periods, and to explain the range of accommodation available.

The first point officials make is that just over 15% of visitors to the Kruger Park are foreigners; they may be more noticeable than locals, and they may tend to congregate in camp restaurants rather than use

park braai spots, but they do not dominate the bookings.

The second is that everything possible is being done to cater for the 85% who are locals, to attract them and offer them affordable accommodation.

Accommodation ranges from camping and caravan sites through equipped tents, huts with or without private bathroom to fully equipped family cottages and private camps for up to 12 people which must be booked en bloc.

At current tariffs, an equipped tent costs R44 a person a night and a hut without its own shower or toilet R55. Huts with a

varying range of facilities are available for between R71,50 and R121 per person per night.

A six-bed cottage at Pretoriuskop with three bedrooms and two bathrooms can be had for R253 for the first four persons and an additional R27,50 a night for additional adults or R13,50 for children.

Then there are the entrance fees: R15 an adult, R7,50 a child and a sliding scale for vehicles beginning at R13 for a car.

Parks Board marketing manager Braam van der Vyver says: "We think our price range is such that the parks are accessible to everyone, whether day visi-

tors or people who plan to sleep in the park.

"We will incorporate the gate fees into the accommodation charges from next year as part of our campaign to be more customer friendly."

Van der Vyver says people who complain Kruger is always full don't realise how often it is not, particularly outside school holidays, or appreciate what other national parks have to offer.

The Parks Board hopes to increase the number of foreign tourists to its parks, and particularly the Kruger Park, as they are able to come to SA outside the peak local tourist periods.

B10 ay 15/11/91
56

Leakey: little to see in SA

WHAT has South Africa got in the way of tourist attractions that Kenya hasn't? Not much.

At least not if you speak to Kenyan tourist industry spokesman Dr Richard Leakey, who returned to Nairobi today.

Dr Leakey (47) has just completed his first trip to South Africa after an absence of 25 years. He came wearing three hats: he represented Kenya's tourist industry, he is director of wildlife and chairman of national museums, and he is renowned as a palaeo-anthropologist who has made important discoveries regarding man's evolution.

In an interview, he said he was thrilled to be in South Africa again and would soon be back.

'Kenya has more to offer the tourist'

By SPARTAN. It is not what the wealthy tourist wants. Fine, you have Mala Mala and other such places, but not enough of them. Certainly the ordinary game reserves will not impress. "Your communications are good. You have good roads. You have golf, you have the Cape, which is beautiful, and casinos. But Kenya has better wildlife."

JAMES CLARKE

And cultural tourism — looking at tribal villages and customs — this no longer sits well in Africa. Africa wants to be considered modern. People don't like being tourist attractions."

He said he believed that South Africa and Kenya, working together to offer packages to their respective regions, would do well. "For somebody to come all this way just to one destination ... far better to see both areas, south and east."

As for Kenyans visiting South Africa and vice versa, the traffic would be one-way. "There isn't much money in Kenya. More likely South Africans will come our way. I know your rand is weak for foreign travel but our shilling is also weak. Kenya is cheap for South Africans."

Africa has a great deal more than South Africa. At a lecture on Kenya's hominid fossils — to a packed Great Hall at Wits University this week — Dr Leakey several times joked about the scientific rivalry between Kenya and South Africa.

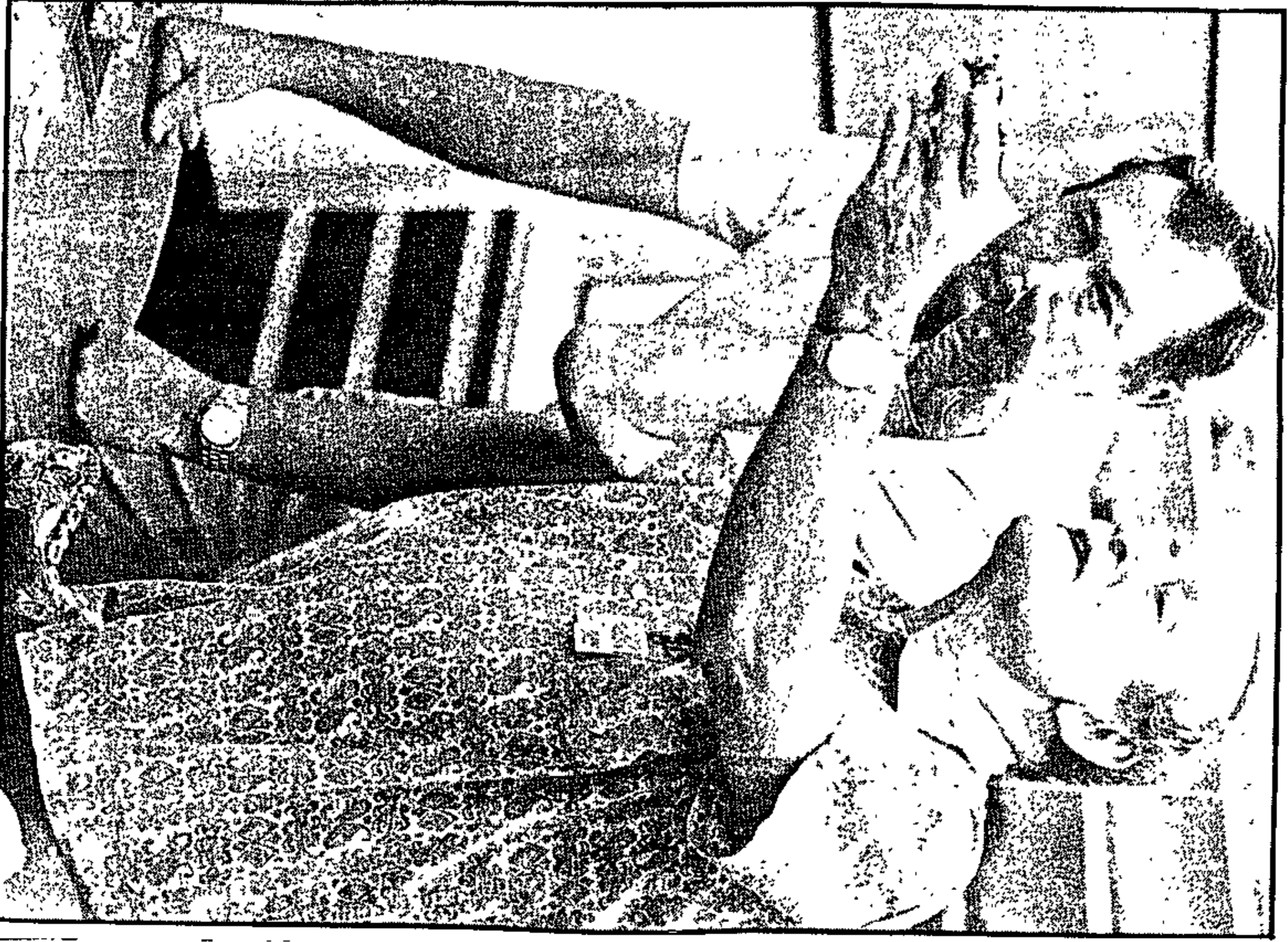
Professor Phillip Tobias, South Africa's eminent palaeo-anatomist, said that while Kenya had found proto-humans and apes up to 15 million years old, South Africa had the better collection of australopithecines — the man-apes which were originally discovered here.

DR Leakey disagrees: "Our stuff is much more complete — and our dating is good."

He said South Africa had no clear fossiliferous layers of rock which could be easily aged. "Ours are like packs of cards on the table. You can read the sequences — get in between the jack and queen. In South Africa your strata are so mixed that the jack and the queen are mixed with the rest."

The argument is important because man-ape and early man sites are potentially a great tourist draw and South Africa is about to build hotels and information centres next to its major sites.

I asked about Professor Glenn Conroy's discovery of a 12-million-year-old jawbone in Namibia in June. Did that not push southern Africa's hominids back as far as Kenya's? "One jaw? One jaw from one site? Let's see more first."



RIVAL PALAEOANTHROLOGISTS ... South Africa's Professor Phillip Tobias (right) and Kenya's Dr. Richard Leakey were this week engaged in peculiar scientific rivalry. ●Photograph: HERBERT MABUZA

HE HAD spent two days in Kruger Park — a guest of Dr "Robb" Robinson, chief executive of National Parks. But while he obviously liked South Africa, he saw our tourist attractions as wanting.

He said our attraction for, say, the wealthy Japanese was limited. But at least people could fly straight here without getting out at some Third World airport. "And your hotels are good. A Japanese tourist could comfortably stay a couple of days here and then go on to Kenya."

A couple of days? "Well, accommodation in your game reserves is pretty Calvinist. It's pret-

Millions to clean up SA

STimes(Buss) 17/11/91
RATEPAYERS could be faced with a huge increase in payments if South Africa brings its refuse removal in line with international standards.

Waste-tech chairman Geoff Woods says it costs local authorities between R10 and R20 a ton to remove domestic garbage. The cost is as high as \$200 (R560) a ton in the US.

Mr Woods attributes the difference to SA's landfill sites and waste removal techniques being sub-standard.

They cannot handle the present waste stream, let alone the additional volumes being caused by population growth and urbanisation.

SA handles about 48-million tons of garbage a year.

By TERRY BETTY

Mr Woods says 90% of SA's official dumping sites pose serious health and pollution problems. The sites pollute the underground water table with "leachates" which can be 200 times more toxic than raw sewage, says Mr Woods.

Money

Leachates are toxic substances in such things as paint, pesticides and phenols in paper.

The Environmental Conservation Act, which has been in force for two years, requires dumps to be licensed

and run according to strict requirements.

Mr Wood says few sites are licensed and most of the regulations are ignored. Municipalities do not have the expertise or money to handle the problem.

The Department of Environmental Affairs lacks the resources to police local authorities.

Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar says 12 investigations are being conducted into waste disposal, the most comprehensive of which looks at toxic waste and the malpractices relating to its international transport.

Mr Pienaar says various projects will be launched in the next two years to formulate more comprehensive and effective regulations to control waste and pollution.

ARC 18.11.91
Council's
environment
advisers (56)
claim they
are ignored

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

A GROUP meant to help protect Cape Town from environmental and urban horrors says it is often bypassed when projects are considered by the city council.

In a memorandum to the city council executive committee, the Cape Town Environmental Advisory Committee said it should be included at an early stage in considering matters.

The committee said they should be able to take the initiative about "environmentally sensitive" planning matters.

Chaired by Ms Patricia Sulcas, with members Mrs Joan Kantey, Mr Gordon Oliver and Mr Llewellyn van Wyk, the committee is appointed by and made up of city councillors.

Any matter where the law said integrated environmental management procedures had to be used should be referred to it, said the committee.

Applications, plans or projects should be referred to it if they were likely to affect areas of ecological sensitivity or likely to generate controversy about aesthetics, noise, or environmental issues.

Plans also should be referred to the committee if they affected important urban or environmental assets like Table Mountain, the Gardens, scenic drives, the coastline, the Foreshore or important public open spaces.

Historically significant buildings, or buildings which would be "unusually large" in terms of height, bulk, number of units or extent, should be referred to the committee.

Standing committees, the city planner, heads of departments or the building control officer should refer matters to the environmental advisory committee.

The committee should be able to take the initiative about examining plans, said the memorandum.

At an executive committee meeting last week, the city planner reported on whether there was an overlap between the environmental advisory committee and the urban design panel, another monitoring group.

Plan to get Table Mountain under one overall umbrella

Municipal Reporter

56

Aug 18/1991

SOLUTIONS to the fragmented control of Table Mountain will be the subject of a workshop to be convened by the city council environmental advisory committee.

The workshop is to enable the public to take part in planning a single authority, established by an Act of Parliament, to control the mountain.

The council previously resolved to approach various Cabinet Ministers to lobby for a single mountain authority.

The management options to

be discussed include maintaining the present status and consolidating land ownership, upgrading the committee to give it policy-making power, declaring a national park with the National Parks Board taking over all State land and expropriating all other land, or declaring a contractual national park, where owners keep their land, but deal with the parks board on a contractual management basis.

No date has been set for the workshop, agreed to in principle at an executive committee meeting.

Recycling cuts down problem of pollution

PLASTIC has long been slated by environmentalists as a contributor to pollution — but the ugly sister may turn out to be Cinderella.

Plastics Federation of SA executive director Bill Naude says: "No one can deny plastic litter is more ubiquitous, more obvious and more unsightly than many other forms of pollution — but it is unfair to condemn a product when the problem is education.

"When compared with more 'natural' products such as paper, wood and glass, plastic wins hands down when it comes to saving energy and mineral resources, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and wastage and releasing forest areas for food production."

AECI spokesman Howard Parry says solid waste management must be integrated.

"Plastics represents only

7% of the municipal waste stream, but it helps reduce waste by reducing the amount of packaging material used.

"Waste management must also aim to re-use products if possible, recycle them when resource efficient, incinerate when economic and landfill as a final and safe means of disposal," he says.

An estimated 19% of total virgin polymer consumption — amounting to some 95 000 tons a year — is recycled, compared with 6% in West Germany and less than 2% in the US.

"We began recycling our plastic as a matter of economic necessity years before it became an environmental issue.

"Today, around 80 companies are involved in the industry, many of them small businesses," he says.

"Recycling is a better option than developing photo-

degradable or biodegradable plastics.

"Photodegradable plastics must lie in the sun, sometimes for up to four years, in order to break down — and this would aggravate the litter problem.

"Biodegradable plastics disintegrate into small crumbs which do not degrade further and which add to invisible pollution."

Where recycling is not practical, Naude says incineration is an excellent method of disposing of plastic.

"Plastic burns at a far higher temperature than, for instance, paper. In a well designed incinerator it can be used to ensure other waste materials burn more efficiently, cutting down the quantity of toxic emissions.

"In Japan, incineration is used to generate energy, although this is not yet financially viable in SA," he says.

3/day 18/11/91

56

5b

SA 'centre of ivory trade'

Own Correspondent
LONDON — South Africa remains a "centre of illegal ivory trade", according to the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency.

It has also named a South African businessman it claims bought a massive Burundi stockpile of ivory from elephants poached across Africa.

In a press statement yesterday, the EIA said that elephant poaching had declined across

much of East, Central and West Africa.

This followed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) decision in 1989 to list the African elephant as Appendix 1, which prohibits trade in its ivory and skin.

However, the EIA said poaching had flared up recently in Southern

Africa, where six countries, including South Africa, are seeking the downlisting of their elephant populations to Appendix 2 at the next CITES conference in March next year.

If downlisting is accepted, this will mean a resumption of the international trade in elephant skins and ivory just two years after im-

plementation of the ban.

The ban had resulted in a substantial decline in poaching throughout many states in East, Central and West Africa.

But South Africa remained a centre of illegal ivory trade. "Ivory is being smuggled through South Africa, both as raw tusks and semi-carved blocks ready to be shaped into 'hanko'

(personalised insignia stamps) in Taiwan and Japan.

"Recent seizures show that the ivory is coming from Zambia, Malawi, Zaire, Namibia, Zimbabwe and is sometimes shipped through Swaziland," says the EIA.

The EIA said South African Mr Michael Loubser, managing di-

rector of MPL Project Management, Consultants Ltd, bought a Burundi stockpile of 84 tons of ivory from elephants poached all over Africa in July this year.

This was despite the fact that the 7th CITES conference in Lausanne in 1989 had refused to legitimise the stocks, and warnings from the CITES Secretariat that

the sale would be in direct contravention of the international trade ban.

The EIA spokesman said legal action could be taken against Mr Loubser only if he "attempts to smuggle the ivory out". This might be done by breaking the ivory down into smaller units.

It was up to the Burundi authorities and the Endangered Species Protection Unit of the South African police to ensure this did not happen.

Chamber anti kaolin mine plan

56 CT 19/11/91

Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town Chamber of Commerce has come out against kaolin mining in the Noordhoek Valley — yet the government seems set to issue a permit for it early next year.

In an editorial in its latest Bulletin, the chamber says it believes the concerns about mining at the Chapman's Peak site are "of such a magnitude that there can be no conclusion other than that the proposal must be opposed".

It noted that the consultants who did an environmental impact study — commissioned by the prospective mining company — conceded that the mine would have an adverse visual impact on the valley because it would cover a considerable area and would be situated on a hillside.

The consultants also said it would not be possible to screen the mine from public view from many vantage points around the valley.

Heavy machinery operating in a natural environment would also detract from the ambience of the area, the chamber added.

Transporting clay in strong winds

could be expected to cause dust, even if precautionary measures were taken.

Effluent would have to be disposed of, and serious questions had been raised concerning its impact on the wetlands.

Other kaolin deposits existed in the Western Cape and further afield. One at St Helena "would seem to be far more suitable" for mining than the one at Noordhoek, said the Bulletin.

The government was aiming for an eight-fold increase in tourism. To achieve this "we must preserve our natural beauty spots", the Bulletin said.

● Mr Willie Voigt, a spokesman for the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, said he expected that a final decision would be made during the first quarter of next year about the conditions under which the mining could go ahead.

The environmental impact report was still being examined to draw up conditions based on the material contained in it, he added.

Mr Voigt is on record as having said his department would not deliberately impose conditions that were so stringent as to make kaolin mining impossible.

Hout Bay petition against development

Municipal Reporter

SL 19/11/91

HUNDREDS of Hout Bay residents have signed a petition against allowing development in the Longkloof floodplain.

Mrs Heather Douglas, one of the residents opposed to the proposed development, said 420 people had signed the petition, which has been submitted to the RSC.

The firm asked by the RSC to make recommendations would not divulge its decision yesterday.

An RSC spokesman said he could not do so at this stage either, as the report was still in draft form.

Mr Rod Tritton, another resident, said he and the other petition signers did not want residential development allowed there.

Mr Tritton said there was no such thing as environmentally sensitive development in a wetland. In order to build, one would have to fill in the land first. The entire area was within the 50-year floodline anyway, he said.

Unlocking wildlife's economic potential

B1 Day 19/11/91

56

UNLOCKING the economic potential of South Africa's wildlife resources is the objective of the newly formed Conservation Corporation.

The Conservation Corporation, which was set up in 1990, pools various talents as conservation in SA begins taking on a commercial face.

The conservation and tourism management talents of Londolozi Game Reserve's Dave Varty have been combined with the financial and project management skills of Alan Bernstein, chairman of property finance company JHI International

Committed

Land acquisition and management skills are provided by Agri-Plan Estates' Kevin Leo-Smith, who is responsible for the group's activities at Phinda, near St Lucia.

The new company is



ALAN BERNSTEIN

committed to wildlife conservation through an integrated approach to tourism which promotes ecological sustainability while providing guests with a premium product and investors with lucrative returns.

The idea behind the corporation's mission is sustainable development, involving the utilisation of a renewable resource and one in which SA has a glo-

bal competitive advantage — wildlife.

By assembling undeveloped wildlife assets in remote areas of southern Africa and applying appropriate management expertise for the development of ecotourism, investment opportunities for local and foreign investors can be created, says corporation MD and JHI International chairman Alan Bernstein.

Not only will this create ecotourism facilities, but the wealth of the developed world will be connected with the natural resources of less developed regions.

Holders of capital are given the opportunity to reap superior returns and local economies are stimulated, Bernstein says.

The corporation's first project is the development of the Phinda Resource Reserve near Lake St Lucia.

Some 15 000ha of previously marginal farm land has been purchased, consolidated and restocked with game.

Four luxury game lodges are presently being built in a four-stage development programme. Total cost of the venture is expected to be around R83m.

"This is the first major corporate venture into sustained development of SA's wildlife resources," Bernstein says.

Remaining funds will be used to develop other wildlife tourism projects being

looked at by the corporation in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique.

Bernstein says the corporation will benefit from the tourist boom expected to hit SA over the next couple of years.

Situated as it is among Natal's premier game reserves and parks, Phinda can tap the area's burgeoning tourist industry, he says.

Diminishing

The Conservation Corporation executive chairman Dave Varty says Africa's diminishing natural resources and the increasing demand for ecotourism has presented an opportunity to attract investment funds to commercial conservation projects.

"It is now appreciated that our wildlife resources are substantially under-utilised and the ecotourism industry is an important area of growth in southern Africa's regional economy," he says.

Business Day SURVEY

Tourism and wildlife represent an excellent investment opportunity and SA has at least one international competitive advantage — wildlife. The Conservation Corporation combines a commitment to conservation with an integrated approach to tourism. PAUL ASH reports.



DAVE VARTY

An experience in unspoilt Maputaland

15 Day 19/11/91
PHINDA Resource Reserve, Natal's biggest private game reserve, is a consolidated tract of strategic land situated between Mkuzi Game Reserve, Lake St Lucia and Sodwana State Forest.

Situated within 40km of Sodwana Bay, the 15 000ha reserve offers tourists the opportunity to see big game as well as experience the unspoilt Maputaland coast.

The reserve, which is the Conservation Corporation's first project, is called Phinda Izilwane, meaning the return of the wildlife.

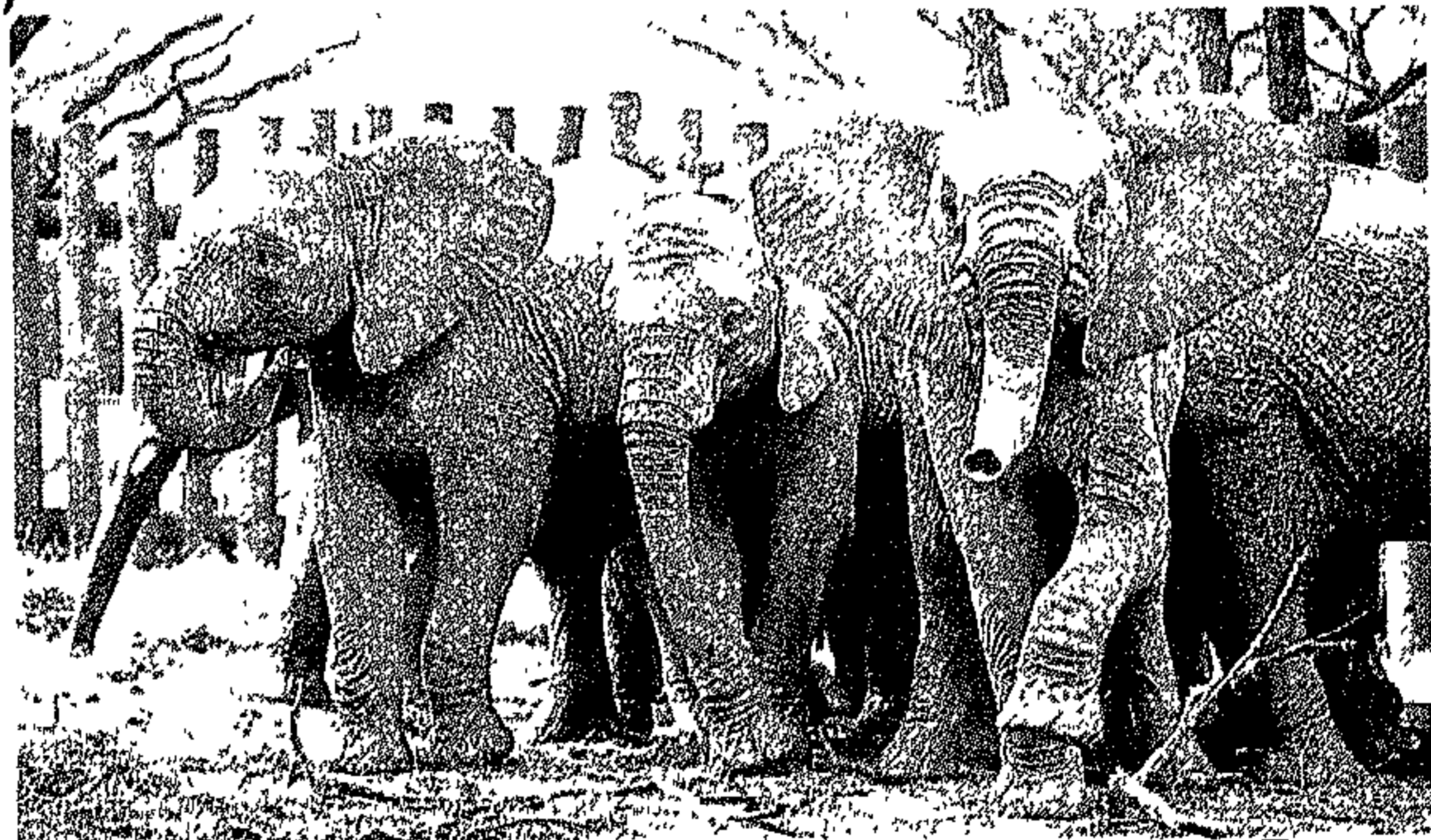
Restocking

An extensive restocking programme has already taken place to introduce elephant and rhino and boost the numbers of giraffe, zebra, wildebeest and antelope on the reserve.

Lion and cheetah are also planned to be released before the end of the year.

The aim is to identify mismanaged land, bring it back under wildlife and reinstate the biodiversity of the area, says corporation executive chairman Dave Varty.

At Phinda the ecological rehabilitation programme



Extensive restocking programme has been introduced. 56

is well under way and the development of low density luxury lodges began in April. The 46-bed Phinda Nyala lodge, the reserve's first, was officially opened at the end of October.

Three more lodges are due to be built at the rate of one a year until 1994, Conservation Corporation MD Alan Bernstein says.

Tariffs and occupancy rates achieved will be reviewed at the completion of

each phase before further building starts, he says.

The land is capable of supporting large amounts of game, needing only five hectares per stock unit compared to nine hectares in the eastern Transvaal.

Negotiations are underway to acquire a further 7 000 ha of contiguous conservation land to form a 22 000 ha private game reserve similar to the eastern Transvaal's Sabi Sands.

"There is a trend towards partnerships in conservation and we are hoping all the reserves in the region will be incorporated into the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park being consolidated by the Natal Parks Board," Varty says.

Incorporation would involve the removal of fences separating reserves, allowing game to move freely, but reserve operators would still respect each other's boundaries.

Capital ⁽⁵⁶⁾ enough for viable ^{Bloom 19/11/91} operations

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have welcomed the Conservation Corporation's initiative at Phinda.

Wits University business economics lecturer Frank Vorhies says: "Involvement by corporate structures in conservation is long overdue."

Corporations have access to capital enabling them to acquire enough land to set up financially viable operations and are accountable to their shareholders, he says.

Traditionally, minerals were exported raw, although South Africa has started following the beneficiation route.

Utilising

"The Conservation Corporation goes a step further by utilising renewable resources."

Vorhies says it is important to promote "marginal" areas to provide employment and regional growth.

SA Nature Foundation director Dr John Hanks says it is also important to show people in degraded areas how they can benefit from the environment by looking after it.

People living in poverty in these areas often have no choice but to destroy the resource base on which their survival depends, he says.

The SA Nature Foundation is supportive of the Phinda project because its approach to conservation cannot be seen as anti-people or anti-development, Hanks says.

Londolozi paves way to success

THE Londolozi Game Reserve, situated in the Sabi Sand Reserves adjacent to the Kruger National Park, has pointed the way for the success of the Phinda Resource Reserve.

Owned and managed by brothers Dave and John Varty, Londolozi's success is based on a holistic approach to conservation and tourism.

Besides providing a quality wildlife experience in luxurious surroundings, careful use of the natural environment and involvement of the local community have played important roles in their success.

Looking after the natural environment involves water conservation, clearing of exotic plant species and implementation of anti-erosion schemes. Conservation Corporation executive chairman Dave Varty says

Encouraging the local community to provide services such as transport, carpentry, sewing and food production, is also vital.

If the local community develops financially and socially from activities on the reserve, it will promote its presence, he says.

Through a participative management culture at

19/11/91
Londolozi, staff are given responsibility over their own areas and freedom to develop their own ideas.

Londolozi also operates in a partnership with other private reserves in the area

Internal boundary fencing has been removed to allow the game to move freely and all members follow the same land use and maintenance practices.

Some 30 000 tourists have visited Londolozi during the past five years.

The Londolozi Model, as it is called, forms the foundation philosophy of the Phinda development.



Community resource utilisation is part of the philosophy.

Project proves that the land serves the people

Bidam 19/11/91

(56)

THE key to the success of the Phinda venture lies in involving the local community in as many aspects as possible.

Conservation Corporation executive chairman Dave Varty says: "For the project to work, we have to demonstrate the land serves the people of the region."

The project is based on the idea of sustainable development, the utilisation of all resources to generate economic growth.

The formula will upgrade the area by bringing wealthy visitors to an underdeveloped community, using wildlife as the link.

Involved

The local community has been involved from the beginning, Varty says.

Construction of Phinda Nyala, the reserve's first lodge, provided work for more than 400 people and some R2,2m was ploughed back into the local economy in the form of local wages and salaries.

"We will ultimately employ about 10% of the surrounding population, helping an area

Already employment for 230 local people has been established on Phinda with 180 associated with tourism activities and the rest in conservation work.

"In the next five years, Phinda will spend around R17m in wages and salaries," he says.

Phinda is assisting the local community in various ventures, including the harvesting of natural resources such as ilala palm wine, wood, charcoal and medicinal plants.

There will be other joint business ventures.

Transport of guests from Mkuze Airport will be in the hands of a private taxi operator, while fuel for the reserve's vehicles will be supplied by a local contractor.

"The chef who cooks in our

kitchen will be able to grow vegetables at home, which he can then sell to the lodge," corporation MD Alan Bernstein says.

All market gardening and other operations such as brick-making and meat supply will be placed in local hands, he says.

Rural development is part of the corporation's mission,

with proceeds from conservation going back into local communities to provide facilities such as schools, a community centre and a day clinic.

Once the community experiences the benefits coming out of conservation activities they will be encouraged to look after their natural environment and conserve resources.

Tourism is the opportunity of the future

TOURISM and wildlife represent the investment opportunity of the future says Conservation Corporation MD Alan Bernstein.

Commodity and precious metal prices remain depressed and labour unions could scare off potential investors in the manufacturing sector.

Bernstein says the commercial property market could also soften with a drop in rentals and occupancy rates.

"There is too much commercial property and investors will look for better returns," he says.

Tourism, however, is laden with potential.

With the number of SA-bound tourists expected to grow at a rate of 12% a year, Bernstein says he is on to a good thing.

The potential tourist explosion is behind the formation of the Conservation Corporation and its development of the Phinda Resource Reserve.

The corporation is currently raising some R83m in investment to fund the creation of the reserve and the construction of four luxury game lodges in a unique environment.

Hambros Bank of London, the corporation's sponsoring bank, is handling the local and foreign legs of the private placing of investor units.

Hambros intends subscribing for 23 investor units at a cost of £496 800. The company has paved the way for local and foreign investors through the establishment of an international company registered in the Isle of Man and a

local operation with an identical equity structure.

To avoid foreign exchange problems, foreign investors have to subscribe for investor units through Conservation Corporation International.

Selected private investors and institutions in SA have been invited to participate in a private placement of investor units in The Conservation Corporation SA.

Only 740 investor units are available at R112 500 each locally or £21 600 each in the international operation.

The minimum investment is four units, Bernstein says.

For foreign investors, each unit consists of 14 707 cumulative redeemable preference shares, 5 908 cumulative convertible redeemable preference shares and 985 preferred shares, with all shares issued at £1 each.

Local investor units consist of 76 603 CRPs, 30 769 CCRPs and 5 128 preferred shares, all issued at R1 each.

Investors will have to pay in R58 500 or £11 232 a unit on application and

each investor unit will carry the obligation to subscribe additional amounts up to a maximum of R54 000 or £10 368.

The additional payments are subject to certain conditions, including the achievement of predetermined operating targets.

At the completion of each phase of the development, the project will be reviewed and if the directors are satisfied the venture is still lucrative, there will be further drawdowns to finance subsequent stages.

While the directors hold a 12,5% stake, they hope to increase this to a maximum of 50%, subject to the rate of return received.

Bernstein says he expects an internal rate of return of 35%, which could increase to 44%.

The directors intend seeking a listing on a major stock exchange by 1996.

"The top game lodges can charge premium rates for accommodation and tourists used to international price structures are getting good value at those rates," corporation executive chairman Dave Varty says.



New environment tester accelerates key conditions

Motoring Reporter

SD ARG 20/11/91

A SOPHISTICATED new environmental test facility at Delta Motor Corporation has enabled engineers to simulate a variety of extreme atmospheric conditions.

This has provided for more stringent, accelerated test conditions which will greatly benefit the quality and reliability of products, and of components.

In particular, the environmental test facility has been useful in enhancing the performance of locally developed engine cooling systems and auto airconditioning units manufactured by Connoisseur Airconditioning, a subsidiary of Delta.

Connoisseur provides completed units to Delta for factory aircondi-

tioning installation, and also services the after-market.

Delta's manager of engineering and quality assurance, Mr Rolf Mentzel, said that the environmental test facility had a number of features which gave it a versatile capability.

"Inside the test chamber, we are able to generate airflow over a vehicle of up to 140 km/h, which enables us to introduce a number of engine cooling and air conditioning test criteria.

"This is achieved through a locally developed assembly using a 1.5 metre diameter fan, with air speed controlled by Vortex dampers. The air speed can be controlled manually or automatically through a coupling to the dynamometer speed control system."

Urbanisation pressure

Star 20/11/91
Rapid urbanisation is placing increasing pressure on water supply networks, and engineers are hard pressed to keep pace. (330)

"White population demand is at around zero, but urbanised black areas are growing at close to 10 percent a year," says WLPU partner Rob Williamson.

"In many cases the original water supply installations were designed during the days of influx control, and make no allowances for the urbanisation process."

The primary problem, Mr Williamson points out, is the question of who pays for the service.

"The pressure is huge, but there is no money. Lack of funds, together



(56) Rob Williamson

with the high pressure of demands, makes it impossible to go by the rule book — engineering solutions have to be inventive. When one is working to Third World standards one must be prepared to tolerate a higher level of risk than would be acceptable in a First World situation."

Money now on tap for Lesotho water scheme

Finance Staff

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) yesterday signed loan agreements totalling more than \$500 million to complete the financing requirements for the construction of Phase 1 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

The loans comprise export credits and commercial loans from leading banks in France, Germany and UK, and term loans from the Commonwealth Development Corporation, according to a statement issued by the LHDA.

The agreement was signed at London's Dorchester Hotel yesterday. Total spending on the first phase of the \$5 billion project will be \$2 billion. The project is scheduled to be completed in five phases.

At the function the South African government signed a separate deed to meet all debt service payments in re-

spect of the loans.

The South African government undertaking is in fulfilment of its financial obligations in terms of the LHWP Treaty signed by SA and Lesotho in 1986.

Among the key lenders are the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Germany's Dresdner Bank, the Banque Nationale de Paris and Credit Lyonnais and UK's Hill Samuel Merchant Bank.

SA lenders

SA lenders include the Development Bank, Standard Bank, FNB, Volkskas and Nedbank.

LHDA Chief Executive, Masupha Sole, said after the ceremony that "securing of the finance represented a major milestone in the implementation of the LHWP".

Mr Sole said he "looked forward to the implementation of the four further phases, the next of which will be the

hydro-electric component".

Lesotho's Minister of Finance and Planning, AL Thoahlane said after the signing the LHWP "had allowed Lesotho to forge new commercial and financial relationships with the international community and broaden its existing cooperation with development agencies".

Mr Thoahlane said the Lesotho government had established a development fund "into which revenues arising from the sale of LHWP water to South Africa will be deposited to finance further development of the country".

South Africa's Deputy Minister of Finance, Water Affairs and Forestry, JA van Wyk, said "the water which the LHWP will deliver to the industrial heartland of South Africa is critical for its future development".

Mr van Wyk said the LHWP "augured well for the further development

of southern Africa's water resources".

Yesterday's loan agreement follows the signing by the World Bank and the LHDA of a financing loan agreement of \$110 million in September this year.

Power station

A donor conference is scheduled to be held at Maseru from November 26 to 28 to finalise the financing of the R860 million Muela Hydropower Station, a component of Phase 1A for which Lesotho is solely responsible for financing.

SA banks as well as multilateral agencies, such as the European Community, the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank, are believed to be at the forefront of potential lenders for the projects.

Tenders for civil works contracts for the Muela Hydropower Station are scheduled to be called in the first half of 1992.

Demand draining the Vaal River

Star 20/11/91

56

Water consumption in the region supplied by the Vaal River could increase more than four-fold during the next 35 years — and the area is already consuming far more water than the Vaal can supply.

"The Lesotho Highlands Water Project will go only part way towards meeting the need," claims Professor Des Midgley, consultant to Watermeyer Legge Piésold & Uhlmann.

"Demand outstripped local supply in around 1974. Today it is about 2 billion cubic metre a year, and by 2025 demands on the Vaal system are projected to exceed 9 billion cubic metres a year.

"The Lesotho Highlands up to phase three can supply about 2 billion cubic metres; the Vaal's total capacity is 1,3 billion; and the Tugela can provide up to 3 billion cubic metres but it would be very costly and could have considerable socio-political and environmental impact."

In view of this, says Professor Midgley, South Africa must start thinking seriously of bringing water down from the Zambezi. Fea-

sibility studies are already under way, investigating prospects for conveying water through Botswana to Johannesburg, from the Zambezi River upstream of Victoria Falls.

"A scheme like that would make us vulnerable in the present political environment — but once the Eskom power grid is set up across the whole of southern Africa, we and our neighbours will be in a position of mutual dependence."

WLP is actively involved in the design of phase one of the multi-billion rand Lesotho Highlands scheme, as part of one of the professional teams.

The Department of Water Affairs put the team together on the basis of the professional skills each party had to offer — and the result was a fairly unwieldy grouping of nine local firms.

Three have since fallen away, and the consortium now comprises Ninham Shand, Keeve Steyn, Steffen Robertson & Kirsten, MJ Mountain, Van Niekerk Kleyn & Edwards, and Watermeyer Legge. This makes up half of the professional team — the

other half comprising French and British firms.

Under the circumstances, it is remarkable that the project is running on schedule — but partner John Muller says that while the system is "an administrative nightmare" it has made for exceptionally high quality standards.

Design and planning began in 1987, culminating with the start of construction in January this year. Completion of the first phase is scheduled for 1996.

The final completion date for the second and third phases is around 2020, although Mr Muller says, progress will be driven by demand.

"The project has had a dramatic impact on Lesotho. It has fuelled the building of a major road into the heart of the country, which has made vast new areas accessible. In the past, people took three days to get to town — and now they can do the journey by bus in a matter of hours.

"We are already seeing people moving from the congested, impoverished lowlands into the mountains, where they can enjoy a better quality of life."

The key is to work with environment

Star 20/11/91

The core issue in integrated environmental management is working with the environment instead of against it, says Dr Bob Laburn, a consultant to Watermeyer Legge Pleisold & Uhlmann.

"For years, members of the Greens movement have been accusing engineers of wrecking the environment. They object whenever we build a dam because they say it upsets the ecological balance — but they don't tell us how else to store their water!" he says.

"There is a sad core of truth in their claims. Even today, when planning something like a dam, engineers often pay too little attention to how it will interact with the existing environment."

The result is often problematic. The dams on the Orange River trap the silt that would otherwise be carried further to feed arable land downstream.

Dr Laburn's campaign to persuade engineers to take the existing environment into account when designing dams has been carried out on an international front, through the International Water Supply Association.

Dr Laburn says integrated environmental management is as much a matter of simple efficiency as conservation.

"Dam design must take into account such issues as the effect of changing water flows downstream on arable land, the threat to rare flora and fauna when inundating land and the possible influence it will have on land use above and below the dam."

"In addition, the designers must not forget the potential threat to man's health presented by such diseases as malaria and bilharzia, which occur in surface waters."

Dr Laburn says it is possible to locate and design a dam in such a way that it actually enhances the environment and serves additional purposes beyond water storage.

"At the same time, the engineer must take into account what effect the environment will have on the dam," he adds.

"For instance, in the eastern Transvaal the acid rain pollution from the

power stations is pushing up the sulphate content of water in the streams — and surface pollution presents an even more serious threat to water quality."

The need for pollution control is not limited to the industrial sector, however. In Botswana, Dr Laburn has been active in helping control the pollution of ground water in areas where seepage from overloaded, poorly designed pit latrines is a problem.

"In many cases a person will start to dig a hole for a pit latrine and strike water. Inevitably, he will be delighted with his water supply — and will relocate his latrine to a few metres away!" he comments.

"Where the water table is low the soil can filter out or absorb most of the polluting substances."

"But most informal settlements are located in valleys, where they are less visible, and where the water lies a short way below the surface. Dr Laburn points out that human waste is often a greater hazard than industrial."

"Plant life can absorb a lot of the chemicals and nitrates in polluted water, and if it is removed and ploughed back into the soil it does a lot of good."

"But human waste carries bacteria, such as typhoid, dysentery and cholera, and these are very difficult to destroy or remove."

"An estimated 50 percent of patients in Third World hospitals have been put there by a water-borne disease. Clearly, the challenge in Africa is not to build more hospitals but to purify the water," he says.

Laburn's involvement in water engineering dates back to his days as chief engineer of the Rand Water Board, over 15 years ago.

"I launched the campaign to improve the quality of water in streams arising in the Witwatersrand and flowing into the barrage," he says.

Subsequently, on joining WILPU, he was responsible for designing the pollution control systems on three Eskom power stations in the eastern Transvaal and Orange Free State.



The extension to the water-purification works in Diepsloot, which is to cost R140 million.

R140-m to be spent on water-purifying plant

Star 20/11/91

An acknowledged world leader in waste-water purification is Johannesburg City Council, which is currently building an extension to its purification works in Diepsloot at a cost of R140 million.

"The extension under construction is the largest works to be built to date in southern Africa. Its control system will be fully computerised, making it one of the most technologically advanced waste-water purification systems in the world," says Watermeyer Legge partner Ian Rose-Innes.

The plant, located about 20 km north of Johannesburg, will process waste water from as far afield as Germiston, Edenvale, Kempton Park, Midrand, Bedfordview, Johannesburg, Sandton, Randburg, Roodepoort and Alexandra.

It will be phased into operation from November next year, to replace the old plant which has become overloaded. Designed and built in 1960, with a capacity of 100 Ml a day,

the old plant is not designed to cope with the higher water quality required in the 90s.

It was extended in the late '70s, but changes in technology and rapid population growth in the region have caused it to become outdated.

"The new plant uses the latest biological nutrient removal activated sludge technology, in which South Africa leads the world," Mr Rose-Innes says.

"This technological expertise has been force grown as a result of pressure of circumstances. Most major cities are located on the coast or on a large river, and their waste is simply pumped into the water to dissipate naturally."

"Johannesburg is the only city of its size in the world, apart from Mexico City, which has to use scarce water resources for waste management."

After treatment, the sludge will be processed into compost — another operation in which Johannesburg is a world leader.

"The main disadvantage to human waste as a compost material is the presence of the ascaris intestinal parasite, which is very prevalent in South Africa."

At Diepsloot, however, the sludge will be composted to the point where no viable ascaris remains, when it will be sold for controlled use and used internally to improve the pasture on the neighbouring Diepsloot nature reserve, where the council runs 4 000 head of beef cattle.

The process design for the project has been undertaken in-house by the council, but the balance of the civil and electrical engineering design was carried out jointly by WILPU and Watson Edwards Van der Spuy. Gillis Mason is responsible for the construction.

A feature of the new plant is the safeguards against spillage which have been built into the design.

Any excess flow — caused, for instance, by a storm — will

be discharged into holding dams, to be pumped back for treatment before it leaves the site.

By that stage, says Mr Rose-Innes, the water is so clean it is claimed to improve the quality of the water in the Jukskei River.

"A waste water purification works is a concentrated source of potential pollution — and if the 350 Ml a day to be discharged by the plant were polluted, it would be a major source of trouble."

"With modern water-purification technology, however, the greater challenge is controlling pollution caused by old, blocked and overloaded sewerage systems, industrial dumping and the build-up of waste at squatter camps."

"Engineers need to bring their skills to bear in providing waste-water disposal, potable water supplies and sewage removal services in its informal settlements at a price the nation can afford," he says.

Group 'take kaolin' (56) ARGZ/11/9 to Pretoria

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A DELEGATION from the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group goes to Pretoria tomorrow to present arguments against kaolin mining to officials of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

This follows repeated requests for a meeting with the minister, Mr George Bartlett, which have been turned down.

The department is on record as saying kaolin mining will be allowed to proceed at Chapman's Peak.

But the action group does not accept this and says the "absurd situation" has to be addressed "face-to-face".

"If the minister won't come to the mountain, we are going to have to take the mountain to him to show them exactly the implications of the kaolin mining precedent threatening the Peninsula," said spokesman Mr John Butterfield.

For more than three years the government had fobbed off appeals on the grounds that it would decide on the mining proposals only when it had the mining company's report and the so-called "environmental impact statement" Mr Butterfield said.

"Now that they have the reports they say the decision to allow Serina to mine was already taken in 1988 — this is a mockery!"

Tree-protection plan takes root

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

56
ARG 2/11/71
A TRADITIONAL plant project is to be launched in January to promote co-operation between forestry officials and people who strip bark for traditional medicines.

The problem of illegal bark stripping, which damages indigenous trees from ground level to head height, was highlighted by the arrest of six people in Newlands Forest last year.

The project, funded by the Southern African Nature Foundation, will be run under Cape Town City Council auspices and headed by parks and forests director Mr Peter Rist.

A city council report said the Cape Flats population was rising by 10 000 to 15 000 monthly and there was a great demand for traditional herbal remedies.

Medicine-gathering practices were a serious threat to the survival of indigenous forest.

The Western Cape Traditional Plant Use Project committee was launched last year to co-ordinate the needs of herbalists and the conservation of indigenous plants.

Several meetings had been held with herbalists and sangomas, the report said.

The project had to be under the auspices of a recognised authority to get Nature Foundation funding.

Cape wins SADF 'green' awards

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The Cape scooped 50 percent of the SA Defence Force conservation awards here when Ensign Peter Lafite of SAS Saldanha and the SA Naval College were rewarded for their conservation efforts.

Ensign Lafite was yesterday handed the Servamus floating trophy by Deputy-Minister of Defence Mr Wynand Breytenbach for two environmental projects undertaken at SAS Saldanha.

He identified the need for a hiking trail at Saldanha and planned and established one.

Ensign Lafite's second project involved stricter control of the crayfish resources in the SAS Saldanha beach area.

Captain Tubby Howell was presented with the National Veldtrust floating trophy.

Neighbouring industry in bad odour with abattoir over stink

JOHANNESBURG's City Deep abattoir has hit back at neighbouring industries which, it says, have contributed to it being in bad odour with nearby residents.

The abattoir recently spent R260 000 cleaning up its act after a barrage of complaints from residents that it stank.

Spokesmen for the abattoir agree part of the problem may be that it just happens to be located in one of the smelliest areas of SA.

In addition to a concentration of heavy industry and a nearby sewage plant, Johannesburg's south-east picks up the pong from smelly Sasolburg more than 100km away.

After sifting through a pile of complaints, abattoir officials began to smell a rat when residents pointed fingers at the abattoir even in cases where the wind was blowing in a direction which would have carried

B (Day) 21/11/91
Business Day Reporter

the smells away. (56)

In a recent survey, residents complained they were exposed to the smells of rotten eggs, burnt meat, burnt pap, burnt bones, sewage, leather and even burnt bacon.

According to City Deep manager Rus Koorts, one of the biggest problems facing it in its anti-odour drive is the fact that to date no one has invented a "smelling device".

"People are required to sniff at all pipes, joints and valves," he says.

"This operation can result in quite an extended session, as the processing plant alone boasts about 5km of piping and hundreds and hundreds of valves and joints."

Now an statement from the abattoir says: "The abattoir is now adamant that it is not prepared to carry the responsibility for others' 'stench guilt' any longer."

Coastal developers face big stick

Star 21/11/91

(56)

IT IS NOT only rough seas that batter South Africa's 3 000 km of coastline — it is rough developers too. Even farmers far inland, by causing soil erosion, are clogging up the coastal ecology.

But things are about to change.

The Department of Environment Affairs has received from its advisers — the Council for the Environment — a set of guidelines for the coastal zone aimed at planners, developers and town councils. If followed, the guidelines would introduce some sort of aesthetic and ecological control along the coast.

But what if the guidelines are ignored?

Then, says Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar, "I am prepared to declare

A set of guidelines aimed at protecting South Africa's coast has been drawn up, reports JAMES CLARKE.

the entire coast a limited development area."

That would mean nothing could be planned without the permission of his department.

Speaking at the launch of "A policy for coastal zone management — Part II" in Pretoria recently, Mr Pienaar recounted how former minister John Wiley had declared all land within 1 km of the sea as an area of special concern which needed ministerial permission for development.

The move was surprisingly effective despite its questionable validity. Environmental

lawyers said it had no legal standing.

Nor do the new guidelines, which were compiled by the Council for the Environment and handed over to the minister by Eric Hall, the Johannesburg civil engineer who is vice-chairman of the council.

Part one, released some time ago, dealt with principles and objectives. The new volume, said Mr Hall, is meant not as a reading book "but as a day-to-day handbook for those who are involved in the planning and utilisation of the coast".

The guidelines, welcomed

with obvious enthusiasm by the minister at the handing-over ceremony, are an indication that the Government is serious about the coast.

Mr Pienaar indicated that his department was prepared to aggressively defend the coast against poorly conceived development and that it would expect planners to go more deeply into the environmental impact of their proposed structures as well as make greater use of landscape planners.

Asked how, without wider powers, he could get people — and especially other Government departments — to comply, the minister said it was his department's job to set standards and pass them on to other departments.

He said he held in-depth discussions with other departments whenever the environment was threatened.

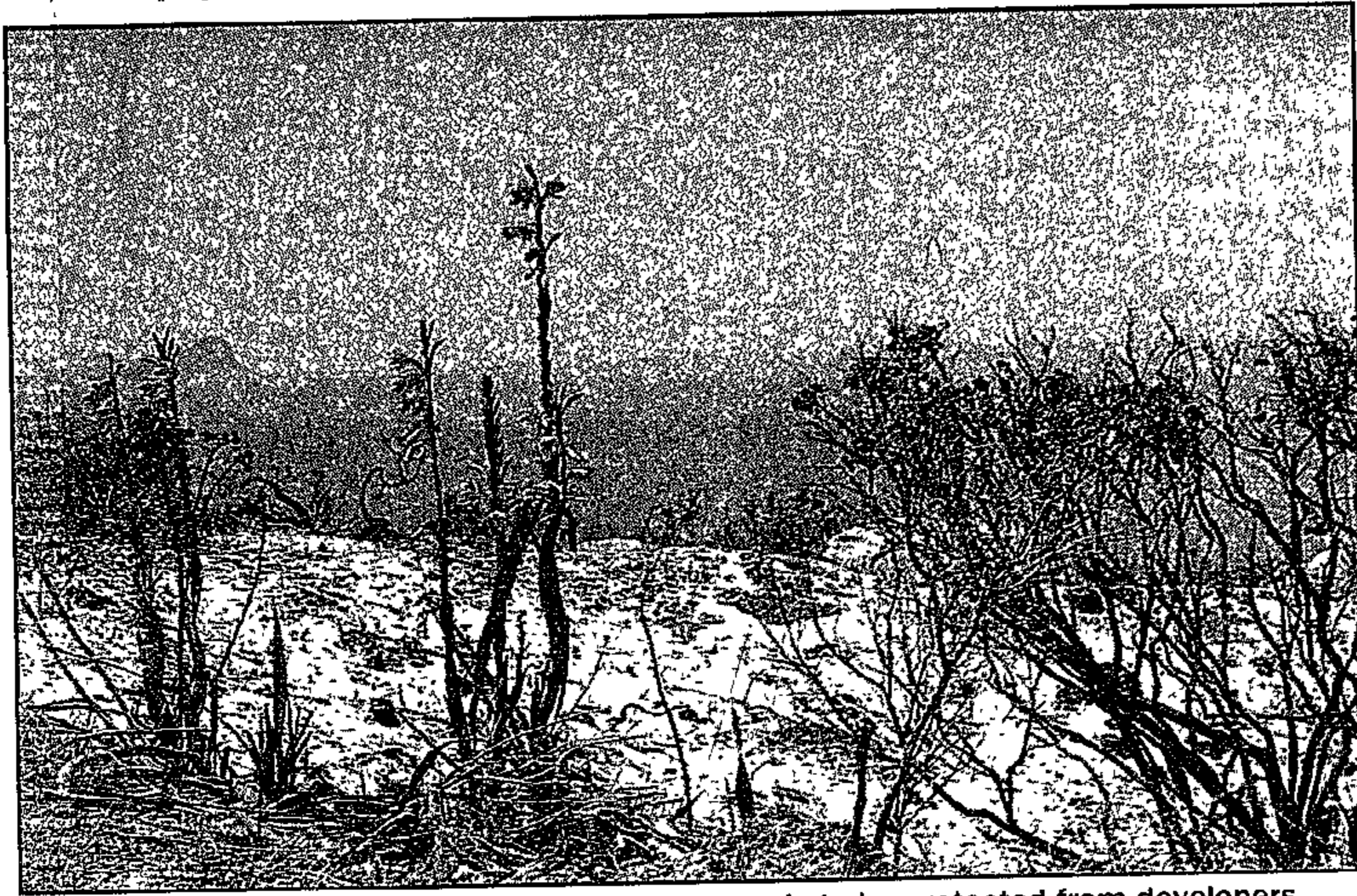
He denied that his department had a poor image, saying: "We have teeth but we prefer not to use them. We prefer to use persuasion."

Asked how he could manage the exploding environmental situation as well as look after the Ministry of Education, he said, with a laugh, that the state president seemed confident that he could.

The coastline is receiving renewed attention from other quarters too.

The President's Council report on a new environmental policy for South Africa last month called for major measures to protect the coast and sea fisheries (which are affected by onshore practices) and for the minister to be given far wider powers.

The CSIR has also been critical of the way the coastal environment and ecology have been treated. □



Battered . . . South Africa's coastline also needs to be protected from developers.

Department probes pollution of river

Biday 21/11/91

56

THE Water Affairs and Forestry Department is still investigating whether to prosecute the Atomic Energy Corporation for a huge spill of caustic soda from the AEC near Hartbeespoort Dam a week ago which killed fish and frogs in the Moganwe Spruit.

But the department is "very satisfied" with measures taken by the AEC to prevent pollution after 80 000 to 100 000 litres of caustic soda in solution reportedly spilt from a burst pipe last week.

Much of the spill had collected in pools along a donga leading into the Moganwe, which in turn leads into a dam a few kilometres away, the AEC said.

A month ago the AEC spilled fluoride into the same spruit.

Commenting on the latest spill, the department said: "It did endanger aquatic life to the extent that certain dead fish and frogs were discovered. This problem, however, no longer exists".

Rehabilitation measures by the AEC had been undertaken immediately.

Not only were land owners in the area informed without delay, "but three tankers were immediately brought in to start pumping the effluent out of the pools until the normal pH-level had been restored. This process was aided by heavy rains.

"From an investigation by the AEC it is clear that extensive measures to prevent pollution had been taken by them."

Meanwhile the South African Rivers' As-

sociation (Sara) has welcomed as "long overdue" the department's threat to prosecute the Maritzburg City Council for polluting the Umsindusi River with sewage.

"They have had nearly a year since the outcry which followed the Dusi canoe race during which 68% of the paddlers were treated — and some hospitalised — for waterborne infections," Sara Natal chapter chairman Graeme Addison said.

Sara represents professional river tour operators and guides.

Addison said it was not satisfied enough had been done to clean up the river, which feeds into the Umgeni to reach the sea at Durban.

"After this year's Dusi canoe race the Umgeni Water Board said R200m would be spent on an immediate programme to clean up the Umsindusi."

But Maritzburg City Council technical services director John Robbins said R600 000 had been earmarked for the year to June 1992 to combat pollution.

"The figure of R200m has nothing to do with the council and we are moving ahead with a priority programme of our own."

A major source of pollution — squatter camps near the river — would have to be addressed by the landowners involved.

Addison said although Umsindusi pollution was widely recognised, the Bushmans, Mooi, Umkomaas and Umzimkulu Rivers were also affected. — Sapa.

● Comment: Page 12

SA fish harvest causes concern

Biday 21/11/91
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Major fluctuations in the numbers of fish harvested off SA and the collapse of key stocks such as pilchards and anchovy are causing great concern, says a Foundation for Research and Development (FRD) report.

It stresses the Benguela region off the west coast of southern Africa — one of the world's richest fishing grounds — supported a fishing industry valued at more than R1bn a year.

"Work by the FRD Benguela ecology programme was able to show that the catch quota of anchovy increased by 300 000 tons in 1987," an FRD spokesman said.

The programme's objective was to provide the scientific information required to manage this valuable resource in a responsible and renewable manner.

The FRD, the Sea Fisheries Research Institute and UCT contributed to the cost of the programme, estimated at R20m.

About 130 scientists from different research institutes and universities were involved.

International evaluators said the programme had been successful in linking academics, management and the fishing industry and the remarkable scientific output had brought great credit to SA science. Over the past 10 years it had produced more than 50 doctoral and masters degrees.

of the same nature... JOI. SIBS... JOI. SIBS...

BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, November 21 1991

5

Neighbouring industry in bad odour with abattoir over stink

JOHANNESBURG's City Deep abattoir has hit back at neighbouring industries which, it says, have contributed to it being in bad odour with nearby residents.

The abattoir recently spent R260 000 cleaning up its act after a barrage of complaints from residents that it stank.

Spokesmen for the abattoir agree part of the problem may be that it just happens to be located in one of the smelliest areas of SA.

In addition to a concentration of heavy industry and a nearby sewage plant, Johannesburg's south-east picks up the pong from smelly Sasolburg more than 100km away.

After sifting through a pile of complaints, abattoir officials began to smell a rat when residents pointed fingers at the abattoir even in cases where the wind was blowing in a direction which would have carried

Business Day Reporter

the smells away. In a recent survey, residents complained they were exposed to the smells of rotten eggs, burnt meat, burnt pap, burnt bones, sewage, leather and even burnt bacon.

According to City Deep manager Rus Koorts, one of the biggest problems facing it in its anti-odour drive is the fact that to date no one has invented a "smelling device".

"People are required to sniff at all pipes, joints and valves," he says.

"This operation can result in quite an extended session, as the processing plant alone boasts about 5km of piping and hundreds and hundreds of valves and joints."

Now an statement from the abattoir says: "The abattoir is now adamant that it is not prepared to carry the responsibility for others' 'stench guilt' any longer."

SBBW 1461/T/E

SAA launches 5-stop discount ticket



Staff Reporter

MINISTER of Environmental Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar yesterday supported calls for a single authority to be made responsible for False Bay's management.

Speaking in Simon's Town to a Western Cape Marine Conservation forum on the future of False Bay, Mr Pienaar said six municipalities,

One authority for False Bay backed

two regional services councils, the provincial administration and several government departments were currently involved in the bay's management.

Mr Andrew Gubb, a conservation ecologist for the Western Cape region of the Wildlife Society, said he feared that if False Bay had a single management au-

thority the local community would not be consulted in decisions affecting the protection of the environment.

City Engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said the False Bay Water Quality Committee monitoring the bay had found that for recreational usage the water conformed to international requirements.

CAPEX ~~12/22~~
Phased in

FM 22/11/91

(S6) (S)

The third SA financing phase of the first construction phase (1A) of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project will be announced soon. The amount is expected to be about R1,9bn in commercial loans from First National Bank and Standard Bank. Also, R1,5bn export credit is expected to be provided by the five major domestic bank groups and IDC. The total package would

FM 22/11/91

(S6) ~~(S)~~ ~~(S)~~

then be about R3,4bn.

A US\$500m offshore funding agreement has also been announced: officially supported export credits, commercial loans from leading banks in France, Germany and the UK, and term loans from the Commonwealth Development Corp. This follows a \$110m loan agreement in September with the World Bank.

The deals have been negotiated by the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority assisted by Chartered West LB (previously Standard Chartered), the project's main financial adviser.

This completes the funding programme for construction on the Lesotho side of phase 1A. SA banks provided the first two SA financing phases — R135m for administrative set-up and other costs and R750m for infrastructural bridging finance.

A project spokesman says the complex arrangements tapped about 25 sources of offshore funding. ■

Law a blow ^(5b) to the kaolin protest

CT 23/11/91
Staff Reporter

A NEW law could allow kaolin mining in Noordhoek to start without a government permit.

This revelation yesterday prompted a group opposed to the mining to fly to Pretoria in an urgent bid to persuade the government to stop the action.

Mr John Butterfield and Mr Ian Brownlie of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, who made urgent representations to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, said their repeated requests for a meeting with the minister, Mr George Bartlett, had not been granted in over three years, "because the department was awaiting an environmental impact statement".

Now that it had that report, the department had suddenly announced that the decision to allow mining had already been taken in 1988.

All that remained to be decided, apparently, was the conditions under which mining could proceed.

"This is a mockery,"

To page 2

From page 1

Kaolin ^(5b)

they said. "We cannot accept that a decision of such magnitude was taken by a minister and department officials who have probably never visited the mine sites."

Mr Willie Voigt, a spokesman for the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, said yesterday the Minerals Act, No 50 of 1991, was due to come into effect from January 2 next year to replace the old Physical Planning Act. In terms of the Physical Planning Act a permit, which can contain conditions, is required for mining.

However, section 47 (4) (a) of the Minerals Act says anyone who had the right to mine any mineral immediately before the Act came into effect ... "shall be deemed to be the holder of a mining authorisation granted in terms of this Act for a period not exceeding a year".

After a year, the company would have to get authorisation to continue mining, Mr Voigt said. In his view, the mining company Serina was covered by section 47 as it owned the mineral rights on the site.

Green challenge faces SA traders in Europe

S/Times (Bus) 24/11/91

(56) (20)

By CHARLENE SMITH

SOUTH African companies which have spent the past decade becoming "socially responsible" in labour terms, will also have to put on a green hat if they wish to trade with Europe 1992.

Companies will need environmental audits for their products to avoid green tax.

The European Community is rapidly adding "green" laws for traders wishing to enter the world's most prosperous trading bloc as from 1992.

In addition to the green tax — it ensures that products have been produced in a manner not damaging to the environment — there will be a tax on carbon emissions.

The carbon tax will be initially a dollar on a barrel of oil. The tax is in response to fears that the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, largely the product of burning fossil fuels, is causing the planet to warm up — the greenhouse effect.

Ozone

The South African Government, aware of the possible problems business may encounter, is expected to follow suggestions in the recent President's Council report on A national environmental management system.

The report says SA will have to comply with international economic and environmental requirements.

- They include:
- Conforming to the global environmental standards regarding ozone as set by the Montreal Protocol.
 - Adhering to environmental stan-

dards set by importing countries for products exported by SA.

Legislation is expected next year to ensure greater attention by business to many environmental problem areas.

The President's Council says the Government could "encourage or force industries to adhere to internationally accepted product and environmental norms" by "legislation (compare European Economic Community legislation); incentives (financial and otherwise); information; indirect pressure through industry associations; bilateral agreements with other countries/regions".

Vary

Claire McKinnon of Environmental Solutions Unlimited, one of the largest consortiums of environmental experts in SA, says: "If companies want to break into the European Community they will find it increasingly difficult unless they have been environmentally audited. "European companies may want the product, but to save on green tax they may ask suppliers to submit to environmental audits.

"Only by an environmental audit can a company prove it is operating correctly."

Environmental audits can vary from company to company, or the purpose for which they are desired. An audit may cover only whether or not products are green.

In its widest scope, it would include everything from the siting of the factory, including its social im-

act on the surrounding community, to matters such as occupational health, waste disposal, pollution control, resource management, tourism and imports and exports — depending on what applies to the industry.

Daan Malan, environmental affairs chairman of the SA Chamber of Business, says companies are slowly becoming more aware of the potential threats their businesses could face, especially from the EC.

"An environmental embargo could develop and is being promoted by countries such as Germany. Environmental audits will be important"

Giam Swiegers, of auditor Deloitte Pim Goldby, says environmental audits are a fairly new concept and few SA companies have used them.

Germany and Denmark are applying constraints on imports of non-green products, or trade with companies that do not meet environmental standards.

Few

Eskom is one of the few SA companies to have been environmentally audited.

Dries Visser, Eskom's senior adviser, environmental impact management, says: "Environmental auditing may be equated to trouble shooting in a company. It shows whether policies are adequate and if they are being properly applied.

"Few companies seem to realise the future risks of not being environmentally sound. The fines involved could be a minor part of the risk.

"Although a polluter may have to pay a R6 000 fine, it may cost him R6-million to restore clean water to a stream."

The SA Nature Foundation (SANF) says in a report on environmental auditing: "Few SA directors are aware that they can be prosecuted in their personal capacities if they are found to be negligent in allowing their companies to break environmental laws."

This follows practice in the US where the average sentence for managers whose companies break environmental laws is five years with an average fine of R75 000.

Courts

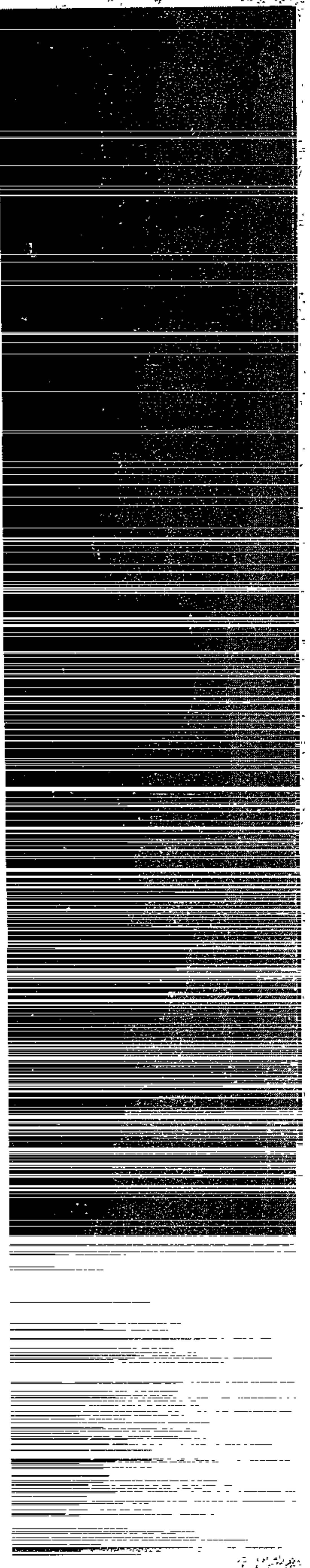
Mr Visser says environmental laws don't need thousands of inspectors. "Companies have to start looking at the financial implications. The people who will ultimately prosecute will be those at the receiving end of the problem.

"Companies should have standards better than the law demands if they want to be adequately protected. It is not a matter of looking good, there can also be cost benefits through better management."

The President's Council report makes wide-ranging recommendations for punishment and prevention when environmental laws are broken. It suggests ways of making it easier for the public to approach the courts on issues of environmental interest.

SA companies, with few exceptions, are far behind world environmental reforms. They are now under powerful pressure — in trade and legislative terms — to get their house in order.

**IR
DILUTION**
How bad is the
air around
Modderfontein
(Johannesburg)? Medical
searchers will
surprise many.



Carry on inhaling, it's not so bad

STAR 27/11/91.

56

PEOPLE living in what is normally regarded as Johannesburg's most polluted area — north-east of the city around Modderfontein — can carry on inhaling. Medical experts have found no threat to health apart from airborne dust.

The finding is likely to surprise local people whose protests over the years persuaded the Department of Health to test the air in the first place. People were complaining of smells of irritated lungs and of car paint being pitted by fall out.

The monitoring project, code-named Airkem, took place throughout winter at three sites in Edenvale, Modderfontein and Kempton Park. The results have now been released:

- Sulphur dioxide: no unhealthy levels.
- Nitrogen oxides: levels were low. More data are needed but preliminary readings show it is "unlikely" unhealthy levels will be detected.

● Particles capable of passing into the lung: measurements recorded in the suburbs of Iliondale and Rhodesfield on August 16 and October 25, respectively, exceeded by several percent (up to 20 percent) the US 24-hour health standard. This would have caused lung irritations. The source was not identified but will be after analyses are completed.

● Dust: (of a size that cannot be inhaled) was found to be heavy around Croyden during September (on windy days). "Kelvin has introduced measures to reduce dust — this will be evaluated and if found unsatisfactory additional measures will be taken."

● Chlorine: well below odour threshold of people. But some specific complaints of the smell received from the public were not picked up by the measuring stations.

The MRC says the ongoing project was started after repeated complaints from people in the area. How accurate was the monitoring?

I visited the independent firm which did the monitoring for the MRC — SI Analytics in Boksburg North. Managing director Mike Turnbull (52) is a founder member of Naca, the National Association for Clean Air, which is frequently highly critical of the Government's monitoring efforts.

"The measurements were very precise," says Mr Turnbull who produces three-quarters of South Africa's air monitoring equipment. Why did the Department of Health's air pollution team not do the monitoring?

"Given the strength of the Government's inspectorate staff it seems unlikely the Government can find time to even maintain its equipment, let alone collect and analyse data.

"It has half a dozen men — just this one project around Modderfontein and Kelvin took one man full-time," he says.

He took me to one of the three monitoring stations used in the MRC

study. It was in a large apparatus-filled caravan in the suburb of Iliondale within sight of AECl and Kelvin power station and with Alexandra and Tembisa just out of sight.

The solids trapped are now being analysed for their content of lead, soot, silica, pollen and other material. Wind directions are recorded so that serious pollutants can be tracked back to source.

Can plant managers fool monitoring stations by watching wind direction and dumping pollutants only

when the wind is blowing away from the sensors?

"Unlikely," says Mr Turnbull.

He says the Government should set up an independent body to monitor the nation's air. Some things are almost never monitored: for instance, aldehydes from diesel traffic — now known to be a cause of cancer, ozone — a toxic gas produced by vehicle and industrial fumes "cooking" in the sun. Ozone, in photochemical smogs, is common over Johannesburg.

JAMES CLARKE

'Good neighbour' AECl is doing its bit for our bird life

AECl which owns the huge Modderfontein complex — once a dreadful smudge on Johannesburg's horizon — is now a big player in environmental conservation.

John Voelcker, a director who died in 1967, established AECl's

Robert's Birds of South Africa — the standard bird book.

For 50 years AECl has distributed our most sought after calendar comprising a dozen bird paintings from "Robert's". AECl spends an average

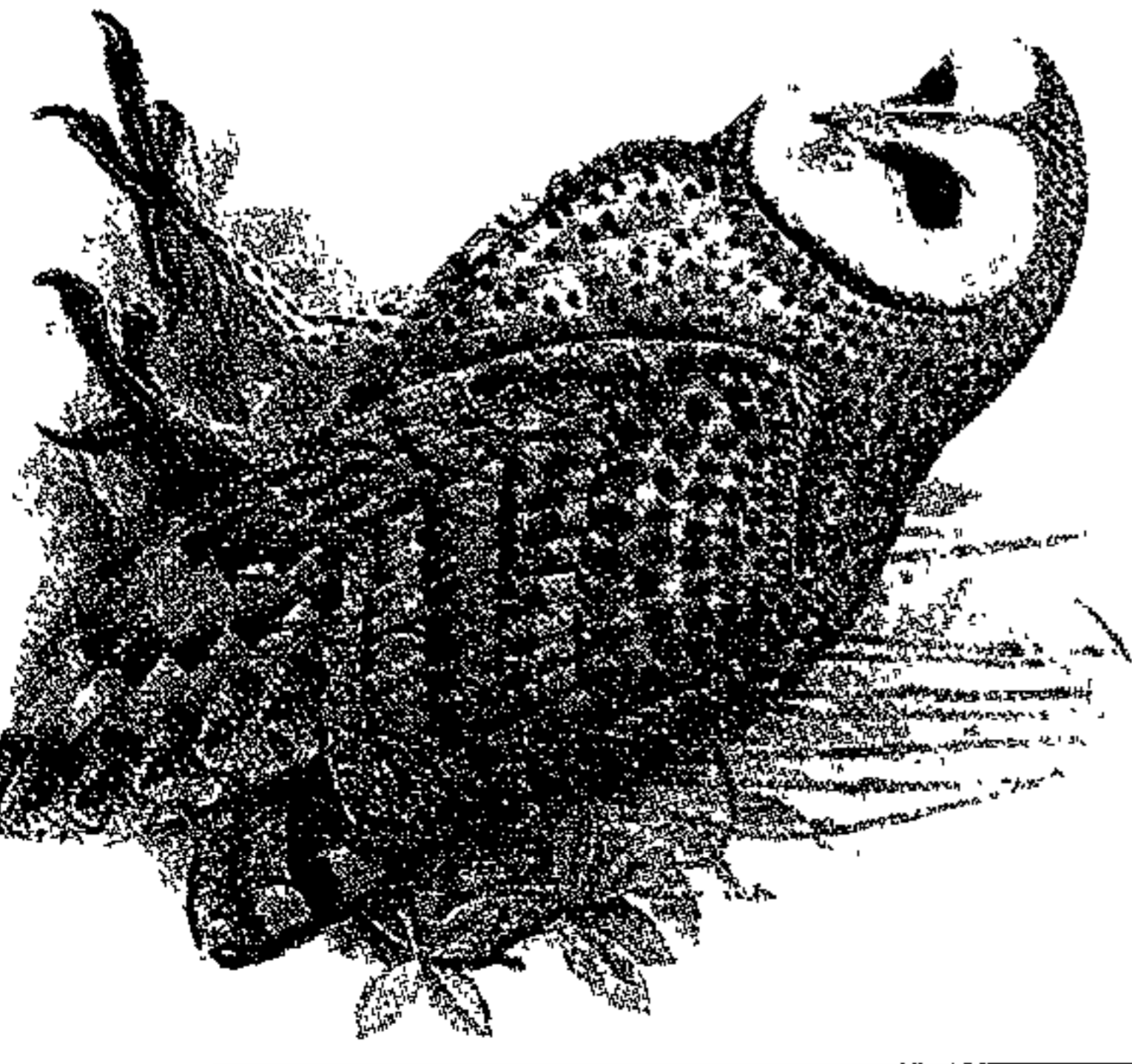
major nature and bird sanctuaries adjacent to its many plants. Via the SA Nature Foundation it helps finance new national parks in Southern Africa.

It has a "good neighbour" policy and is represented on local

improvement programmes.

Mike Sander, group managing director, said: "Any manager of an industrial operation today must be aware that the environmental impact of his business, as seen by the community, is a paramount factor in his ability to stay

For the birds... the owners of Modderfontein play a big role in conservation — and publish a popular calendar.



STAR 24/11/41

Pledge on chemical waste leaks

Staff Reporter (56)

The Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC) has promised to review its chemical waste disposal system after the recent spill of nearly 80 000 litres of caustic soda into Moganwe spruit near Broederstroom.

The spill angered local

residents and killed many fish in the spruit.

Broederstroom residents met senior AEC management last night to thrash out grievances.

AEC chief manager Piet Bredell said the spill was caused by a break in the pipe that transported caustic soda wastes from chemical cleaning tanks through

the central drainage system to evaporation ponds.

He said AEC had taken all reasonable precautions.

AEC chief executive Dr Waldo Stumpf said a contact person would be made available for Broederstroom residents to register any complaints.

Debate rages over cost of reducing lead in petrol

ACC-28/11/91

(56)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TO "Pb" or not to "Pb" — that is the question.

The debate on whether to continue adding lead (chemical symbol Pb) to petrol is one which still rages hotly between environmentalists and the motor and petro-chemical industries.

In South Africa, the President's Council entered the fray with its recent report on a proposed environmental management system by recommending that lead-free petrol should be made available as soon as possible.

But this view is challenged by Tygerberg scientists Professor Leon Maresky and Dr Sias Grobler of the dental faculty of Stellenbosch University and the Medical Research Council.

The scientists, who have published 14 papers on research into the incidence of lead in the human body, argue that while lead is a highly toxic substance which can cause severe health problems, the lead level in South African petrol is not harmful. They also say the huge expense involved in further reducing the lead

content — estimated at R1 000 million — would be better spent on improving the environmental health of less well-off people.

Lead in South African petrol was reduced from 0,886 grams a litre to 0,4 grams in 1989, and the President's Council report acknowledges the immense cost of further reductions or the removal of lead.

It says that while the impact on the economy needs to be investigated urgently, "serious consideration has to be given to a reducing the content to 0,15 grams, or phasing it out altogether.

Professor Maresky and Dr Grobler disagree, although they acknowledge widespread concern at the neurological effects of lead exposure.

"The findings of epidemiological and experimental studies of lead toxicity in the USA, Europe and Australia have convinced major environmental agencies that lead at low doses is a serious threat to the central nervous systems of infants and children," they said.

Is there an "acceptable" lead-blood (PbB) level for human beings?

"Ideally it should be zero — lead has no physiological role. But there is naturally occurring lead and man has always been saddled with a lead burden. Lead toxicity has been recognised for centuries, dating back to the early Greeks and Romans," Professor Maresky said.

There was much evidence worldwide to show that reducing petrol-lead levels had resulted in a progressive lowering of blood-lead levels, he added.

In a remote rural population a decade ago, the researchers had found an average level of 34 micrograms per 100ml of blood (3,4ug/dl), which they suggested could be regarded as a "natural" level for South Africans.

By contrast, in 1984 the mean PbB level of an urban control group had been 9,7ug/dl. Urban road runners were found to have an average lead-blood level of 51,9ug/dl and rural runners 20,1ug/dl, while in 1985 a group of motor mechanics had an average level of 28,4ug/dl.

Since 1984, the researchers had found a "substantial" reduction in the incidence of lead in South Africans as a result of petrol-lead reductions, Professor Maresky said.

A follow-up study in 1990 had revealed an average of 7,2ug/dl for a randomly sampled urban control group. The average PbB level of an urban runner had dropped to 13ug/dl while that of rural runners was down to 8,5ug/dl.

Current PbB levels were "well below" anything that had ever been

implied in any human disease, he continued.

"There is no evidence world-wide to show that at that level there is any harm being done to any person."

The reduction in the lead content of petrol had been "very, very effective", he added.

"We believe it has been reduced to a level that is compatible with good health in the present South African context. This is the fundamental point: we believe there is no evidence to show that current levels are harmful, despite the public clamour for a further reduction.

"So the question arises: is there a scientific justification to reduce petrol-lead levels still further? We have evidence to show it is not.

"Secondly, there would be this tremendous expense if this level was further reduced. Can South Africa afford it at this stage? We believe this sort of money would be far better spent on other forms of environmental upgrading such as water reticulation and sewerage in areas where it is needed."

The two researchers felt "strongly" about this, Professor Maresky said.

"We acknowledge that lead is toxic at certain levels and we're as concerned as the environmentalists are, but we believe we're adopting a responsible attitude. There is ample evidence to show the South African population is not under threat from petrol-lead levels and there's no need to go into major expense."

Kaolin ⁽⁵⁶⁾ mining ^{CT 28/11/91} to start soon?

Staff Reporter

THE Serina Mining Company expects to begin mining the controversial kaolin quarry at Chapman's Peak within a few months but is awaiting final conditions on how to mine the site.

Executive director of the company Mr André Viljoen said the Department of Environment Affairs was reviewing an environmental impact report by a group of international consultants into mining on Chapman's Peak.

But the company would have to begin work within a few months and start full-scale mining within two years, he said.

Mr Carl Tarrant, the managing director of the company, has said those opposed to the mining project would have to offer about R75 million as financial compensation if they wanted the company to stop mining.

● Kaolin can't be moved

— Page 9

R860m for Lesotho power station

B/10 am 28/11/91

FINANCING of the R860m 'Muela Hydropower Station, a component of the R14bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), should be finalised by the weekend at a conference hosted by the Lesotho government in Maseru.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority said 30 delegates representing donors and aid agencies including the EC, World Bank, European Investment Bank and the African Development Bank would attend the conference start-

BRENT VON MELVILLE

ing today.

In terms of the scheme's 1986 treaty, 'Muela's financing falls squarely on the Lesotho government, unlike the financing for the other components of Phase 1A, for which the SA government is responsible.

Finance is being raised on the basis of guarantees from the Lesotho government and debt service repayments will be made from the sale of electricity.

The station, located in

the Nqoe valley 122km northeast of Maseru, will have a capacity of 72MW. Transmission of electricity will be over a 61km-long 132kv line to Maputsoe and form the backbone of distribution systems to the populous lowlands between Maseru and Butha Buthe.

The station will save Lesotho about \$9,6m a year in electricity bills to Eskom and the supply of water to SA will net about \$25m a year from 1996, rising eventually to \$110m by completion, in royalty payments.

Govt 'hellbent' on kaolin mine

CT 30/11/91
56

JOHANNESBURG. — The government and Sanlam are "hellbent on allowing kaolin mining" at Chapman's Peak in spite of the total opposition of the community, Simon's Town MP Mr Jannie Momberg said on Thursday.

He was commenting on a statement by Sanlam that the company did not have the legal power to interfere in the management decisions of Serina Kaolin Mining Co.

Serina is owned indirectly by Sanlam.

Mr Momberg said Sanlam was "clearly passing the buck" and avoiding its moral duty to intervene against the mine.

The chairman of the Save Chapman's Peak action group, Mr John Butterfield, said legal action would be taken against the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs on the grounds that it had acted against the interests of the community. — Sapa

'Polluters must pay for clean-up'

STAR 30/11/91

JAMES CLARKE

MANUFACTURERS of products which become litter may soon have to pay the cost of keeping SA clean, says Environment Minister Louis Pienaar.

Speaking at a CSIR seminar in Pretoria yesterday — the seminar was to discuss the research organisation's recent shock report on waste — he said: "The day must come when the cost of littering will have to be brought to bear on those manufacturers or distributors whose tins or plastic bags litter our public places."

He also warned that householders "will have to be much more disciplined" to help recycling. This was assumed to mean households will have to separate their refuse into different categories, just as they do in Europe.

He said South Africa was experiencing the emergence "of a powerful environmental movement" and was feeling pressure from overseas.

"Exporters will have to adapt to regulations imposed by importing countries to protect the milieu. Those who refuse to put their house to order will be left in the cold.

"We will have to start thinking of our trading partners such as the Netherlands, Germany or Austria, which have no space to dump waste. In our trade with them we shall, therefore, have to adapt to the needs to dispose of packaging material."

He said Holland and Germany were drafting legislation calling for:

- The compulsory separation of domestic refuse into organic waste, bottles, paper and plastic.
- The compulsory retention and disposal of packaging materials by shopkeepers.
- Charging the cost of disposal on the original user of waste material or the polluter.
- The prohibition of materials, such as those used for certain plastic bottles, as unrecyclable.

ENVIRONMENT — 1991

DECEMBER.

SA conservationists will still track driftnet ships

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

56 AUG 2/12/91 States.

JAPAN'S unexpected about-face on the use of deadly driftnets to catch tuna and squid has been met with suspicion by local conservationists, who say their monitoring program will continue.

Japan has at least 450 fishing vessels equipped with driftnets — dubbed "walls of death" — and it has been resisting strongly all international attempts to get these destructive nets banned world-wide.

According to a UN resolution in December last year, a moratorium on the use of driftnets was scheduled to come into effect at the end of June 1992.

However, there was an "escape" clause which would allow the use of driftnets where there was scientific proof to show they were not harming the marine environment.

Japan has been carrying international observers on at least 65 of its driftnetting vessels in an attempt to provide such proof.

Its sudden, unexpected change of heart came in the face of growing international pressure, including the prospect of a trade ban by the United

In talks with US Secretary of State Mr James Baker, Japan agreed to sponsor a new UN resolution that will outlaw the nets from the end of next year. The decision was ratified by the Japanese cabinet earlier last week.

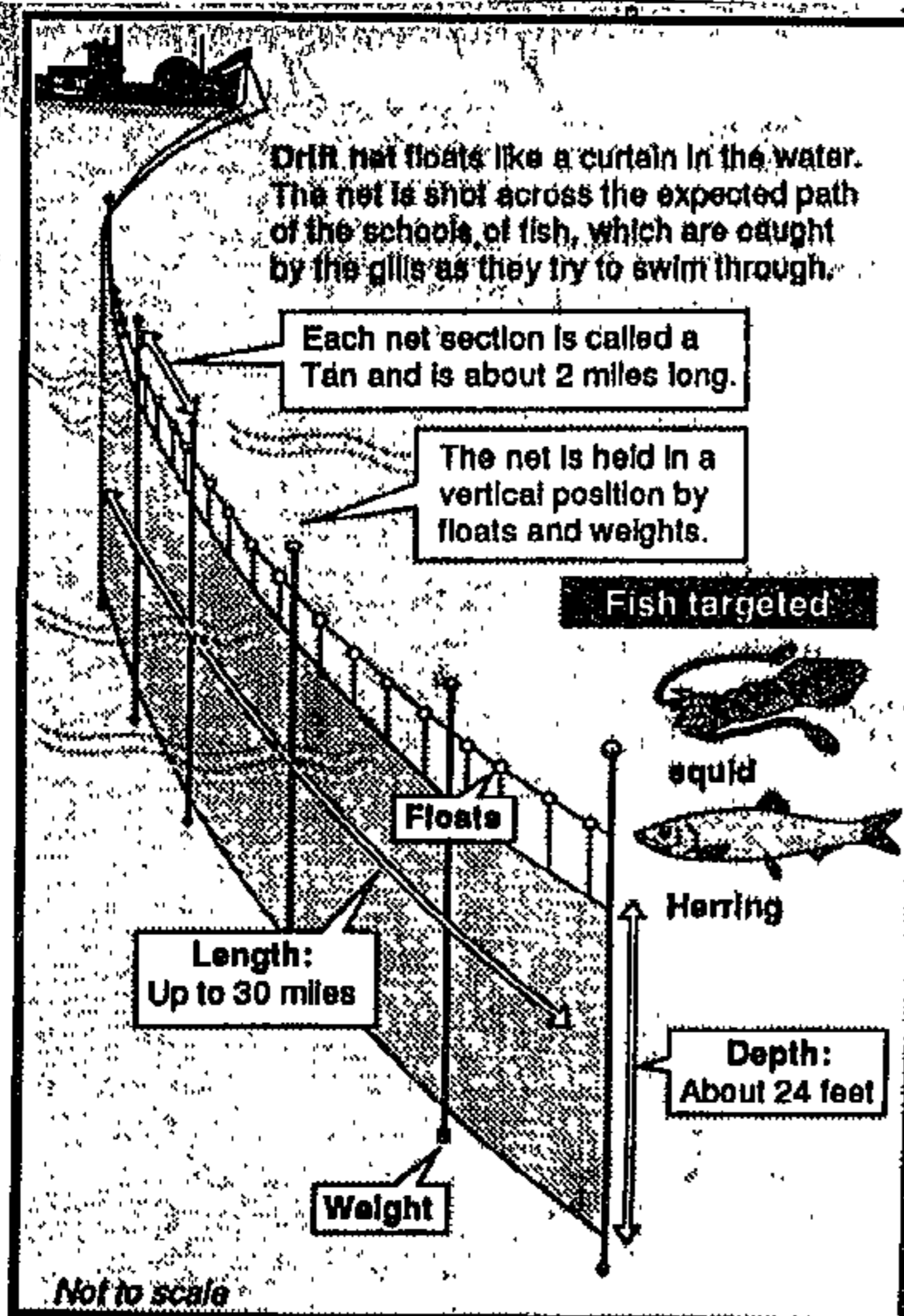
However, Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, which has been in the forefront of the campaign against the use of driftnets, said bluntly she did not trust fishermen to respect the ban.

"The fishing industry in Japan has enormous clout and power and they'll pressurise the government — you'll see," she predicted.

"I don't trust them because of their history of commercial whaling. The government doesn't dictate to the fishing industry and it has little control over what happens on the high seas."

The group has already computer-logged at least 1500 known driftnet vessels and tracks them continuously using an international network of observers. Mrs Rice said this operation would continue.

"We'll keep up the pressure and continue with our investigative work," she promised.



WALLS OF DEATH: This graphic shows how the drift-nets work. Apart from the targeted fish, they also trap and kill many other species.

Green Point outfall pipe 'not to blame for slick'

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

SEAWATER at most Peninsula beaches passes internationally-accepted hygiene tests, but the broken Green Point sewage outlet is still pushing faecal pollution counts well beyond acceptable limits.

But the large brown slick that stretched from Sea Point Pavilion to Granger Bay at the weekend had nothing to do with the broken outlet, said city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton.

Sewage swirled northwards in a small area and could not have affected the area where discoloration was reported.

"The slick, which was not there when inspectors visited the area yesterday, could have been caused by welling-up of silt from the deep ocean bed or by a storm affecting the kelp beds — but recent weather makes both of these explanations unlikely," he said.

A city council report on coastal water bacteriological data from October last

year until September 1991 said figures were similar to that of the previous year.

The city council tests 34 coastal points, measuring faecal coliform counts against the European Community standard of 80 percentile (100 counts/100 millilitres).

Points that failed the test included Green Point sewage outfall, which measured almost 2500 percentile, Mitchell's Plain, just under 400, and Mouille Point beach and Three Anchor Bay which measured more than six times acceptable levels.

Also exceeding acceptable levels were Table Bay breakwater, Granger Bay, Rocklands and Graaff's Pool.

The report said the "shortened" Green Point outfall sewer caused all five sampling sites from Table Bay breakwater to Green Point opposite Park Road to go over the limit.

Sunset Beach, Fourth Beach, Clifton, and Maiden's Cove, and Camps Bay beach and tidal pool had counts of between 20 and 40, within acceptable limits.

(51) ARG 2/12/91

New approach to anti-pollution laws

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Many pollution and waste management problems lay in fragmented control and policy deficiencies, National Education and Environmental Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar said at the weekend.

Speaking at a CSIR symposium, Pienaar said there were 85 laws dealing with the environment — 23 with chemicals, 27 with waste management and 24 with dangerous waste.

He said the first step in the formulation of a national waste management and pollution control policy would be taken next year.

The management problem was so complex it almost defied analysis

and understanding and there was a danger "we might become hypnotised by it and slide into inertia".

Many waste management and pollution control problems lay in a lack of planning and understanding, Pienaar said.

He said the cost of littering in SA would have to be carried by the manufacturers and distributors whose tins and plastic bags piled up in the streets.

Most municipalities would run or operate with waste management plants, he said.

Environment awareness plan (56)

Staff Reporter ^{STC/v} 2/12/91

A new environmental awareness initiative will be launched today when foreign tourists arriving at international airports will be handed pamphlets containing vital information on South Africa's wildlife trade laws.

The Southern African Nature Foundation (SANF), in conjunction with the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, have compiled the leaflet.

It will be distributed by the Department of Immigration.

The leaflet contains in-

formation about the import, export, trade and sale of wildlife.

The laws apply to live and dead animals, animal parts and products made from animals.

It ranges from regulations about rhino horn to ivory to exotic birds and reptiles.

Assist

SANF spokesman Kim MacDonald said: "Until now, travellers to South Africa have had very little information regarding local wildlife trade laws.

"This has caused confusion when buying wildlife products and we are

positive this information will clarify the situation and assist visitors," he said.

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Gencor have sponsored the first 500 000 leaflets printed.

The Department of Immigration will require about 4 million leaflets a year to distribute to visitors arriving at airports and funds are still required to fulfill this demand, the SANF said in a statement.

Members of the public may also obtain copies of the leaflet.

They should write to the SANF at Box 456, Stellenbosch 7599.

Bh in to

Abdul
appea
prem
charg
ing t
Ac
amb
Nati
(NSI
cer
cre
nar
wa
the
de
ce
N

s-
d
at
ed
lt
st
be
he
oe
he
nd
n-
of
ld
ne

... our home appliances



Concrete jungle across Cape Flats 'distinct possibility'

(S6)

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

URGENT action is needed to preserve and link greater Cape Town's conservation-worthy areas — some already badly neglected — which could be swallowed up by the demand for housing.

This emerges from a report by conservationist Mr. Barrie Low on sites of special conservation and educational interest in greater Cape Town.

Housing had been given priority over reasonable provision of open spaces, causing "wide-scale eradication of pristine veld" in poorly-planned developments like Khayelitsha, Mr Low said.

"The spectre of a concrete jungle stretching across the Cape Flats has become a distinct reality."

Inadequate "green lungs" would cause a breakdown in societal norms and depress the quality of life.

The survey included the greater Cape Town lowlands, Tygerberg Hills, Botfelary Hill and Cape Peninsula.

Most of the area was built up, with vast areas covered by acacia and little "natural" veld left.

Khayelitsha, Blue Downs and extensions to Mitchell's Plain had caused major losses of Strandveld.

Coastal fynbos had lost the most ground, and is now confined to the centre of race-courses, Rondebosch common, and roadsides.

Much ground once covered by Renosterfeld was being used for agriculture.

The report found 32 conservation-worthy sites, as well as

sites where environmental centres or information boards should be erected.

Among the areas criticised for neglect, poor management and lack of a proper conservation policy are Brackenfell Nature Reserve, Driftsands, Durbanville Nature Reserve and race course, Kraaitfontein Forest Reserve, Wingfield military base, Tokai forest, and Raapenberg bird sanctuary.

Areas praised include the Eskom powerline reserve, Cape Flats Nature Reserve,

and Tygerberg Nature Reserve.

To link conservation-worthy areas, "corridors" should be set up to enable seed dispersal and pollination.

Examples of these proposed corridors would be a link from the Tygerberg Hills to Wingfield military base via the Eskom powerline reserve and N7 freeway road reserve.

Another would link Table Mountain to Black River Park way via De Waal Drive. Rondebosch common, Driftsands Nature Reserve and Kulls River.

Call to improve 'appallings' environment in townships

52 MRG 3/12/91

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL degradation in black townships is "appalling", says the Council for the Environment.

South Africa's greatest and most complex environmental challenge was to improve the quality of life in these degraded areas, while attempting to control the inevitable impact of accelerated urbanisation, the Council's Committee for the Built Environment said.

In the council's annual report, the committee said serious unrest had increasingly focused attention on the appalling environmental degradation that had developed in the townships.

This had been aggravated by the housing backlog resulting from government policy that had only fully acknowledged urban blacks as permanent residents in 1986.

Aspects such as the planning and management of natural open space in urban areas and the inclusion of environmental considerations in structural planning had been studied during the year, the committee reported.

Further guidance on how best to proceed was being sought from the R2-billion Independent Development Trust, headed by Mr Jan Steyn.

There had been negotiations with the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs, the committee also reported. The department had subsequently announced that a code was be-

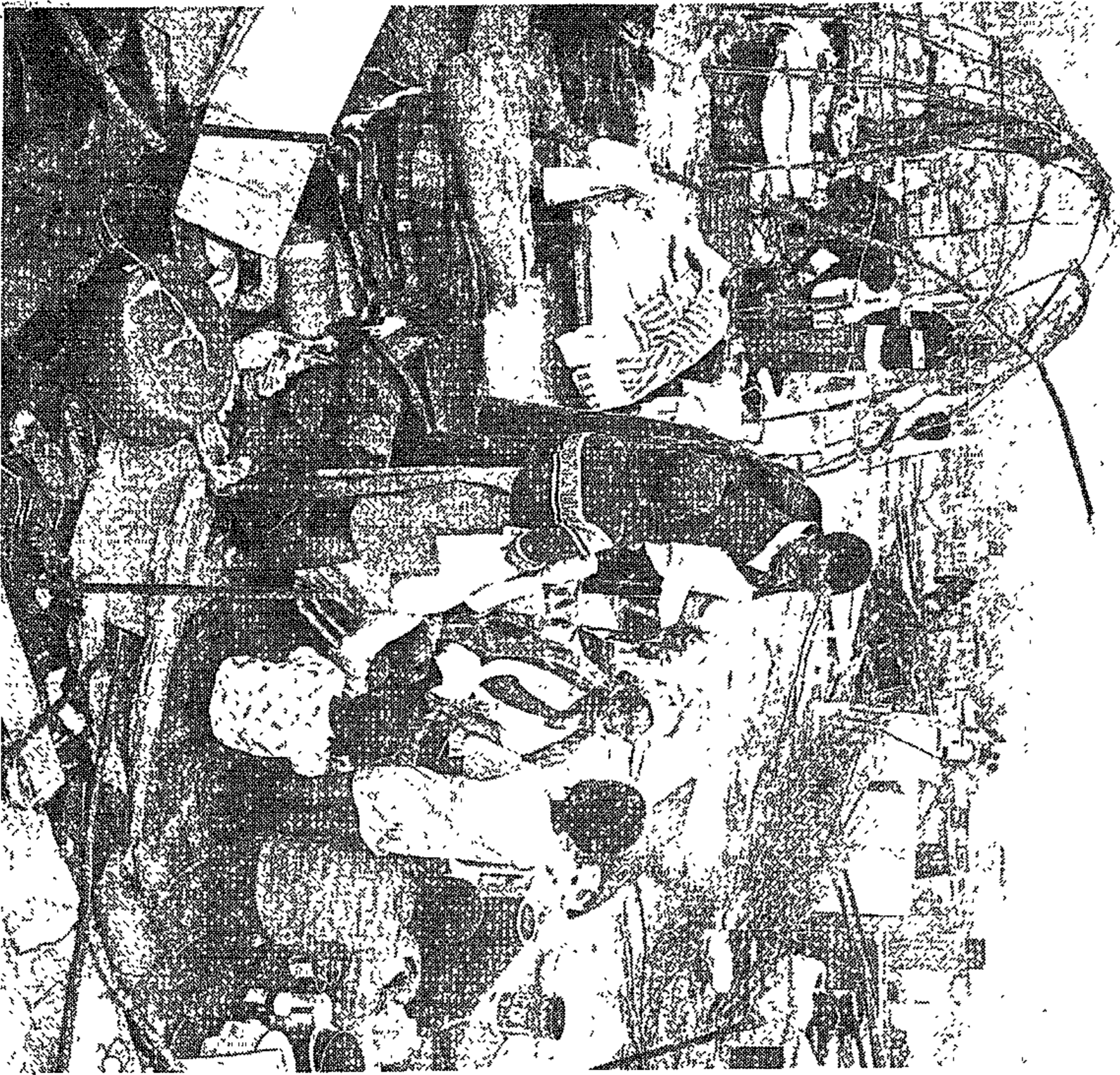
ing drawn up to regulate the restitution of sites or the natural environment disturbed during State contracts.

"Equally encouraging" had been the National Roads Board's instructions to consultants that Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) procedures were to be applied to highway planning and construction, the committee added.

Reacting to visual problems caused by overhead electrical installations — especially in coastal villages — the committee said a task group was formulating a "policy and information" document which would be sent to the United Municipal Executive, Eskom, provincial authorities and the SA Property Owners' Association for comment.

"It appears that no clear guidelines are followed for telephone installations, and an appeal was made to the Postmaster-General to have a code and guidelines drafted on environmental considerations in the planning and installation process," the committee added. Members had visited the De Hoop missile range and a further visit was envisaged, "directed specifically at assessing the management of cultural resources".

Armscor and the Cape's provincial authorities would be urged to adopt a comprehensive management plan for the whole area between Waenhuiskrans (Arniston) and Cape Infanta, the committee reported.



DEGRADATION: Scenes like this have appalled environmentalists who have called for action to improve township living conditions.

Kaolin activists to fight on

56 CT 11/12/91

Staff Reporter

OPPONENTS of kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak yesterday vowed to "intensify" their campaign to prevent Serina from starting a mining operation on the Peninsula's premier scenic drive.

Representatives of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group yesterday met Sanlam executives in a bid to persuade the company to pressure Serina to abandon its plan to mine there.

But a Sanlam spokesman said the company had no control over the management of Serina and was powerless to intervene.

This follows the action group's placement at the weekend of full-page advertisements calling on Sanlam to stop Serina from starting a mining operation at Noordhoek.

Serina hit back in two full-page advertisements yesterday, accusing the action group of "misleading the public" in its efforts to stop the company exercising its lawful right to mine in the Noordhoek Valley.

Sanlam's chief legal adviser, Mr Emel Linde, said: "I explained that Sanlam's investment is through Federale Volksbeleggings, of which Serina is a subsidiary. Sanlam is, therefore, not in a position to give instructions to Serina in this regard.

"All that Sanlam can do is convey their proposals to Federale Volksbeleggings, which I promised to do as a matter of courtesy."

Mr John Butterfield, a spokesman for the action group, said they would ask Sanlam to apply to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to have Serina's rights to Chapman's Peak revoked.

"We put it to them that as a parent company, they became responsible for the actions of their children once the folly of Serina's actions were brought to their attention."

Sanlam, he claimed, had the authority and the influence to stop the mining should they choose to do so.

"It's sad that Sanlam have taken so long to talk to their subsidiary. We hope a solution is found before Serina attempt to mine the Noordhoek site."

Mr Butterfield said the action group would create "such a spectacle" that there would be "an indelible stain on the image of Sanlam".

Mr Andre Viljoen, executive director of Serina, said his company would continue to mine at Bakkerkloof until the reserves were totally depleted.

"We will start mining at Noordhoek next year and should be mining at full capacity in about three years time."

Mr Viljoen said most of the 60 000 people who had signed a petition objecting to the mine were not fully informed of the facts.

An environmental impact study had met all the necessary requirements and it was now up to the government to decide whether the mine would damage the environment. "We intend mining in such a way as to minimise damage to the environment," he said.

Bank's R1-m⁽⁵⁶⁾ bounty to go⁽⁵⁶⁾ green

By ^{Sowetan} GRACE RAPHOLO

^{11/2/91}
NEDBANK has donated R1 million to Green Trust, an organisation founded to promote education on environmental projects, rehabilitation of damaged natural resources and the prevention of abuse to these areas.

The trust was established in October last year when the bank committed itself to providing R5 million over five years.

The trust emphasises human survival, poverty alleviation and the advancement of sustainable development at local levels.

The bank's managing director, Mr Richard Laubscher, said the reason for supporting the trust was that it addressed real environmental issues at the immediate interface with man, and created opportunities that enabled all South Africans to play a part in their own futures.

"The Green Trust is the ideal vehicle through which to achieve this," he said.

He said the trust was at present funding four environmental projects that emphasised a new, pragmatic approach to conservation.

"The primary objective is to humanise conservation by involving local communities in decisions about projects and in their planning and implementation," Laubscher said.

The trust is assisting the KaNgwane Parks Corporation to establish a permaculture (permanent agriculture) development centre.

Permaculture is a highly productive and diverse form of farming using as little space as possible to produce food, medicines, fodder, fuel and building materials.

The trust is also involved in a pilot scheme in Umbobo in KwaZulu that links rural community development and conservation and emphasises upliftment of socio-economic circumstances and quality of life.

"More and more people, businesses and corporations have joined us in providing the necessary funds for the Green Trust to effectively co-ordinate projects for the benefit of conservation," Laubscher said.

Bank's R1-m bounty to go green

By ^{Sowetan} GRACE RAPHOLO

^{11/2/91}
NEDBANK has donated R1 million to Green Trust, an organisation founded to promote education on environmental projects, rehabilitation of damaged natural resources and the prevention of abuse to these areas.

The trust was established in October last year when the bank committed itself to providing R5 million over five years.

The trust emphasises human survival, poverty alleviation and the advancement of sustainable development at local levels.

The bank's managing director, Mr Richard Laubscher, said the reason for supporting the trust was that it addressed real environmental issues at the immediate interface with man, and created opportunities that enabled all South Africans to play a part in their own futures.

"The Green Trust is the ideal vehicle through which to achieve this," he said.

He said the trust was at present funding four environmental projects that emphasised a new, pragmatic approach to conservation.

"The primary objective is to humanise conservation by involving local communities in decisions about projects and in their planning and implementation," Laubscher said.

The trust is assisting the KaNgwane Parks Corporation to establish a permaculture (permanent agriculture) development centre.

Permaculture is a highly productive and diverse form of farming using as little space as possible to produce food, medicines fodder, fuel and building materials.

The trust is also involved in a pilot scheme in Umbobo in KwaZulu that links rural community development and conservation and emphasises upliftment of socio-economic circumstances and quality of life.

"More and more people, businesses and corporations have joined us in providing the necessary funds for the Green Trust to effectively coordinate projects for the benefit of conservation," Laubscher said.

War of words hots up in kaolin wrangle

(56)

ARG 10/12/91

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE war of words over the proposed mining of kaolin on the slopes of Chapman's Peak has hotted up, with the mining company Serina taking out expensive double-page advertisements in newspapers to argue its case.

Representatives of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group are today meeting Sanlam, Serina's parent company, in an attempt to persuade it to put pressure on Serina to call off mining.

And Simon's Town MP Mr Jannie Momberg, adding his voice to weekend calls to Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar to stop the project, said the proposed mine would be a desecration of one of the world's most beautiful environmental areas.

Serina's advertisement accused the action group of misleading the public in its campaign to stop the company

"exercising its lawful right to mine in the Noordhoek Valley".

It said copies of an environmental impact study were readily available.

"It shows there are no real diverse environmental issues", the advert said.

It issued an open invitation to the public to visit the company's operating mine at Fish Hoek.

But Mr John Butterfield, spokesman for the action group, in turn accused Serina of publishing misinformation.

"The question is, why place these double-page advertisements if you don't have to prove anything to anyone?"

"In every debate we've had with them we've won hands down and proved the mine will have an impact. Now they're having to resort to these advertisements. It's quite outrageous."

Mr Butterfield said the action group would ask Sanlam to apply to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to revoke Serina's mining rights

and for the company to be compensated for "generally acceptable incurred costs".

He said the group rejected Sanlam's argument that it had no legal right to intervene in management decisions by Serina.

"What legal right do you need if you're a parent, if you're a father persuading your son?" he asked.

In his statement, Mr Momberg said he was fully behind the action group and that the government could not wash its hands of the controversial issue.

"This is not a normal mining situation like in the Eastern Transvaal. This is going to be a desecration of one of the most beautiful environmental areas in the world."

Mr Momberg said Serina would not succeed in restoring the area's former beauty after any mining operations, no matter what its promises were about rehabilitation.

"The fact that they acquired other areas in the vicinity

means that even if they complete the mining of this specific area in the next 20 years, the factory where the kaolin is processed will probably be there for the next century to accommodate the other kaolin."

He could not understand how the government could ignore the 60 000-signature petition against the mine.

"I cannot understand how the government can be so insensitive to the needs of the people. I cannot understand how the government, this once, cannot put its foot down and say 'enough is enough'."

"If they don't do it, future generations will have a very harsh judgment on this government."

Plan to increase environmental awareness

New laws expected for use of chemicals

S-6

STAR 9/12/91

Users of chemicals, farmers among them, should prepare for a change in their lives.

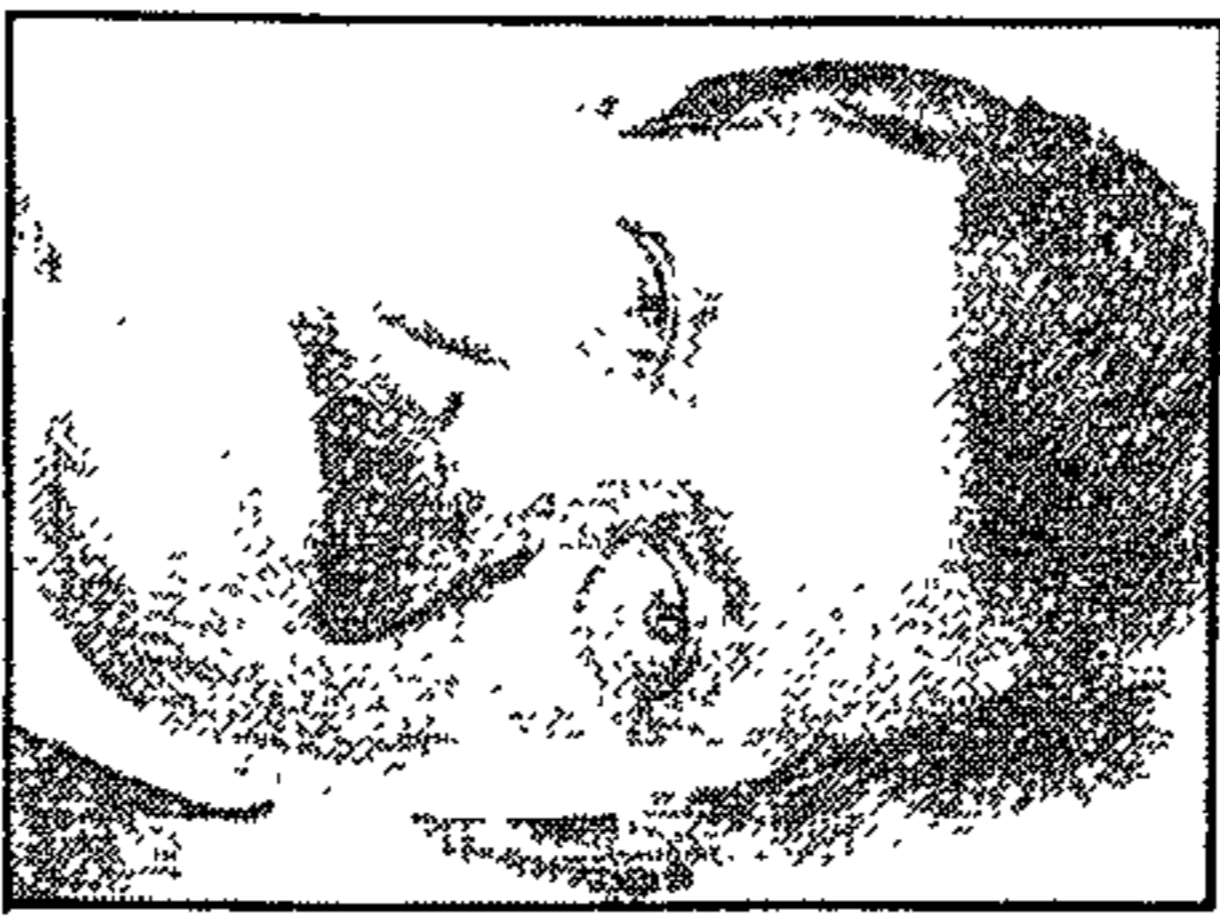
Legislation is envisaged which will make it compulsory to undergo training before certain chemicals can be used.

"It's all part of increasing awareness of the need to protect people, animals and the environment," said the office of the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947.

All fertilisers, farm feeds, agricultural remedies and stock remedies — a market worth just less than R1 billion in 1990 — must be registered in terms of the Act.

The first "breach of the farmyard gate" — in an industry expression — came in July this year in a remarkably short, but meaningful regulation under the Act in the Government Gazette.

It said simply that the Minister of Agriculture prohibited "the acquisition, disposal, sale or use of any agricultural remedy or stock remedy for a purpose or in a manner other than



Food safety is a major public concern, says Avcasa director Jan Kleynhans.

that specified on the label on a container thereof or on such container".

Previously, a farmer could only be held liable under health legislation for incorrect use.

Part of the pressure for the regulation came from the 55-member Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association

of SA, Avcasa, representing manufacturers and distributors.

New executive director Jan Kleynhans, former GM of the Rand Show and publicity chief of the Bureau of Standards, noted that it followed the well-publicised "Tala Valley case" in Natal, where a claim that vegetable crops had been harmed by hormonal herbicides applied to sugar cane was rejected in court but highlighted certain dangers.

Mr Kleynhans said Avcasa had the crucial role of monitoring standards in training in the use of herbicides and pesticides offered by Boskop, Glen, Nelspruit and Cedara Agricultural Colleges, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, and others.

"We recognise that the public at large is really concerned about two things: the safety of food, and the safe disposal of left-over chemicals. "Residue on food is a sensi-

tive issue all over the world and has to be controlled by the Department of National Health and Population Development through strict regulation and proper training in the use of chemicals.

"The Netherlands may be furthest advanced in the disposal of redundant chemicals and containers, but its system of collection and incineration cannot unfortunately easily be implemented where distances are much greater."

Other developments in the industry at the moment are rationalisation towards sales agents in place of representatives, and meeting small black farmers' needs for smaller packaging (of less toxic chemicals) than is currently available.

He says Avcasa has its points of difference with environmental organisations, but generally works well with them.

"In today's world, it is simply not possible to market a product destructive of the environment," Mr Kleynhans said.

Challenge: See slick from air

56 CT 9/12/91

By WILLEM STEENKAMP

RADIO announcer Mr David Hersch yesterday publicly invited the city engineer, Mr Arthur Clayton, to accompany him in his helicopter to view the mysterious brown slick off the Atlantic seaboard.

Mr Hersch, who broadcasts the Radio Good Hope beach report from a helicopter over weekends, is adamant that the slick is connected to the fractured sewage outfall pipe off Mouille Point and that it poses a health risk.

Last weekend he caused a stir when he reported a large slick stretching from Granger Bay to the Sea Point pavilion — and said it could be a potential health risk to swimmers, especially over the Christmas tourist season.

Mr Clayton answered the

claims by saying that fortnightly bacteriological tests had shown that pollution limits had not been exceeded.

Mr Hersch again reported a slick yesterday, saying it stretched from the breakwater all the way to Saunders Rocks.

He hit out at the city council, saying it is "extremely irresponsible to pooh-pooh this when the health of people is at risk".

However, a city council statement at the weekend said the slick is not caused by the pipe, but "temperature differentials and upwelling currents".

Although not naming Mr Hersch, the statement said "these unsubstantiated allegations, based on observations from an overflying helicopter, are totally unscientific".

The council said that faecal coliform measurements, with an acceptable maximum of 100 counts per 100ml, have shown there is no health risk.

Two weeks ago — days before Mr Hersch first reported the slick — counts of two or less were measured at Bakoven, Camps Bay, Maiden's Cove, Sunset Beach, Graaff's Pool and Three Anchor Bay.

Higher measurements were found at Clifton Fourth Beach (16), Rocklands (12), Mouille Point (36) and opposite the outfall (28). The highest reading, at "sheltered" Granger Bay, was 68.

But Mr Hersch was not impressed and issued an invitation to Mr Clayton to accompany him in the helicopter to see for himself.

Mountain will be a 'nightmare' without sound management plan

AEC 9/12/91

56

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TABLE Mountain will continue to be a conservation and financial "nightmare" until a comprehensive, ecologically-based management plan is applied to the whole area, says the Botanical Society's influential flora conservation committee.

In what amounts to a clear vote of no confidence in the mountain's existing conservation structure, the committee has offered to fund a steering group which would prepare a democratically acceptable management plan for the entire Peninsula mountain chain.

Its views are spelled out in an open letter to the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring.

Chairman Mr Douglas Jeffery said in the letter that Table Mountain would remain a major financial and conservation problem for the provincial authorities until a concerted effort was made to deal with the area holistically.

His committee had been concerned about the conservation of the mountain for many years and had in 1989 co-hosted the meeting "Table Mountain 2000" with the South African Institute of Ecologists.

"At this meeting criticism was levelled at the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Committee which was seen as a body which lacked 'teeth' and 'executive power'.

"Subsequent to this meeting nothing has been achieved in developing an overall conservation, recreation and development strategy for Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain based on sound ecological criteria," Mr Jeffery said.

His conservation committee was prepared to fund a steering group which would look specifically at the problem of devising a comprehensive, ecological management plan for Table Mountain.

This group would identify the parties to be consulted in researching and formulating such a plan.

Possible members included UCT botanist/ecologist Professor Richard Cowling, Mr David Jack, former Cape Town city planner and present managing director of the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront who would represent business and tourism, and Professor Richard Fuggle, chairman of the Cape Town City Council environment advisory committee and head of the department of environmental and geographical sciences at UCT.

The various stages of the draft report had to be open to peer review and public input so that the final document was one for which consensus had been gained, Mr Jeffery emphasised.

"We hope you will give this initiative your full support publicly, and use your influence to facilitate the deliberation of the steering committee to provide the 'basic plan' to all departments under your control.

Eskom on pollution policy

ROBERT LAING

POLLUTION levels in the eastern Transvaal do not warrant spending R8bn on equipment to clean power station emissions, despite the Worldwatch Institute's claim that SA is the planet's worst greenhouse offender, says Eskom.

Eskom environmental spokesman Andre van Heerden said money would be better spent bringing electricity to all major black townships within reach of the power grid. The cost would be about R6bn, he said.

Van Heerden said Worldwatch, a Washington-based environmental group, had misunderstood figures taken from a study co-ordinated by the CSIR in 1988 and compared SA's peak pollution levels against the world's average values.

The CSIR's measurements indicat-

ed air in the Witbank area contained the highest level of sulphur dioxide in the world. (56)

The power stations are not fitted with flue gas desulphurising equipment because installation costs would be R1bn for each of Eskom's eight main generators, Van Heerden said.

A CSIR spokesman said: "There is no hard evidence that Eskom's stations have damaged the environment — symptoms could take 50 years to emerge."

New Scientist recently reported that SA, for every dollar's worth of goods and services produced, used three times more energy than the US and six times more than Japan.

19/12/91
CSIR

Aid without people is no help

South 5/12/91 - 11/12/91.

56

Aid donors must involve local people in every stage of development planning and management if they are to be successful, says "Whose Trees? A People's View of Forestry Aid", a report by the Panos Institute. DAVE LEWIS reports:

FOR OVER THREE DECADES vast amounts of time, money and talk have been devoted to development aid to the Third World, from both official sources and private non-governmental organisations. Western media and governments try to create the impression aid has promoted development in recipient countries. Yet the cycle of deprivation continues as desperate families try to live off exhausted soils and are driven to invade forests or cultivate marginal lands — thus hastening further environmental decline, poverty and famine.

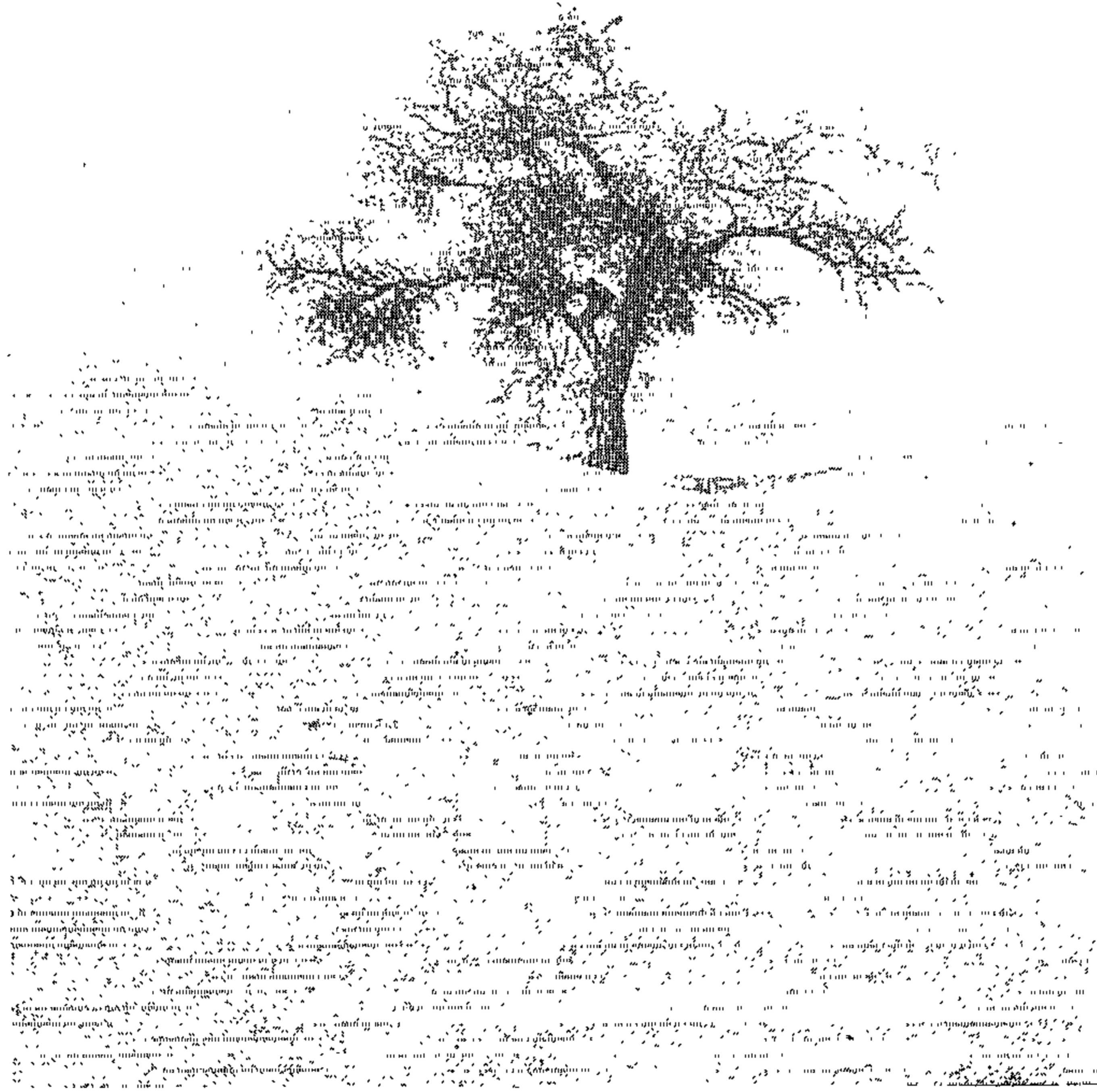
A report by the Panos Institute, "Whose Trees? A People's View of Forestry Aid", asks the question: "Why has foreign aid had such minimal impact on peoples' lives?"

The history of forestry in Africa has been characterised by a top-down approach. "Few colonial foresters saw any connection between forests and the people who lived in, around and off them," say the authors.

Furthermore, "their traditional rights to use the forest and their substantial fund of knowledge about its resources were largely ignored. Local communities were seen at best as sources of labour, at worst as illegal encroachers."

After independence, forestry departments in Africa inherited much of the infrastructure and attitudes of the colonial structures they replaced. As a result most people were dispossessed of "their" forests in the national interest.

After the oil crisis the role of trees as fuel became more important. Coupled with the impact of drought throughout most of the Sahel (in Central Africa), planting trees was seen as one of the only ways of halting desertification. Suddenly knowledge of planting was in demand and by the eighties the emphasis of forestry had moved away from the national interest to people.



ENCROACHING DESERT: Sole survivor of a once-forested area in Sudan

"Whose Trees?" assesses three Finnish-funded forestry projects in Sudan, Nepal, and Tanzania. Each study highlights problems aid donors face trying to put into practice principles of sustainable development.

The White Nile project in Sudan shows the difficulties of balancing people's immediate need for food with the long-term need to reverse severe environmental degradation.

The project's priority was to halt desertification and restore plant cover to the Sudanese land-

scape. The authors ask whether it is really feasible to talk about sustainable forestry in semi-desert areas, where most tree cover has been destroyed and shifting sand dunes dominate the landscape. The project uses advanced technology to produce impressive results and there is a danger these results cannot be maintained.

If Finnish funds are withdrawn the project will collapse and it is argued the situation is urgent enough to warrant a technological "quick fix".

Yet the threat of environmental degradation

remains and is rooted in rural poverty.

The East Usambra project in Tanzania illustrates the problem of reconciling national revenue demands, international conservation concerns and local livelihoods. Finnish aid has a bad reputation in East Usambra due to its support for Sikh saw mills which "ended up almost turning the area into a semi-desert by logging trees haphazardly"

The latest project is an attempt to put this behind them. Instead of exploiting timber, the aim is to halt growing encroachment on the Tropical Forest, to preserve rare species and to stabilise water supplies. But, a farmer from the area asks: "For whom are they protecting the forest?"

WHILE THE success of the project hinges on establishing effective community participation, most villagers canvassed by the authors were unaware of the impending project.

In Nepal, the Hill Forest Development project is a relative success due to attempts to involve the community in managing forest resources. But the project also shows the difficulty of finding mechanisms for such participation, particularly when social and political systems inhibit grass-roots involvement.

For Nepal's poor, wood is the major source of energy for cooking. Unfortunately, good fuelwood is scarce as most forests have been cleared for agriculture or are thinning dramatically.

Although hampered by inadequacies in original planning, the Hill Forest Development has concentrated on forest rehabilitation and has had a measure of success. The project's aim to meet fuel needs emphasises forest management and the natural regeneration of the forest hills.

However, the intention to hand forest management to affected communities has been hampered by political and cultural stratification in Nepalese society. Important decisions have been taken by officials who lack forestry experience, according to the authors, while the caste system has resulted in village committees being controlled by those of the upper caste.

Often the result is decisions are seen as coming from above and, in these instances, have not acted to prevent encroachment on forest reserves. Successful management of the world's forests will be a dream as long as abject poverty continues to make people dependent on the land and forests.

"There are, invariably, conflicts of interest between local people, governments and donor agencies," say the authors. They believe these conflicts cannot be satisfactorily resolved unless local people "have the power to critically question the relevance of foreign aid to their daily lives". □

A PARTIED UPROOTED millions of black people and dumped them in barren townships — fenced in by highways, railway lines and industrial areas.

Now a multitude of organisations has sprung up in these communities, spreading the idea of greening the townships.

Ms Farieda Khan, an organiser of the National Botanical Institute's community greening programme, says: "We feel that greening one's surroundings is more than cleaning up but that it is in fact an issue of empowerment. It is a constructive action that people can do in order to enhance the quality of their lives. At the same time we realise it is just one factor of a broad programme of social transformation."

The programme is at an early stage and has held a number of preparatory workshops with community based organisations, civic associations and environmentally aware groups and youth organisations.

Workshops have covered practical issues such as finding substitutes for expensive horticultural tools, composting, how to cultivate indigenous plants and where to get those plants for free. Both Kirstenbosch and UWC have facilities to give people advice on planting and, says Khan, "the idea is to make the NBI and Kirstenbosch user-friendly and a really community-based organisation".

According to Khan, the response has been overwhelming. "What I want to emphasise is

Greening townships for empowerment

South 512-1112191

that it is not a question of the NBI going out as the 'experts'. There are, in fact, several environmental programmes which are up and running and which we are liaising with."

At their last workshop it was decided the organisation had to go into the townships. But such plans have been beset by the reality of township life.

"We did try to hold a workshop in Guguletu but had to cancel because of violence at the time."

The organisation, however, is planning to hold a workshop in Khayelisha early next year and any community organisations which are interested in targeting environmental poverty are welcome, says Khan.

Abalimi Bezekhaya (planters of the home) is a long standing community-based greening and food gardening project, having found a place on the Cape Flats since 1983.

An ambitious project entitled "The Cape Flats Townships Greening Project" was launched by the organisation recently.

"This project is a response to the rapidly growing efforts of township residents to combat the very real prospect of an urban desert,

with severely polluted groundwater and air resources," says Mr Rob Small.

They aim to plant one million trees in the Cape Flats townships with the help of township residents and community structures.

"Trees combat air pollution by capturing and binding large quantities of carbon dioxide while producing plenty of clean oxygen. They stabilise the shifting sand and help purify the groundwater. They create protected areas in which recreational and productive food gardens can flourish," says Small.

Greening is not without problems: "There are hundreds of people strongly interested in planting and greening. The major difficulty is the actual environment. It is so incredibly harsh. The sporadic unres is also problematic," Small says.

An example of grassroots environmental activism in the townships is the Khayelisha Youth Environmental Group, initiated by Ms Zoleka Pasiya.

After being inspired by a conference on the environment in June, Pasiya founded the group whose main activities have centred on countering rubbish removal problems.

"We have about 100 youths in Site J and we clean up the area each month," says Pasiya. The group is also in the process of transforming derelict plots into parks in the hope they will enrich the environment as well as being platforms for the community to socialise.

A group of Athlone schools, among them Alexander Sinton and Belgravia High, are already at an advanced stage of environmental education.

The schools have constructed outdoor nature areas incorporating indigenous plants. The plan is to educate while enriching the environment. The nature gardens will attract birds to an area denuded of trees and vegetation by apartheid.

In most instances those involved in greening the Cape Flats expressed the desire for more co-ordination.

"The more co-ordination the better, because what there is at the moment is very little," says Small.

"Communities on the Cape Flats share many of the same problems, whether they be social or environmental. It is important that they can exchange ideas and learn from each others' solutions," says Khan. □

DAVE LEWIS

SOUTH 2

December 5 to December 11 1991

SA may yet be on EC agenda

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — The question of European Community sanctions against South Africa could still force its way onto the agenda at next week's summit in Holland.

Although EC foreign ministers voted earlier this year to scrap sanctions against South Africa, the move was later blocked. But it is expected the summit will be dominated by negotiations on EC unity.

56 CT 4/12/91

Tourism 'beats mining for jobs'

By Julienne du Toit

St Lucia, already under pressure from proposed titanium mining, would be even more threatened by a future government trying to provide jobs and wealth, says Natal Parks Board conservator Gordon Forrest.

Mr Forrest, conservator of St Lucia's eastern shores, where the proposed mining could take place, said tourism was a far more reliable, long-term source of jobs and income than mining.

Mr Forrest referred to a report put out recently by the Natal Parks Board detailing tourist potential for the eastern shores. It said 3 250 overnight visitors could eventually be accommodated.

Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), the company making a bid for mining Lake St Lucia's titanium, says it would provide about 760 jobs for about 20 years.

Mr Forrest added "there was no way" RBM could fully rehabilitate the dunes they proposed mining.

RBM public relations manager Barry Clements said RBM had never promoted a mining-only concept and believed that mining and tourism could co-exist.

"But when comparing mining potential and tourism, one cannot deny that mining will generate about R238 million in foreign currency per annum from the St Lucia reserves — while the whole of the tourist industry in Natal including Durban, the South Coast and Drakensburg generates about R400 million in total," he said.

Sea samples 'unacceptable'

By PETER DENNEHY
Municipal Reporter

WATER at eight sampling sites between Table Bay breakwater and Graaff's Pool have had faecal coliform counts which put them outside the acceptable water quality guideline for bathing water.

According to the council's latest annual water quality report, the broken Green Point sewage outfall pipe has led to the failure of five of these sites to comply with the required standard.

Three Anchor Bay, Rocklands and Graaff's Pool did not comply either, but in these cases, the report said, the problems were due to contaminated stormwater. A council spokesman said the stormwater run-offs had been particularly heavy this year because of the unusual amount of rain.

The European Community bathing water standard, which is also used in South Africa, requires that the faecal coliform count must be 100 or less in every 100ml, at least 80% of the time.

Counts of over 2 000 were taken at the Green Point

outfall.

Faecal coliforms are not harmful organisms in themselves, but they are regarded as a reliable indicator of organic material from humans or animals in the water.

On the False Bay side, the treated discharge from the Mitchells Plain sewage works did not meet bathing water criteria either.

● The council has accepted a tender of over R700 000 for the building of "Tian's wall", a barrier along Settler's Way where DP MP Mr Tian van der Merwe was killed in a head-on collision.

The wall is expected to go up early in the new year, if the provincial roads engineer gives the project his approval.

● According to statistics placed before the council yesterday, there were 157 fatalities in car accidents in the Cape Town municipal area in the first six months of this year.

● A proposal to move the council's Christmas tree from Greenmarket Square to Thibault Square was rejected yesterday. The cost would have been about R83 000.

56 CT 3/12/91

Hout Bay water to be monitored for pollution

CLIVE SAWYER Municipal Reporter

POLLUTION of Hout Bay water is to be monitored by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in preparation for a new sewage outfall, due to start operating in early 1993.

A liaison committee is to be formalised as the Hout Bay Outfall Technical Liaison Committee.

Members will be the Western Cape Regional Services Council and the departments of Water Affairs, National Health, and Environment Affairs, and consultants employed by the four bodies.

Microbiological analysis of the region by the CSIR started in 1984, but was taken over by the SA Institute of Medical Research in 1987.

However, approval has been given for a R114 000 contract for the CSIR to monitor marine pollution at 12 points in Hout Bay for a year.

56 AUG 12/1991

Environment Council ⁽⁵⁾ slates beach rally plan

AG 12/12/91

JOHN YELD Environment Reporter

THE Council for the Environment has told Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar it is strongly opposed to the last leg of the Paris-Le Cap rally being allowed to take place on Milnerton beach.

Chairman Professor Roelf Botha said he had told Mr Pienaar yesterday this was the council's unanimous view and that it believed allowing the rally on the beach would harm South Africa's name in the international environmental community.

The council, whose members include some of South Africa's most prominent conservationists, has the statutory task of advising the Minister on all environmental issues.

Professor Botha said the full council had accepted the recommendation of its committees for coastal and marine systems and for terrestrial and freshwater systems, which had considered the rally and its proposed finish.

"Both committees expressed their strongest objections and recommended that the council advise the minister accordingly," Professor Botha said.

The reasons for this decision were, among others, that the council had been opposed for many years to off-road vehicles misusing the coastal zone, Professor Botha said.

"We had sought ways and means of limiting or banning vehicles from beaches and drew up a document on this subject which included proposals for regulations.

"On this issue of principle there is no way we could align ourselves with the use of the beach and the associated dune systems."

The council had taken note of assurances from both Milnerton municipality and the South African organisers, Motor Racing Enterprises, that they would limit vehicles to the inter-tidal zone, Professor Botha said.

But the council's opinion was that all parts of the beach were equally sensitive.

"The whole ecological system will be endangered by such high-intensity usage," he said.

"Also, there is no way we could be convinced that control of the spectators could be achieved so that destruction of the dune system could be prevented."

The council believed that allowing the rally on the beach would harm South Africa's name in the international environmental community, Professor Botha said.

"Instead of making an exception for such a rally, which would obviously be of world-wide interest, it is South Africa's responsibility to make known to the world that we are totally committed to the protection of our sensitive ecological systems.

"And that message is of greater importance than of making an exception in this case. This is what I advised the Minister."

The council had also noted "with full support" the objections of the Cape provincial administration and the Cape nature conservation department to the beach rally proposal, Professor Botha added.

"I also advised the Minister he should align himself with the Administrator's stand in this issue," he said.



Environment law group (56) launched ^{STAR} 12/1/79

The Environmental Law Association was launched in Durban on Tuesday night, with guest speaker Mr Justice Kumleben calling for more comprehensive enforcement of existing legislation.

Mr Justice Kumleben pointed out that there had never been a prosecution for air pollution in the country. And when Sappi polluted the Elands River last year, the company had to pay a R6 000 fine.

A similar case of pollution of the Mersey River in the UK cost the Shell Company £1,5 million.

He said lawyers could make a crucial contribution in the field of environmental protection.

Replying to Mr Justice Kumleben's speech, the first chairman of the association, Norman Brauteseth, said his first official act was to support the call for the inclusion of a right to a healthy environment in a bill of rights in the new SA. — Staff Reporter.



PATCHES CHECKED . . . Mr David Hersch (in bow tie), Mayor Mr Frank van der Velde (centre) and city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton debate the essence of brown patches in the water off Green and Sea Point.

PICTURE: Stewart Colman

Council trip shows beaches not polluted by sewage ⁽⁵⁶⁾

CT 13/12/91

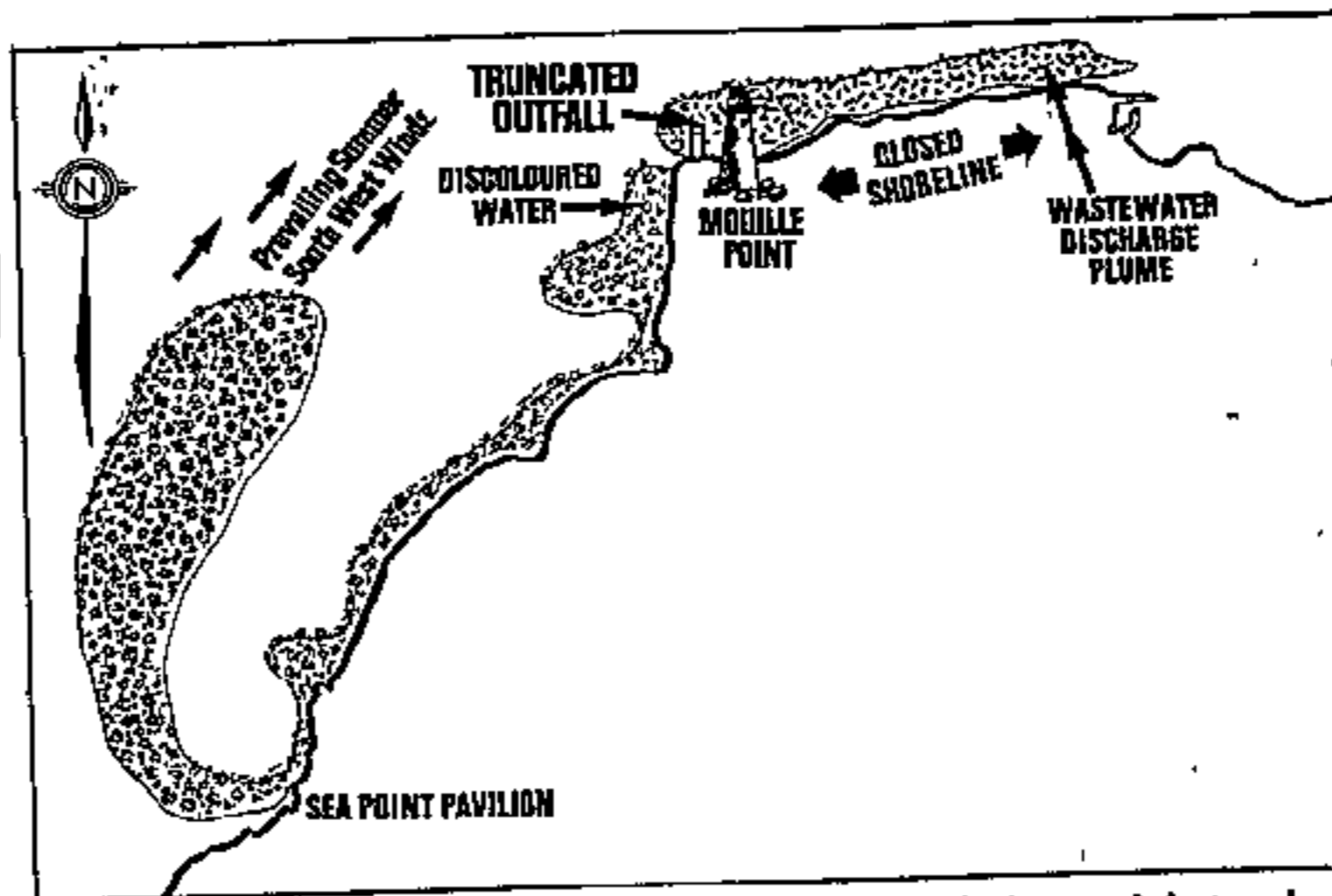
CITY beaches from Green Point to the Sea Point Pavilion are not polluted by sewage, the city council showed reporters yesterday.

But reporter Mr David Hersch, who broadcasts radio beach reports from the air, was unrepentant yesterday during a boat trip to inspect an extensive brown "slick" off the coastline.

Mr Hersch has claimed that the slick was caused by the Green Point sewage outfall pipe.

The Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Frank van der Velde, city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton and senior officials took reporters to the scene of the sighting — between Granger Bay and the Sea Point Pavilion.

The boat went to the site where the broken sewage outfall pipe dis-



STAINS? . . . The larger slick (left) is said to be caused by kelp particles welling up from the depths. The other (top right), the council concedes, comes from the broken outfall pipe. Swimming is inadvisable on the right of the lighthouse.

charges, 270 metres offshore from the Mouille Point lighthouse. The pipe there is 11m deep.

The water was stained brown at the outfall point, but not for more

than a radius of about 100m.

Mr Clayton said that on Monday his staff had tested samples of brown water from a plume extending from southern

Mouille Point to Sea Point Pavilion and found that the colour was due to minute particles of kelp.

Mr Hersch said his best sighting of the plume had been nine days before the tests.

The boat searched for other brown water but none was found yesterday.

Mr Clayton said that by May next year, if the R27-million contract to fix the broken pipe ran according to schedule, the Green Point outfall pipe would discharge a kilometre offshore.

A year later, the repairs should be complete. Contractors were on site yesterday, drilling holes in the undersea rock. A trench is to be blasted into the rock, and the sewage pipe will be concreted into it.

Sanlam denies kaolin controversy reports

Environment Reporter (56) ARG-13/12/91

SANLAM has taken issue with the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group over what was said at a meeting between them regarding the Noordhoek kaolin mine issue.

Action group spokesman Mr John Butterfield said in a statement after meeting Sanlam's chief legal adviser and secretary Mr Emel Linde that the insurance giant had undertaken to confer with its group of companies — Federale Volksbeleggings — "in a bid to encourage them to take appropriate action" to get the proposed mine halted.

"Mr Linde acknowledged that the only acceptable solution in the public's eyes will be the redirection of Serina out of the Cape Peninsula," Mr Butterfield's statement said.

But Mr Linde denies he made these statements.

"What I have done was to explain that we are not in a position to give instructions to any of the companies concerned," he said.

Conservationists offer to buy Sandy Bay for R2,8m

56
ARG 13/12/91

STEWART ALCOCK Staff Reporter

WORRIED conservationists have offered to buy Sandy Bay for R2,8-million from the present owners, Bankorp, who created a stir when they commissioned an environmental impact study in January this year, which included an option to develop.

A letter addressed to Bankorp was handed to Mr Chris Mulder, managing director of the firm of consultants hired by Bankorp, asking them to give conservationists the option of buying Sandy Bay.

Ms Lisa Kruger-Liptrot, who represented the conservationists, said this was a fair price for the land, which she claimed was only valued at R54 000 by the Regional Services Council, and had been bought by the present owners in 1981 for R700 000.

"Sandy Bay is an albatross hanging around Bankorp's neck and we are making them what we consider a face-saving offer. Big business and profits must give way to conservation," she said.

"Maybe they could make more by developing the land, but they would lose much more in the way of bad publicity," she added.

The group she represented planned to raise the money by selling "shares" to the public, who would then form a board of trustees to preserve Sandy Bay.

Mr Mulder replied that one of the options in his original study was similar to what was being proposed, and that this was "still a definite possibility".

But Ms Kruger-Liptrot accused Mr Mulder of being the "hatchet-man" for numerous companies who wanted to develop environmentally sensitive areas, and that his studies "only led to development".

"We have been accused of being too emotional about this whole thing, but believe me they haven't seen anything yet if they try and develop Sandy Bay," she vowed.

Mr Mulder said it was generally agreed that the area could not stay as it was, as it was badly degraded through overuse.

"Even if it means raising funds for maintenance by charging an entrance fee, and building toilets and a carpark, something has to be done," he said.

The conservationists admitted that a carpark and toilet facilities looked inevitable, and that the area may in the future be fenced off and a fee charged to provide funds for maintenance.

"But if they try and develop a housing estate or something, believe me there'll be a lynching," said Ms Kruger-Liptrot.

Half municipal dumps 'leaking toxic waste' ⁽⁵⁾

ARG 13/12/91

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

ABOUT 90 percent of South Africa's municipal dumping sites are not properly managed, and more than half are leaking toxic substances into water and air, claims the chairman of a waste disposal company.

Mr Geoff Wood said a President's Council report found that about two-thirds of South Africa's official waste dumping sites posed serious health and pollution problems.

However, the situation was worse than that reported by the President's Council, Mr Wood said.

About half of the municipal dumping sites in the country polluted water with leachates which could be 200 times more toxic than raw sewage.

"Slightly more pollute the air — just over a third are public health risks and almost all are eyesores," he said.

The amended Environmental Conservation Act, which required licensing of disposal sites and higher standards of management, had "almost no effect" on the situation, Mr Wood said.

Few sites had been licensed, even though the Act had been in force for two years.

"Most are still being operated with complete disregard for its requirements."

These requirements included reports on environmental impact, geohydrological and engineering reports, and acceptable operations, maintenance and water quality monitoring plans.

"Municipalities are finding that after years of treating waste disposal as a low-priority, low-budget item, they have neither the expertise nor the means to address the problem.

"Our cities have noxious rubbish dumps which cannot handle the present waste stream, let alone the additional volumes which are being created by our rapid population growth and high rate of urbanisation," Mr Wood said.

A survey by his company had found that 44 percent of local authorities had landfill sites which could handle only another five years' waste, while 42 percent would be able to handle waste for only another 20 years.

City council director of cleansing services, Mr Tom de Bruin, said the real percentages were "somewhat different" from those quoted by Mr Wood.

"The major city authorities and major private companies handle, together, about half of all the waste produced in South Africa, and do so in a responsible manner," he said.

The three sites run by Cape Town City Council for the Western Cape region are run according to the requirements of the Departments of Water Affairs and the Environment, and applications for licenses have been made.

Careful planning meant Cape Town had enough waste disposal facilities for the next 20 years.

Pollution control on Cape Town sites was "very intensive" and was monitored by outside consultants.

The sites were surrounded by boreholes and were monitored for negative effects on the adjacent groundwater.

50 ADG 14/12/91

'War' declared as Kaolin saga hots up



KEY PLAYERS: From left, Serina's executive director Mr. Andre Viljoen with Serina chairman Mr. Bill Paverd and Save Chapman's Peak Action Group representative Mr. Ian Brownlie after their meeting at Serina's Fish Hoek kaolin mine this week.

PATRICK FARRELL

Weekend Argus Reporter

BATTLE lines have been drawn in the Chapman's Peak kaolin mine saga with neither the mining company or protesters willing to budge from their standpoints.

At a meeting held on Thursday at mining company Serina's Fish Hoek kaolin mine, representatives from Serina and the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, who oppose the mine, had a face-to-face discussion over the latest war of words surrounding recent adverts placed by the two groups in newspapers.

Both Serina and the SCPAG have made representations to the Advertising Standards Authority regarding each others' adverts.

At the meeting Serina chairman, Mr. Bill Paverd, said nothing except legal action would stop the company from mining kaolin on the Chapman's Peak site.

"I don't see how they can stop us with legal means because we have a legal right to mine the site, which we are going to do," he said.

Mr. Paverd said the kaolin was of strategic value for the country and the company had invested a large amount of effort and money in the proposed mine.

He confirmed that even if other viable deposits of kaolin were discovered the company would still mine the Chapman's Peak site first.

"We have a duty to our workers, management and the country," he said.

Mr. Ian Brownlie, representative of the SCPAG, was equally grim about the group's stand on the issue.

"Wait and see what we do," was all he would divulge about the SCPAG's plans.

He refused to elaborate, but did say the group would go "all out" to stop the mine.

He said the plans for the mine should be halted until further tests and evaluation was done on all other possible kaolin sites to determine their viability.

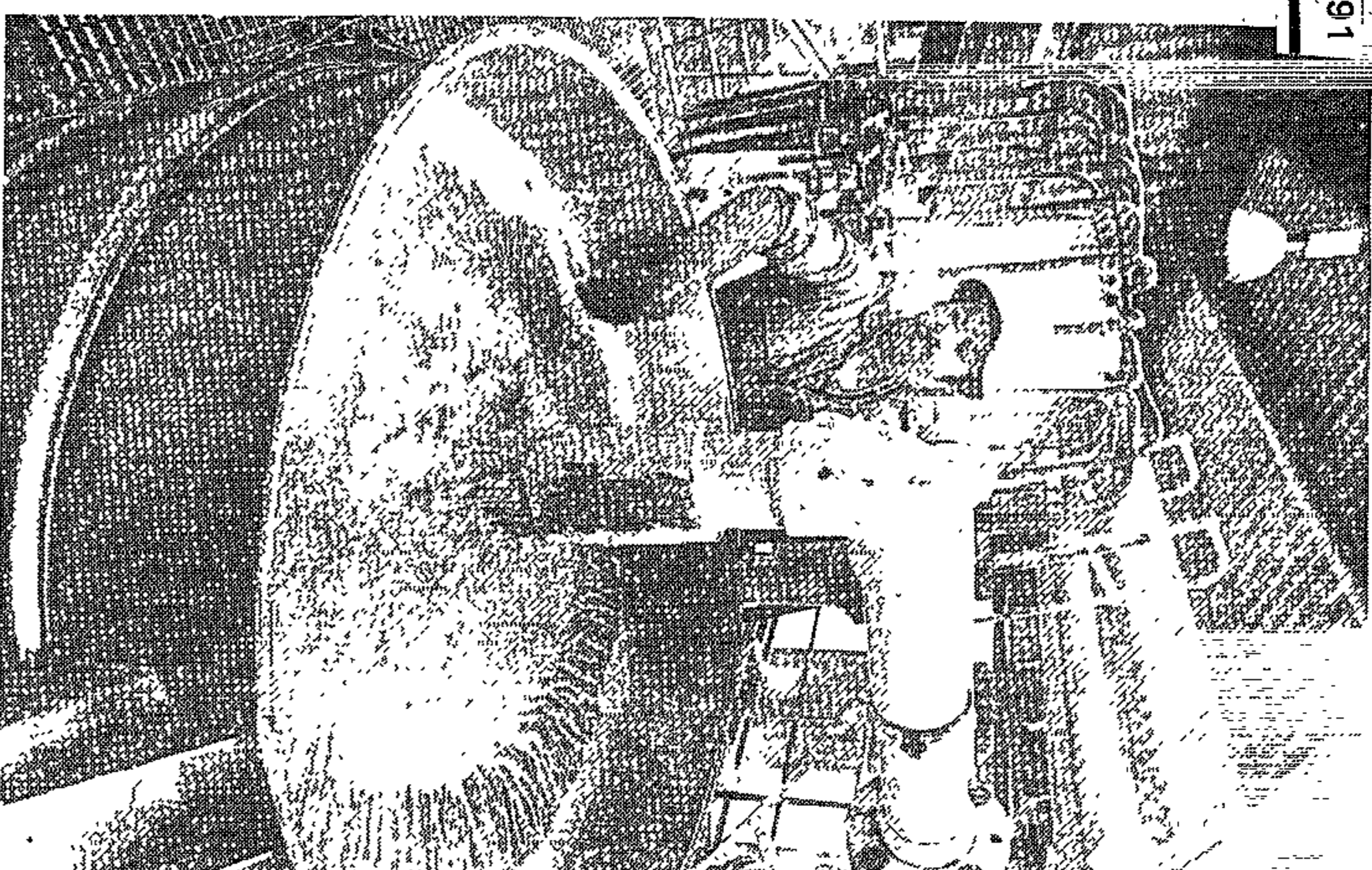
"The proposed mine is in an environmentally sensitive area as well as an area that attracts a large amount of tourists," he pointed out.

Mr. Brownlie hinted he would take a less hardline view of the proposed mine if it could be proved that no other viable kaolin deposits existed elsewhere.

The kaolin battle has been raging for some years since Serina announced plans to build a new mine on a site in the Noordhoek Valley bordering the famous Chapman's Peak drive, creating a public outcry.

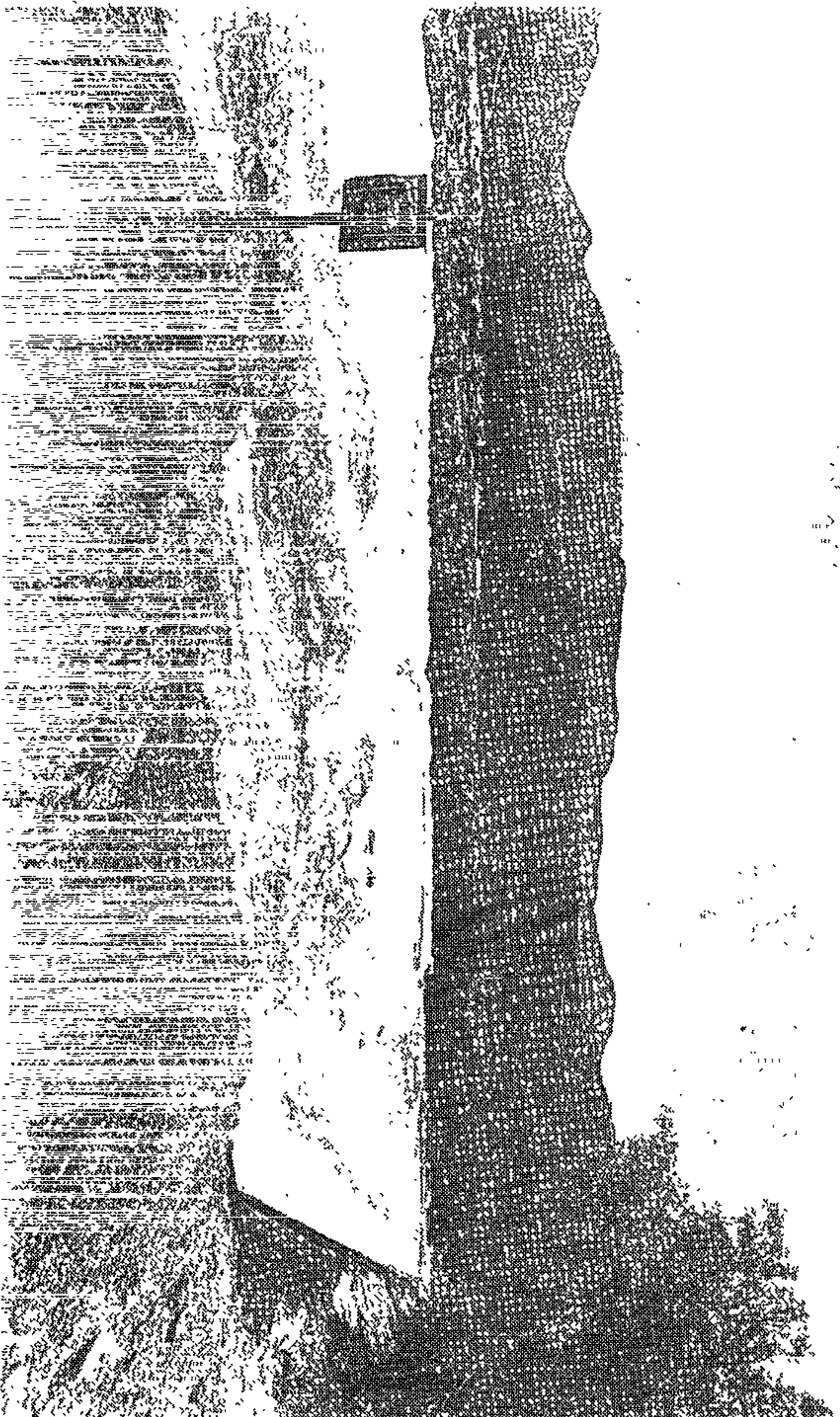
They already have been mining kaolin at a mine in the Fish Hoek valley since the 1960s.

Kaolin is a type of clay which is used in the paper, paint and ceramic industries.



Pictures: BRENTON GEACH, Weekend Argus.

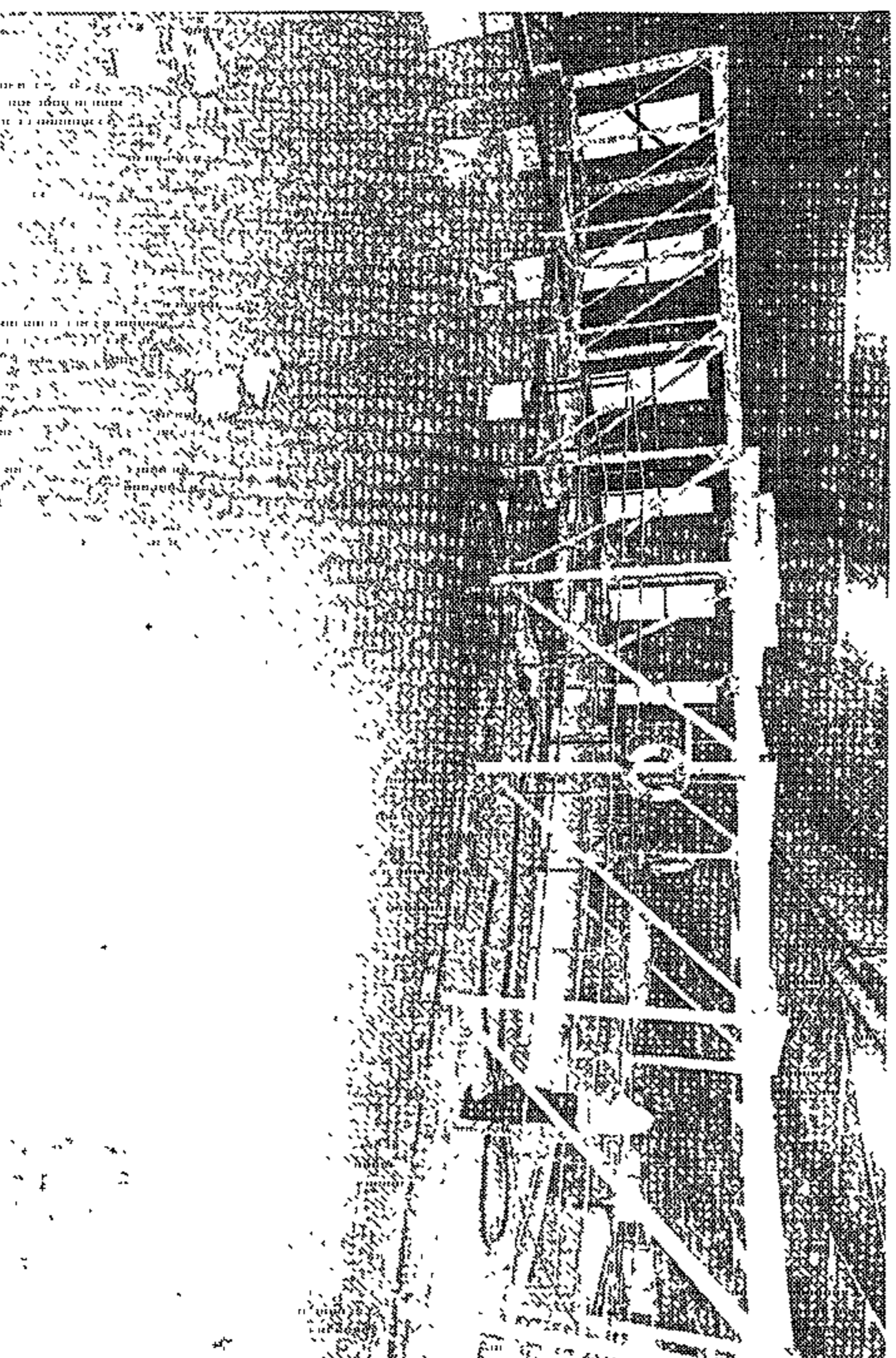
WASH TANK: Factory employee Thomas Mitchell checks the raw kaolin as it runs through a washing tank at the Fish Hoek kaolin mine.



DAMBUSTERS: The three dams, left, at the Fish Hoek kaolin plant where water from the kaolin washing process is filtered and stored.

□□□□

TANKED UP: Serina executive director Mr. Andre Viljoen, right, with the washing tank at the company's Fish Hoek plant where the raw kaolin is washed and filtered.



Unleaded petrol to be available in SA by 1995

HEIKE VON DER LANCKEN
Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Unleaded petrol is to be made available in South Africa "as soon as possible," Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett has announced.

"It can be expected that unleaded petrol will be generally available by 1995, allowing the oil industry sufficient time to install the required production facilities," he said in a statement late yesterday.

Mr Bartlett said the decision to introduce an unleaded grade of petrol was based on technical and economical grounds, although "consideration was also given to health and environmental aspects".

"The move to unleaded engine technology is expected to benefit the South African motor industry and should result in additional export opportunities.

"Modern engines designed by the world's major motor vehicle manufacturers to operate on unleaded fuel are fuel-efficient and technologically more advanced, but not more expensive than engines based on leaded petrol," he said.

Chief director of environment conservation Mr Sydney Gerber said the move to introduce unleaded petrol was "altogether to be welcomed", both on the environ-

mental and economic front.
"Lead-free petrol will not only promote a cleaner environment, but also the motor industry," he said.

Catalysators to filter exhaust fumes could now be manufactured in the country, whereas this was not feasible in the past, since catalysators could not be used in cars running on leaded petrol, Mr Gerber said.

However, the cost of producing unleaded petrol was marginally higher than leaded petrol.

"Unleaded petrol will require further refining to increase the octane rating, which in the past was achieved by adding lead to the petrol," Mr Gerber explained.

"It is difficult to give an exact indication of the price per litre of unleaded petrol, but based on the present price structure this should be about 5 cents to 10 cents more than leaded petrol," he said.

However, Mr Bartlett said a decision had been taken to allow fuel tax adjustments so that unleaded petrol could initially be sold at a lower price than leaded petrol.

Leaded petrol will be available for as long as required by the motoring public, although it is likely that unleaded petrol will replace the lower octane grade of petrol currently available, he said.

56 ARG 14/12/91

Safety ruling to protect workers

S/Times (CM)

15/12/91

By FRED ROFFEY

THE campaign for environmental awareness and action is being tackled vigorously on several fronts — including the government, trade unions, Cape Town City Council and leading Cape businesses and retailers such as Pick 'n Pay.

The latest government move is a ruling by the Department of Manpower on the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, which places responsibility for worker safety in the hands of employers and manufacturers of personal protective equipment.

"In the past an employer could purchase inferior equipment and not be held directly responsible for industrial-related diseases," said Ivan Pretorius, technical affairs specialist at 3 M's occupational health and environmental safety division.

"Now he has a duty not only to identify the need for protection but to train his staff adequately.

3 M, one of South Africa's major producers of respiratory protective equipment, has criticised employers, manufacturers and suppliers, saying they often failed to identify adequately the type of protection needed for workers, used inadequate equipment which did not give proper protection and did not train workers correctly in the use of protective equipment.

"Approximately R1,5-million was paid out to workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act during 1988 as a result of respiratory problems generated by various contaminants including silica, asbestos, mercury and cotton dust," said Mr Pretorius.

"These costs were caused by unsafe working conditions and exclude loss of productivity.

"The employer is now compelled to specifically identify the nature of contaminants in the workplace, and the manufacturer and suppliers now has a duty to guarantee the level of protection that his product claims to give.

The move has been welcomed by trade unions

They point out that workers benefit directly from the ruling by the Department of Manpower, as they are assured of adequate protection and have legal resource against employers who fail to supply correct protection.

The wider issues of environmental awareness include vigilance to ensure that a healthy balance is maintained between

the need for economic growth and the need to protect a natural and historically built environment, as in the Cape.

The watchdog body that fulfills this role in Cape Town is the City Council's Environmental Advisory Committee, which includes not only councillors but representatives from a wide range of professional and other interested bodies, including the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce.

The objects of this committee are to consider, report upon and make recommendations to the City Council concerning important matters of environmental and aesthetic significance.

One of the companies in the forefront of preserving Cape Town's environment is Pick 'n Pay.

Its chairman, Raymond Ackerman, has become a member of the Geneva-based Business Council for Sustainable Development, an international body on which sit 50 chief executive officers of major companies. He represents the Southern Africa region and is one of four African members.

The committee is paving the way for the biggest environmental get-together ever — the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development called Earth Summit '92, in Rio de Janeiro next June.

Mr Ackerman has been invited to attend the conference, and his friend, Maurice Strong, who will be secretary-general of the conference, emphasises that what's good for environment can be good for development and business.

Mr Strong points out that Japan has the toughest air and water pollution regulations of any country, so forcing companies to become environment and energy conscious.

Now they use only half the energy per unit of production that the USA uses, which gives them a comparative advantage of at least five percent on energy alone.

South Africa is also becoming aware of energy saving as a new competitive edge.

Johann Basson, manager of electricity and energy efficiency at the National Energy Council, estimates the country's industrial, mining and commercial enterprises could save up to R1-billion a year by using energy more efficiently.

One of the first steps in this direction is a two-day international congress next year on June 8 and 9, organised by the Southern African Institute of Energy, where the business sector will disseminate information and use case studies on energy efficiency.

SA agrees to legislation to outlaw the dumping ⁽⁵⁾ of plastics into the sea _{ARG 16/12/91}

JOHN YELD Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa has agreed to an amended international convention which outlaws the dumping of all plastics at sea and tightens control of the dumping of other garbage in the marine environment.

President F W De Klerk has signed the amended International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (Marpol), and the Department of Transport said new regulations would be promulgated "in the new year".

In terms of the convention's new Annex 5, the dumping of all plastics — including synthetic ropes, synthetic fishing nets and plastic garbage bags — is prohibited.

Dumping of other garbage is regulated.

Food wastes, paper products, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery and similar refuse may not be dumped within 12 nautical miles of the coast.

If such material is ground up, it can be disposed of outside a three mile limit.

Non-plastic dunnage (material between cargo), lining and packing materials which float must be disposed of at least 25 nautical miles out to sea.

The convention also defines several

special areas where tougher regulations apply — the Mediterranean, Baltic, Black and Red seas, and the Gulf.

According to amended schedule, signatories must ensure there are adequate garbage disposal facilities in all harbours and terminals.

South Africa's agreement has been welcomed by the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, which has been campaigning for several years for this country to accept the new regulations, as part of its "prevent plastic pollution" programme.

Secretary Mrs Nan Rice said her organisation would employ a conservation officer to work in South African harbours next year.

"What we are going to try and do is initiate educational programmes in the harbours, mainly among fishermen by personal contact," she explained.

"At the same time, we will try to get fishing companies involved on a continuing basis. I have wanted to do this for some time, but my hands were tied because of a lack of legislation."

Mrs Rice said it appeared littering of the marine environment was increasing — "Hopefully our programme will help to curb this."

Tourism boost a threat to wildlife

56

AUG 16/12/91

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

HUNDREDS of thousands of foreign tourists are giving South Africa's economy a much-needed boost, but ironically they are also indirectly threatening some of the indigenous wildlife which attracts them in the first place.

Many of these tourists buy beautiful wildlife souvenirs, little realising they are made from the furs, hides, shells, feathers, teeth or flesh of creatures threatened with extinction.

This month a major initiative was launched at all the country's international airports to educate tourists about wildlife laws and

regulations governing the import, export, trade and sale of wildlife products.

The Department of Immigration has agreed to distribute nearly four million pamphlets each year to visitors arriving and leaving Jan Smuts, D F Malan and Louis Botha airports.

Called *Facts about Wildlife Laws*, the pamphlets are sponsored jointly by the SA Nature Foundation, Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife Society.

They point out that the illegal wildlife trade is ruthless, undermines the legal trade which often supports impoverished rural communities and puts the survival of numerous rare or endangered plants and animals at risk.

"In one year, as many as 40 000 live primates, four million live birds, 10 million reptile skins, 15 million pelts, one million orchids and 350 million tropical fish are traded — and one third of this is illegal."

They appeal to tourists to check before buying any wildlife product. "First make sure you can legally take it home. Don't rely on the assurances of the vendor."

The printing costs of the first 500 000 pamphlets has been sponsored by Gencor and the Department of Environment Affairs, and the organisers are urgently looking for more funds to continue the project.

Lead-free petrol move welcomed

PRETORIA. — Earthlife Africa has welcomed a government announcement that lead-free petrol will be available in South Africa from 1995.

Earthlife said 50% of human lead levels were derived from leaded petrol and studies had shown that even low doses of lead could damage human health, particularly that of babies and young children.

Sapa (56) 16/2/91

Former parks chief rejects mining at St Lucia

Staff Reporter

STAFF
16/12/91

The former chief executive of the National Parks Board, Dr Uys de V "Toi" Pienaar, has come out strongly against mining at St Lucia.

Sir Laurens van der Post, Dr Allen Heydorn and Dr Pienaar have become joint patrons of the Campaign for St. Lucia, campaigning for the promulgation of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park.

South African-born Sir Laurens, 85-year-old, adventurer, philosopher, author and guru to Prince Charles, is elder statesman of environmentalists worldwide.

At a recent conference he called for a new constitution to open with a declaration that "the first duty of every citizen of the new South Africa must be to care for, protect and rehabilitate the earth of Africa".

Dr. Heydorn, past chief of the Southern African Nature Foundation, said: "St Lucia is one of the most significant wetland systems, not only in South Africa but in the world.

"It is vital that one sees the system as a whole stretching from the sea into the catchments of rivers running into it."

Referring to the proposal to strip-mine the dunes forming the eastern shores of the lake,

he added: "Tourism is going to play an even greater role in the South African economy in the future, and no way can intensive industrial activity, such as dune mining, go hand in hand with tourism."

Dr Pienaar also condemned the mining option, but was hopeful the conservation cause would win.

"Do not forget that efforts by a much more powerful mining

concern, Iscor, to mine coal in the Kruger Park were thwarted by a similar united public outcry," he said.

Dr Pienaar said it was a classic case where the public had to decide what was in their and future generations' best interest — "short-term monetary gain for a mining company, with some offspin for the Government, versus long-term sustainable benefit, through wise management and eco-tourism".

For many it's a long tr

STAR 17/12/91

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Basic needs often neglected in rural communities

Along the road near the northern Transvaal town of Groblersdal there is sudden luxury. Plumes of tobacco plants rise row after row in irrigated fields. Rich and cool to the eye — a living assertion that water is magic.

The image barely fades in the 10 minutes it takes to drive to Mpheleng village in the Moutse district. Here the taps are often dry and residents say local officials warn them that if they insist on making bricks, they must expect to run short of water for domestic use.

"So it means that you can drink, but you will have no place to sleep," says Martha Matlala of the Mpheleng Water Committee.

The lack of access to safe water in rural areas is a measure of the extent to which basic needs have been neglected. Michael Sher of the Rural Advice Centre (RAC) says it is estimated that only 30 to 40 percent of rural people have ready access to "fairly" safe water. This figure lends weight to predictions that the first post-apartheid government will

face an avalanche of demands for services, beginning with the barest essentials.

Mrs Matlala speaks for that large constituency of women and children who labour daily to carry water a couple of kilometres to their homes. In the case of Mpheleng this is because most of the communal taps in the village run dry most of the time — and only one row of taps, on the edge of the settlement, is reliable.

Struggle

"Even the children carry 50 litres — it's a long way and a waste of time to bring less. Every day it's a matter of three to four hours."

The alternative is to buy water by the drum. Close to the source it costs R2,50 for 100 litres, further away R5.

After months of struggling with an unpredictable supply, the Mpheleng Water Committee was formed in June. It tried talking to officials

and when this proved fruitless the women of Mpheleng mounted a demonstration. This too failed to get officials to get the water flowing.

Mrs Matlala feels they are being cheated: "We pay our taxes. Surely water is not a lot to ask?" But she also suspects that it would be easier for the people themselves to embark on a development scheme to upgrade the supply and get it into working order.

This was the route chosen by residents of Tooseng, a village of about 5 000 people some 100 km north of Mpheleng. Before they initiated their project with the help of the RAC, there were only two stand-pipes and two natural wells in the village.

In less than a year since the physical work began, the last trenches are being dug in the furthest street of the village. Every street has three or four taps now — the maximum the water pressure will bear.

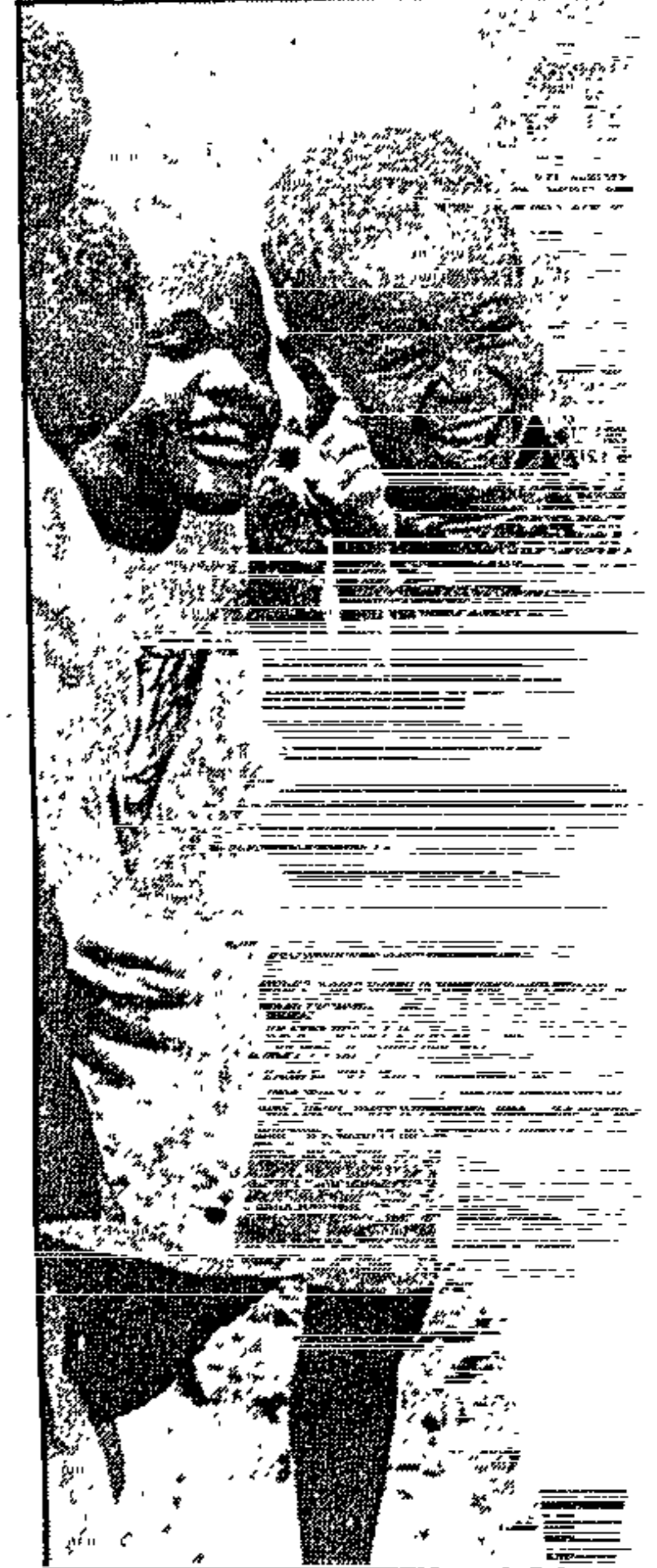
It has been heavy going. In places, fires have to be built under the white dolomitic rock and water poured over it to cause it to shatter. "The community dug the holes themselves — mostly the ladies. They were so willing because they were suffering from thirst," says headman Kgoadiamoleke Mphahlele.

Headman Mphahlele says his role was to conduct the early negotiations with the RAC "and then I put these things in the hands of the committee".

According to Elias Mphahlele, chairman of the Tooseng Water Committee, more than a year was spent fund-raising before the digging and laying of the pipes began.

Throughout, the committee has had access to a field worker from the RAC, which utilises the unusual combination of community workers, engineers and financial advisers in rural development projects.

With a small consignment of materials still outstanding, the project has cost R55 000, committee members say. Of this, about 20 percent was raised in the community and the rest contributed by two multinational corporations.



Tapping in to delight . . . messing

The committee's secretary Martha Mphahlele explains that residents were organised street by street to dig the trenches in front of their homes. They gained the technical skills needed for laying pipes, connecting them and erected stand-pipes.

Infection

RAC fieldworker Philemon Masha says some residents were reluctant to do a job which they saw as the government's. But Mrs Mphahlele says the success of the project outweighed this sentiment. "Our project has become an example to others in Lebowa. We are telling them not to fold their arms and say the government will provide."

She and other women confirm that readily available water has enabled them to plant gardens and extend their homes. On a busy day — with laundry to do —

they find a household easily uses between 100 and 200 litres.

Mr Sher says consumption usually rises sharply when water is conveniently supplied. And this has health implications, for it is quantity rather than quality of water that counts in relation to infection.

He notes that the United Nations sustained a decade-long campaign in the '80s to bring safe water to all homes. This UN decade simply passed South Africa by.

RAC worker Emily Singili says she has met women in Sekhukhune-land who rise at 3.30 am to get to the water source up in the mountains before it dries up.

Her colleague Mimi Sesoko says rural girls stay out of classes, watching and waiting at the spring for the water to rise. "The distance rural women cover collectively in fetching water . . . is like going to the moon and back."

In the u-tee men water

GOUGH COOPER HOMES

— ON THE MOVE —

WE HAVE RELOCATED OUR OFFICES TO RIVONIA

1st FLOOR, RIVONIA BOULEVARD, RIVONIA
PO BOX 3951, RIVONIA 2128

GOUGH COOPER HOMES

TEL: 803-6021

FAX: 803-1324

YOU CAN'T DO BETTER!

long trek to fetch water

heavy fires under rock... it... the... They... from

con-... and... in

Ellas of... year... and

to... the... of... ad-

Of



Tapping in to delight... messing with water is a new-found joy at the creche in Tooseng village.

Pictures: Jacob Rykliff

they find a household easily uses between 100 and 200 litres.

Mr Sher says consumption usually rises sharply when water is conveniently supplied. And this has health implications, for it is quantity rather than quality of water that counts in relation to infection.

He notes that the United Nations sustained a decade-long campaign in the '80s to bring safe water to all homes. This UN decade simply passed South Africa by.

RAC worker Emily Singili says she has met women in Sekhukhune-land who rise at 3.30 am to get to the water source up in the mountains before it dries up.

Her colleague Mimi Sesoko says rural girls stay out of classes, watching and waiting at the spring for the water to rise. "The distance rural women cover collectively in fetching water... is like going to the moon and back."



In the trenches... Tooseng Water Committee members show the form which brought water within reach of every resident.

Water pump would do wonders for villagers

By Susan Smuts

Community life in the Lebowa village of Diphagane centres on a small muddy river. There the children play, clothes are washed, water is drawn for several village industries and, in the absence of toilets, ablutions are performed nearby.

Since there is no other source, drinking water is drawn from the same river — an obvious health hazard.

"The scarcity of water, especially in winter when water lies below the sand, threatens the local development programme and the livelihood of thousands of villagers who depend on the precious liquid.

Until 1989 they had a

borehole pump, but lost it to a political rival in the area when Ryan Sekhukhune, one of two men claiming paramount chieftaincy (the other is K K Sekhukhune), allegedly removed the motor. Up to 100 000 people in Diphagane and surrounding villages depend on the river, some walking up to 2 km a day to fetch water.

Solomon Tjatje of the Sekhukhune Advice Office blames Ryan Sekhukhune for removing the pump's engine.

"He went to the magistrate and said the pump should be taken away because people were fighting about it, but this is not true."

The advice office approached the Lebowa Water Affairs Depart-

ment, which brought a tank within weeks. Two months later, instead of bringing the engine back, they took away the tank.

"(Later) Ryan came to the pump and told the people he was the chief — the big man, the owner of the village. He said he had the right to take the pump," Mr Tjatje said.

The advice office is negotiating with the Lebowa authorities for the return of the original pump. It is also raising funds for a new one.

Mr Tjatje illustrates the importance of the borehole to the villagers with a few examples:

● During the building of a school block, tractors had to be hired to fetch water from the river and extra labour had to be paid for. With a pump, nine could have been

Cableway house sales fall through

JOHN YELD Environment Reporter

A NUMBER of property sales in Boundary Road, Green Point, have fallen through as a result of the proposed cableway to the summit of Signal Hill.

This was one of the points made at a meeting this week between ward councillors Mr Neil Ross and Mr Norman Osburn, MP Mr Hennie Bester, residents, an attorney and representatives of the developers.

However, the developers have also undertaken to consider alternative routes.

According to the minutes, the meeting was called by residents to explain to their elected representatives their objections to the cableway proposal.

Speaking for the residents were Captain Peter Moon, chairman of the body corporate of the High-strand complex in Boundary Road, and Ughetta Parenti and Arthur Quinton, both of whom live in the complex.

They told the developers that about 200 owners would be "directly and seriously" affected.

"The privacy of at least another 250 will be partially affected. All of the above will suffer substantial reduction in their property values. Already, owners on Boundary Road have unsaleable properties," the minutes read.

Mr Quinton pointed out that the timing of the Press release about the proposed development was "iniquitous".

"It had knocked millions off the property values of homes, just before Christmas, which could have been the ideal time for sellers to get rid of their properties. A number of sales fell through as a result of this.

"In the meantime, the developers had apparently acquired two properties in Boundary Road to accommodate pylons," the minutes stated.

Points made by the residents included:

- Asking the developers to present plans for an alternative route over the commercial area of Cape Town in the area of Chiappini Street — a move supported by the ward councillors;

- Rejecting any form of compensation; and

- Proposing that the capacity of the existing cableway up Table Mountain be doubled as an alternative.

Planner Mr Ken Sturgeon, for the developers, assured the objectors a full presentation showing the existing proposal and the alternative route would be undertaken.

They would also submit a "statement of intent" shortly to which the public would be asked to object.

"The meeting ended with the developers apologising for what appeared to be an underhand approach and assured everyone that an alternative route would be proposed for discussion," the minutes stated.

MP Mr Hennie Bester has offered his services "to mediate between the parties so as to facilitate the best possible solution to a potentially divisive community issue".

R3bn plan to produce unleaded fuel

56
CT 18/12/91

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — SA's six oil refineries are to be upgraded at a cost of about R3bn, say industry sources.

Sapref, Genref, Caltex, Natref, Sasol II and Sasol III will be upgraded to produce unleaded petrol at a cost of roughly between R250m and R500m per refinery.

However, one industry spokesman said yesterday that these costs were in "today's terms" and would escalate over the duration of the project.

He added that all service stations would also have to be adapted.

Oil companies welcomed Friday's Cabinet announcement that unleaded petrol would be made available in SA as soon as possible.

Genref MD Errol Martin said the price of upgrading the plant to refine unleaded petrol could not easily be segregated from the overall R2,7bn cost of Genref's expansion project.

Genref, the Durban-based refinery which Gencor's energy subsidiary Engen took over from disinvesting Mobil, was the first SA refinery to plan unleaded production — embarking on the project about 18 months ago.

"It did not take a high degree of clairvoyance to see government would legislate in favour of unleaded petrol. We were looking 10 to 15 years ahead for our expansion project — during which time new engine technology and growing environmental concern would inevitably have favoured unleaded petrol," Martin said.

Caltex's Mike Maxwell said: "Caltex

is undertaking various studies to determine the most cost-effective options of introducing unleaded petrol, making specific cost estimates impossible at present. Nevertheless, it is estimated that upgrading the Caltex refinery to meet the requirements of unleaded petrol could be several hundred million rands in today's terms."

Sasol spokesman Jan Krynauw said studies were under way to establish the cost of upgrading Sasol and Total's refinery Natref. Sasol II and Sasol III would also be upgraded, but not Sasol I because the plant was phasing out petrol production to concentrate on other chemicals.

Sapref MD Henri Joubert said an exact figure for the money required to upgrade the Durban-based refinery's expansion to unleaded capability was not readily available.

Sapref's joint owners Shell and BP recently gave the go-ahead for a R450m expansion project aimed at increasing the refinery's present capacity of about 200 000 barrels by 30% to 260 000 barrels a day.

Joubert said Sapref would have the capability to produce unleaded petrol within four years — the time limit announced by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett last week. "Unleaded gasoline will cost 6c to 10c more per litre, but it must be introduced or SA will fall behind in new car technology," he said.

Bartlett said fuel tax would be adjusted to enable unleaded petrol to sell initially for less than leaded petrol to promote its acceptance by the public.

Shades of green out on the environment's cutting edge

STAR 19/12/91. (56)

There are the light greens, the dark greens, and the red greens.

Eddie Koch is a green with a social conscience.

In "Going Green", edited by himself and Jacklyn Cock, Koch takes the focus off mainstream conservation and examines how environmental attitudes in this country affect the people who hardly ever appear in major newspapers.

These are the people who work in environment-harming factories, the people who have to live next to mine dumps that endanger their lives, the people who go hungry looking at buck on the other side of a reserve fence they cannot cross.

While many see these people as a problem, Koch sees them as the source of many solutions.

For example, he highlights the problems the Mafefe community had, and shows how they began to overcome their problem by educating

Going Green edited by Jacklyn Cock and Eddie Koch (Oxford University Press R50)

Reviewed by
JULIENNE DU TOIT

their own people.

Mafefe, in the north-eastern Transvaal, became famous when it was found that the 11 200-strong community was constantly exposed to highly dangerous asbestos tailings, and the risk of mesothelioma, a particularly aggressive form of lung cancer.

No one was ever warned of the dangers until various ailments began manifesting themselves.

The community, with field workers, helped to make Mafefe safe, plastering over the asbestos on their hut walls with mud, stopping the children from taking short cuts over the dumps.

Other grassroots community projects such as

one at Purros in the Kaokoveld are examined.

Each chapter has a different author, so the styles differ widely. I found some to be dry and difficult to easily digest, while others grabbed my interest from the beginning.

Particularly pleasant was a profile on "green" people at the end of every chapter, sometimes on the authors of the different chapters.

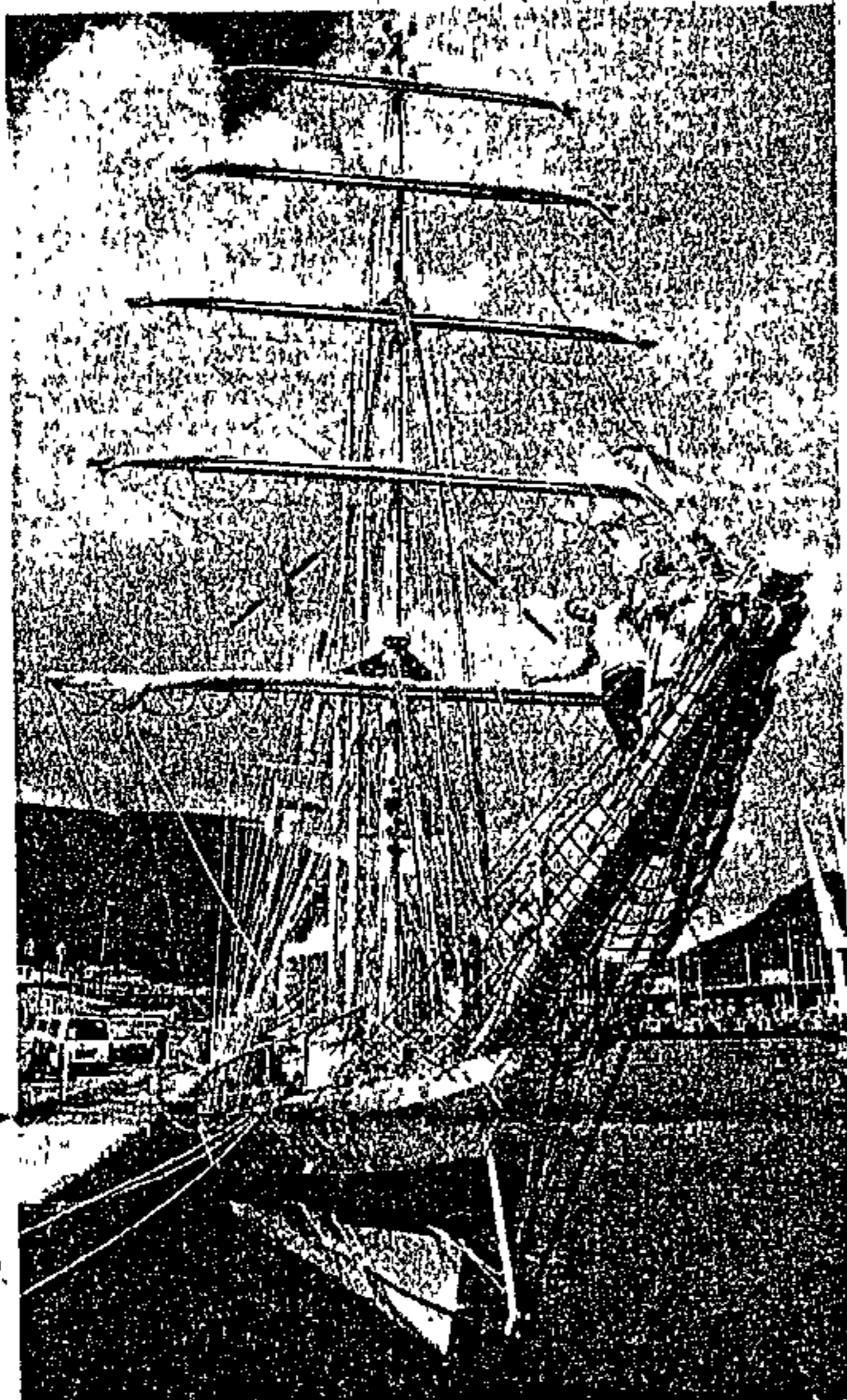
The book concentrates on labour and the environment, community struggles for a better way of life, the wastage of water, the problems of overpopulation, the issues of land use, and how conservation bodies have shouldered aside the problems of people living around conservation areas.

It has raised hackles of conservation bodies, but serves its purpose well — to stimulate debate on people, politics and the environment in South Africa.

Barricade of bodies to block mine

S/Times
(CM) 22/12/91.

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN



POLISH PRIDE ... second engineer Marek Chorzeda on the Pogoria in Table Bay Harbour. Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

OPPONENTS have scoffed at a kaolin mining company's offer to halt its plans for Chapman's Peak in return for R75 million compensation — and are recruiting a human "barricade" to prevent work on the new site.

Mr John Butterfield, spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, claims his group has the support of more than 65 000 protesters.

"We will fight them to the death — people here are very, very angry."

Mr Butterfield dismissed as "absurd" an offer by the mining company, Serina Kaolin, to accept R75 million compensation in return for abandoning its plan to mine the Chapman's Peak site in Noordhoek, in the heart of the Peninsula.

"We might consider paying R3 million, which is closer to reality," he said.

"But I promise you, the fight is not over. If Serina goes ahead, it will cost it dearly."

In terms of a new Minerals Act, which comes into effect at midnight on December 31, Serina will be entitled to mine the site subject only to a permit that sets down conditions for the rehabilitation of the environment.

A department spokesman said it was likely the permit would be issued in the first few weeks of the new year.

Luxury

Serina's right to mine the controversial Noordhoek site is also to be challenged by Mr Jeremy Wiley, son of the former Minister of the Environment, Mr John Wiley who died in March, 1987.

The proposed mine site is on property owned by Mr Jeremy Wiley's De Goede Hoop Development Company, which wants to build a spacious, luxury housing development on the land.

Serina bought the mining rights from the previous owner of De Goede Hoop Estate, Miss Edith Godman, in 1978 for R250 000.

According to Mr Wiley, this was subject to "environmentally related issues".

"Now we have been informed that the new Minerals Act (Act 50 of 1991) effectively does away with critical aspects of the deed of cession."

"If our lawyers are correct, in terms of the new law, thousands of landowners could be stripped similarly of aspects of private agreements governing the way in which minerals on their land can be exploited."

"We will use every available legal avenue to protect the estate."

Mr Wiley's interpretation of the act has been challenged by a senior official of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs who says all private contracts between landowners and mining companies will be honoured.

However, private contracts which conflicted with provisions of the act "could be overruled".

Effect

In terms of Serina's conceptual rehabilitation plan, the site is to be terraced and grassed as work proceeds.

"The company has admitted that the land will never revert to its original, unblemished state," Mr Wiley said.

Said Serina's executive director, Mr Andre Viljoen, "When we have finished mining, the site will be covered with grass."

"Mr Wiley wants to build houses there... you tell me which will have the most lasting effect on the environment — grass or houses?"

● The new Minerals Act is the result of more than three years of negotiations between with environmentalists, mining companies and unions.

All rigged up for a trip into past

By JANICE HILLIER

THE Polish tall ship Pogoria is to take visitors on short trips around Cape Town for the next two months.

The graceful 47-metre steel-hulled ship, which has an eight-metre beam and 1 000 square metres of sail, arrived in Table Bay Harbour last weekend.

On board were 28 Canadian students from West Island College, Montreal, which had chartered the Pogoria as a "floating classroom".

The group had travelled from Copenhagen, Denmark, through the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal and along the African coast to Cape Town.

Now that school is out and the students have returned to Canada, Pogoria is to make Hout Bay her base for two months before heading back to Europe, possibly to take part in the Columbus race.

She is to sail to Hout Bay today and is to be moored opposite Mariner's Wharf. "We hope to take many

visitors on morning and afternoon trips while we are here," said Captain Andrzej Straburzynski.

"Maybe we can take people out on sunset trips too. The weather is magnificent for this."

Pogoria is owned by the Polish Yachting Association. She was built in Gdynia in 1980 as a sail-training ship for young Poles.

She competed in the Tall Ship Race in 1980 and was placed third in Class A — although unofficially she was voted the fastest ship in the race.

Since 1985 Pogoria has been chartered by the West Island College.

Her South African agent, Mr Simon Giddey, said the Pogoria would be opened to the public late next week.

House move?

THE SA Law Commission's report on constitutional models says Parliament's meeting only in Cape Town is expensive and suggests it should meet in other cities.

WEATHER



WATCH

The Weather Bureau's forecast for today.

Cape Peninsula and Boland: Fine and warm but hot in the Boland. Wind fresh to strong south-easterly. Temperatures: Cape Town Min 16°C/Max 27. Worcester Min 15°C/Max 32°C.

West and central Cape: Fine and warm but hot over the interior.

Western Cape coastal belt: Fine and hot but cooler on the coast. Wind fresh south-easterly.

Overberg and coastal belt to Mossel Bay: Fine and warm. Wind easterly. **Namaqualand and the south-western Cape interior:** Hot and dry.

Time to turn the tide on rubbish

STAR 23/12/91

56

IS SOUTH Africa sinking under a rising tide of rubbish?

Yes, says Waste-tech and to a certain extent, the President's Council report.

No, says the CSIR and the man from the Department of Water Affairs who is in charge of giving permits for dump sites, Dr Koos Barnard.

Waste-tech, recently taken over by Fraser Alexander, maintains that less than 10 percent of South Africa's municipal dump sites are properly managed.

They said about 50 percent of them pollute the water with leachates, about 200 times more toxic than raw sewage, and slightly more than half of all dumps pollute the air.

Geoff Wood, chairman of Waste-tech, said that the Environmental Conservation Act, amended in 1989, has had almost no effect "on this appalling situation".

The Act requires disposal sites to be licensed and managed to high standards.

"Very few sites have as yet been licensed, and most are still being operated with complete disregard for its requirements."

Maria Oliveira, deputy director for the Highveld region of Water Quality, admitted that of about 900 dumps in South Afri-

Are we making a mountain of our rubbish problem or is it just a molehill? JULIENNE DU TOIT takes a look.

ca, only three sites have been given their final licences.

Many of the rest have been given "concept permits". This means that dump site owners have to comply to certain regulations, but the regulations are not as far-reaching as the ones necessary for the final permit.

Under the latter, dump sites can be closed if they are not complying with regulations.

The President's Council report on a National Environment Management system, tabled in October, said the majority of local authorities had existing pollution problems with their dumps.

About 62 percent posed a water pollution problem, 65 percent an air pollution problem and 71 percent were described as a "nuisance to the community". In the majority of sites, unacceptable practices or problems were evident.

Very few sites were adequately designed, supervised or monitored, and many were located in environmentally sensitive areas.

Many authorities were ignorant or apathetic about waste disposal standards, and sites which were full or badly man-

aged were closed down without any attempt to rehabilitate them or deal with the on-going pollution, said the report.

A Waste-tech survey found that 80 percent of all local authorities had no or only one employee with a post-matric qualification.

Mr Wood said municipalities had treated waste disposal as a low priority, low budget service, and now have neither the expertise or the means to address the problem.

Dr Barnard, acting director for water quality management at Water Affairs, countered by saying that all was not doom and gloom. With the new regulations, and more to be promulgated soon, things could only get better, he believes.

Local authorities were aware of the problem and with few exceptions, were very co-operative. In fact since the early 1980s, when the first regulations came into effect there had been a steady improvement, he said.

Not all existing sites were satisfactory, conceded Dr Barnard, and they did rely on soil to cleanse the leachate from seepage into the water table.

The new regulations they

were working on would ensure that dump-site owners rehabilitated the site when it was no longer in use, and insurance premiums would have to be paid so that there would be money to rehabilitate if the owner could not afford to do so afterwards.

At the moment it is only possible to close a site down if it can be conclusively proven that the site was a danger because of its pollutants.

It was also difficult to prosecute someone who had been dumping in the same place for 30 years or so, said Dr Barnard.

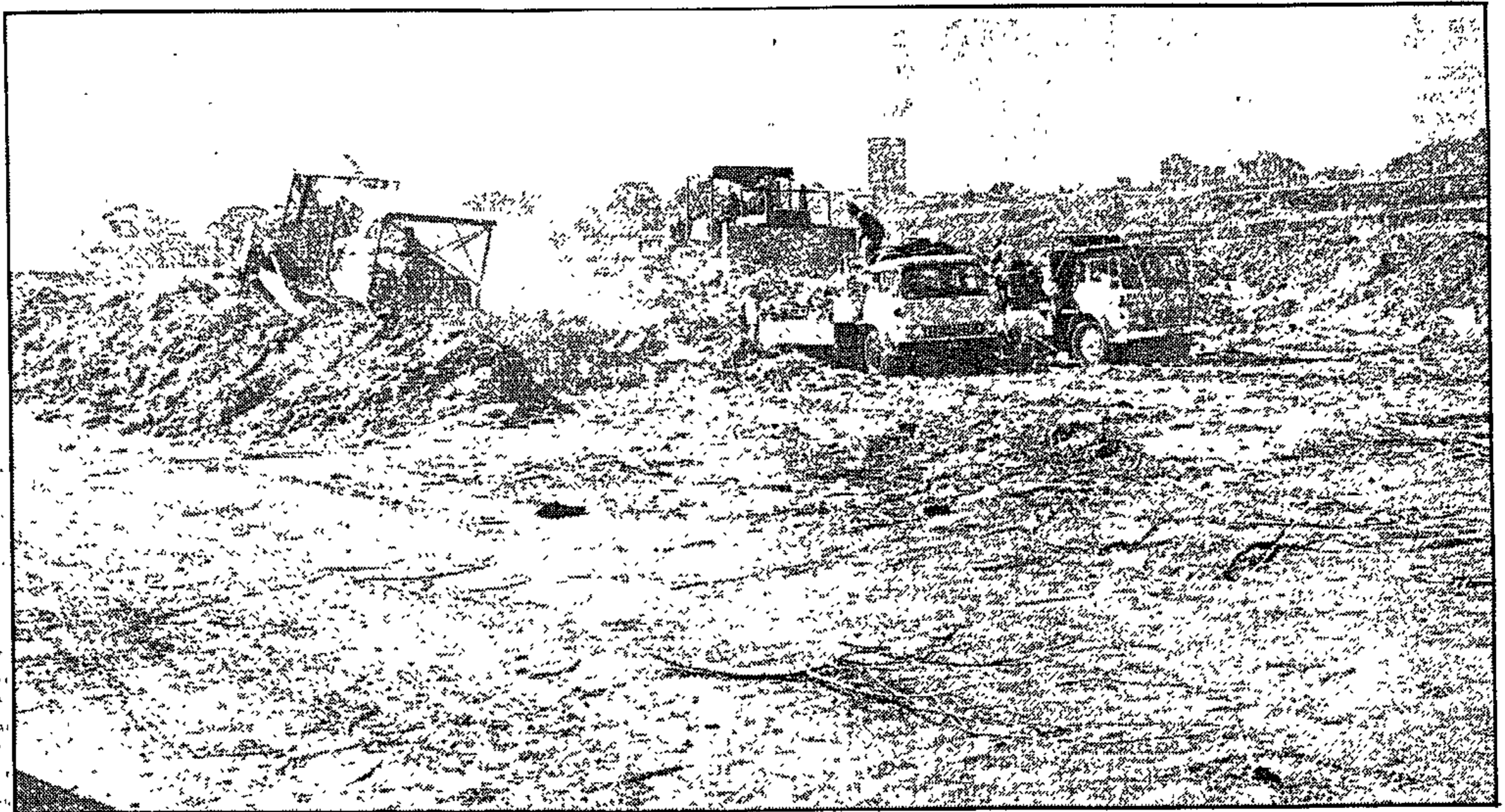
It was only used as a last resort, and persuasive powers were usually used to make the dump-site owner toe the line.

Andre Kitshoff, co-ordinator on waste for CSIR's Watertek said he felt optimistic about the way solid waste disposal was going in South Africa.

The set-up was becoming more organised, and many more people had become aware and interested in the subject, he said.

Existing problems could be solved by technology that was being developed.

The regulations that came into effect in 1989 should have been been out years ago, but they were a step in the right direction, said Mr Kitshoff. □



The end of the line . . . barely one in 10 municipal dump sites is run efficiently, claims Waste-tech.

Cast in train fares talks

THEO RAWANA

A DELEGATION led by the Civics Association of Southern Transvaal is to meet Transport Minister Piet Welgemoed in Cape Town on Friday to discuss the 15% increase in rail fares. The SA Rail Commuter Corporation announced the 15% increase last month and set January 1 as its implementation date.

Cast, together with Cosatu, Azapo, the Soweto Daily Passengers Committee and the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) met SARCC officials in Johannesburg last Friday to discuss the fare increases. Cast transport chief Dumisani Daniels said yesterday.

The delegation wants the increase to be suspended. Daniels said SARCC GM (Metro Services) J F Meyer informed him yesterday that Welgemoed had invited a delegation to meet him in Cape Town on Friday to discuss the issue.

"The restructuring of the transport policy should go along with the overall economic policy — this has not been followed," he said.

Coal mines support green efforts

THEO RAWANA

THE SA coal mining industry has supported efforts to counter the danger of global warming.

But it says that concerns about the greenhouse effect are based on incomplete and inconclusive scientific knowledge.

A declaration in support of "environmentally beneficial initiatives" published in the latest issue of the Chamber of Mines Newsletter, forms the industry's response to the proposed international implementation of an anti-global warming campaign, known as the Toronto Target.

The target calls for a 20% worldwide reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2005 (using 1988 levels as a base).

Carbon dioxide is one of a number of "greenhouse" gases, which include CFCs and methane.

The chamber said coal mining companies could be affected by universal support for the Toronto Target, as it could prompt major coal consumers, such as thermal generating utilities, to consider other energy sources which create less carbon dioxide.

THEO RAWANA

"Although the full impact of the envisaged global emission controls may only take effect in 14 years' time, the industry is already examining what economically sound responses may be possible in the interim to protect the environment while minimising disruption to industry."

The industry considered it necessary to work with government on a framework of incentives and disciplines to encourage initiatives which would be environmentally beneficial and economically justifiable.

These would include improved efficiency of energy utilisation and encouraging increased electrification, possibly within the framework of a national energy policy.

The newsletter also details an environmental planning and management procedure the chamber has devised to help member mines ensure their activities comply with imminent environmental legislation.

The document would guide mines

in drawing together and documenting comprehensive information required for the compilation of an environmental management programme report, the newsletter said.

Such a report summarises all data relating to a proposed prospecting or mining project, detailing information required to satisfy various authorities that the developer has fulfilled its environmental responsibilities, including those contemplated in the new Minerals Act, which is expected to come into operation early next year.

A feature of the new Act is its requirement that all mines and prospecting projects will in future have to submit a formal rehabilitation plan before authorisation to commence mining or prospecting is granted.

Previously, this requirement applied only to certain open cast mines. The report not only describes the potentially negative environmental effects that are expected in all phases of the project, but also how these effects may be monitored, managed, controlled or rehabilitated.

Stokvels at Bank workshop

THE SA Reserve Bank will convene a workshop on the regulation of informal savings institutions next month to which all interested parties, including the National Stokvels Association of SA (Nasasa), have been invited.

WILSON ZWANE

Luthele said the Reserve Bank indicated last year it was committed "to stabilising and promoting" stokvels.

Van Greuning said the informal savings clubs had a large potential to provide affi-

War toys

LOS ANGELES — War toys test selling Christmas this year, despite growing tests from anti-war gro campaigners.

Cashing in on the Gulf factories have been flood-

Sea Point 'sewage slick' was seaweed, says city engineer

Staff Reporter

② AUG 27/21
THE slick seen off Sea Point last month was not sewage but seaweed fragments and sediments stirred up by big seas, said City Engineer Mr Arthur Clayton.

The slick, which stretched from the broken sewerage outfall pipe at Green Point to the Sea Point pavilion, was first seen from the air on November 30 by Radio Good Hope announcer Mr David Hersch.

Mr Clayton said sea and

weather records kept by the council indicated that there had been a heavy swell the day the slick was seen. The current which was running from south to north made it "impossible for sewage from the Green Point pipe to be transported to Sea Point".

This stretch of ocean had been monitored for the past 24 years and the sea water quality as far south as the Sea Point pavilion had never been affected by sewage discharge under any conditions, he said.

It's safe to swim in our seas, city officials insist

LIBBY PEACOCK

(56)

Weekend Argus Correspondent

CONTROVERSY over occasional patches of discoloured water between Sea Point and Green Point has flared again.

A brown patch, first seen from the air on November 30 by radio announcer David Hersch, has again been noticed — but acting city engineer Mr Dave Bradley said yesterday the discolouration was not sewage. The slick seen by Mr Hersch

stretched from the broken sewerage outfall pipe at Green Point to the Sea Point pavilion.

Mr Hersch maintains that sewage can affect water in swimming areas when currents flowed from north to south and says research at the Oceanographic Institute at the University of Cape Town and the Department of Sea Fisheries supports this. **ARG 28/12/91**

In a press statement yesterday Mr Bradley said the discolouration had been caused by severe wave action

on the Atlantic seaboard over the last two days.

Steep plunging waves impacting on the kelp beds had mobilised and suspended detritus and kelp fragments, he said. This suspended kelp together with wave-generated foam caused the surface discolouration.

A council monitoring team was accompanied by the chief engineer (research and development) Mr Mark Marsden and he confirmed the fundamental differences in colour and consistency between the sewage plume

at Green Point and the discoloured patches of seawater of the kelp fringed Atlantic coast.

Mr Hersch agreed with the council that yesterday's slick consisted of kelp but commented: "What they try to make a big tourist issue is really a public health issue."

City Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said the broken sewerage pipe did not affect the water in swimming areas under any weather conditions.

Human shield threat to mine at beauty spot

SI Times 29/12/91

By EVELYN
HOLTZHAUSEN

ANTI-MINING campaigners have threatened to use a human shield to stop work on an open-cast kaolin mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak, in the heart of the Cape Peninsula, early next year.

"We will fight them to the death," vowed Save Chapman's Peak spokesman John Butterfield.

He said his action group had the support of more than 65 000 protesters. He dismissed as "absurd" an offer by the mining company, Serina Kaolin, to accept compensation of R75-million to stop the mining.

"We might consider paying them R3-million, which

is closer to reality," he said. "But I promise you, the fight is not over; it has just begun."

In terms of a new Mining Act which comes into effect at midnight on December 31, Serina is entitled to mine the site subject only to a permit relating to the rehabilitation of the environment.

Challenge

Serina's right to dig the controversial Noordhoek mine is also to be challenged by Mr Jeremy Wiley, son of the late environment minister John Wiley.

Mr Wiley's De Goede Hoop Development Company owns the land on which the mine is to be dug.

Mr Andre Vliegen, executive director for Serina, confirmed that work on the site would begin "within the next six months" and would include the stockpiling of backfill for rehabilitation.

"When we are finished mining, the site will be covered with grass," he said.

Brown water 'not sewage' ⁽⁵⁾

Municipal Reporter ET 30/12/91

BROWN water along parts of the Atlantic seaboard was not the result of sewage contamination but was caused by kelp, acting city engineer Mr Dave Bradley reaffirmed yesterday.

Bacteriological tests at the weekend by the council's scientific services branch had proved this.

Mr Bradley was reacting to renewed claims by beach reporter Mr David Hersch that water contaminated by a broken sewage pipe could reach Three Anchor Bay and Rocklands.

The council had erected warning notice boards where pollution might make the water unfit for bathing by EEC standards, but even there it was well within these standards most of the time.

The latest tests had shown that water quality was worst at Mouille Point. Even there just 88 faecal coliforms were found in the sample volume, whereas water is deemed safe for bathing if the count is lower than 100. The reading at Graaff's Pool was 22.

Protesters gear up to move against

Municipal Reporter

PROTESTERS are gearing up for the day when mining company Serina moves heavy machinery on to the Chapman's Peak site, a Save Chapman's Peak Action Group spokesman said yesterday.

Mr John Butterfield said Serina had spoken of January 2, the end of January, and "within the first two months of 1992" as possible starting times for its intended new kaolin mining operation in Noordhoek.

Mr Butterfield said the latest full-page newspaper advertisement which his group had taken out at the

weekend asked those who wanted to take action against the mining for their names, addresses and telephone numbers.

"We want those details so that we can call people if there is any stand to be taken."

Asked who was the financial force behind the full-page newspaper advertisements, which cost thousands of rands each, Mr Butterfield said the ads had been funded "by the community" through donations.

There were no big backers behind the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, he said, and it had virtually run out of money, but it was determined to fight the mining.

51 of 30 | 12/91

British millionaire Mr John Aspinall, owner of Noordhoek Manor House, has now also joined the protest drive.

Mr Aspinall said yesterday that he had asked some of his influential overseas friends who knew Noordhoek to write to President F W de Klerk to appeal to him to stop the mining.

"Sir James Goldsmith, Mr Kerry Packer and Mr Conrad Black, the Canadian media owner, have all written. Two of them are thinking of investing here," he said.

The proposed mine site was close to "the most spectacular drive in the world", he said. Almost

everyone who came to South Africa came to Cape Town, and almost everyone who came to the city went on that drive, he said.

Mr De Klerk had been a dinner guest at the Manor House once last year, he said, and he had described Noordhoek Manor as "the treasure of the nation", Mr Aspinall said.

However, Mr Butterfield said the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group had also had contact with Mr De Klerk over the proposed mine, and it seemed he was adopting a strictly legal viewpoint on whether or not the mine should go ahead.

Kaolin mine

Cap

MPs vow to oppose mine

S6
②

CAPE TOWN — Democratic Party MPs will go all out in the new year to stop the proposed kaolin mine at Chapman's Peak, and have pledged to raise the issue in Parliament.

They have pledged support for fellow MP Jannie Momberg, the MP for Simon's Town, in whose constituency the mine will be sited.

Mr Momberg has been vocal in his opposition to the mine since his election in 1989 and has vowed to stop it. "The Government is hellbent on allowing mining at Chapman's Peak de-

spite the opposition of the community," he said.

Roger Hulley, MP for Constantia and party spokesman on mineral and energy affairs, said he would raise the issue in Parliament next year. "It is inappropriate for a mine to be situated in the middle of the Noordhoek Valley where it will leave a major scar on the environment," he said.

Colin Eglin, MP for Sea Point, said the matter would be raised in Parliament on constitutional and environmental levels. — Own Correspondent.

30/12/91

CP 2112/99 (56)

Kaolin action won't faze us — Serina

THE kaolin-mining company Serina would not be daunted by protests from the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, chairman Mr Bill Paverd said yesterday. He was responding to a report

that the Action Group was preparing for on-site protests when the mining company moved on to a Chapman's Peak or Noordhoek valley site with heavy machinery. "We have not yet decided ex-

actly when we will start mining," he said.

He labelled the planned protests "ridiculous". The company had a legal right to develop an asset which it owned.

Municipal Reporter
MOTORISTS who throw litter out of their car windows can expect to hear from Cape Town City Council — if any publicly-minded citizen witnesses the offensive behaviour.

Capetonians and visitors are urged to report to the council litterbugs who throw rubbish out of their cars.

Mr Bruce Black, chief engineer of the Cleansing Department, said he encouraged everyone to take a stand against litterbugs.

Report litterbugs to council ⁽⁵⁶⁾ call

"One of the most effective ways is to report them. If you see someone throwing something out of their car window, make a note of the car registration, time and place of the offence, and telephone our offices on 210 2060."

The Director of Cleansing, Mr Tom de

Bruin, said it was not regarded as fair to fine someone merely on hearsay, so instead "nice letters" were sent to car owners.

"We often get the support of drivers after we have communicated with them," Mr De Bruin says. "It is well worth the trouble if they don't do it again."

The Fairest Cape Association has exceeded its target of 20 000 signatories who have pledged never to litter again, "and to take a stand against those who do".

The campaign, sponsored by Radio Good Hope and Mobil, was "still going strong", Mr De Bruin said.

"People are starting to become more aware of the environment and realising that they can't sit back and wait for others to clean up," said Mr Black.

31024
31124 71
A remedy for herb sellers³⁶ plundering³⁶

WILSON ZWANE

STREET vendors selling ingredients used in traditional medicines have come under fire from herbalists who accuse them of destroying natural resources.

Herbalists say the indiscriminate stripping of bark from trees by the vendors endangered the ecosystem and should be discouraged.

African Skilled Herbalist Association president Ly-mon Msibi said vendors of bark and roots used in traditional remedies should be educated "not to molest but to respect the plants".

One way of doing this would be to invite vendors to join traditional healers and herbalists in efforts to establish nurseries where plants could be cultivated and exploited without damaging natural vegetation.

An SA Nature Foundation spokesman said a project to establish such nurseries had been launched in the western Cape.

He said the project, backed by a R647 000 grant from the foundation, was established last year after six people were arrested in Newlands Forest while stripping bark.

But a Durban City Council horticulturist said he doubted nurseries would woo vendors away from natural bush where the ingredients were free.

Mine guards

on
ift
10
the
tion
tes-

C

Lawyers' role in environment fight

The Argus Correspondent

16
APR 12/12/91

DURBAN. — The conflict between man and the environment is sharpest in Natal, says Mr Justice Kumleben.

Speaking at the national launching of the Environmental Law Association in Durban, the judge urged lawyers to play a role in this conflict.

It was fitting, he said, that the association should be launched in Natal which had a proud record of environmental concern.

However, all was "not rosy in the garden province".

Natal had 10 percent of the land mass of greater South Africa and 25 percent of the population.

"The inevitable conflict between man and the environment is thus in acute focus in this province," Mr Justice Kumleben said.

In this conflict the proper functioning of the "adversarial process" was essential, he said. If the skills of the two contestants were not evenly matched, a just result could not be guaranteed.

Lawyers were particularly well placed to play a vital role, he said.

To show how lawyers could play a part, he drew attention to the fact that as far as it was known there had never been a prosecution for air pollution in South Africa while when a major company polluted the Elands River last year and was prosecuted, it was fined R6 000.

In contrast, when in similar circumstances, the Shell Company polluted the Mersey River in England it was fined the equivalent of R7,5-million with costs.

Mr Justice Kumleben listed a number of ways in which lawyers could play a role in environmental protection:

- They could press for reform.
- They could assist in the enforcement of existing legislation.
- They could undertake *pro bono* work for environmental causes.
- They could offer their skills to those involved in impact studies.
- By teaching "what substantive environmental law is all about".

Kaolin fighters brand adverts 'outrageous'

56

ARG 12/12/91

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

DOUBLE page newspaper advertisements by Serina, the company that wants to mine kaolin in Noordhoek, have been referred to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) by the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

The group has also repeated its threat to attempt to disrupt Serina if it starts mining, and anticipates "the arrest of many concerned individuals".

Serina's advertisements, which appeared earlier this week, accused the action group

of "misleading" the public in their campaign to stop the company "exercising its lawful right to mine in the Noordhoek Valley".

The advertisements stated that copies of an environmental impact study of the proposed mine were readily available — "it shows that there are no real diverse environmental issues" — and included an open invitation to the public to visit its operating mine at Fish Hoek.

But the action group said yesterday it had asked the ASA to withdraw the "outrageous" advertisements as a matter of urgency, and for "redress of the

blatant misinformation that Serina so heavy-handedly subjected the public to".

The action group also met a representative of Sanlam, Serina's parent company.

"While this meeting yielded for the first time in our whole campaign some undertaking from Sanlam for some affirmative action, they still appear unable to reconcile their acknowledged financial control of the subsidiaries with any management control," said action group spokesman Mr John Butterfield.

"They state that while the financial control enables them to appoint the directors of their

subsidiaries and determine their dividend policies, it apparently does not enable them to interfere in their management decisions. This does not make sense to us."

Sanlam had undertaken to confer with its group of companies "in a bid to encourage them to take appropriate action", Mr Butterfield said.

"Mr Linde (Sanlam's representative) acknowledged that the only acceptable solution in the public's eyes will be the re-direction of Serina out of the Cape Peninsula.

"We are, however, extremely disappointed that only at this desperately late stage is Sanlam undertaking such action."

Kaolin: Complaint lodged on advert

(5b)

CT 12/12/91 Staff Reporter

ANOTHER broadside in the ongoing furore over the proposed mining of kaolin on Chapman's Peak was fired yesterday when the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group lodged a complaint with the Advertising Standards Authority.

Action group chairman Mr John Butterfield demanded a retraction for alleged untruths, of a full-page newspaper advertisement placed by the Serina Kaolin Company on Tuesday. The advertisement set out to justify the proposed kaolin mining operation at Chapman's Peak and pointed out alleged untruths by the anti-mining lobby.

Mr Butterfield said a claim that the mine could not be seen from scenic Chapman's Peak Drive was a blatant untruth and that it was visible from every major arterial road in the Noordhoek Valley.

Bank's R1-m ⁽⁵⁶⁾ bounty to go ^(BB) green

^{Sowetan}
By GRACE RAPHOLO

^{11/12/91}
NEDBANK has donated R1 million to Green Trust, an organisation founded to promote education on environmental projects, rehabilitation of damaged natural resources and the prevention of abuse to these areas.

The trust was established in October last year when the bank committed itself to providing R5 million over five years.

The trust emphasises human survival, poverty alleviation and the advancement of sustainable development at local levels.

The bank's managing director, Mr Richard Laubscher, said the reason for supporting the trust was that it addressed real environmental issues at the immediate interface with man, and created opportunities that enabled all South Africans to play a part in their own futures.

"The Green Trust is the ideal vehicle through which to achieve this," he said.

He said the trust was at present funding four environmental projects that emphasised a new, pragmatic approach to conservation.

"The primary objective is to humanise conservation by involving local communities in decisions about projects and in their planning and implementation," Laubscher said.

The trust is assisting the

Lead-free petrol costs more, but is better for the environment

Motoring Reporter

MOTORISTS will have to dig deeper in their pockets to pay for the lead-free fuel that will inevitably have to become the standard here — but it's worth it from the environmental point of view, a motor industry executive believes.

The National Energy Council announced recently that South Africa may be getting unleaded fuel, possibly in 1995.

"The main reasons for introducing lead-free fuel to the world, and now South Africa, are not only the damage caused to the environment by lead emissions from car exhausts (carbon monoxide) into the air but also increased lead concentrates in the soil and water tables," says Brian McKenzie, sales and marketing director of Morganite Consumer Products, distributors of Liqui Moly engine performance products in South Africa.

"Another reason was the opportunity to introduce the exhaust catalyst which reduces carbon monoxide further as well as hydrocarbons (known to cause deformity and cancer in humans) and nitrogen oxides."

Cars designed for unleaded fuel are equipped with catalytic converters which form part of the exhaust system. The catalyst converts these toxic gases into harmless products like carbon dioxide, water and nitrogen.

According to recent tests conducted in Europe, lead concentrates in the air are much lower than before.

The amount of lead and the use of special components such as ethers, most commonly known is MTBE (methyl-tert-butyl-ether) and alcohols in fuel determines the octane rating and the higher the rating, the higher the performance.

Car engines used here are designed to use leaded fuel and, even with the introduction of unleaded fuel, the leaded version will be available for some time as happened in the United States and Europe.

"Unleaded fuel with the same octane number can be used in local engines without damaging them or affecting the performance of the vehicle," he said.

Only in the case of some older cars, without hardened seats for the exhaust valves, will unleaded fuel not be suitable since the lead, in a manner of speaking, "lubricates" these hot valves.

"Spark plugs and exhaust systems, however, will enjoy a longer life as the corrosive effects of the scavengers present in leaded fuel will have been removed," Mr McKenzie added.

Engines designed for unleaded fuel which consequently have a lower octane number, have until recently been less powerful. However, European and Japanese motoring manufacturers have built engines in such a way that there is virtually no difference in performance.

Says Mr McKenzie: "To produce lead-free fuel is most costly as the refineries consume more energy in the production process."



FIREBUG: Excuse us — we're only the fire brigade! What looks like a cross between a beach buggy and a golf cart is actually Britain's smallest fire engine. This tiny two-seater has been purpose-built for the narrow streets in the picturesque fishing villages of Looe and Polperro, in Cornwall, southwest England. The machine is called the Mule (multipurpose light engine) and has a top speed of 38km/h. It is fully equipped with ladders, hoses, pumps and breathing apparatus and was built for the fire service at Cornwall County fire brigade workshops. Until now, firefighters have had to carry all necessary equipment along the narrow streets.

New breed of sales reps wanted to halt motor industry job-hopping

Motoring Reporter

ABOUT a third of all the new vehicle sales representatives employed in the South African retail motor industry will leave their jobs within the next 12 months, a motor industry recruitment leader has forecast.

And as a result, industry retailers are actively looking for a new breed of sales representatives to combat the "merry-go-round of job-hopping" prevalent among many motor dealerships.

"A totally new type of salesperson needs to be recruited if the motor industry is not to suffer from this non-stop job-swapping," says Mr Bob Young, managing director of Syringa Recruitment Services, the country's only specialist motor industry recruitment agency.

"There are an estimated 2 500 people employed as new vehicle sales executives. Our forecast is that about 850 of them will leave their positions every year."

Mr Young says that the high turnover — a characteristic of the industry — can be combated by recruiting and train-

ing salespeople who have had no previous experience in the motor industry.

"Many dealers and recruitment consultancies are trawling in the same waters that have been trawled before, so they are merely employing other people's failures," Mr Young says. "What the industry needs is good, fresh, enthusiastic people."

Syringa, on behalf of several motor industry clients, is head-hunting for already successful sales representatives from other industries who are prepared to make the change.

"Many traditional car sales people fear prospecting for clients. They are often passive, just waiting for people to come into the showroom. Since businesses are the major buyers of vehicles, the motor industry should be employing people who have sold successfully in the corporate environment."

But the change is already happening. Syringa has launched a new recruitment and training programme — called "Fast Start" — for new candidates, and BMW has given Syringa the job of upgrading its dealer sales staff.

BMW pioneered the concept of bringing new blood into the motor retail industry several years ago through the highly successful sales trainee programmes, said BMW marketing director Mr John Jessup. These programmes had been run on an annual basis.

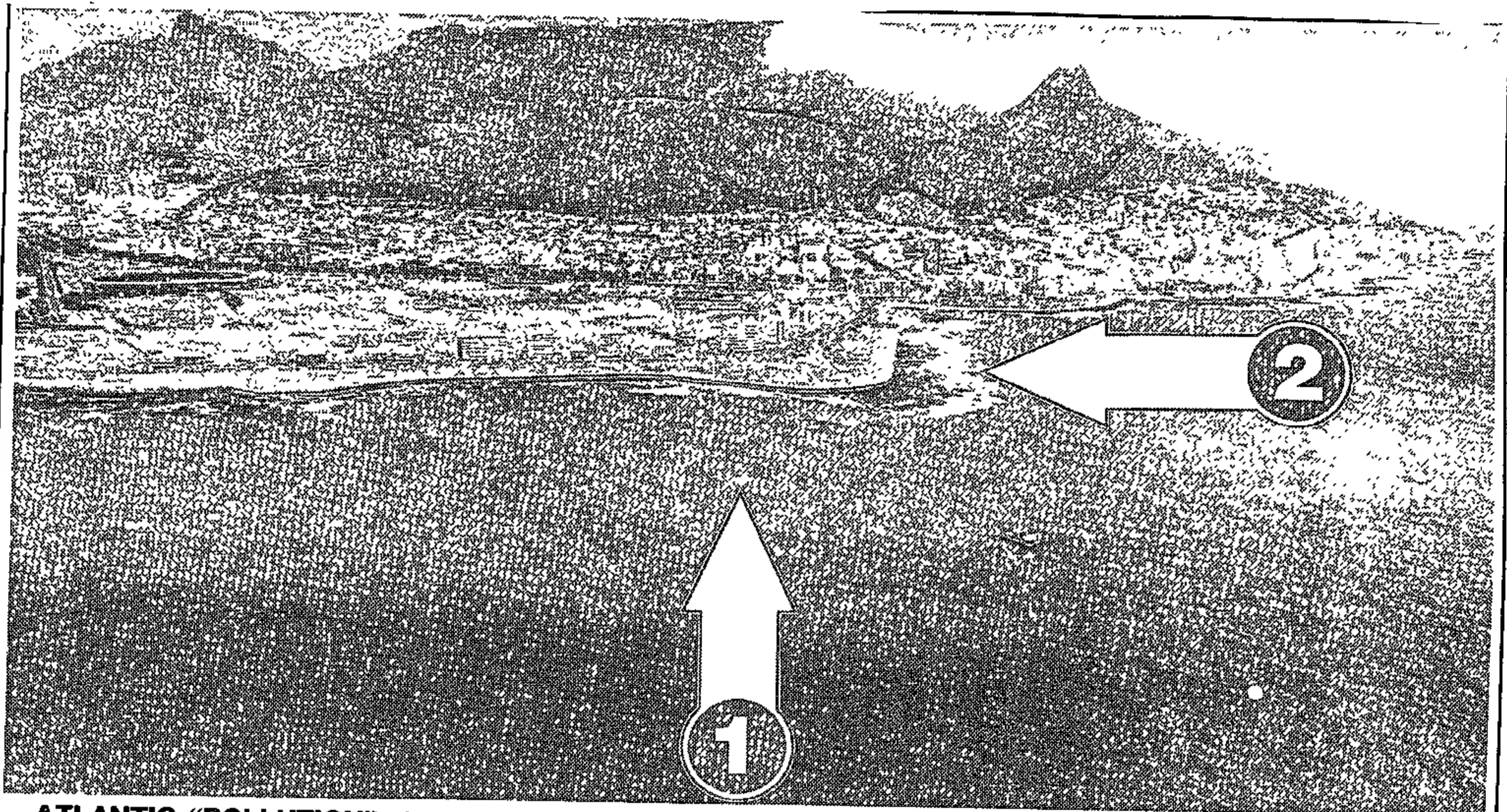
"For the past few years we have entrusted the role of recruiting such trainees and the general recruitment of our dealer staff to Syringa, who have proved that a professional approach to the recruitment process dramatically reduces staff turnover in the dealerships."

He said that over a monitored period of two years "an exceptionally high percentage" of staff recruited by Syringa were still in the BMW dealer network. As a result, BMW was recommending Syringa's Fast Start training system to its dealers. Before starting their jobs, the candidates undergo an intensive four-week motor industry familiarisation programme.

"We confidently expect to introduce a new breed of sales executive into our dealer body," Mr Jessup said.

ENVIRONMENT — 1992

JANUARY — MARCH



ATLANTIC "POLLUTION": An aerial view of the Mouille Point coast showing (1) the "boil" where grey-coloured effluent is discharged from the broken Green Point marine outfall and (2) the area where brown-coloured kelp scum is generated by wave action on kelp beds.

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM. The Argus.

Prove it, mayor urges Hersch

56
ARG 7/1/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CAPE TOWN has the best health record in Africa and allegations that the city council was allowing Atlantic seaboard bathing areas to be polluted with sewage are "totally unfair", says mayor Mr Frank van der Velde.

Mr Van der Velde has challenged freelance radio presenter Mr David Hersch to produce scientific evidence to back his claims that sewage from the fractured Green Point outfall pollutes bathing areas south of Three Anchor Bay.

Mr Van der Velde said he was "really upset" that the dispute over alleged pollution was continuing.

"I am satisfied that the council monitors the beaches every two weeks, thoroughly and according to international standards," he said.

"I'm also satisfied that the brown slick (on the sea) is an upwelling of the kelp beds, and

that on the False Bay coast the phenomenon is algae in the surf zone.

"In any area that has a chance of being polluted, we've put up warning notices.

"The council and the medical officer of health would certainly not allow this to be covered up in any way, and it's not been proved once that this (alleged pollution) is sewage.

"I'd like this to be put fairly to the public.

"Mr Hersch has made accusations without any scientific back-up and he must now prove these accusations."

Mr Van der Velde pointed out that the city had a good record of environmental care and health protection, and that it had the lowest infant mortality rate of all cities in Africa.

"And that doesn't just happen. The medical officer of health monitors across a very wide front, from peanut butter to fresh water.

"Our health record stands — it's the best in Africa, and the MOH and councillors certainly

wouldn't allow it (any danger to bathers by faecal pollution of the sea)."

City engineer Mr Arthur Clayton has pointed out that the health of bathers was a top priority for the council and that safe standards were achieved by a "meticulous" monitoring of faecal coliform counts.

"Faecal matter usually reaches the surf zone from three main sources: bathers themselves, birds and mammals on the shore, and stormwater outlets," he said.

"In Cape Town most bathing is done in the hot, dry summer months when stormwater flows are practically zero."

When the Green Point outfall had broken, the potential for pollution by faecal coliforms had been realised.

Careful monitoring had led to the "conservative placement" of norticeboards from Granger Bay to Three Anchor Bay, indicating potential pollution, and that swimming was

therefore best avoided, Mr Clayton added.

"It was determined that the sum coliform count was well within the EC standard of less than 100 per 100ml for 80 per cent of the time.

"This recommendation requires a strong statistical base because the determination of the faecal coliform count requires an incubation period, so results are only available 36 hours after samples are taken."

Mr Clayton said Three Anchor Bay complied with the EC standard most of the time.

"But because it is used regularly by boats in the winter as well, it was decided to adopt a conservative approach and demarcate the beach as unfit for bathing.

"Rocklands complies fully with the EC standard.

"When stormwater flows occur at the onset of winter, there are peak readings of more than 100 for short durations."

● Mr Hersch has been asked to respond.

Environmental auditing brings benefits



Mark Franklin is partner in charge of strategic management, Ernst & Young
EM 3/1/92

In recent years, increased awareness about the environment has led to a number of companies implementing so-called "environmentally friendly" business practices.

To assist in this process, some organisations are undertaking environmental audits of their operations on the premise that prevention is better than cure. These audits have arisen partly because of legislation and public pressure, partly because of enlightened management practices, but also because they can provide clear strategic advantages to the firm. As a result, business leaders are increasingly asking themselves:

- What is an environmental audit?;
- What issues should be considered?; and
- How does it benefit the environment and my business?

The International Chamber of Commerce has defined environmental auditing as the systematic, documented, periodic and objective examination of interactions between any business operation and its surroundings. This includes all emissions to air, land and water, legal constraints, the effects on the neighbouring community, landscape and ecology and the public's perception of the operating

company in its local areas.

It therefore aims to safeguard the environment by:

- Facilitating management control of environment protection; and
- Assessing compliance with company policies that would hopefully include going beyond regulatory requirements.

What is important to note is that this is not just a PR exercise, but rather a total strategic approach to all the organisation's activities and the effects these might have on the environment. To ensure success, therefore, it requires *leadership* to champion and drive it, *commitment* to its implementation from top management and *resources* to undertake it effectively (even if only time is needed).

There are key issues to consider when undertaking an environmental audit:

- Do you have a clear, stated policy towards the environment, agreed at board or executive level?;
- Has your organisation developed a mind-set and culture that is resource utilisation conscious?;
- Do your products and services utilise the most effective technologies to obtain the minimum effect on the environment during manufacturing and/or use?;
- Have you developed clear guidelines on energy efficiency and reduction of energy use?; and
- Do you measure the waste you produce, what it contains and costs and what you actually do with it?

There are many other issues that might be considered, depending on your unique cir-

cumstances.

The most important benefit is that, in the long term, business concern for the environment will contribute to a cleaner, safer and healthier environment that is self sustaining for all.

However, environmental auditing can also present clear strategic advantages to the organisation itself. The key benefit is that it provides an in-depth diagnosis of the organisation's processes and progress in realising long-term strategic objectives. By highlighting areas for improving overall effectiveness and efficiency, the business can add value to its own operations while reducing its negative impacts on the environment. More specifically it:

- Encourages the use of low-waste technologies;
- Identifies potential areas of hazard and risk;
- Reduces potential exposure to litigation;
- Creates a positive corporate image;
- Identifies possible new market opportunities;
- Increases organisational commitment to quality and service;
- Shortens response times to emergencies;
- Enables management to set environment goals and to reward achievement; and
- Often leads to cost savings, both directly and indirectly.

To be successful, environmental auditing must be managed from a strategic perspective. Advice should be sought from professional consultants to identify critical issues in implementing an environmental audit. ■

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

NO one wants to swim in polluted seawater — and especially not in water contaminated with human sewage.

But just what constitutes "contamination" and how should this be measured to make a reasonable assessment of any possible health risk?

These questions are at the heart of the month-long controversy between freelance radio announcer Mr David Hersch and the Cape Town City Council over allegations of pollution of Atlantic seaboard bathing areas by the fractured Green Point marine sewage outfall.

Acting city engineer Mr Dave Bradley announced that tests by the council's scientific services branch last weekend had proved conclusively that discolored brown water along the coast during December was not the result of sewage pollution from the broken pipeline.

But Mr Hersch, who issues regular beach reports for a commercial radio station, said this was not the issue.

This week, he repeated his claim that during his regular helicopter flights he had seen a sewage slick, originating from the broken pipeline, reaching as far south as the Sea Point pavilion.

Earlier, council officials said current and swell conditions during the first two weeks of December would have made it impossible for sewage from Green Point to be carried southwards.

Mr Hersch accused the council of "re-arranging the deck-chairs while the ship is sinking" and argued that under certain conditions, bathing areas to the south of Three Anchor Bay were at risk.

"When this does occur, the council must merely warn the public to stay out of these areas — it's as simple as that," he said.

Discussions with experts at the Department of Sea Fisheries and the Oceanographic Institute at UCT had confirmed that currents ran from north to south at this time of the year — particularly inshore currents — and that surface water could also move in this direction, Mr Hersch said.

It was in the best interests of the public to avoid swimming in any suspect area until there was an "all clear".

"The issue is public health and safety and this cannot take second place to any other considerations."

He believed bathing areas "definitely" to be avoided were Three Anchor Bay through to the harbour at all times, and said Rocklands could also be at risk at times. He suggested a warning notice similar to those at Mouille Point should be erected at Rocklands as well.

In response, Mr Bradley said the council was concerned at "mis-information" being given out.

"We are being totally objective and are giving only facts to guide people, not emotional outbursts," he said.

There was no doubt at all that there was no risk at Rocklands of any faecal pollution from sewage from the Green Point outfall — "That is definitely not possible," Mr Bradley said.

City engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said yesterday the council considered the health of bathers a "top priority". Although reversed movements of water currents were possible — as claimed by Mr Hersch — this had not occurred since September.

"Public health is achieved by the meticulous monitoring of faecal coliform counts," Mr Clayton explained.

"Faecal matter usually reaches the surf zone from three main sources: bathers themselves, birds and mammals on the shore, and storm-water outlets.

Stink Over Sewage Spoils Over a Month

56
Aug. 4/1/92

VIEW FROM THE TOP

It's good business to keep SA clean

S Times (BWS) 5/1/92

(56)

CONTACT with our offices abroad and involvement with international projects show there is a growing awareness of environmental issues, particularly in North America and Europe.

This new ethos — caring for the environment — was stressed by foreign speakers at the Southern African international conference on environmental management (SAICEM) conference at Somerset West.

Their message for SA business was unequivocal: "You can't afford to ignore environmental issues."

Bill

Some SA enterprises are already adopting positive environmental policies in line with those of their foreign counterparts. Most of these companies represent "Big Business".

Two questions arise in the SA context:

● Because there is always a cost to the environment, should development take place?

● Can businesses, particularly medium to small enterprises, afford to spend money on environmental control?

In the current economic climate, these issues are of even greater relevance.

Environmental costs are neither easy to quantify nor always immediately apparent.

Furthermore, the economic benefits of implementing environmental control procedures often cannot be expressed in financial terms.

Nevertheless sound environmental planning makes good business sense, as countries such as Taiwan and Japan discovered.

They learnt that with increasing overheads and infla-

By OSKAR STEFFEN, chairman of Steffen, Robertson & Kirsten Consulting Engineers (SRK)

tion it is more economic to spend money up front on environmental control than to foot the bill for restoring the environment.

Therefore, it is not so much a question of whether development should take place, but how it occurs. It is important that we, as a developing country, learn from the mistakes made elsewhere.

Hence the key issue: how to find a balance between development and environmental conservation.

I have been involved with the mining industry for many years. As part of my task as president of the SA Institute of Mining & Metallurgy (SAIMM) in 1990, I sought to increase the awareness of environmental issues.

Environmental awareness in the mining industry is important because it is a major contributor to the economy and therefore well placed to influence the broad human environment.

Early

"The environment" embraces not only land but people, their standard of living and appreciation of their habitat.

Environmental issues should be considered as early as possible in the planning of developments to allow problems to be dealt with timeously and cost efficiently.

By including engineers and scientists in the planning team, businesses can ensure that environmental complications are identified and the means to overcome or avoid them are properly evaluated or designed.

Consultants are increasingly becoming involved in

this arena. Although we are sometimes accused of being biased in favour of the customer or business, it is not in the interests of our profession to take sides.

We have a responsibility to the public and our clients to do the best we can.

Although SA is a developing nation, there is undeniably a need for sound environmental planning. This applies not only to Big Business. In fact, a link or partnership between large and small enterprises may be an important aid to environmental control.

Heritage

Another is "ecocounselling" — providing commerce and industry with information about legislation, international environmental trends, environmental technology, industry codes of practice and more.

Some government agencies and local authorities in Europe employ "ecocounsellors" to help ensure compliance with environmental legislation and standards.

This concept has potential in a country such as ours and let us hope we will see such people being employed by government departments, local authorities or possibly even by organisations that represent business or economic sectors.

Businessmen, engineers and scientists must work together to promote development and economic growth while ensuring conservation of the environment.

In this way our heritage will be protected and a better quality of life achieved for all our citizens.

Plea to world to save our wetlands

5/11/92
S/Times 5/11/92
ROY RUDDEN examines the mounting campaign by environmentalists to prevent the mining of St Lucia

SCORES of governments worldwide were approached this week in a desperate campaign to save South Africa's unique Lake St Lucia from possible devastation by international and national mining interests.

Environmentalists believe that the threat to one of the world's last remaining major wetlands areas is now so real that only the urgent enactment of special legislation can avert potential ecological disaster.

Empangeni attorney Oliff D'Oliveira, chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia (which helped collect 300 000 signatures for a recent petition calling on the government to prevent the mining), has already submitted a draft act for the Environmental Affairs Ministry to consider.

But now his organisation has enlisted international aid in a bid to pressure the government into urgent action.

It is feared that nothing — not even the results of a current environmental impact assessment — can otherwise stop Richards Bay Minerals from mining in St Lucia for titanium and other metals.

RBM has enormous financial and political clout. The UK-based Rio Tinto-Zinc, the world's biggest mining company, holds 50 percent of its shares. South Africa's Gencor is the next biggest shareholder and the other two are the parastatal IDC and SA Mutual.

SUPPORT

Fearing government delay or reluctance in introducing necessary legislation, the campaign organisers this week sent letters to 64 countries which, together with South Africa, are signatories to the international Ramsar Convention, which lists wetlands and binds member governments to preserve them.

The letters refer to a July, 1990, Ramsar resolution expressing "grave concern" over the potential impact of heavy metal mining in St Lucia. They recall that Ramsar then called on South Africa to prohibit any mining activity which would damage St Lucia's ecology and to ensure that St Lucia was retained as a protected site "because of its national and international conservation importance".

The letters now urge all signatories (comprising every significant government in the world) to make individual approaches to the South African Government in support of legislation effectively preventing RBM from carrying out its mining plans.

The government's position is ambiguous. On the one hand, as a signatory to Ramsar, it is morally bound to preserve St Lucia in its pristine wetlands condition. But, by virtue of having years ago granted mineral prospecting rights at St Lucia to RBM, it is legally bound to allow mining there — regardless of the outcome of the environmental impact assessment now being carried out under RBM sponsorship.

POWER

The government's only way out of the impasse, Mr D'Oliveira said this week, was to formulate a Wetlands Conservation Act which would give it the power to prohibit any activity which in his opinion would adversely affect the ecological character of any listed wetland.

Although Environmental Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar's response had not been unsympathetic, it had not provided positive assurance that the required legislation would be introduced in time to save St Lucia.

Lake St Lucia, the largest estuarine system on the continent, covers about 30 000 hectares and is home to one of the widest and most concentrated varieties of land, marine and bird wildlife in the world.

Its importance to a vast ecosystem which includes the Mkuzi and Umfolozi Game Reserves and the Mkuze River's catchment is virtually inestimable, as is the value of its link in a mighty Natal and Zululand water chain.

RBM has spent millions in trying to assure environmentalists and the public that its operations — potentially worth up to R60-million — would ultimately leave St Lucia unaffected.

Most conservationists say the damage would be irreparable.

Mayor told sink or swim in the sewage

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

ARC 8/1/92

FREELANCE radio announcer Mr David Hersch has dared the mayor, Mr Frank van der Velde, to swim when he reports a "sewage slick" during his regular helicopter flights to monitor bathing conditions on the Atlantic coast.

"He must swim at a time and place designated by me and he must swallow some of the seawater, because that's what people do when they swim," Mr Hersch said.

He was reacting to a challenge by Mr Van der Velde to produce scientific evidence to back his claims that sewage from the fractured Green Point outfall affected bathing areas south of Three Anchor Bay.

"I think he's putting his personal political face-saving over the health of the citizens of Cape Town and if this is the case, I suggest he stands down."

Mr Hersch added: "All I've said is that when the slick goes south — which they've now acknowledged can happen — they must warn the people."

Mr Hersch said he obviously didn't have the same investigative resources as the city council.

"But I'm not going to let this go — what's right is right. And I know something else — the majority of Cape Town is behind me on this."

No details yet on kaolin mining

Staff Reporter (5b)

KAOLIN mining is due to start at Chapman's Peak soon — but full details surrounding the controversial issue will be made public only after January 13, a management official said yesterday.

The official said most of Serina's directors, including chair-

CT 9/11/92
man Mr Bill Paverd, were on leave. He was unable to comment until they returned to work.

Mr Paverd said late last year that mining could start on January 1 — the day the new Minerals Act came into effect allowing the mining company to mine without a permit. However, it would be

some time before the mine's infrastructure was developed.

Meanwhile, British millionaire Sir John Aspinall has invited the Historic Homes Society to inspect Noordhoek Manor — which he owns and is near where mining operations are to take place.

Africa, like the globe, is divided into north-south, writes James Clarke

Regional focus delays progress in Africa debate

STAR 10/1/92

(56)

WHEN it comes to solving Third World problems can one look at Africa as a whole? From what I gather from Daniel Ntsala of Rustenburg — a young man who has been pitched into the global debate on environment — the task is impossible. It may be pointless too; a bit like trying to visualise Asia holistically.

Mr Ntsala (26) recently returned from Paris where he found himself in an all-Africa debate which set out to identify common African problems.

The conference — a global one — was organised by the UN to enable hundreds of non-government organisations to refine their ideas for presentation to this year's UN World Summit in Brazil.

The Africa lobby simply failed to gel.

"We discovered a 'north-south' situation within Africa itself," said Mr Ntsala. "It was not a conflict. It was simply that North Africa has a different set of problems from the southern half."

It emerged that while southern Africa was concerned with land apportionment, community involvement in decision-making and wildlife as a resource, northern Africa was concerned with severe population pressures and Aids — although not all delegates were prepared to admit these were problems.

"We really failed to find topics which were relevant to all of us," said Mr Ntsala.

"But they tried ... the four-day conference was supposed to have ended at 6 pm but Africa's delegates argued on and on. At 7 pm the organisers turned off most of the lights. At 8 pm the interpreters went home. At nine all the lights went off and we had to stop.

"We learned only that we were

all human beings with problems. But they must be tackled regionally. Africa is too big to be considered as a single region."

Mr Ntsala's life over the past 18 months has moved with bewildering speed.

The quiet and modest man who has just joined Bophuthatswana National Parks as a community affairs liaison man, was educated near Rustenburg where he became interested in environmental concerns. In 1990, at Wits Technikon studying computer science, he joined Aisec, a French-based youth movement for students interested in economics and management.

Out of the blue Aisec chose him to speak on behalf of South Africa's youth at a world environment congress in Tokyo: his first flight, his first speech. He handled it so well he was invited to speak in Taipei and Hong Kong on the way home.

Last year he was invited to Harare where he spoke at one of the many congresses associated with this year's UN Earth Summit. Then he was off to Belgium for another.

In March he is off to another World Summit preliminary, in Costa Rica. Then it's Kenya. After that, the World Summit itself.

Apart from discovering the north-south divide in Africa, he was confronted with the global north-south dichotomy — the growing rift between the developed northern hemisphere and the under-developed southern.

As Mr Ntsala put it: "The delegates from the industrialised north were very concerned about the ozone layer. The southern delegates were not at all concerned by that. Many had immediate survival problems." □

Rubbish in risks Cleansing cuts bring rats, flies, spoils

5b
CT 10/1/92

Staff Reporter

THE once-a-week garbage collection in Cape Town has led to an increase in rats, flies and rubbish spills.

This is according to a shock report from the city council's health department.

There has also been an increase in complaints from people living in areas of the city where rubbish is collected only once a week. In parts where rubbish is still collected twice a week, the number of complaints has dropped, according to the report.

The once-a-week plan has provoked much criticism from the public.

The health department's report recommends that the council extend the trial period by another three months before a decision is made to implement once-a-week removals.

The acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr N M

Durcan, who compiled the report, will make this recommendation when the report is submitted to the Amenities and Health Committee on January 13.

In her report, Dr Durcan said health inspectors had covered 102 houses in pre-selected areas including Bergvliet, Meadowridge, Plum-

Many complaints were received from the public. These included complaints about rodents, the non-removal of refuse and alleged, health-related complaints, she said.

Complaints regarding rats and mice for the period under review were compared with the number of complaints over the same period last

stead, Wynberg, Ottery, Wetton, Fairways, Ellendale, Trovato, Claremont, Bishopscourt, Newlands, Rondebosch, Rondebosch East, Kenilworth, Crawford and part of Athlone.

The 583 observations recorded showed a 28,6% spillage, 6,6% excessive fly breeding, 1,5% increased rats and offensive odours in 6,5% of cases.

Inside!	CABLEWAY PLANS PUSHING AHEAD	GOLD SOARS TO \$357,05
	See PAGE 3	See PAGE 8

year and in the areas in which refuse removal was reduced to once a week there had been a 19% increase in complaints (from 201 to 240).

This was considered to be "highly significant" as the rest of the city where refuse was still collected twice a week showed a 14% drop in complaints of rats and mice, Dr Durcan said.

The increase in rats and mice was "cause for

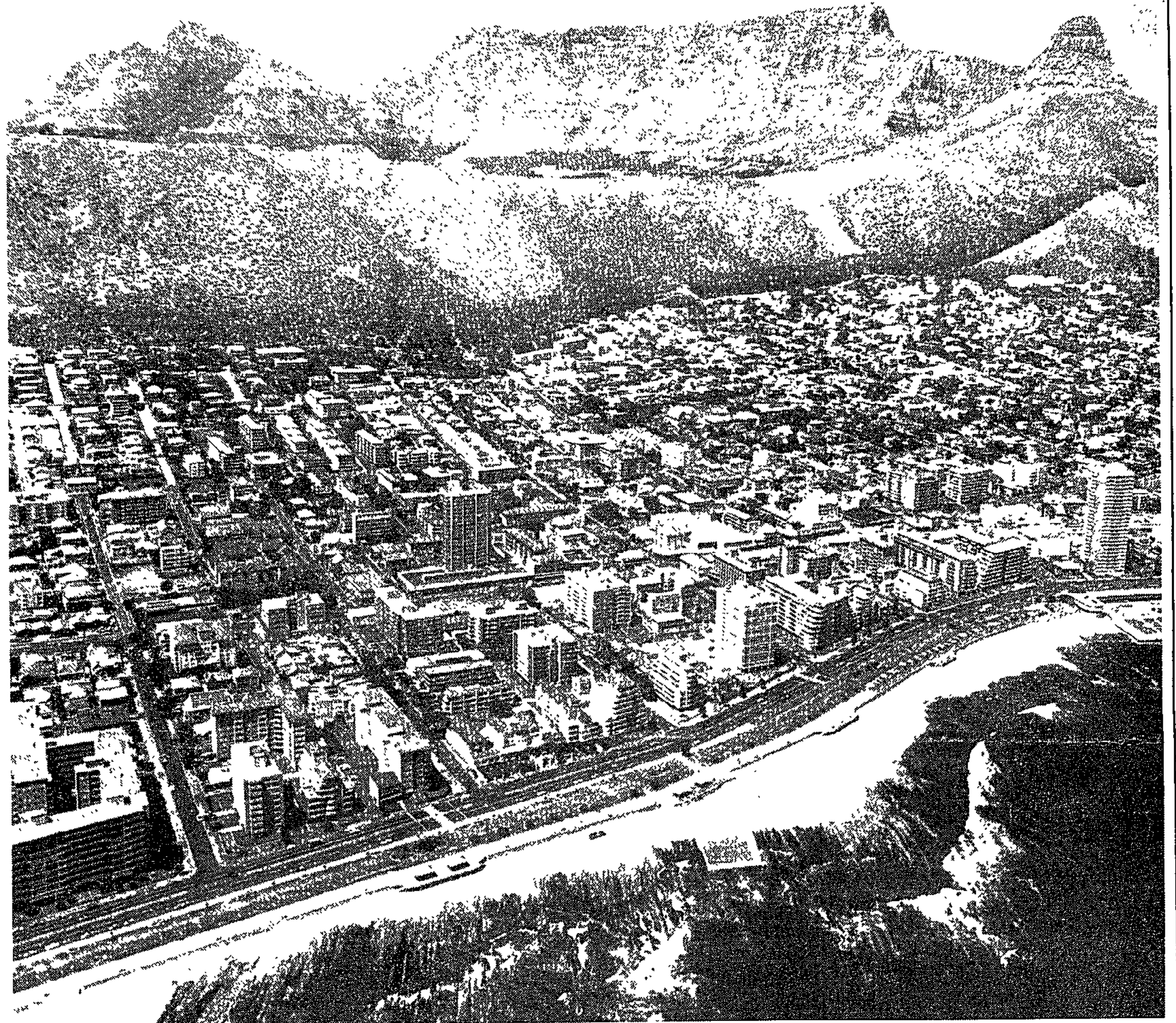
concern" because it did reflect a true increase in the rodent population because of the scaled-down system of refuse collection, the extension of the once-a-week service city-wide would be associated with an increase in these carriers of disease, she said.

While the "go slow" action by cleansing staff may have led to many complaints, it also highlighted the vulnerability of the once-a-week service, Dr Durcan said.

The high incidence of refuse spillage was "undoubtedly related" to the use of black plastic bags.

Supporters of the once-a-week system have said it would reduce the risk of spillage as the bags would be open to abuse only once a week.

Because of the importance of public health and confusing factors caused by industrial action, Dr Durcan recommended that a further three months' observation be continued in the experimental area before the once-a-week system was extended to other areas.



THE majestic sweep of Table Mountain: But all is not well...

Who will manage 'Nightmare Mountain'?
Or has this threatened area become...

Cape Town's 'holy cow'

APR 10/1/92

WHO should manage Table Mountain and how much money should they be spending on conservation efforts each year?

These questions are central to debate about the mountain's future — a debate which is likely to intensify sharply this year (following last year's disastrous fire on Devil's Peak), proposals for a cableway on Signal Hill, and renewed efforts by conservationists to ensure the mountain's long-term ecological survival.

In an open letter to Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring last month, the Botanical Society's Flora Conservation Committee launched a sharp attack on the mountain's existing, federal-type management structure.

The committee said the mountain would continue to be a conservation and financial "nightmare" until an overall management strategy was applied to the whole Peninsula chain, and it offered to fund a steering group which would prepare a "democratically acceptable" management plan.

A spokesman for Mr Meiring confirmed he had the letter and said he would be replying in due course.

In the mean time, the province's chief director of nature conservation, Dr Johan Neethling, has taken issue with Botsoc's suggestions.

In an interview with *The Argus*, Dr Neethling argued that the existing management structure worked well in the circumstances and said there was a danger of over-emphasising the mountain's status.

Dr Neethling pointed out that the eight authorities involved spent some R12-million on conservation work on the Peninsula mountain chain each year.

"The perception, such as in the Botanical Society letter, is that the management is not sufficient. This means the finances are not sufficient, but if R12-million is not enough, then what is enough? I don't think any authority in the country can afford more.

"And I dispute this perception (that management is inadequate) because I think it stems from episodic events such as the fire last year and the subsequent erosion. Now it is all quiet and until we have a fire again, presumably everyone would assume the management is okay."

JOHN YELD Environment Reporter

Dr Neethling noted that R12-million was more than was spent in all the nature reserves in the entire Cape Province.

"Aren't we perhaps making a holy cow of the Peninsula mountain chain?" he asked. "It's certainly a very important natural area, a national asset and one which is highly visible, but then so are other areas in the Cape Province. We are talking about money here, and that's a very scarce resource."

Referring to the gradual phasing out of the provincial subsidy for Table Mountain, he said: "We have been reducing subsidies to all the other nature reserves. There has been a marked reduction in government funding — hospitals are a very good example — and I think one must be realistic in judging the province's motivations in cutting back on the subsidies.

"In all fields of life we will just have to do with less and less."

Referring to the issue of a joint management plan for the entire Peninsula mountain chain, Dr Neethling pointed out that there were at least eight authorities and more than 170 private landowners.

"So it's debatable whether it's possible or desirable to have such an overall plan, given the realities of the situation. Is this something we should strive for?" he asked.

His assistant director, Mr Johan Lensing, said it was a "misconception" to think that an overall plan would solve the problems of the protected area.

"It won't," he said bluntly. "The problem is not the lack of a plan, but the fragmentation of the area. That's the real problem."

He said there was a "plan of sorts" which provided guidelines rather than fixed management objectives.

"It's not a management plan in the normal style of a nature reserve or a national park. This is dictated by the fact that we're dealing with a protected natural area and not a nature reserve."

There were working plans for fire protection, soil erosion and the eradication of alien vegetation, compiled several years ago. "We agree it deserves further attention, but to state that there is no plan at all is not strictly correct," Mr Lensing said.

Dr Neethling said he believed it would be

possible to consolidate the existing protected area, but this could only be achieved at "enormous" cost, probably to the taxpayer.

"Very often these are prime properties on the mountain chain and are very expensive. And against that background, one must ask whether it's desirable to try to consolidate the whole chain under one authority."

Asked whether it would be possible to establish a contractual nature reserve, along the lines of the national parks at Langebaan and Wilderness, Dr Neethling said he believed central management could cause the local community to be alienated from the conservation effort.

"And that's a very dangerous thing. We keep on talking about protecting the mountain from the people, but one must look at it in the reverse way as well. Locals are prepared to put up with all sorts of inconveniences because of the mountain, such as fires and falling rocks, and to look after the mountain on a voluntary basis.

"There is this philosophical approach which one mustn't forget or belittle, and it is one you can never have with a centralised, 'alien' authority... One must respect local vested interests," he argued.

Mr Lensing said people often confused the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment with the Table Mountain nature reserve.

Protected natural environments were designed to protect specific assets of the natural environment, he argued.

"The Cape Peninsula mountain chain is not a nature reserve, it is one huge conglomerate. The management of this whole area could never be elevated to the management of a area like De Hoop, for example. So it's expecting rather a lot to view the whole thing as a nature reserve and then always lay the blame at the Administrator's door when it doesn't work out like that.

"One has to view all these problems in that context. This is an imperfect mechanism for what people expect of it... The extraordinary success of this imperfect mechanism (in the Peninsula mountain chain) should not be belittled."

Not all environmentalists agree with the two nature conservation officials, and their comments are likely to draw a spirited response as debate continues.

Mayor to swim in 'polluted' sea water

56



PLUNGE
Mr Van der Velde

By PETER DENNEHY

THE Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Frank van der Velde, is to test the waters off Green Point this morning by swimming there to allay allegations of sewage pollution off the city coastline.

Mr Van der Velde said he was willing to put his health at risk to prove his council's point that bathing there was safe.

The challenge to the Mayor came about after yet another difference of opinion between helicopter-borne radio beach reporter Mr David Hersch and Mr Van der Velde.

Mr Hersch contends that effluent from the broken Green Point marine sewage outfall can be noticed, under certain

weather conditions, as far south as Three Anchor Bay and even Rocklands Beach and beyond.

Mr Van der Velde contests this. He said the radio station which had broadcast Mr Hersch's views had offered him an opportunity to reply, which he had taken up.

"The television producer asked me whether I would be prepared to swim in that area. It is a bit of a gimmick, but I said I would do so with pleasure, as the guest of the SABC.

"I will not swim in the area where there are signboards up. I don't disobey the law."

● All go on Hout Bay project
Page 3

Cape report card — township schools fared poorly in matric

EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN'S township schools performed badly in the matric results compared to other districts in the province, especially the Eastern Cape.

A breakdown of the matric results issued by regional chief director Mr W A Staude revealed that of the top 20 students seven got symbol B with matriculation exemption.

The remaining 13 got C symbols with matriculation exemption and only three were from the Western Cape.

Fifteen were from either Port Elizabeth or East London. Eighteen of the top 20 schools were also in the Eastern Cape.

Mr Staude said the Cape's top school, which attained a 95 percent pass rate, was in the Eastern Cape and 57 percent of its candidates got matriculation exemption.

"In general, the results of the schools in the West Cape compare unfavourably with those in the Eastern Cape."

However, Khayelitsha's Luhlaza Secondary, popular for its performance in the past three years, was among the three

that got more than a 80 percent pass rate in the province.

Principal Mr Eric Siyengo said this week that of the 124 candidates, 39 got exemptions and 63 got senior certificates.

Mr Siyengo, a former Good Hope Teachers' Training College lecturer who was appointed to Luhlaza in September last year said the pupils had "done well under the circumstances".

He said the results showed a "slight" drop in pupils who got exemptions and an increase in those who got senior certificates.

52 ARG 11/1/92

New mining threat to stretch of virgin coast

By ROY RUDDEN

CONSERVATION experts were shocked to learn this week of a new mining threat to an unspoilt stretch of South African coastline — this time from the Wild Coast Casino to Mkambati near Port Grosvenor.

Mr Roy MacPherson, managing director of Richards Bay Minerals — involved in world controversy over its plans to mine at Lake St Lucia — confirmed that his company had acquired prospecting rights from the Transkei government some time ago.

He played down the danger and said that he did not think mining would go ahead there in the foreseeable future because a feasibility survey had found the dunes too low in minerals and too far from Richards Bay to make the site economically viable.

But environmentalists are sceptical. Mr Keith Cooper, the SA Wildlife Society's director of conservation, said the disclosure was alarming.

Destruction

Author/naturalist Tony Pooley said it was a tragedy in the making, and conservationist Ian Player said he was shocked.

"We've heard that kind of story before — about mining probably not being viable," Dr Player said. "The fact is that yet another ecologically and aesthetically valuable line of our eastern coast is now under threat of destruction.

"Is any part of the

country's east coast now safe from these giant international mining interests?" (RBM is 50-percent owned by the international Rio Tinto Zinc group, and other big shareholders are Gencor, SA Mutual and the IDC.)

Mr Cooper said: "Maybe mining isn't viable at present, though viability can alter with circumstances. But it's hard to understand how Transkei could have granted prospecting rights there when the whole coastline from the casino to Port St Johns is a declared conservation area."

Rights

"Apart from the obvious ecological objections, the impact on a potentially valuable tourism area could be disastrous.

"The Wild Coast Casino is already the country's most important revenue-producing development. This is an extraordinary decision."

Mr Pooley said he was appalled that prospecting rights had been granted over what he described as 35km of one of the most beautiful and unspoilt parts of the world.

"RBM's statement that mining there is not economically viable doesn't reassure me — in fact, 'economic viability' seems an accurate reflection of the sole consideration of such enormously wealthy mining conglomerates."

Trash city heading for 'health disaster'

5 Times (CM) 12/11/92 (75) (56)
CAPE TOWN could slide into a "health disaster" unless it pays serious attention to its health hazards, the city councillor for Rondebosch, Mr Arthur Wienburg, has warned.

Flies, rats and spills have increased with the city's trial once-weekly refuse removal system, according to a report by the acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr Nula Durcan.

The negative findings listed in the report have come as no surprise to him, says Mr Wienburg.

Dr Durcan said that of 583 observations made, spillage had been recorded in 28,6 percent, excessive fly breeding in 6,6 percent and offensive odours in 6,5 percent.

In addition, rats had increased in 1,5 percent of cases. Earlier, the assistant town clerk in charge of amenities and health, Mr Dawie de Villiers, said twice-weekly collections might be reinstated in the trial areas.

R50m row over water

STimes (Buss)

56 12/1/92

ONE of the world's biggest construction companies is in a row with the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA).

It arises out of alleged overcharging of more than R50-million for a contract on the water project.

Paris-based Duméz International, which has 20 000 employees, won the contract to build 39km of road to the site of the Katse Dam at a cost of R51-million. It completed the work last year, but claimed it was entitled to an extra R57-million for unforeseen expenses.

The claim has resulted in the dismissal of a director of a Pretoria-based firm of consulting engineers, Van Wyk & Louw.

Martin Schutte was fired after he wrote a report endorsing Duméz's claim. His job as consulting engineer was to supervise work done by Du-

Project payment

By CURT VON KEYSERLINGK

mez on behalf of the LHDA and to evaluate claims by Duméz for additional compensation.

Mr Schutte left his job on November 15 after it was disclosed at a special board meeting that morning that he had a business relationship with Duméz "entirely inconsistent with his position."

After the completion of Mr Schutte's report, Van Wyk & Louw appointed a team to investigate Du-

mez's claim. Instead of R57-million, it found that Duméz was entitled to only an extra R2-million.

It was found that a Duméz director had a business relationship with Mr Schutte which involved a game farm in Namibia.

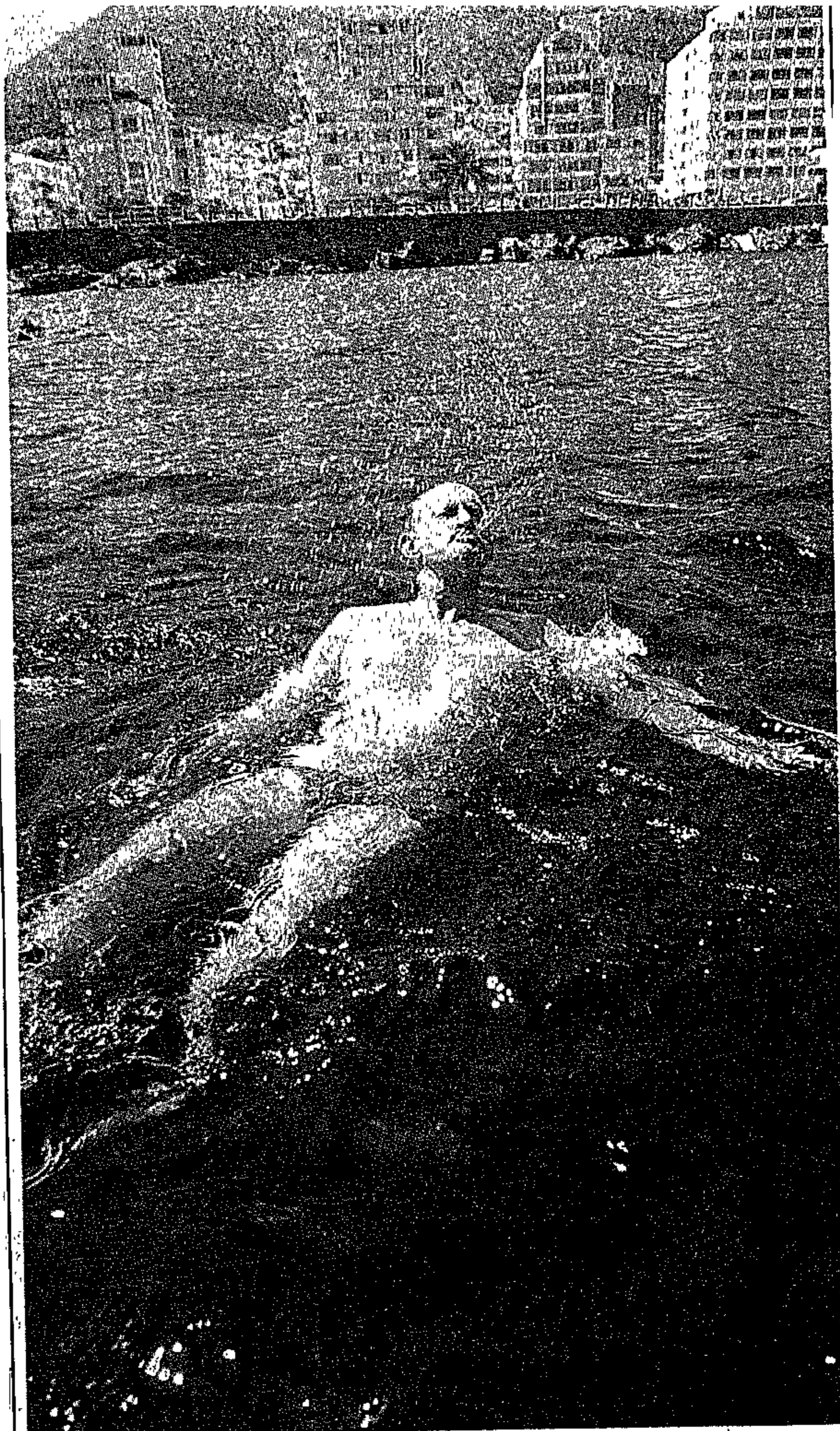
The Duméz director was not available for comment when Business Times phoned his office in Paris this week. But his attorneys in Windhoek, Theunissen Van Wyk & Partners, phoned Business Times to inquire about this report.

A partner in the firm says Mr Schutte acted as a link between the

Duméz director and the attorneys regarding the transfer of a property. He doubts that Mr Schutte was employed by the director.

The property is owned by a privately owned company, Epako Kamel Game Ranch.

Duméz has declared a dispute with the LHDA over the extra payment. The chairman of the LHDA was not available for comment. A spokesman for SA Department of Water Affairs says he cannot comment because the matter is being handled by authorities in Lesotho.



BRAVE SWIM . . . The Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Frank van der Velde, squirts water into the air after taking the plunge and swimming in the sea near the Green Point outfall pipe. ET 13/1/79

Staff Reporter
RADIO Good Hope has gagged Mr David Hersch, one of its announcers, because of a controversial war of words between him and the Mayor, Mr Frank van der Velde, over alleged sea pollution near the broken sewerage pipe at Green Point.

Last night Mr Louis Blom, the Cape Town news editor of the SABC, said both Mr Van der Velde and Mr Hersch had been interviewed in a television programme

'Pollution' announcer is gagged

screened on Saturday night.

"Mr Hersch had been given every opportunity to state his case," Mr Blom said.

Last night Mr Hersch declined to comment.

On Saturday, to show that the sea was not as polluted as claimed, Mr

Van der Velde took the plunge into the sea and even took some water into his mouth which he later spat out.

He said afterwards that it was a "magnificent" swim in cold, clear water.

"My arms did not fall off, I am not suffering from diarrhoea and I have not developed spots on my face."

Mr Van der Velde said there was no scientific or tested evidence that high levels of pollution were caused by the damaged pipeline.

Mining threat to coastal (56) nature area

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON. — The ecological future of a stretch of virgin coast between the Wild Coast Casino and Mkambati near Port Grosvenor is under threat if a controversial mining company decides to utilise its prospecting rights.

The managing director of Richards Bay Minerals, Mr Roy MacPherson, confirmed to a Sunday newspaper that his company had acquired prospecting rights from the Transkei government.

SA Wildlife Society director Mr Keith Cooper condemned Transkei authorities for granting prospecting rights along a coastline which has been declared a conservation area.

However, Mr MacPherson has denied any danger exists to the coastline. ET 13/1/92

Magnet in need of intensive care

Star 15/1/92 (56)

lution; parodies of what they used to be. Many are named after animals that have long since ceased to exist locally. There is hardly an indigenous tree to be seen — almost all are alien eucalyptus and Australian acacias growing in areas stripped of natural plants.

Coal dumps, power stations spewing sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, and a huge network of cracking power plants have replaced the natural scene. Soil erosion is rife, veld fires sweep across land covered in shallowly rooted grass, and dust devils and tractors whip up dry topsoil that blows away.

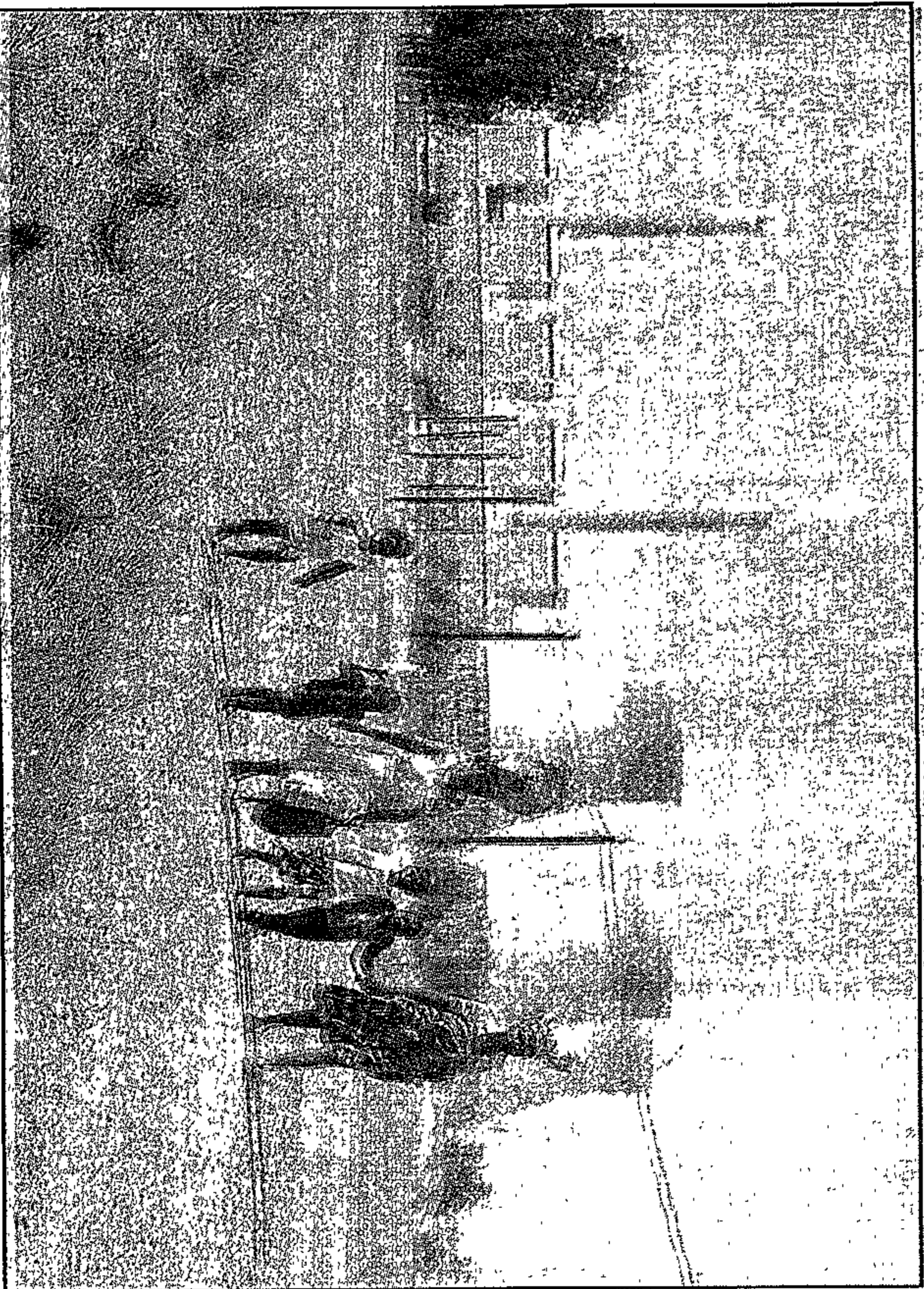
Huge pine and eucalyptus forests on the area into a cheap imitation of Canada and Australia.

The land has been cursed by its own fertility: relatively plentiful water, rich coal seams — and by shortsightedness. Only in 1956, when much damage had already been done by mining, did the government institute water-pollution controls. Stricter air pollution controls came in in 1965 and the fines were increased enormously during the 1980s. But nobody has ever been fined.

The felled but harmless stench of Mpi's Ngodwana paper mill follows tourists right up to the Kruger Park, and can sometimes be detected at Skukuza. Jock of the Bushveld would hamper if he got a whiff of it all now.

The Department of Water Affairs says the fish deaths were caused by high levels of ammonia from industry, raw sewage effluent and farming fertilisers. The lack of rain concentrated the chemicals into lethal doses.

With farmers and homeland residents taking more and more water directly from the river, and often poisoning it, this seems likely to recur every year the rains are late.



Powerless . . . those living near power stations are often without electricity.

Picture: Karen Fletcher

Phalaborwa Mining Company has contributed R100 000 for a study on copper toxicity in game animals. But most of the really dirty industries keep a low profile.

Eskom insists that most of the power station emissions drift out to sea. But Satara camp in the Kruger Park, which shouldn't be affected if Eskom were right, has measured a pH as low

as three in the rain — a reading one would expect from vinegar. Scientists are now studying the effects of industrial fallout on Kruger Park's soil and vegetation.

In homeland patches of Gazankulu and Lebowa which dapple the map of the Eastern Transvaal the land is overgrazed. When it rains, valuable topsoil washes down into the rivers.

Farmers in the well-to-do white areas are no less to blame. Pesticides sprayed up to 10 years ago continue to leach into the rivers.

The Letaba river dried up in August because irrigation authorities failed to let out enough water to keep it flowing — farmers took what little there was.

"That takes us right back to square one every year," grumbled National Parks soil scientist Dr Freek Venter, based at Skukuza.

The fish die, the frogs, insects and water-dependent organisms die. So does river vegetation.

The land itself, when not being washed away or poisoned, is being scarred by opencast coal mining.

The Chamber of Mines has complained that it costs R20 000 to R50 000 to rehabilitate a hectare of land after strip mining it, more than its market value. They have suggested the mines spend that money on improving more promising land for agriculture.

And the cost to South Africa of all this damage in the Eastern Transvaal? None of it is deducted from the gross national product.

Yet the damage to the Kruger Park threatens the very linchpin of our R9 billion tourist industry.

JULIENNE DUGOIT

Eastern Transvaal tourist

STAR 15/1/92

56

ENVIRONMENT

The Eastern Transvaal has been cursed by its own fertility; by relatively plentiful water; by rich coal seams — and by shortsightedness.

W

HEN 2 000 dead fish, their fins and gills bleeding, washed up on the banks of the Crocodile River in the Kruger National Park, no one knew — at first — why they had died.

In the Kruger Park and in nearby Klaserie, dissections of mammals have shown unnaturally yellow body fat — copper tailings from mines in Phalaborwa, blown over onto grazing grounds, are the suspects.

The Eastern Transvaal Highveld and Lowveld are in a state of crisis and only conservationists, nature lovers and the Department of Water Affairs seem to care.

The Department of Environmental

Children choking on pollution problem

The air over the Eastern Transvaal, once pure and fresh, is now visible as brown smudges settling into the valleys.

Children grow up with respiratory complaints and develop weak chests from breathing in pollution from the many industries whose pollutants form a miasma across the Highveld and cascade down to the Lowveld.

Affairs recently commissioned a CSIR study of the state of air pollution and waste disposal. The subsequent report singled out the Eastern Transvaal as a serious problem area.

The President's Council report says it has the potential to become the world's worst area for acid fall-out.

A drive along the N4 from Johannesburg to Nelspruit, one of the most travelled tourist routes in the country, gives a hint of the devastation wrought in the Eastern Transvaal.

Drivers pass over streams, that no longer run and others that are, due to

Polluted dam water causing disease among children, says Plain pharmacist

56
PRC 15/1/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

POLLUTED water from the Theewaterskloof Dam is not always properly treated before being fed into Cape Town's water system and is causing diarrhoea, particularly in small children, a Mitchell's Plain pharmacist has alleged.

He also complains about the smell of drinking water — as have several callers to The Argus.

City engineer Mr Arthur Clayton acknowledges that some of Cape Town's water tasted and smelt bad this summer, but says the cause — an alga — is non-toxic and poses no health risk.

The acting city medical officer of health reported that there was no epidemiological evidence to support the pharmacist's allegation, Mr Clayton added.

The pharmacist, Mr Shaheen Sattar, said water from the council's Blackheath treatment plant reaching households on the Cape Flats "stinks" and contained a marked sediment. Because of the smell, his family had resorted to using bottled water.

"I also observed in my practice — and this was confirmed with colleagues — inexplicable cases of diarrhoea, especially in babies and children, with vomiting and cramps."

Mothers visiting his pharmacy and doctors could not ex-

plain the diarrhoea.

"Then I found a rather simple solution — instead of their going through all these expensive medicines, it was better to use bottled water to make up milk formulas. Because of this, I started to investigate.

Mr Sattar said he had been told by a chemical analyst that fertilisers and nutrients in water from the Theewaterskloof Dam, combined with high temperatures in summer, had created ideal conditions for the proliferation of the alga *Anabena*.

The alga produced toxins as by-products from its metabolic function, Mr Sattar alleged.

"Obviously this water then goes to the filtration plant and the problem is that the city council has no effective way of removing those toxins."

Mr Sattar claimed the council found it too expensive to add charcoal (to remove the bad taste and smell) to the water filtration system permanently and acted only when people complained.

But the majority of people did not complain.

He said the water treatment system should be upgraded and suggested institutions like the University of the Western Cape set up "watchdog" bodies to monitor water quality and the presence of algae.

In response, Mr Clayton said there was a "seasonal phenomenon" which sometimes caused

complaints of bad taste and smell in water from the Blackheath and Kloofnek treatment plants.

The phenomenon arose from the presence of a non-toxic alga (*Anabena solitaria*) in some raw water reserves. Often it did not reach the treatment plant and in five of the past 10 years there had been no problem.

He said the algal count at Theewaterskloof and Blackheath was monitored regularly.

"A panel of 'tasters' in the council's scientific services branch monitor the taste of the treated water and, when the need arises, special additional taste and odour removal treatment using powdered activated carbon (charcoal) is instituted."

This added about 30 percent to the cost of water treatment.

The alga had appeared later than usual this year and activated carbon treatment had started on New Year's Eve, Mr Clayton said. The treatment was fully effective in the first week.

"Extremely hot weather resulted in a very high water demand and increased algal counts. The dosing was not high enough to remove all the taste and extra dosing had to be arranged so that all but the most hyper-sensitive people would not detect the taste.

"The taste reduces the further the water flows, so is more noticeable in areas closer

to the Blackheath plant."

Acting medical officer of health Dr Nula Durcan had reported no evidence to suggest metabolites from algae in Cape Town's water caused vomiting and diarrhoea, Mr Clayton said.

But there might be seasonal increases in gastro-enteritis in all areas, irrespective of the water distribution.

Independent bacteriological investigations confirmed the findings of regular monitoring that there were no harmful substances in the city's water.

Minute quantities of pesticides or toxic substances in any quantities fell outside the standards laid down by international agencies, he added.

'Greening' wrong kind for harbour

The Argus Correspondent

5th April 1992

DURBAN. — A section of Durban harbour has been polluted by a green substance, believed to have been waste flushed down a stormwater drain.

Residents overlooking the harbour on the Esplanade said they were shocked to see what looked like a combination of thinners and paint.

An official of the Port Captain's office said the pollution officer was sent to the section of the harbour affected and that a sample would be analysed.

He said the sample of water and the green substance was likely to be analysed immediately.

An official of the Durban City Council's Physical Environment Department said that once the substance was analysed efforts would be made to trace the source.

"However, the stormwater drains from various parts of the city lead into the harbour and it might be a problem finding out the source," said the official.


He said the offenders were liable to prosecution and a possible fine.

A resident said the green substance began flowing into the harbour near the pier from where boats took visitors for cruises.

"While looking out of the window, I saw this green substance flowing into the harbour and it just grew in size. It was clear that it was coming from a stormwater drain," said the resident.

Another man said that "every now and then" some company dumped wastes into stormwater drains that polluted the harbour, virtually killing marine life.

"Companies must stop doing this kind of thing or we will not have any marine life left in the harbour," he said.



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE: But most of it's going down the drain, experts say

City may be running on empty

South 16/11-22/191

(56)

CAPE TOWN COULD run out of fresh water by the year 2000 if the city's scarce water resources are not managed more efficiently, say environmentalists. According to a document released by Earthlife Africa, water consumption in the Western Cape is about 245 000 megalitres a year. It is estimated this figure will double by the year 2020.

The quest for alternative sources of water is a pressing issue, says the group, yet a lot of fresh water is going down the drain and into the sea.

There are plans to bring water from the Berg River to supplement Cape Town's dwindling supplies.

There is also the contentious prospect of the Lower Palmiet River Scheme which envisages putting the unique fynbos and potential tourist area in the Kogelberg mountains under water.

The area is one of the last intact fynbos strongholds.

A report drawn up by the Cape Nature Conservation Department cites the Kogelberg as a potential World Heritage Biosphere Park.

The damming of the Palmiet would not only destroy the Kogelberg and open the area to invasion by alien species, but would also in-

fringe on some of the most productive farming land in the Cape.

At a public meeting held by the Department of Water Affairs last year, Mr Kobus Erasmus, the department's deputy director, conceded the Kogelberg area and the Palmiet estuary could be damaged by the department's proposal to dam the Palmiet River.

But he gave an assurance the plan would not be implemented without an "exhaustive public debate on all alternatives".

Other options are the introduction of water-saving devices, tapping groundwater sources such as the Cape Flats and Atlantis aquifers, reusing treated effluent, desalination and towing icebergs.

The Palmiet scheme would be the most economically viable, according to Mr Hennie Smit, planning engineer for the Department of Water Affairs.

Earthlife Africa has called on the city council to implement a "holistic, integrated water management plan for the South West Cape" and believes "the Kogelberg State Forest should not be sacrificed in such a plan".

They also indicated that sea pollution caused by disposal of effluent as well as the run-off from stormwater drains could not be

examined in isolation.

All waste water ending up in the sea must be regarded as "throwing away a potentially useful resource", the group said.

A successful pilot water reclamation project using "treated waste waters" had been completed in Cape Town in 1986.

Although the cost of reclaiming water was high, a project report indicated improved technology "would significantly reduce the production cost of a full-scale plant".

It was further contended that the cost of fresh and reclaimed water would be similar in future.

Tapping groundwater aquifers could yield an additional volume of water. Paradoxically, pollution associated with the lack of sanitation in the Cape Flats and the lax water control standards for industrial areas, present the biggest hurdles to such a proposal.

This disregard for the integrity of natural fresh water reserves in the region made a comprehensive water quality plan even more urgent.

According to Erasmus, a series of "public participation exercises" was being arranged by the department culminating in a major workshop where recommendations could be made to the government on the issue of water supply.

Desalination of seawater could in theory provide unlimited quantities of fresh water. The high cost would put such a scheme out of bounds until a cheap supply of energy was found.

It has been calculated that a desalination plant capable of supplying Cape Town's water needs over the next 10 years would require the output of a power station the size of Koeberg.

Desalination could be a viable option if introduced on a smaller scale in conjunction with other projects.

Implementing water-saving legislation would ultimately be the easiest and most economic way to alleviate the problems caused by the increase in population in Cape Town.

Providing incentives to industry to reduce their water use while making water-saving devices more economical would reduce the overall consumption of water.

Simple changes in lifestyle for those used to cheap and readily available water could result in extraordinary savings.

In one example given, a family of four showering instead of bathing could save three to four hundred litres of water a day.

Unfortunately, recent decisions such as the one to construct a new marine outfall pipe at Green Point leave little hope that wisdom will outweigh economic shortsightedness in determining the outcome of Cape Town's water situation in the future. □

DAVE LEWIS

Kaolin: only recourse is 'physical action' ⁽⁵⁾

cf 16/1/92

By CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

MEMBERS of the Save Chapman's Peak Action group who have been fighting kaolin mining in the area for the past four years say the only recourse left to objectors is that of "physical expression".

This follows news of new legislation being drawn up to allow mining company Serina to be on site pursuing its mineral rights before being granted a formal permit.

SCPAG spokesman Mr Ian Brownlie said: "This ruling stands only for 12 months, so during the course of the year Serina will have to apply for a long-term permit.

"Before beginning, though, the company has to give the landowner 14 days written notice and

as this has not yet been done it is unlikely that they will begin mining before the end of the month."

Meeting

Serina executive director Mr Andre Viljoen confirmed on Monday that two weeks' notice had to be given before mining could begin on the land and said he did not know exactly when this would happen. He said: "We'll probably start by fencing the area."

Meanwhile, land-owners and the action group have arranged a meeting, open only to local residents, to be held in the NG Kerk hall in Noordhoek next Thursday, to discuss action.

Mr Brownlie said: "We've been squeezed into a corner and there is just no way we'll allow Serina

to get on site without our taking part in some sort of physical expression."

Responsible

Protests will be co-ordinated to avoid scenarios where 2 000 protesters turn up on the first day and then none thereafter.

"We'll make sure that 20, 30 or even 50 people turn up each day until we feel the problem is being addressed in a responsible manner," said Mr Brownlie, adding that up until now, the action group had conducted a clean, responsible campaign which had fallen largely on deaf ears as far as the authorities were concerned.

□ Those interested in assisting SCPAG can call Mr Brownlie at (021) 789-2310 a/h.



FIRE START . . . Sails in the late afternoon contrast with the massive blaze which destroyed more than 1 500 hectares on Constantiaberg yesterday. The fire began above Hout Bay. Nearly 200 firefighters fought the blaze until late last night.

Picture: STEWART COLEMAN

By ANDRE KOOPMAN and BRONWYN DAVIDS
PALLS of thick smoke covered the entire city bowl and parts of the Atlantic seaboard yesterday when a large bushfire raged out of control above Hout Bay — destroying an estimated 1 500 hectares of trees and fynbos.

The fire started on the old Tierbos Estate in the Baviaanskloof between 4.30 and 5pm and soon raced up the Constantiaberg towards the mountain ridge.

A southerly wind of between 15 to 20 knots fanned the blaze, burning on a front of more than two kilometres, over the ridge and towards the Tokai state forest. Thick smoke was blown towards the city and over the mountain in the direction of Tokai/Newlands.

The fire formed a flaming arc, about 20 to 25km long, from the Chapman's Peak side of the Constantiaberg towards the Constantia Nek side.

A spokesman for the Regional Services Council, Mr Johan Fick, said more than 175 firefighters from the RSC, Department of Forests and the CPA's

Mountain bushfire rages out of control

Nature Conservation Department were battling the blaze late last night.

They managed to stop the fire about 100 metres from the Tokai state forest.

Mr Fick said backburns would be started above Tokai and on the Hout Bay side of the Constantiaberg in an attempt to contain the fire.

The fire had not been brought

under control by late last night.

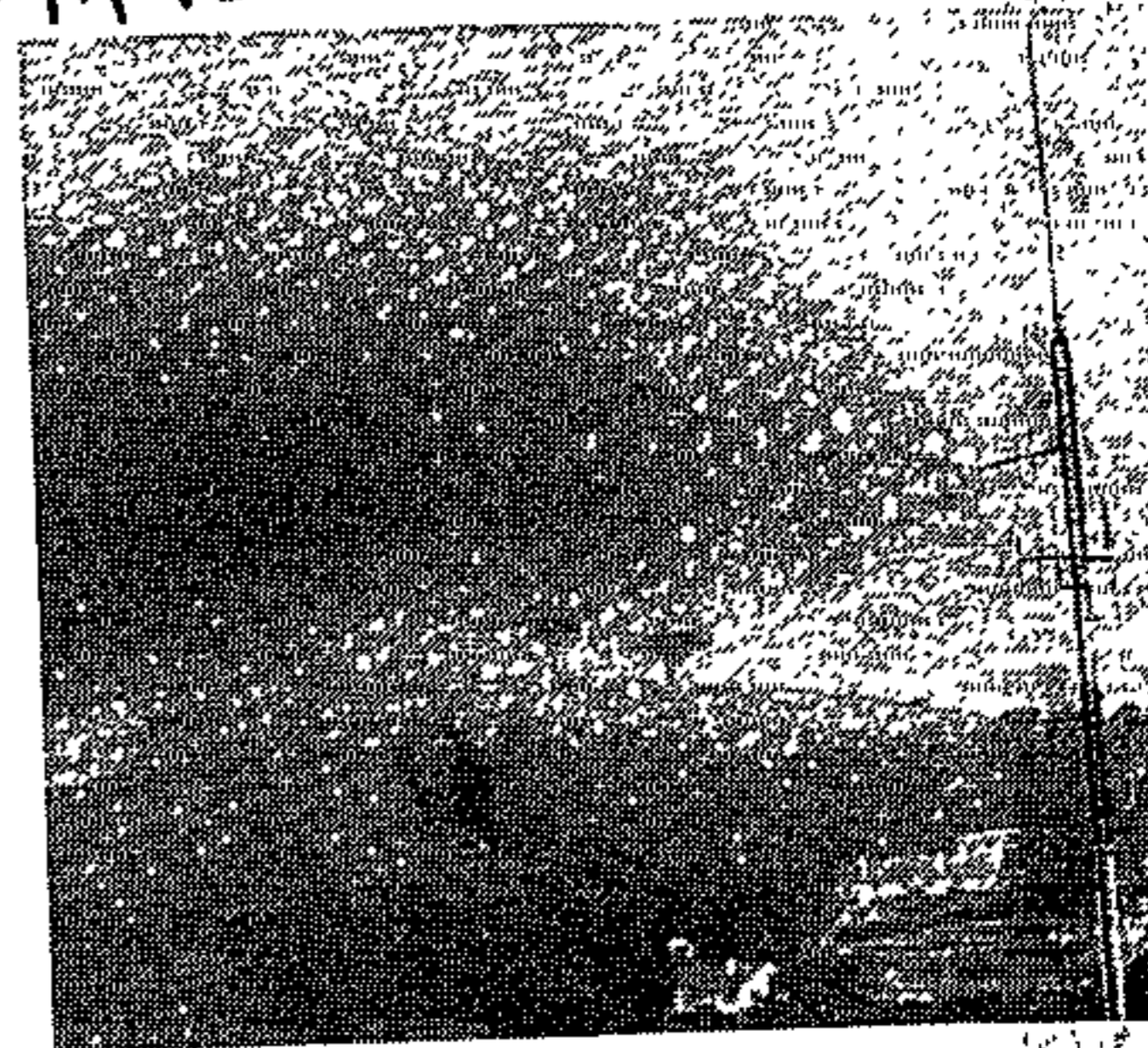
It was hoped that the fire would have been contained by early this morning.

The regional services fire control in Ottery was unaware of the fire when contacted by the Cape Times before 6.30pm.

Mr Fritz Eckle of Low Street in Hout Bay called to say the fire had been small when it started about 4.30pm.

"It was small when it started above Scot's Estate but the authorities didn't do anything about it and the wind swung it right across to Penzance," said Mr Eckle.

No effective infrastructure was in place to fight the fires which raged every year, "but everybody moans when large parts of the mountain are destroyed", he said.



OBSCURED . . . Choking smoke from the Constantiaberg fire blanketed Table Mountain and the city bowl yesterday afternoon.

56 CT 16/1/92



Picture: BRENTON GEACH, the Argus.

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT: The serene glow in the lighted windows of a mansion contrasts with the consuming violence of a raging bush fire on the slopes of Constantiaberg above Hout Bay.

Mountain blaze burnt out, damp down continues

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A HUGE bush fire which swept up the westerly slopes of Constantiaberg above Hout Bay has burnt out.

And firefighters are continuing with damping-down operations.

The fire, which destroyed an estimated 1500 hectares of fynbos and exotic pine trees, cast a thick pall of smoke across suburbs as far away as Observatory, Salt River and the city bowl area.

The smoke was so dense yesterday that it obscured Table Mountain from Eastern Boulevard.

The fire, fanned by a gentle south-westerly wind, started in mid-afternoon at the end of a new road being bulldozed through the Tierbos property development in Baviaanskloof, Hout Bay, and burned up to the saddle between Constantiaberg and Skoorsteenkop.

More than 170 firefighters from the Forestry Department, the Regional Services Council and the Department of Nature Conservation were mobilised to fight the blaze.

Most of the men were sent up Constantiaberg from the Tokai side where they set counter-fires near the road leading to the FM and television mast.

By 9pm the fire was largely under control, although firefighters prepared to spend the night on the mountainside in case the wind came up.

Early today a nature conservation spokesman said: "Everything is under control and there is no real danger."

The men are busy with mopping-up operations and they are damping down with water tankers.

One of the men said last night it was fortunate the fire had been burning through new veld which consisted mainly of small, low plants.

The firefighters were unable to say what had caused the fire.

A mechanical excavator being used on the road in Tierbos was only metres from the fire when it started. It was moved down the boulder-strewn road but broke down after 30m and was abandoned with one of its tracks smashed.

There was no damage to private property.

Battle for Chapman's Peak goes on

Winnipeg 17/11 - 23/11/92

By GAYE DAVIS: Cape Town 

THE company which plans to strip-mine kaolin on Chapman's Peak, has yet to move on to the site — although it has been legally entitled to do so since January 2.

Anti-mine campaigners believe the company, Serina, is caught in a Catch 22: in terms of the mining Act, it may not process the kaolin it mines anywhere except on site — the historic Goede Hoop estate.

Ian Brownlie, spokesman for the Save the Chapman's Peak Action Group, believes the first move Serina makes in starting to build a processing plant on the site will "stir up the ire" of the thousands he says are opposed to the mine.

But Serina's managing director, Carl Tarrant, said the reason Serina had yet to move on site was because planning for the processing plant was "still under way". Asked when building would begin he would only say "sometime this year".

Tarrant believes people are "over-concerned" about the effects the mine will have on both tourism and the environment. The company would honour to the letter requirements for rehabilitating the area laid down in an environmental impact study carried out three years ago, he said.

Brownlie, however, cites Serina's management of its existing mine near Fish Hoek, where the company's efforts to rehabilitate the area "involved little more than green shade cloth and planting kikuyu grass".

Nor is Tarrant concerned about the protest campaign the Save the Chapman Peak Action Group has threatened to unleash: "People have painted completely the wrong picture of us. Once people see what we are doing, relations will improve."

Brownlie says: "We've already got about 5 000 people prepared to take part in a human chain who are also prepared to pay admission of guilt fines of R75 if they're arrested."

The action group wants Serina to exploit kaolin deposits in less environmentally sensitive areas and has offered to compensate the company for "any reasonable expenses" it has incurred so far. Serina has said that whatever deposits are found elsewhere, it would nevertheless mine Chapman's Peak first, kaolin at the site being of a high quality. As to being paid out, Tarrant said: "You don't get compensated for what you spend, you get compensated for what you're going to lose."

For Brownlie the battle for Chapman's Peak goes beyond its immediate locality. "It affects the whole of South Africa, like mining in the Kruger Park. The days of the authorities simply imposing their will on an unwilling population have gone."

'Compact' can prevent catastrophe

WHILE the world's population is projected to double in 40 years, the urban population will probably double in 22 — and that of Third World cities in just 15.

The goal of slowing overall population growth is critically important, notes a new Worldwatch Institute report, but this goal will take decades to achieve, and the viability of cities in the meantime depends on controlling the pattern, not just the pace, at which land is developed.

The best hope for making cities livable, and at the same time stopping the juggernaut of urban development that destroys more of the environment each year, is to contain future development within geographical "growth boundaries" such as those around many European and Asian cities, suggests author Marcia Lowe in *Shaping Cities: The Environmental and Human Dimensions*.

"All cities, whether surrounded by affluent suburbs or by makeshift shantytowns, need to plan land use far more carefully than in the past — before the developing world's urban crises become catastrophes, and the industrial world's problems become issues of survival," Lowe writes.

Citing examples from Portland, Oregon, to Curitiba, Brazil, Lowe shows that compact development can solve a wide array of problems that plague urban areas in rich and poor countries alike. By reducing travel distances between homes and workplaces, for example, higher densities reduce traffic congestion, dependence on fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases.

Unplanned growth of cities threatens to irreparably degrade the water, air, soil and forest resources on which all human communities depend

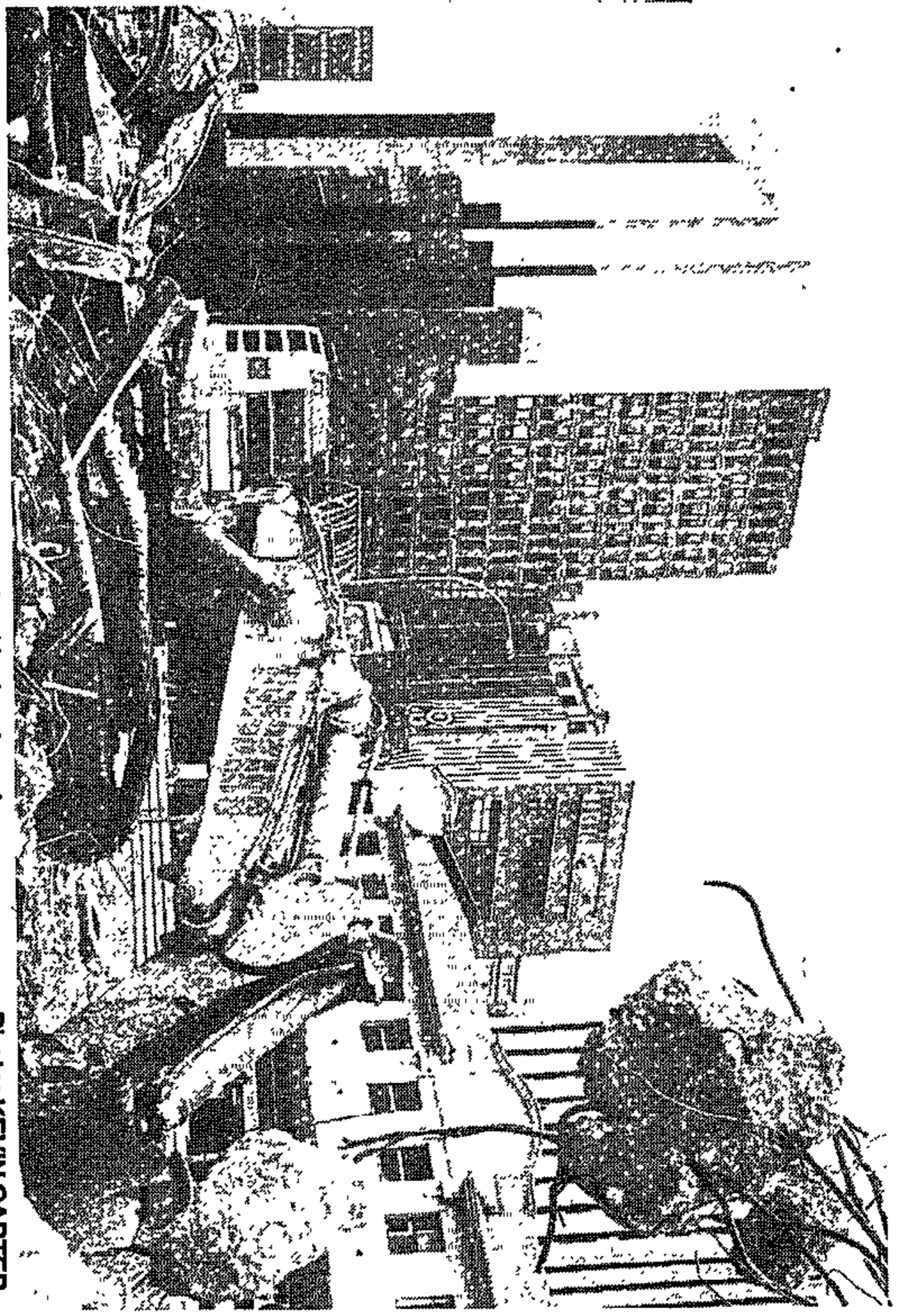
Contrary to popular fears, population density is not, in itself, a cause of crime or blight, notes the report. Hong Kong, for example, is the most densely populated of the world's 100 largest cities, yet has the 12th lowest murder rate.

The report suggests that cities could accommodate growth needs by more effectively using the huge quantities of undeveloped, abandoned, or tax-delinquent properties already existing within their boundaries. "Many cities have so much underused space that they could develop for decades to come, without bulldozing another square metre of undisturbed land," Lowe observes.

Paradoxically, local "no-growth" or "slow growth" measures intended to prevent sprawl often backfire; by shutting out growth, such measures merely push development elsewhere, encouraging more sprawl.

The policies needed to make cities more compact, Lowe says, include tax laws designed to accommodate more housing in existing urban spaces and to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, and land use plans that encourage mixed uses so that people can live, shop, work and seek social contact or entertainment without dependence on cars.

In both industrial and developing countries, land-use controls have been inadequate — and in some cases nonexistent. The Nigerian capital of Lagos, for example, with more than a million



A city's viability depends on controlling the way land is developed

Photo: KEVIN CARTER

inhabitants, still has no designated metropolitan government or formally defined area. Houston, Texas, had no planning or zoning commission until 1991.

Among the report's other findings:

- Already, 30 to 60 percent of the inhabitants of many Third World cities live in illegal "squatter settlements" — with no sewers, running water, or adequate housing. Without planning that accommodates their needs, they will become increasingly vulnerable to flooding, starvation and disease — and will put intolerable pressures on the

environment.

- In the industrial world, urban population growth is slower than in the Third World, but the human and environmental effects are magnified by the larger per-capita use of energy and land. In metropolitan New York, for example, the population has grown only five percent in the past 25 years, but the developed area has increased by 61 percent.
- Many of the measures intended to improve the quality of life in the industrial world will, instead, make it worse. For example, large-lot zoning intended

to preserve "open space" forces populations to spread out over countryside that could otherwise be preserved.

● Zoning regulations and building codes intended to make driving more convenient are sometimes counterproductive. Transport can be better managed by discouraging or even prohibiting parking downtown. Paris, for example, now plans to eliminate 200 000 parking spaces, and Copenhagen bans on-street parking in the downtown core. — Worldwatch Institute

to preserve "open space" forces populations to spread out over countryside that could otherwise be preserved.

Green Pages: *Cities of the Future*

THIRTY years ago, beaches along the Cape's False Bay coast were relatively deserted — and few people lived on the adjacent Cape Flats. Now massive housing developments have dramatically changed the picture and inadequate planning has created the potential for the bay's sparkling waters to become a cesspool.

The single biggest pollution threat facing False Bay is the stormwater which pours off the Flats into the bay. Before the rapid urbanisation of recent years, stormwater seeped into the sand or formed pools, and was also cleaner. Now, stormwater carries with it into the sea all the muck off the streets, including animal and human faeces.

Dr Frank Shillington, of the Department of Oceanography at the University of Cape Town, believes the question that should first be asked is whether the sea should be used as a dumping ground.

"We should learn from people's experience in the northern hemisphere where they succeeded in killing off their seas and lakes. Johannesburg is inland, and they deal with their waste on land — why should we use the sea just because it's there?"

"However, if we are going to put effluent in the sea we should do it effectively."

But doing it effectively means knowing, as precisely as possible, what one is dealing with — and, according to Shillington, not enough is known about False Bay's physical characteristics to do this.

"When a proposal for a sewage outfall is made, for example, an on-site survey is usually carried out. But no survey of the bay as a whole has ever been done."

It is not known how long water remains in one spot in False Bay, or how long it takes for the bay to flush out effluent discharged into it. And while previous thinking held that effluent flooding into the surf zone would eventually be carried out to sea, "this doesn't seem to be happening", according to Shillington.

Economics has determined much of False Bay's management in the past: pipelines discharge into the surf-zone because they are shorter and easier to lay, are cheaper than pipe-lines extending into the bay's deep central waters; on-site surveys cost less than a major study of the entire bay.

Economics will certainly determine much of False Bay's management in the future but the emphasis will

From the
Cape's
sparkling
waters to
a cesspool

Inadequate planning around the development of the Cape Flats has created a major pollution problem in False Bay. By GAYE DAVIS

be different. In terms of recreational value, the bay — South Africa's largest, and arguably its most beautiful — holds enormous economic potential for a region which has earmarked tourism as its major revenue-earner.

As a result, concern about the potential pollution threat facing the bay has translated into serious thinking about ways of minimising the impact of rapid urbanisation on the Cape Flats and bringing about co-ordinated management of the resource.

The False Bay Water Management Committee was set up in 1990 to draw together a host of local, regional and state authorities concerned with False Bay. Cape Town's city engineer, Arthur Clayton, who chairs

the committee, hopes that out of it will grow a formal, holistic management structure for the bay.

"At the moment False Bay is in good condition and we're quite happy with the water quality," Clayton said. "But for the future we need to research specific areas, such as the turn-around time for water in the bay and the rate of exchange between the surf-zone and deeper water."

In the short-term, stormwater retention ponds are being built. One is already in operation at Khayelitsha: bacteria and viruses in stormwater die off after being held in retention ponds, where water plants also make use of many of the nutrients carried in the run-off.

Clayton believes, however, that False Bay's future "must be looked at very carefully."

"We need further research done on False Bay. We need a holistic management plan for False Bay. We need proper controls and the provision of adequate services."

The fact that the Western Cape is heading for a water shortage in the medium term is also helping, albeit indirectly, in that options for re-cycling water "are being constantly reviewed", according to Clayton.

Expected next year is the publication of a detailed analysis of the Western Cape's total water supply, work on which is being carried out by the Department of Water Affairs with the city council's participation.

"Everyone's aware that future planning for water in the Western Cape will have to look at solutions like re-cycling, optimum use of water and desalination," Clayton said.

19
01-3
Pictures: 01

Fire doubles city pollution levels

21/11/92
56

Staff Reporter

THE level of nitrous oxides (NOx) pollutants in the air early yesterday was nearly double that of the previous day, probably as a result of the huge fire.

This was confirmed yesterday by Mr B D Oxlee, the council's air pollution control officer. Yesterday's reading was 722, while that of the previous day was 386.

Nitrous oxides are caused by exhaust pollution. However, they are also released into the air to some degree by fires.

The fire, which sent a pall of smoke across the city on Wednesday, was brought under control at 6am yesterday.

examine Ossip and Davis today.

Mine slams actress's visit

Biday
17/11/92

DARIUS SANAI

56

RICHARDS Bay Minerals (RBM) has condemned the arrival in SA of US actress and environmentalist Margaux Hemingway, who plans to make a documentary on the proposed Lake St Lucia mining scheme, as "a cheap publicity stunt".

RBM spokesman Norman Clements said yesterday Hemingway's trip was "a ploy which can have no possible benefit to the cause of conservation in SA".

Hemingway, granddaughter of novelist Ernest Hemingway and a former top model, arrived in SA earlier this week with Hollywood environmental lobbyist Cherri Briggs. She is here at the invitation of conservationist Ian Player, a vociferous opponent of RBM's proposals to mine the conservation area.

The proposals have run into a storm of protest from renowned SA figures including Player, Sir Laurens van der post and Gary Player.

An environmental impact assessment is being conducted on the proposals, with leading UCT academics participating.

More bombing suspects held

POLICE have detained another four suspected bombers, according to right-wing and police sources, barely 24 hours after the arrest of four men on Wednesday.

Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder said three men were arrested in Hendrina, while police said a man was arrested in Nelspruit yesterday.

Van Tonder said yesterday Boerekommando deputy leader Wiehan Steinberg was arrested with two of his members on Wednesday night. Police denied any knowledge of the arrest.

Police confirmed that Boerekommando leader

GAVIN DU VENAGE

Gawie Volschenk was arrested last week.

Police said Volschenk was arrested in connection with the January 2 explosion at Melkriver Primary School in the northwestern Transvaal.

Security analyst Wim Booyse said the arrests could represent a significant breakthrough for police. Last week it was reported that the decentralised nature of extreme right-wing groups would make it difficult to track down underground cells.

● Comment: Page 6

100m² of floor area

Searching for the roots of the world's future

W/Mail 17/11 - 23/11/92

CITY slum-dwellers, uprooted peasants, urban taxpayers, tribesmen from the Amazon, ageing pacifists, angry women and disaffected teenagers ... That was the make-up of the 1 000-strong who met in Paris in December to devise ways of preventing their environments from being destroyed by governments and multinational corporations.

The rallying point was a conference called "Roots of the Future", organised to encourage groups representing ordinary citizens in every country to adopt common ways of tackling the world's major environmental crises.

A plan of action drafted by the delegates at the end of the conference and given the title "Agenda ya Wananchi", (Swahili for "an agenda for sons and daughters of the soil"), contains demands that are relevant to key ecological problems — and the kinds of campaigns that have been launched to counter these — in South Africa.

Some of the plans to counter these problems include:

- A commitment to fight against forced eviction or displacement and to restore land to people who have been dispossessed during the last few hundred years of colonialism.

In South Africa forced removals have been identified as one of the major causes of rural congestion, soil erosion and popular antagonism towards game reserves.

- Plans to monitor the activities of multi-national corporations to ensure that their plants in the Third World use safe technologies and the same health and environmental standards that exist in their own countries.

South African trade unions and researchers have identified lax legislation governing industrial pollution as a major cause of high levels of air, soil and water pollution.

- A programme to force governments into cutting their defence budgets by half and using these funds for anti-poverty and

We have polluted the soil, water and air and driven some human societies and wildlife to extinction. We have dammed the rivers, torn down the forests, poisoned the rain and ripped holes in the sky. Now there is a move to counter this destruction. **EDDIE KOCH** reports on the environmental conference in Paris

environmental management programmes.

South African researchers have noted that the Department of Environment Affairs receives less than one percent of the amount given to the Defence Force and that Pretoria's wars in southern Africa during the 1980s have caused environmental damage to countries like Mozambique and Angola.

- Strong opposition was presented to the use of nuclear power as a way of preventing air pollution caused by coal-fired power stations.

In South Africa Eskom is considering a programme to build a new nuclear power station every five years from the end of the decade to counter the way in which its coal-burning stations have created high pollution levels.

"Nuclear power is not an alternative solution to global warming," says the plan of action, "particularly because of its numerous risks, including damages to environment and health, the unsolved problems of its waste, its enormous cost and military implications."

- A campaign to pressure the United Nations to develop a system of international law that will enforce treaties around environmental protection.

South African law does not allow individuals to litigate against government departments or companies that despoil the environment. A number of proposals for a post-apartheid constitution have identified this as a major cause of ecological degradation.

- Efforts to promote and recover eco-

● To PAGE 24

P.T.O.

SA on 'polluted water' list **56**

LUSAKA — Four African countries — Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania and South Africa — are among 17 countries around the world that have been indicted by environmental groups because of water pollution. The countries have been convicted for their careless handling of what environmentalists consider one of the world's most important natural assets. — Sapa. *STAR 18/1/92*

Pollution of water: SA ⁽⁵⁶⁾ an offender

ET 18/1/92

LUSAKA. — Four African countries — Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania and South Africa — are among 17 countries around the world that have been indicted by 23 environmental organisations because of water pollution.

Dossiers on the extent of the pollution in the countries, mostly in Latin America, Asia and Africa, have been prepared by various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and will be presented at the second International Water Tribunal in Amsterdam from February 17-21.

Although only four African countries have been named, many African countries have been overtly convicted for their careless handling of what environmentalists consider one of the world's most important natural assets.

In Zambia, for instance, Environment Minister Mr Kelly Walubita is at pains to explain how to dispose of highly toxic chemicals

currently stocked by the Zambia Federation Co-operatives.

Zambia has no expertise to effect the disposal of the chemicals but Mr Walubita says he has an experienced South African specialist and consultant to assist in redressing the situation.

In Ghana, Friends of the Ghana-Earth have filed a complaint against the industrialised countries of the north for frequently polluting the Ghanaian and West African coast through oil spills from ships.

Contravention

In the Nigeria case, the Enugu-based Earth Search has sued the Consolidated Tin Mines and partners for having caused severe damage to the Jos plateau aquatic system.

This has adversely affected the health and socio-economic life of the people living on the plateau. "The companies have done very little to meet with demands for improvement and their actions contravene Nigerian mining laws," the filed complaint states.

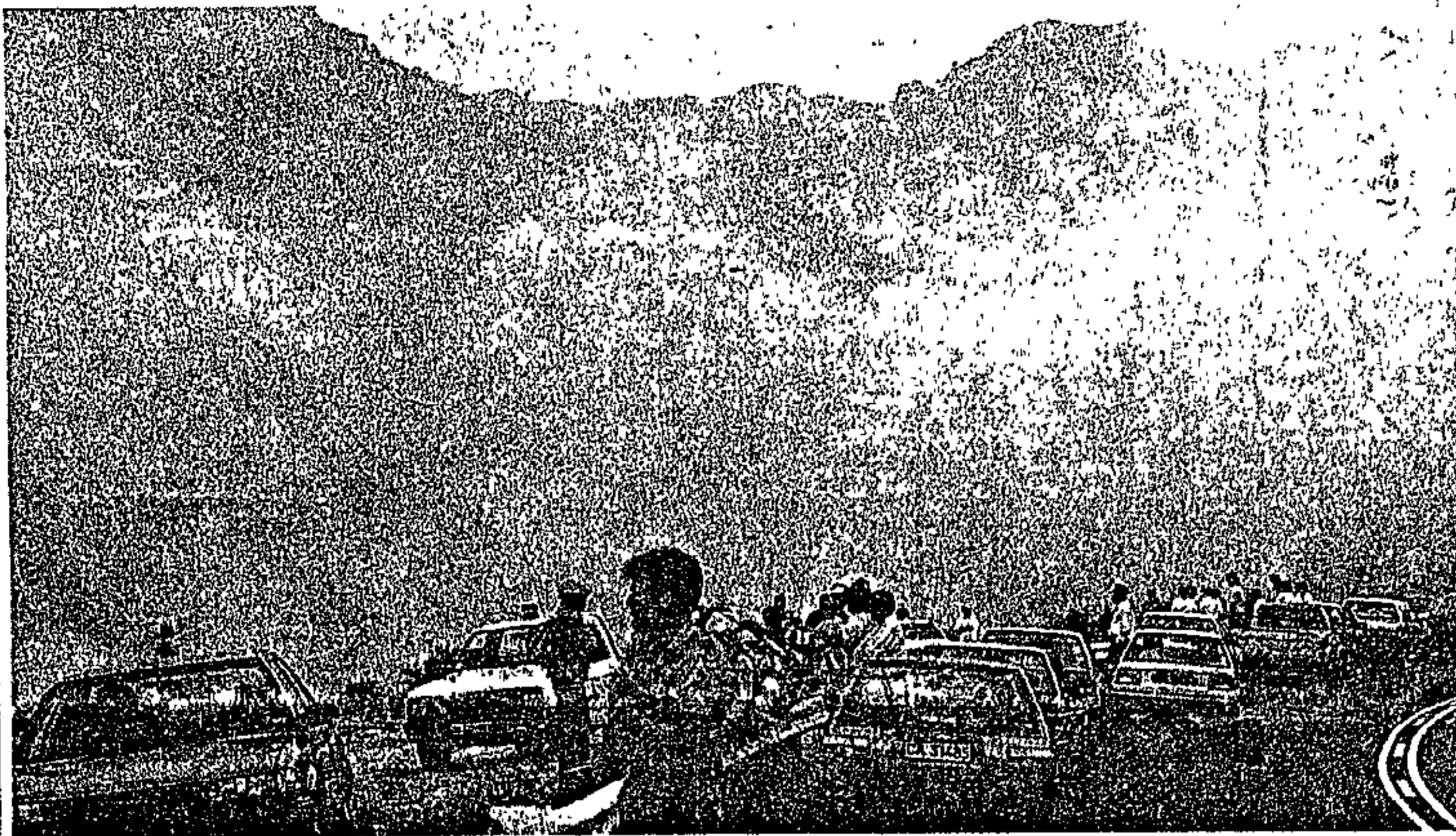
Earthlife Africa, the Maritzburg-based environmental organisation in South Africa, feels that Thor Chemicals has severely contaminated the Mngweni stream with mercury in the course of its operations.

This has caused severe hazards to both the immediate environment and downstream communities, the organisation says. "Thor Chemicals has violated the right of those dependent on groundwater resources for a sustainable livelihood."

Earthlife Africa is further riled by the refusal of the company publicly to acknowledge its responsibility for the contamination and the threat it posed to people. Thor Chemicals imports mercury waste from Europe and the United States.

The other countries to appear before the Water Tribunal are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, China, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Canada and Israel. — Sapa

Raging fire smokes out suburbs



SHROUDED VALLEY . . . Curious bystanders parked on Ou Kaapseweg to watch firefighters battle the Peninsula's third big mountain blaze in less than a week. Pictures: HAROLD KING

By BRONWYN DAVIDS and BRENT SIMONS

A HEAVY blanket of smoke and soot hung above the Peninsula last night, as hundreds of firefighters and three helicopters battled to put out a raging blaze which destroyed 1 000 hectares of trees and fynbos at Silvermine.

The fire started on Noordhoek Farm at Silvermine Nature Reserve around 2.30pm and was soon raging out of control up the slopes of Wolfkloof Peak — as winds of up to 15 knots fanned the flames.

Late last night metres-high flames could be seen licking the top of the mountain as tracts of fynbos and alien vegetation — including rooikrantz and Port Jackson bush — burned "out of control", a spokesman from the city council engineers' department said.

About 300 firefighters from the Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC) and the Department of Parks and Forests assisted by three airforce helicopters battled the blaze.

Firefighters on the ground were aided by 22 Squadron from Ysterplaat air force base which

Battle to put out blaze at Silvermine

had one Alouette helicopter in the air to command and control aircraft and to relay information to firefighters on the ground.

Two Puma helicopters fitted with 1 500-litre monsoon fire-buckets waterbombed the blaze.

A separate mobile air operations team under the command of Major Floris Brand assisted with operations and communications.

RSC spokesman Mr Chris Bonthuys said everything was being done to "get the fire under control", but "light whirlwinds" created in the valley below Wolfkloof made it difficult to combat the fire.

Poor visibility made targets inaccessible to helicopters while firefighters on the ground were stretched across three fronts at Kalk Bay, Noordhoek Peak and Wolfkloof Peak.

As the sun set at 8.30pm the helicopters kept up a steady pace, flying low over Muizenberg-Lakeside and turning at Westlake before heading up the mountain to drop buckets of water filled at the Silvermine reservoir and the Noordhoek swamps.

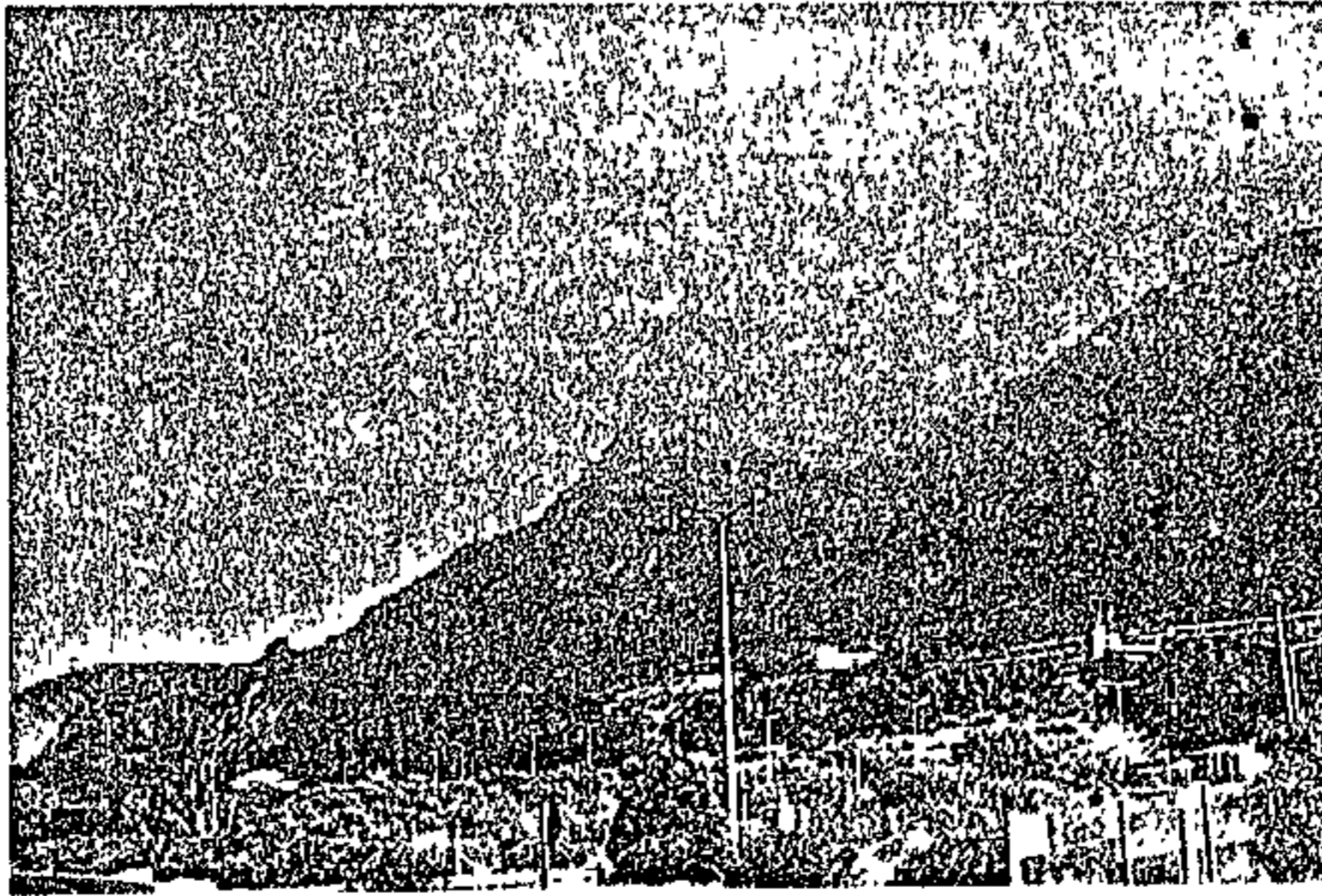
In radio traffic reports motorists travelling towards Muizenberg, Tokai and Fish Hoek were warned to drive with care as visibility had been dramatically reduced. Boyes Drive was closed to traffic.

Bystanders were also asked to leave the area.

A thick orange-tinged smoke-screen stretched all the way to Mitchells Plain, across the Cape Flats to Table View — while Table Mountain and the city were also shrouded in smoke.

The Cape Times was inundated with complaints from residents as far afield as Ottery who said that their homes were being covered with soot.

The municipal fire department were on standby at the Silvermine Southern Air Command base and on Boyes Drive in case the fire turned towards residential areas and the base.



WATER DROP . . . An Airforce Puma helicopter (left) waterbombs the fire which blazed in the Silvermine Nature Reserve yesterday. A heavy cloud of smoke and soot hung over the Silvermine Mountain as the huge fire raged out of control.

Vertical text on the left margin: T, te, n, fc, M, du, th, fi, fu, bi, th, w, n, m, bo, or, si, ti, ac, se, th, ta, of, in, h, th, al, bo, fr, yo, n, th, al, I, P, p, o, d, ti, h, w, n, o, v, a, a, b, 2, 3, 2, 5, 5, 6, 0, 0

Vertical text on the right margin: T, te, n, fc, M, du, th, fi, fu, bi, th, w, n, m, bo, or, si, ti, ac, se, th, ta, of, in, h, th, al, bo, fr, yo, n, th, al, I, P, p, o, d, ti, h, w, n, o, v, a, a, b, 2, 3, 2, 5, 5, 6, 0, 0

Activist warns of 4 kaolin mines

56
CT 20/1/92
Staff Reporter

ANTI-KAOLIN mining activist Mr John Butterfield told an influential group at Mr John Aspinall's De Goede Hoop Manor House at the weekend that there was a prospect of not just one but four mines being developed at Noordhoek.

Mr Aspinall is a British millionaire who is opposed to kaolin mining in the valley. He bought the manor, a national monument, from a trust which used to be controlled by the late minister of the environment, Mr John Wiley.

Mr Aspinall. He was not at home at the time of the seminar, but he had made his home available for the occasion.

Mr Butterfield said all four mines would be about the same size.

Among the 40 people present were representatives of the Simon van der Stel Foundation, the National Monuments Council and the Historic Homes Association.

DON HOLLIDAY
Staff Reporter

A FIRE fanned by a south-easterly gale today ravaged the Baviaanskloof mountain slopes above Hout Bay for the second time in a week, coming within 10 m of the residential area.

Firemen from the Western Cape Regional Services Council in Hout Bay, Constantia and Noordhoek fought the blaze from 4am today.

By 8am it was under control and no longer a threat to houses.

Last week, a more widespread fire swept through the same area.

A labourer, Mr Michael Pietersen, who lives at the top of the housing line in Baviaanskloof said he watched as flames swept to within 10 m of his home.

"My wife woke up first and smelt smoke.

'Big fright'

"I went outside and saw the fire coming in our direction. It was about 100 m away.

"We both got a big fright, because the sparks were flying over our heads.

"I got a hosepipe ready and we watched as it came near us," he said.

Mr Pietersen said the fire came to the edge of a 2 m kloof within which his home stands, before the wind changed direction and the flames moved away up the mountain.

Strong swirling cross-winds swept the flames back and forth in the kloof.

Firemen used hoses and dug trenches to isolate the blaze while others beat back the flames with branches.

Small outbreaks caused by flying sparks all over the kloof were beaten out and hosed down by firemen.

Residents were up early, keeping a close watch on the fire's progress, but evacuation was not necessary.

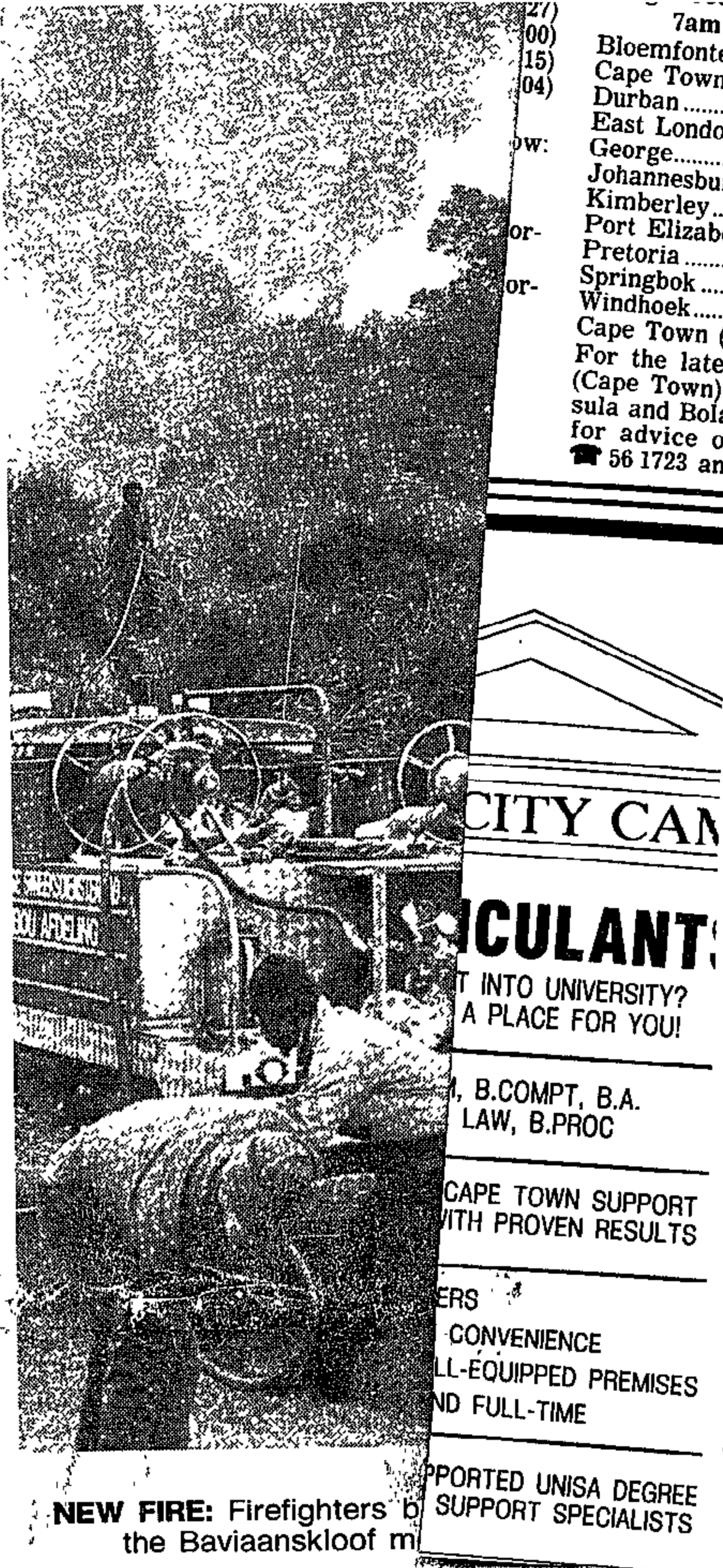
'Be careful'

● The hot, dry weather of the Western Cape's "fire season" has contributed to dozens of fires in the past few weeks.

Thousands of hectares of fynbos and trees were destroyed in blazes on Signal Hill, Hout Bay, and the Silvermine Nature Reserve on Friday.

Cape Town fire brigade chief Mr Joop Hamel has appealed to people to be careful in the tinder-dry Peninsula mountains.

"The grass is very dry and people must not build braai fires or drop burning cigarettes," he said.



NEW FIRE: Firefighters beat back the Baviaanskloof fire.

7am
00) Bloemfontein
15) Cape Town..
04) Durban.....
East London
George.....
Johannesbur
Kimberley...
Port Elizabe
Pretoria.....
Springbok....
Windhoek.....
Cape Town (C
For the latest
(Cape Town)
sula and Bole
for advice on
☎ 56 1723 an

CITY CAM
CULANTS
T INTO UNIVERSITY?
A PLACE FOR YOU!
B.COMPT, B.A.
LAW, B.PROC
CAPE TOWN SUPPORT
WITH PROVEN RESULTS
ERS
CONVENIENCE
LL-EQUIPPED PREMISES
ND FULL-TIME
SUPPORTED UNISA DEGREE
SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

New mountain blaze

Howling south-easter fans fire; Hout Bay homes threatened

5 APR 2011 92



DON HOLLIDAY
Staff Reporter

A FIRE fanned by a south-easterly gale today ravaged the Baviaanskloof mountain slopes above Hout Bay for the second time in a week, coming within 10 m of the residential area.

Firemen from the Western Cape Regional Services Council in Hout Bay, Constantia and Noordhoek fought the blaze from 4am today.

By 8am it was under control and no longer a threat to houses.

Last week, a more widespread fire swept through the same area.

A labourer, Mr Michael Pietersen, who lives at the top of the housing line in Baviaanskloof said he watched as flames swept to within 10 m of his home.

"My wife woke up first and smelt smoke.

'Big fright'

"I went outside and saw the fire coming in our direction. It was about 100 m away.

"We both got a big fright, because the sparks were flying over our heads.

"I got a hosepipe ready and we watched as it came near us," he said.

Mr Pietersen said the fire came to the edge of a 2 m kloof within which his home stands, before the wind changed direction and the flames moved away up the mountain.

Strong swirling cross-winds swept the flames back and forth in the kloof.

Firemen used hoses and dug trenches to isolate the blaze while others beat back the flames with branches.

Small outbreaks caused by flying sparks all over the kloof were beaten out and hosed down by firemen.

Residents were up early, keeping a close watch on the fire's progress, but evacuation was not necessary.

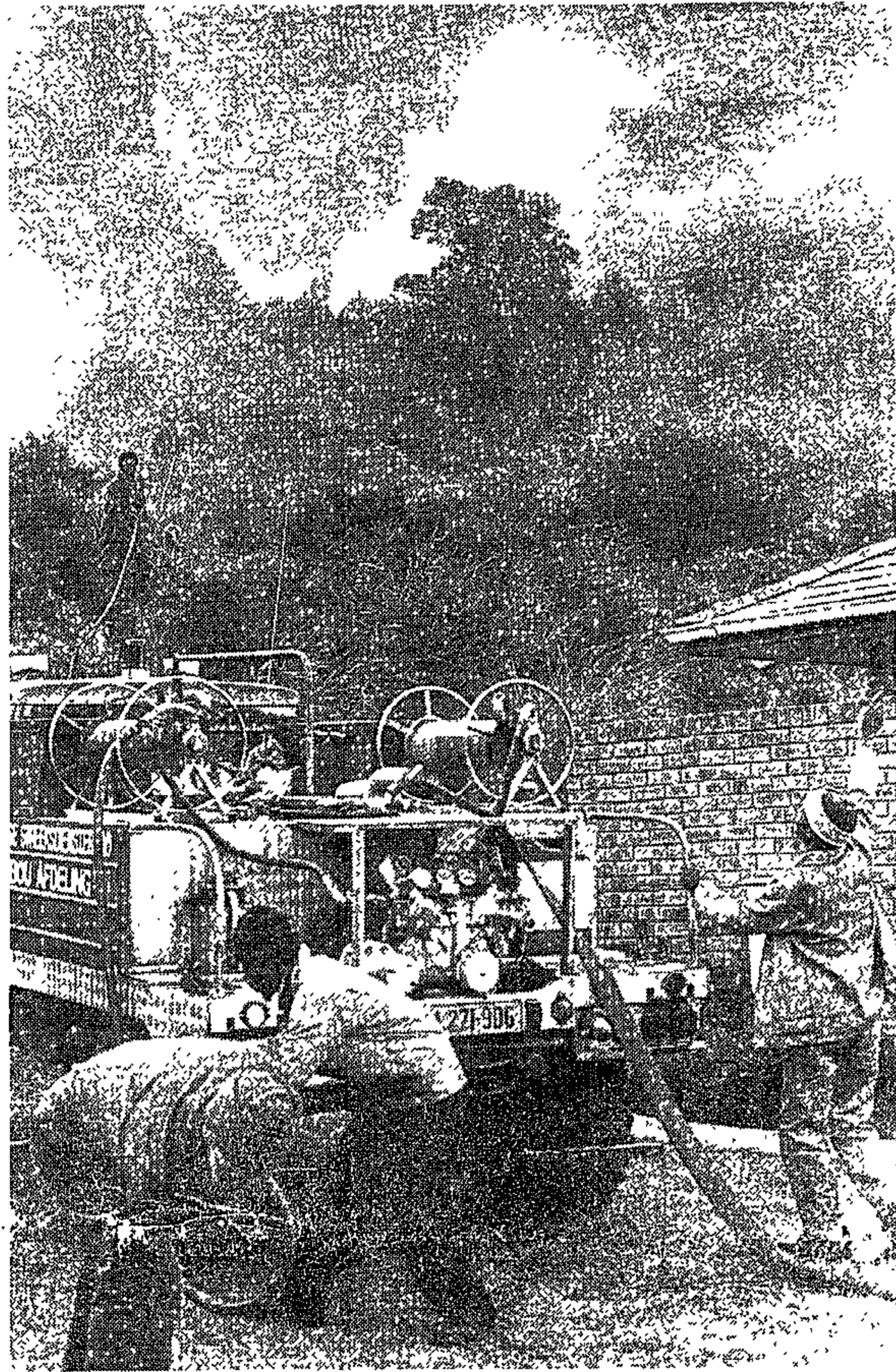
'Be careful'

● The hot, dry weather of the Western Cape's "fire season" has contributed to dozens of fires in the past few weeks.

Thousands of hectares of fynbos and trees were destroyed in blazes on Signal Hill, Hout Bay and the Silvermine Nature Reserve on Friday.

Cape Town fire brigade chief Mr Joop Hamel has appealed to people to be careful in the tinder-dry Peninsula mountains.

"The grass is very dry and people must not build braai fires or drop burning cigarettes," he said.



Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

NEW FIRE: Firefighters battle the blaze which today ravaged the Baviaanskloof mountain slopes above Hout Bay.

Howling south-easter fans fire; Hout Bay homes threatened

ain blaze

© 1992 25/1/92

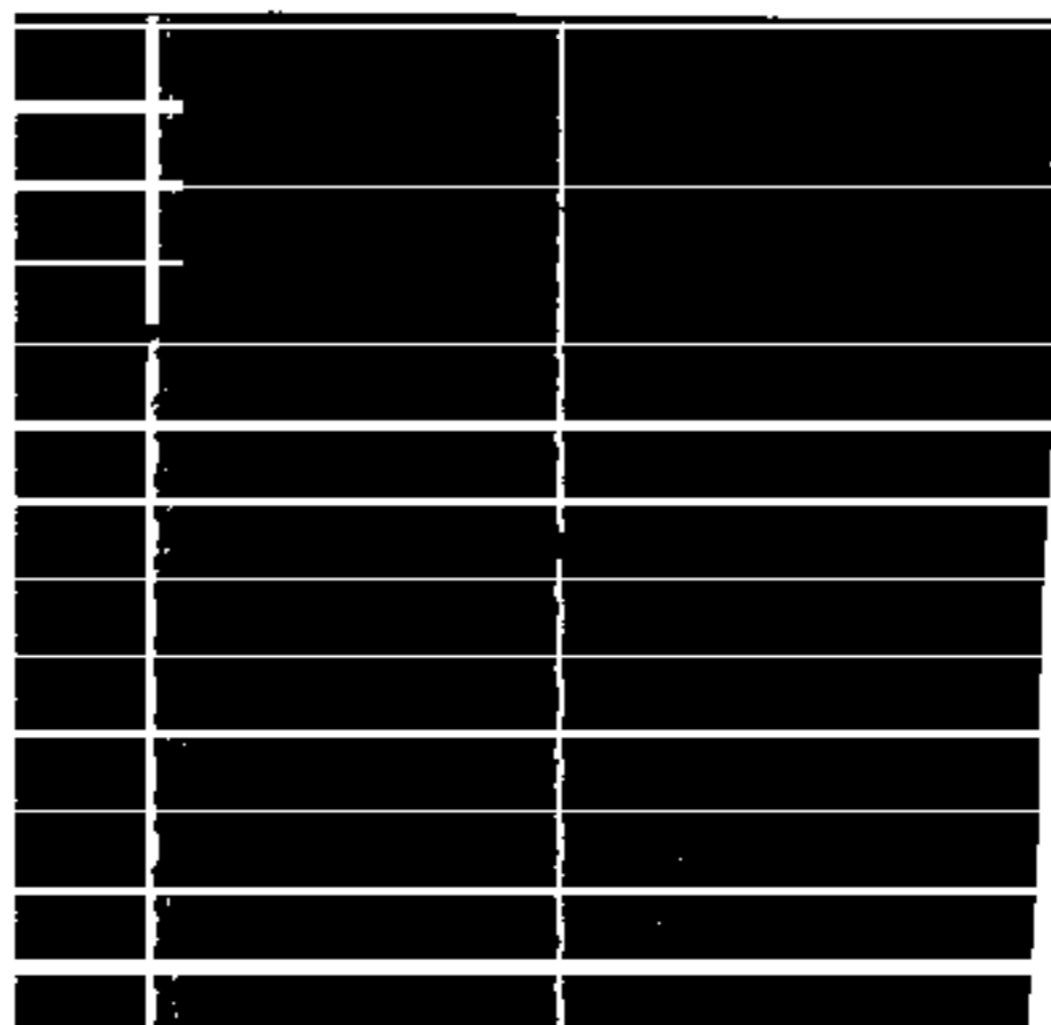


Table Mountain meeting request

ARG 2/11/92 (56)
JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

MANAGEMENT proposals for Table Mountain and the rest of the Peninsula mountain chain could soon be open to public scrutiny.

The Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Advisory Management Committee will this month consider whether to open its meetings to the public, following a request by The Argus.

The committee has always met behind closed doors. It consists of representatives of the eight state and local government authorities and 176 private individuals owning land in the protected area.

In 1985, the then Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr John Wiley, summarily dismissed Hout Bay divisional councillor Mr Len Pothier for disclosing details of hotel magnate Mr Sol Kerzner's application to develop Sandy Bay.

Mr Wiley said the committee had to treat matters in confidence and report to him.

With devolution, the committee now makes recommendations to the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring.

In reply to questions by The Argus, a spokesman for Mr Meiring said the committee had never asked to be allowed to hold open meetings.

"In principle, we don't have a problem (with the public attending) but we believe it's the committee's prerogative to take a decision and you should address that to the committee itself," he said.

Chairman Dr Douglas Hey has agreed to put a formal request by The Argus for the committee's meetings to be open on its next agenda.

Dust tests carried out at kaolin sites

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

56 MAR 21/1992

WEEK-LONG tests to determine existing dust fall-out and background noise levels at proposed kaolin mines in the Noordhoek valley have been completed by the department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

This was confirmed by the regional director, Mr Jan Booysen, who said instruments to collect dust samples would remain in place until the end of the month.

But kaolin mining at the controversial Chapman's Peak site is not allowed to begin as the government has not yet completed its rehabilitation guidelines.

"We are still working on that in consultation with the departments of Environment Affairs, Agriculture and Water Affairs," said Mineral and Energy Affairs chief director Mr Willie Vogt.

In terms of new mining legislation which came into effect on January 1, a rehabilitation programme had to be approved and controlled by the department's regional director before any physical prospecting could begin, he said.

"But of course they (the holders of mineral rights) have the right to enter the property and start putting in buildings and so on in preparation."

In terms of the new Act, the holder of the mineral rights — Serina in the case of kaolin mining at Noordhoek — was regarded as having mining authorisation for a year and did not require a permit or formal authorisation, other than the incorporation of an approved rehabilitation programme, Mr Vogt added.

"The minister is no longer a functionary," he said.

Mr Booysen said there had been continual monitoring of dust fall-out and background noise around proposed Noordhoek kaolin sites from Monday to Friday last week, and monitoring of dust would continue until the end of January.

"So that if mining goes ahead we have a baseline to refer back to," he said.

Sewage diverted to protect divers

Staff Reporter

ARC 21/1/92 (56)

SEWAGE from the Mouille Point pumping station has been diverted to the old pipeline to protect divers while contractors work on the inshore section of the new marine outfall.

The old pipeline discharges slightly north of the damaged outfall and is only about 200 m from the shore.

This was confirmed by the deputy city engineer, Mr Henk Beekman.

"While the contracting team is working close inshore, they have deviated to the very old line, obviously to avoid an effect on the divers themselves," he said.

"This will continue intermittently until they finish that section of the pipeline."

He was unable to say how long this would continue. "This depends on their progress, and obviously the warning signs are up."

Mouille Point resident Ms Sandra Uttridge said the new "boil" where the sewage came to the surface was "so close you can spit into it. It's gross".

She understood why sewage was being diverted to the old pipe but said she was concerned that highly experienced divers had indicated they did not believe the new pipeline would be successful.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zenex Oil is fined

ZENEX Oil has become the first company to be found guilty of polluting an SA harbour under tougher new legislation and fined R5 000. (56) (23)

The company was recently found guilty in the Durban Regional Court of spilling diesel in March last year which found its way into the harbour, said a Water Affairs Department statement.

3/1/92
3/1/92

Firemen strapped for cash

CF 22/1/92 (56)

Staff Reporter

A CRITICAL shortage of money is hampering the Peninsula fire-fighting services in combating bush fires, which have destroyed hundreds of hectares of fynbos on Peninsula mountains in recent weeks.

The situation could get worse, a senior official of the parks and forests department in the Cape Town City Council said yesterday.

There have been five fires since January 10: Four on Signal Hill, in which an estimated 25 hectares of fynbos were destroyed, and one that consumed 600 hectares at Silvermine Nature Reserve before it was brought under control yesterday by 480 firefighters.

"We desperately need funds to execute a scientific veld management programme to combat fires in the Peninsula," Mr Christo Nieuwoudt, assistant director of parks and forests in the city council, said yesterday.

"But the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) and the government don't have enough money to adequately fund hospitals. The provincial authorities have informed us that subsidies will be cut back even further in the future."

To effectively combat fires, a veld management system was needed to divide areas scientifically into compartments that could be burnt in rotation as firebreaks, so that areas did not become overgrown.

Mr Nieuwoudt denied that existing fire containment procedures and the speed of deployment of firefighters were inadequate.

There was excellent co-operation between the Cape Town fire brigade, the Forestry Department, the Western Cape Regional Services Council and the Department of Nature Conservation.

"The response time in deploying firefighters varies between three and five minutes, but sometimes there is a delay if the fire is in an inaccessible area," he said.

The city council, he said, was testing equipment to detect fires and set up an early-warning system, but had not yet found an ideal system.

Mr Peter Rist, secretary of the Fire Prevention Committee, said the committee had established lookout posts all over the Peninsula.

Firefighting depots, which accommodated up to 40 men, were equipped with all the necessary equipment.

In the event of an emergency, SAAF helicopters and other helicopter services were on call.

Ecotourism the name of the game

S6

STAR 23/1/92.

South Africa, to cope with an expected huge tourist boom, must have more national parks to attract them — but where? JAMES CLARKE reports.

THE PRIVATE game reserves along Kruger Park's western flank — the largest concentration of private reserves in the world — is near to an agreement to amalgamate with Kruger Park.

Dr G A "Robbie" Robinson, chief director of the National Parks Board, says the aim is to create "contractual parks". These are game reserves in which National Parks rangers see to the ecological management while the private owners do their own thing as far as entertaining tourists or hunters is concerned.

Dr Robinson introduced the idea of contractual parks to Africa.

The once-controversial veterinary fence which has divided State-owned Kruger Park from its privately owned neighbours will come down "just as soon as we can", says Dr Robinson.

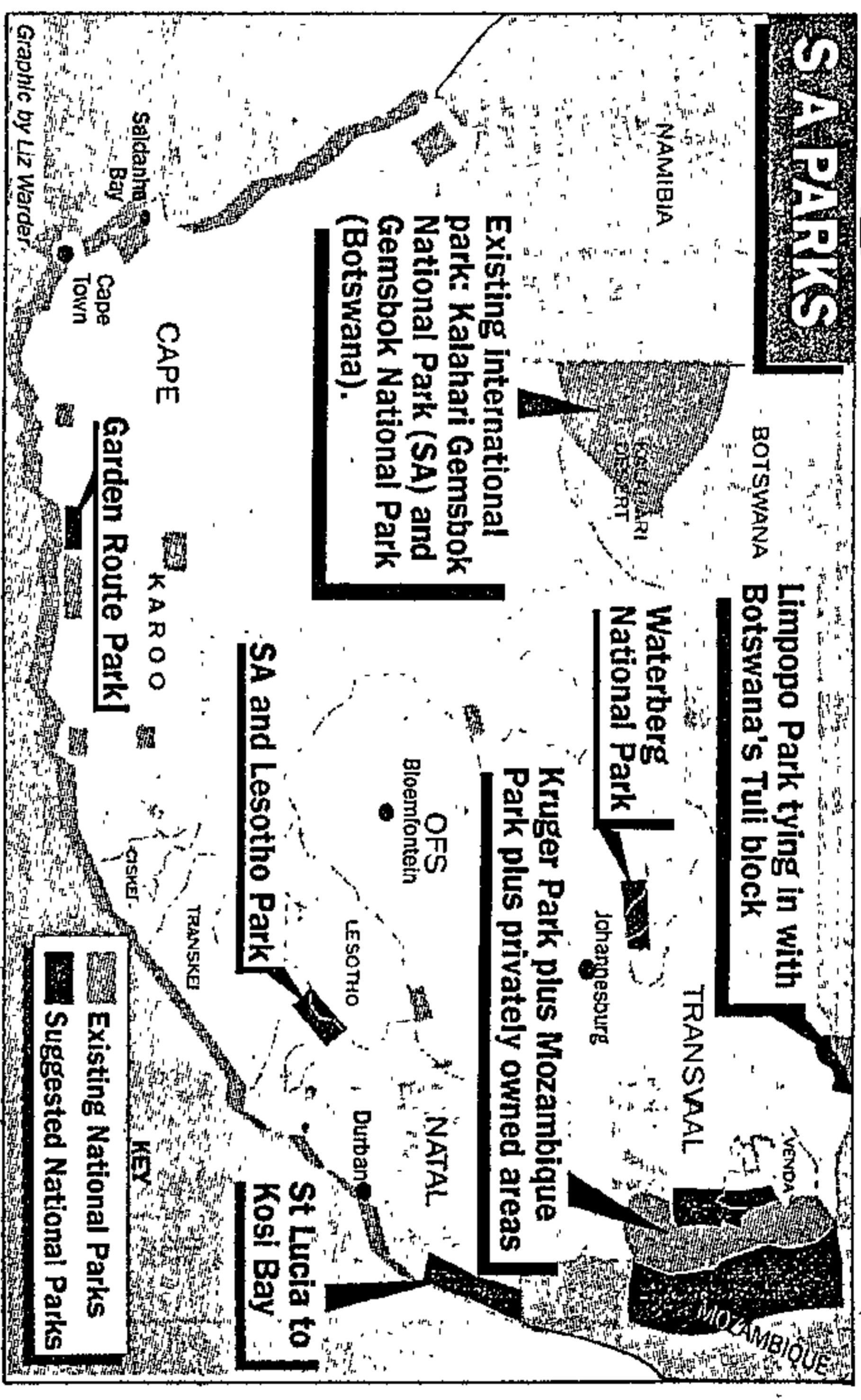
The arrangement, which could be formalised soon, will allow private owners in the Umbabaat, Timbavati and Sabi Sand complex to continue to conduct hunting, take tourists in open vehicles (forbidden in national parks) and build luxury lodges down the 300 km western edge of the park.

These additional facilities and activities will be sorely needed by the tourist industry, which expects an enormous influx of foreign "ecotourists" beginning this year.

"Ecotourism" — a new world trend — specialises in open-air experiences, and walking in the African wilderness is considered by many ecotourists to be the ultimate experience.

South Africa, whose wilderness trails are booked eight times over — people have to book a year ahead for a Kruger Park hiking trail — has run short of wild places

SAPARKS



for visitors to go.

One of the ecological spin-offs of co-operation between private landowners and Kruger Park, says Dr Robinson, is that Kruger Park's game will be able, once more, to migrate east-west according to the season and this should make wildlife management less complicated.

Dr Robinson is also confident that Mozambique will establish a huge new national park along Kruger's eastern side — "perhaps twice the size of Kruger Park and certainly in the region of two to three million hectares". (Kruger is two million hectares.)

"This will create the world's greatest game reserve by far. This is not going to happen this year — the area on the other side is poverty-stricken, war-torn and ecologically messed up from being continuously burnt by people who want to be able to see any enemy approaching.

"But once it happens, we can immediately start supplying Mozambique with an average of 400 elephants a year — and so avoid having to shoot

them inside Kruger — as well as surplus buffalo and other game which can move eastwards.

"The dual park is very important to the tourist industry because unless the border situation is cleared up, it is going to affect tourism. The presence of the army in the park has a very negative effect on visitors."

Plans have been tentatively drawn up between South Africa, KwaZulu and Mozambique to create a band of parks and reserves from the St Lucia/Mkuzi wetlands to the Limpopo.

Dr Robinson says it is essential that more national parks are established in South Africa, and he suggests several areas:

- The Limpopo Valley where South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana join.
- The Kransberg area of the Waterberg — near Thabazimbi — incorporating, on a contractual basis, such reserves as Lapalala. "This area, like the Limpopo one, can accommodate the Big Five (elephant, buffalo, rhinoceros, lion and leopard)," says Dr Robinson.

Other parks could be developed between Kosi Bay southwards to St Lucia, the Drakensberg and the Garden Route.

Recently Dr Richard Leakey of Kenya said that compared with Kenya, South Africa had little in its wildlife areas to offer "six-star tourists from Japan". He said Kruger Park's accommodation was too austere for the rich man's market.

Dr Robinson, a friend of Dr Leakey, disagrees. He says that although Kruger Park itself should not be redesigned to attract those seeking "six-star luxury", the private areas could develop more luxury lodges along the lines of Mala Mala and Sabi Sabi.

In an interesting opportunistic move, the National Parks Board recently took over Ngale Lodge in the private Timbavati game reserve and is running it as a luxury lodge, using open vehicles and conducting night drives.

Dr Robinson says Kruger Park's current supply of 4 000 beds (in huts) is unlikely to be increased but the number of beds in tented camps and caravans will rise from 5 000 to 6 000.

In addition, a maximum of 3 000 day visitors will be allowed, he says. Thus, at any given time, there can never be more than 13 000 visitors within an area of 20 000 sq km.

Responding to criticism that Kruger Park's tariffs, although considered cheap by overseas tourists, are becoming too high for South Africans, Dr Robinson says Kruger Park has to be self-supporting. Despite current tariff increases, it is still not breaking even, he adds.

"People must understand that we are not a hotel organisation — apart from development and maintaining accommodation, we have to finance the development and maintenance of roads and other infrastructure for an area the size of a country — in fact the size of Belgium." □



DUMPED: Julian Dolby with a pile of old kerbstones dumped on the slopes of Signal Hill.

What a load of rubbish!

(56) ARC 24/1/92

— Signal Hill defaced

FEROZA MILLER
Staff Reporter

FOR 10 years Tamboerskloof schoolboy Julian Dolby watched as city council lorries dumped huge concrete blocks, tar, pipes and other old building material on the scenic slopes of Signal Hill.

"The rubble probably grew faster than I did," said the 16-year-old Bishops pupil.

As children, Julian and his

friends often played and cycled on the slopes and watched as the noisy monsters invaded their tranquil playground.

Now the garbage is being off-loaded daily, forming its own enormous terraces.

"In the beginning one lorry used to offload garbage. But now three lorries are doing it and there are two watchmen to guard the front-end loader used to level the rubble," said Julian.

When an Argus team visited

the spot off Milner Road, Tamboerskloof, men from the city council roads division were off-loading used building materials from three lorries and a front-end loader was parked nearby.

Smoke, blackening a giant pine tree, drifted from the two makeshift chimneys on a shack built of corrugated iron and concrete slabs where the watchmen live.

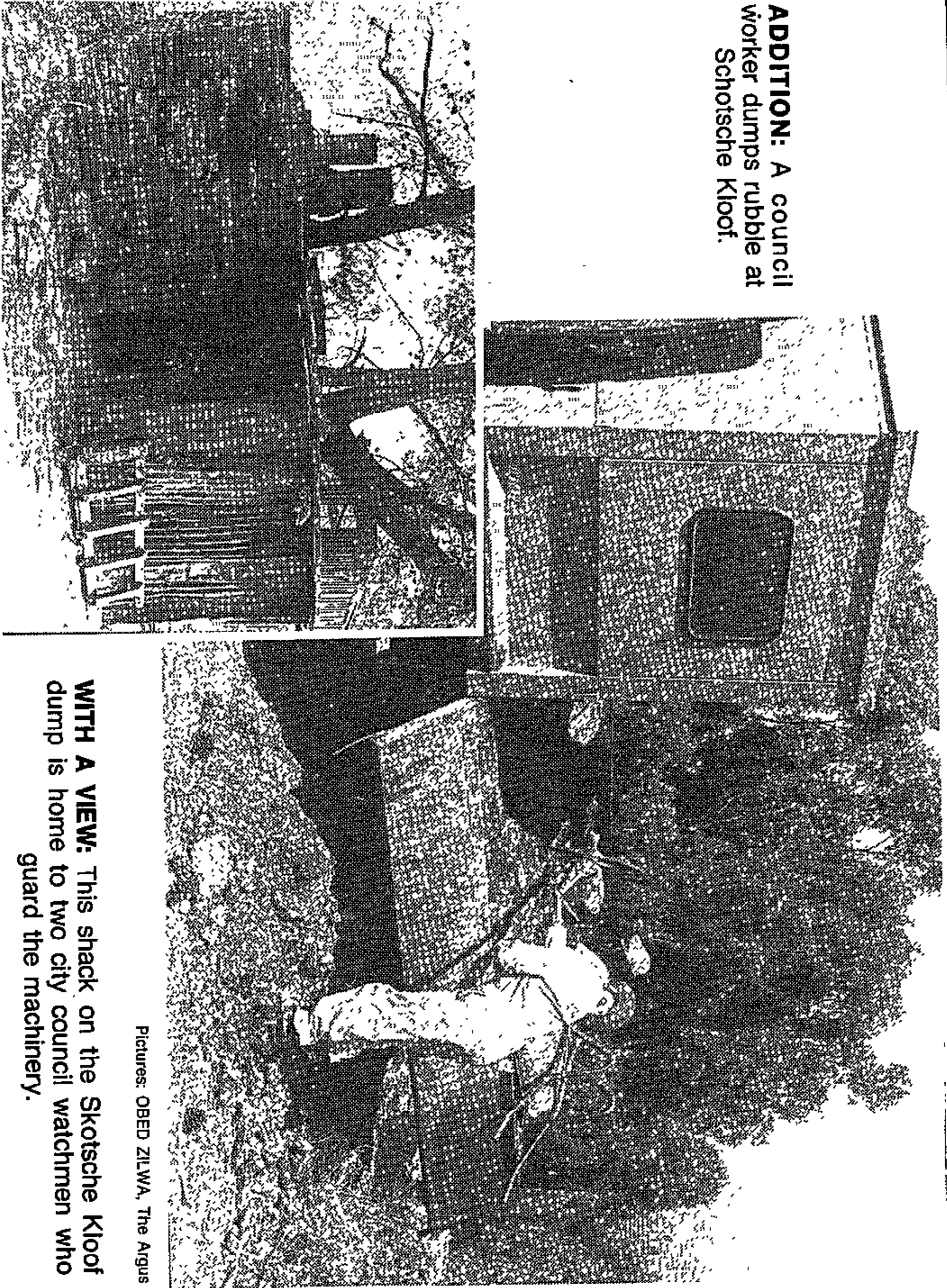
A council spokesman said the dumping was legal and the

site, known as the Schotsche Kloof dump, shared by the parks and forests department and the roads department, had been a legal dumping site for many years.

The spokesman said material was dumped under the strict control of the city engineer and the public was not allowed to dump there.

The roads department used the area to store old kerbstones, which were re-used, he said.

ADDITION: A council worker dumps rubble at Schotsche Kloof.



WITH A VIEW: This shack on the Schotsche Kloof dump is home to two city council watchmen who guard the machinery.

Pictures: OBED ZILWA, The Argus

We can't let debacle like St Lucia happen again

STAR 25/11/92

THE ST LUCIA episode is drawing to a climax — the environmental impact assessment (EIA) will be out soon.

St Lucia campaigners say they'll refuse to accept the EIA because St Lucia should be inviolate.

It *should* be, but it is not. The Government, regrettably, failed to proclaim those St Lucia's hills — and the public failed to force the issue.

Legally, St Lucia may be defenceless.

Conservationists are now up against RTZ, a corporation which has grown calluses from public battles throughout the world.

RTZ owns RBM (with Gencor and Sanlam), the company which wants to mine St Lucia.

I now believe that, legally and democratically, we have to accept the findings of the EIA.

The question is: will the Cabinet? (It will make the final decision.)

The EIA itself is the most comprehensive ever carried out in South Africa, and Dr John Raimondo's UCT team, in charge of the EIA, is absolutely to be trusted.

The public must use this episode — win or lose — as a warning that all surviving natural heritage areas must be protected as soon as possible. If South Africa's economy takes off we can expect industrialists to climb in — quickly and quietly.

Look how RBM obtained those mining rights many years ago — right under the noses of the public



which was, at the time, fighting to save wetland from the Government itself. The Government allowed it to be forested, drained and bombed.

The campaigners recently brought Margaux Hemingway to St Lucia, and she has promised to bring international pressure.

This has incensed former Natal game ranger Barry Clements, now RBM's public relations man. He says this "American ex-celebrity" did not find time to visit RBM's dune rehabilitation programme in Richards Bay and was totally biased.

But if Margaux Hemingway helps draw international attention to the situation, that's excellent. St Lucia is an international issue.

When the EIA is ready, people will be given two weeks to put their cases before a judge, who will then report to the Cabinet.

The Cabinet may disregard the evidence. Politically, it has nothing to lose because in the next elections other issues will eclipse conservation.

Perhaps a wider, more representative body than the Cabinet — let's say a "jury" of ordinary South Africans — should make the final decision.

Staff Reporter

HUNDREDS of people at an anti-kaolin mining meeting in Noordhoek on Thursday evening pledged their support for "some sort of physical expression or passive resistance", action group spokesman Mr Ian Brownlie has said.

Mr Brownlie said the first phase of the anti-kaolin mining campaign

Kaolin: Action ^(b) pledged

— that of highlighting the problem to the public at large — was coming to an end.

A new phase "of greater public participation"

would begin in February, he said.

In the past, Mr Bill Paverd, chairman of the company, has said that Serina would not be daunted by on-site protests by action groups.

The meeting was hosted by the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group and the Noordhoek and District Civic Association.

Turning rubbish into rands



By LULAMA LUTI *c/pren 26/1/92*

EVER thought that your garbage could be recycled into first class compost that nourishes the soil to yield results three times its usual capacity?

It's possible using a recycling method, tried and tested in the United States, which could soon be available to local farmers and the public.

Mountains of rubbish lining street corners in townships could also be a thing of the past if all goes according to a multimillion-rand plan to be undertaken by the National Sorghum Breweries (NSB) this year.

In a bid to solve the litter problem, the NSB unveiled a plan this week which will involve a bio-conversion technique to convert garbage into "first class" compost.

The process reduces litter to 85 percent of its original bulk in three days.

The first plant in South Africa will be built at the Pelindaba Brewery, formerly called Kwaggakop, near Atteridgeville. This will be manned by NSB engineers currently being trained in the US.

NSB executive chairman Mohale Mahlanye said during a media briefing while the country was faced with a massive litter problem, black areas were hardest hit.

Mahlanye said the bio-conversion method could both reduce the litter problem and create job opportunities.

Player appeals for a cure for 'sick' SA

By ROY RUDDEN

DR IAN PLAYER, founder of the Dusi Canoe Marathon, this week appealed to South Africans to regard the race as a dramatisation of the growing threat to the country's entire environment.

"The sickness of our rivers is the environmental indicator of our times," he said.

"The marathon is a race with a soul that will lead to a greater understanding of our land. The question is whether this understanding will come in time."

Progress in controlling the ecological threats was being hampered because too many authorities were involved, he said.

"The Umsindusi and Umgeni, for instance, should be placed under one authority which would have legal teeth to enforce laws protecting the environment."

Lacks

"The Umgeni water authority is efficient and properly concerned, but lacks the legal co-ordinating power necessary to stop looming environmental disaster."

The Dusi has a special significance for Dr Player. His first exploratory canoe journey down the Umsindusi and Umgeni rivers 42 years ago started his mission which helped change a generation's attitudes to conservation.

He founded the Dusi marathon and won it for the first three years.

In 1950 it was safe to drink the water. Last year, however, 70 percent of competitors contracted gastro-enteritis or typhoid.

Filth in Liesbeek

5b ET 29/1/92.

River is churning up serious concern

By JILYAN PITMAN

FILTH in the Liesbeek River, in the streets in Rondebosch, between the railway lines and at Claremont station in particular is causing concern to many residents in the southern suburbs.

Mr Owen Kinahan, chairman of the management committee of the Josephine Mill in Newlands, said: "The cleaning of the Liesbeek river follows a pattern of knee-jerk reactions. Once or twice a year there is a group effort by some schools to clean the river or we wait until the river is so dirty we need a council blitz to remedy the matter.

"The river needs to be looked after on a daily basis by the people who live

on the banks. They must watch for people throwing garbage into it and must report when a shopping trolley is in the river or when vagrants do their washing in it."

Mr Kinahan said there had been a lot of background planning by Cape Town City Council and other interested parties about the intended river

walk, to the benefit of all, and that unless everyone developed an ethos about the river there was not much hope for future plans to be fulfilled.

"There are homeless people living along the length of the river and it's not a problem that will go away easily. Even those people can be encouraged to help keep their own doorstep clean. Night shelters and public toilets should be used.

Imprisonment

"People must try and take responsibility for their own actions. It is important for us to consider a community service-type "sentence" — anybody littering the river, in particular, should have to spend a weekend cleaning it."

Mr Peter Price, chairman of the Friends of the Liesbeek River group,

said: "We are appalled by the conditions of the river. One of the first functions of our group will be a clean-up within the next three weeks."

Mr Barney Botha, the city council's legal advisor, said: "Only policemen and traffic officers may arrest litterers, not general law enforcement officers. Citizens may not arrest litterers. Personally, I am not aware of any person who has been arrested for littering. If a litterer is apprehended he can face a maximum fine of R1 000 or six months imprisonment or both."

Mr Bill Sewell, chairman of the Rondebosch Civic Association, said: "The litter problem is an enormous challenge. We need to impart more education and enforcement about the issue. People must get out of the habit of throwing things out of windows and cars and people should be encouraged to stop this practice. We recognise this is not easy.

Feasible idea

"Should ratepayers associations become involved with issuing black bags to vagrants and others, with a financial reward if they bring the garbage to a central point?" Mr Sewell asked.

"We would like residents to respond to whether they think this a feasible idea."

Mrs Esmé Bull, a well-known researcher and Rondebosch resident, said: "The Liesbeek Ordinance, dated April 3 1852 and amended in 1893, dealt with an anti-pollution policy for the river. The Rondebosch municipality was concerned about the state of the river during that period and people were fined for various misdemeanours."

□ To report littering call the hotline number (021) 761-6571.

Getting rid of dirt to feed the poor

NATIONAL Sorghum Breweries has come up with a novel idea of how to deal with the scourge of littering in black residential areas.

The company is soon to embark on a unique project that will see tons of garbage lying in the black townships turned into high-quality compost ideal for agriculture and horticulture.

This, in turn, will introduce blacks into the world of farming.

Bio-conversion

The multi-million rand project, the first of its kind in South Africa, was unveiled by the executive chairman of NSB, Mr Mohale Mahanyele, at a media conference in Johannesburg this week.

Mahanyele said the project would take between three and six months to get off the ground.

The first bio-conversion site, which will cost about R20 million, will be located at the Pelindaba Brewery, formerly called Kwaggakop, near Atteridgeville.

Training

This is where rubbish that would have been collected in the townships will be dumped and recycled into compost.

According to Mahanyele, once the massive venture is in progress, it will be a major industry in the black community.

It will initially be manned by NSB engineers, who will soon undergo training in the United States.

The environment-friendly technique is the most advanced that has been developed to date. It has been in operation in Texas and Arizona and will be the first time the technology is used outside the United States.

"We are aware that the black community is the worst affected by littering. Garbage is not collected regularly in the townships and as a result it has become a health hazard in the streets."

Environment

"The situation has been aggravated by local authorities being unable to handle garbage in their respective areas."

"We are the biggest consumers of sorghum beer in the world and we have an

Sowetan 30/11/92
A unique project to introduce blacks to the world of agriculture

By **NKOPANE MAKOBANE**

image to take care of. We have been painfully aware that our product is said to litter the environment and we have now gone out to seek a solution.

"Although we constitute a small percentage, and there are people who contribute more in littering, we could not ignore the fact that we had an important role to play," Mahanyele said.

In line with black economic empowerment, the NSB saw this as another opportunity for the creation of jobs and economic advancement.

"As a company that derives its profits from the poor, many of whom live in squalor, we believe we are

the ones who should be in the forefront in this scheme.

"While we are addressing the waste problem, we are also going to empower our people."

"Local people will collect garbage and by this we would be creating jobs that are desperately needed. We are not going to purchase trucks, but encourage people to do it."

Benefit

"Garbage is not dirty if handled with the right engineering skills. We shall be engaging the know-how from the United States, while the equipment will come from South Africa."

"We also believe that this project is going to involve us in farming. It is definitely going to benefit

black farmers as we would be supplying them with first-class compost."

"Another good thing with this project is that it will engage universities, especially the University of the North. Our students will have an opportunity to engage in real-life research," he said.

Objective

Mahanyele said it was their long-term objective that such plants be established all over South Africa.

He said for starters, the operation would be run by the NSB and, once viable, would have its own identity.

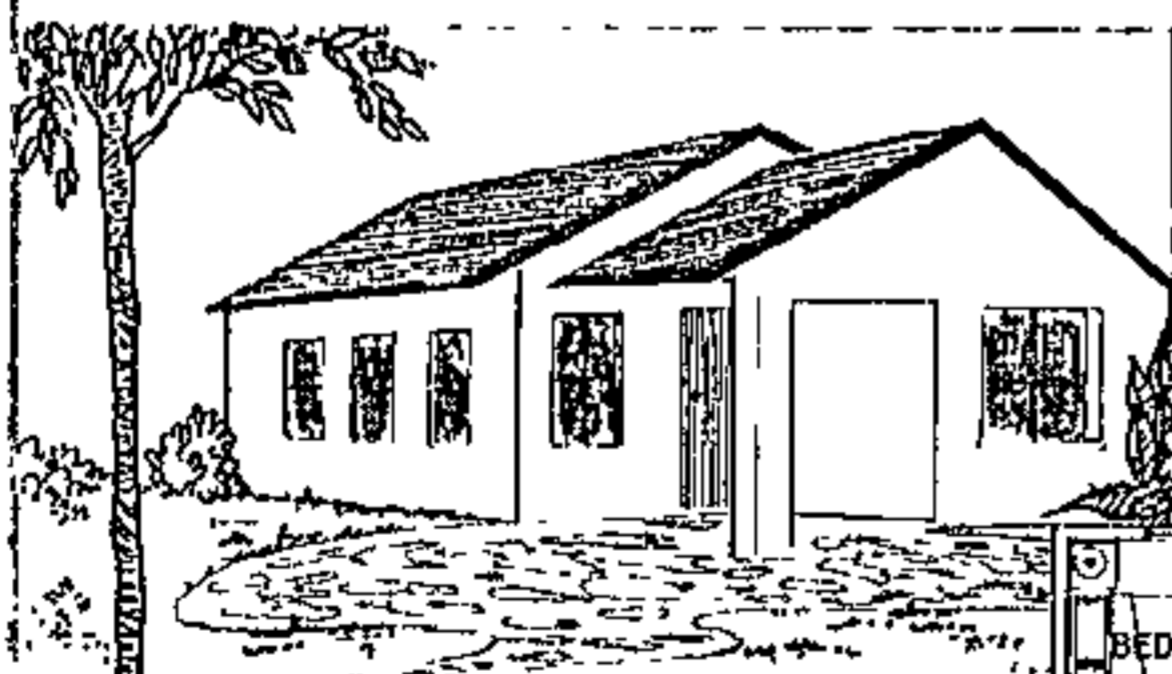
He believed that the PWV area would need about 10 plants to work sufficiently.



MOHALE MAHANYELE

HOME OWNERSHIP CAN BECOME A REALITY

Buy your home in JANUARY
 We guarantee you will move in MAY

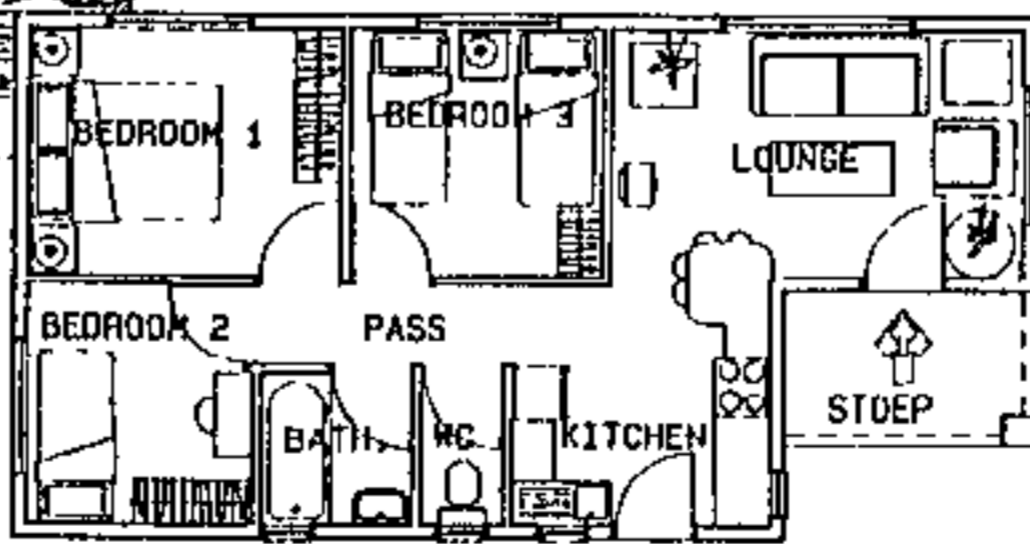


3 BEDROOM HOUSE & LAND

Protea Glen R63 500
Dobsonville Gardens R64 000

ALSO IN KAGISO EXT 6, VOSLOORUS EXT 18, EVATON NORTH, LAKESIDE

- Includes:
- Fitted carpets
 - Tiles (bathroom & kitchen)
 - Fancy light fittings
 - Geyser
 - Curtain rails
 - Fencing
 - Roof tiles
 - Reinforced ceilings (store up to 140kgs)
 - Kitchen sink & cupboard
 - All fees



Over 800 houses built and each one could be a SHOWHOUSE

TELEPHONE: (011) 337-4230

after hours:
 VICTOR (011) 933 3625
 SIMON (011) 938-2683
 JOHAN (011) 768-3561

OR
 VISIT OUR OFFICE
 IN PROTEA GLEN
 OPEN 7 DAYS
 24 HOURS
 5 4113

OWN A
 2 BEDROOMED
 HOUSE
 FOR AS LITTLE AS
R49 000

MEGASTONE (Pty) Ltd.
 Property Developers

A member of JI TRO GROUP LTD South Africa
The NAME in the HOUSING game
 Johannesburg Office 2nd Floor Landmark Building, 94 President St.

Cut out and send to PO Box 1045 Johannesburg 2000
 "I would like to know more about HOME OWNERSHIP with MEGASTONE"

Name: _____ Code _____
 Address: _____
 Tel Home: _____ Work _____
 Combined income: _____
 Husband/R: _____ Wife/R _____

Weekly Mail Reporter
EARTH LIFE AFRICA is taking Thor
Chemicals to an international tribunal
on charges of polluting one of the
earth's most important renewable
assets — water.

The case is set to be heard in
February by the Second International
Water Tribunal, meeting in
Amsterdam to hear complaints of
water pollution in Asia, Africa and
Latin America. Environmental organ-
isations from 17 countries will present
dossiers about water problems in their
countries and enter into discussions
with the companies and governments
they have accused of contaminating
the world's water.

Thor to face world tribunal

While the tribunal does not have the
power to impose fines against compa-
nies found guilty of polluting water,
part of its brief is to publicise the
details of allegations. Thus, South
Africa's legislation on pollution will
also be on trial.

The Natal plant of Thor Chemicals,
which is a subsidiary of a British
multi-national, has been accused by
Earthlife of severely contaminating
the Mngweni stream with mercury.
In its indictment, Earthlife says this
has created serious hazards for the

immediate environment and for com-
munities downstream. The company
had refused to acknowledge publicly
the extent of the pollution, the threat it
posed to communities or its responsi-
bility for the contamination.

Earthlife also accuses Thor of
importing mercury waste from Europe
and the United States — a toxic prod-
uct which those countries' environ-
mental regulations have classified as
too hazardous to reprocess.
In July 1988, Thor denied importing
toxic waste. "We supply American

Cyanamid with mercury-based cata-
lysts and take back the waste after they
have used the product," the company
said in a statement. "Our plant is envi-
ronmentally safe and all the local
authorities are satisfied it is safe."

Thor's managing director, Stephen
van der Vyver, said he had nothing to
add to the 1988 statement, but he indi-
cated that his company was sending a
written response to the tribunal.
One of the three Earthlife members
who will be attending the tribunal,
Chris Albertyn, is confident they will

win the case. "Thor tried to discredit
us as a lunatic fringe. A guilty verdict
will vindicate our stand and warn
other multi-nationals planning to
invest in South Africa that they will
not be able to cut costs by ignoring the
environment," he said. "We believe
the resultant negative publicity will
force corporations to review their
operations."

The First International Water
Tribunal, which dealt with water pol-
lution in Europe, resulted in concrete
measures being taken by governments
and industries to address the problem.

Other African countries due to
appear before the second tribunal are
Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania.

Kaolin mine site to be fenced in

ET 3/11/92 (SB)
Staff Reporter

THE site of the proposed kaolin mine at Noordhoek is being prepared for fencing by the mining company.

Managing director of Serina Kaolin, Mr CM Tarrant, said the area was being cleared of alien vegetation.

The company hoped to move equipment on to the site this year, and he was confident the mining would go ahead, as the company had a legal right to mine there.

It had had the go-ahead from the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs since January 2 to develop the mine as soon as a rehabilitation programme was handed to the department.

A Save Chapman's Peak Action Group spokesman said this could be a watershed issue for South African environmental policy.

'Green' council's HQ now in Cape

SITimes (cm)

2/2/92

SOUTH AFRICA'S environmental coordinator, the Habitat Council, has moved its secretariat from Pretoria to Cape Town and appointed Wouter van Warmelo as its new executive officer.

The council is a non-governmental organisation comprising 60 members including the Wildlife Society, Botanical Society, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Institute of Civil Engineers and the Girl Guides.

It aims to increase the effectiveness of the contributions of member organisations to environmental conservation.

Mr Van Warmelo spent nearly five years as conservation liaison officer for the Botanical Society and is known in conservation circles around the country.

In line with the changes taking place in South Africa, the Habitat Council, under the leadership of its president, Prof Rudi Bigalke, has reviewed its aims in order to service the needs of its members more effectively.



WOUTER VAN WARMELO
New executive officer

A major conference with the theme "Religion and the Environment" is being planned for early 1993, and regional congresses on environmental issues are being arranged with local communities and the local representatives of organisations belonging to the Habitat Council.

The emphasis will be on greater community participation.

OUTRAGED conservationists — supported by SABC and Call-Net sources — have accused Richards Bay Minerals of rigging a national phone-in poll which this week reflected overwhelming support for its planned mining operations at Lake St Lucia.

RBM has denied the allegation that it mobilised its workforce to repeatedly phone in yes votes.

The poll, opened by Good Morning South Africa on Monday and closed on Friday, brought by far the biggest response in the programme's history. The question was: "Do you favour mining at St Lucia? — Yes or No."

Nearly 60 000 viewers had phoned Call-Net by Friday morning to record 35 537 votes in favour of RBM mining plans and 23 492 against.

But SABC and Call-Net sources said this week a "highly suspicious" pattern of voting tended to support allegations by anonymous phone callers claiming to be RBM employees. The callers said RBM staff had been instructed to phone in yes votes at company expense during working hours throughout the week.

By Tuesday, the no votes outnumbered the yes votes by 5 827 to 4 438.

Suspicious

On Wednesday the yes responses started to surge somewhat ahead. But survey experts and SABC sources said print-outs of the times the calls were made supported claims that mining company staff were assigned to make continuous yes votes during working hours.

On Tuesday, for example, there were 3 944 no votes and only 1 512 yes between 6am and 8am while GMSA was urging people to phone in.

But during office hours — and while GMSA was off the air — the calls in favour of mining outnumbered the others by nearly seven to one (6 976 to 1 081).

During the same office-hour period the following day the pro-mining vote outstripped the conservationists to what public response survey statisticians said was an "altogether suspicious extent".

So much so that Wednesday's totals were 11 629 yes votes and a mere 4 868 no votes.

Most significant was one night's phone-in of 683 yes calls (no calls: nil) between midnight and 1am, when

By ROY RUDDEN

there was nothing on TV to stimulate the calls.

"It's not difficult for RBM night staff — all they had to do was dial once and keep pressing the repeat button," a conservationist said.

An RBM publicity official denied management had put pressure on staff to make repeated yes calls.

The company's senior PRO, Mr Barry Clements, issued a statement saying that, while RBM did not discourage its employees from registering their votes, which was their right, "we have no way of knowing if this was abused".

Conservationist Dr Ian Player said that, in contrast to the anonymous televote results, anti-mining groups had already presented the government with a petition of 300 000

identifiable and traceable signatures.

Author and conservationist Tony Pooley said: "The manipulation of the phone-in was obvious.

"Clearly, RBM executives panicked when they saw voting was going against them on the first couple of days and acted accordingly.

Support

"With a R5-million budget to promote pro-mining publicity, the cost of 35 000 yes phone-ins is just another ecologically bad drop in the Indian Ocean."

Mr Clements said in his statement that the GMSA opinion poll indicated overwhelming public support for mining at St Lucia, but he conceded the results could not be seen as an accurate representation "for various reasons".

Outrage over alleged rigging of phone-in

Stimes 2/2/92

56

Council set to end verge cut

Municipal Reporter

THE city council "final cut" verge-mowing programme is 70 percent complete and should be finished by May.

The council decided to cut grass verges for the last time after a controversial, but little-publicised, decision to save money by stopping the service.

No money had been spent on publicity because of Press publicity for the "one last cut."

R3-m needed for fire prevention on mountain

(56)
ARG 4/2/92

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

DEVASTATING fires threaten Table Mountain and Silvermine nature reserve unless a R3 million three-year programme is adopted to clear alien vegetation and prepare firebelts, the city engineer has warned.

The city council utilities and works committee yesterday asked the city engineer's department for a detailed breakdown on how it intends spending the money.

Parks and forests director Mr Peter Rist has warned that the alien vegetation problem is getting "rapidly out of hand" because all available staff and resources are concentrated on rehabilitating fire-ravaged Devil's Peak.

He said provincial subsidy cuts were aggravating the problem.

A city engineer's report said urgent action was needed to clear alien vegetation, prepare firebelts and reduce fire hazards where there were high "fuel loads".

Another fire like that on Devil's Peak last February, which devastated fynbos, baked soil and choked Cape Town air, was possible unless proper firebelts were made.

The report warned that even a "holding situation" could not be maintained unless money was available.

Uncontrolled fires over the past five years had caused rapid regeneration of alien vegetation, particularly acacia which would have to be eradicated with chemicals.

Table Mountain nature reserve had about 1 478 hectares of "medium to heavy" infestation and Silvermine about 646 hectares.

The report said that clearing it would cost more than R3 million, while R100 000 would have to be added to clear Silvermine valley after a recent fire.

Unless fuel loads were reduced during the autumn — the best time for natural vegetation to grow back — an accidental fire could become an uncontrollable wildfire, the report said.

Table Mountain had 261 hectares and Silvermine reserve 128 hectares with "excessively high fuel loads".

Local industrialists dig into kaolin fight

Municipal Reporter

(56)

THE Cape Chamber of Industries has entered the fray over kaolin-mining in Noordhoek — on the side of mining.

In its latest Weekly Bulletin, the chamber said much emotion had been generated over the proposal to mine at Noordhoek.

However, the bulletin continued, a balance was required "to ensure that economic progress is not sacrificed on the altar of over-zealous environmentalists".

The chamber has formed an environmental sub-committee whose members, it said, have considerable appreciation and experience of industry and its impact on the environment.

"Its aims are to co-ordinate — with industry, environmental groups and authorities — so as to reduce the risk of environmental disasters and to draw up plans should industrial disasters occur."

However the chamber said that it "does not wish to become involved in the (Noordhoek) controversy per se as mining and tourism are somewhat remote from industrial activity". CT 4/2/92

shredded, because it has no relevant security significance.

*Dr F HARTZENBERG: Why did you pay R3 000 for it? *Hansard 4/2/92*

*The MINISTER: I am now going to come to the point. I want to state the following policy standpoint to the hon members.

Our service does not give any planned, deliberate and organised intelligence attention to any party-political organisation.

*Dr F HARTZENBERG: That is not true.

*The MINISTER: We do not pay any deliberate attention to a party-political organisation that practises normal politics. In the short time at my disposal today I want to invite the hon members of the House to discuss with me any substantive allegations that may exist in regard to irregularities in connection with the service, and I undertake wherever possible to ascertain the factual basis.

What is more, if the hon members have any complaints, such as the hon members now have, that the service has acted in an unauthorised manner, or that it has used taxpayers' money, they should rush off to the Ombudsman. Those hon members assisted us to put the Ombudsman in place. We have vested him with special powers to investigate the misuse of State funds and to report on this to Parliament. We invite hon members to approach him without delay if they have any complaints. I put it to them frankly that we will devote the necessary attention to any complaints they may have. We will not tolerate absurdities. I hasten to add that the service is not known for concerning itself with absurdities.

Debate concluded.

Kaolin mine in Noordhoek

2. Mr J H MOMBBERG asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:†

- (1) Whether, in view of the opposition to the proposed kaolin mine in Noordhoek, he still intends allowing this mine; if so,
- (2) whether the commencement of mining operations will be made subject to certain conditions; if not, why not; if so, to what conditions?

B117E.INT

rigidly applied by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

Another very important point that I would like to stress is that in terms of the Minerals Act, 1991, authority is vested in the Minister to cancel or suspend any prospecting permit or mining authorisation if the provisions of the Act are not complied with. However, the Minister will have no discretion if a provision in respect of the rehabilitation of the land concerned is not complied with. In such a case the Minister will be compelled to cancel or suspend the permit or authorisation outright.

Mr J H MOMBBERG: Mr Speaker, for the past ten years the people in the southern Peninsula, especially in the Noordhoek area, have lived under the cloud of the possibility that there will be a kaolin mine against the slopes of Chapman's Peak.

Many people, especially those who come from overseas, often speak of the beauty of the drive from Hour Bay to Fish Hoek when using the road over Chapman's Peak. Many of these people react with total bewilderment when they hear that soon there will be a mine, forty metres deep, against the slopes of that very same beautiful mountain.

That is why concerned people, over the past three years, have flocked to sign a petition against this mine—approximately 60 000 of them. That is why concerned people have taken out advertisements in the papers to point out the dangers of the mine.

We have pleaded with the holders of the mining rights, Serina, we have pleaded with Federale Volksbeleggings and we have pleaded with Sanlam to stop this mine. Yet they have gone on with preparations to put bulldozers into the mountain side of Chapman's Peak.

I want to emphasise one point. This is not a personal issue. I have friends in Serina and I am a policyholder of Sanlam. [Interjections.]

Highly respected people like Dr Douglas Hey, Mr Ian Player, Mr John Róbert, Mr Gordon Oliver, as well as the National Monuments Commission, have called on the Government and Sanlam not to go on with this mine.

There comes a time when even the Government must decide between what is good in the short term and what is good in the long term. This

mine will be a short-term economic benefit. Despite every possible rehabilitation guarantee, the damage done will outlive the short-term economic benefits.

My people in that area are dedicated to seeking a healthy unemotional balance between the two goals of development and preservation. Ideally it should be possible to achieve careful development while preserving that which we dare not lose in the environment. In this case in which it is proposed to enable the messiest form of mining on the fringes of established nature reserves and natural areas, the difficulties of obtaining any such balance are immense. I therefore call on the Government to use every possible bit of legislation to stop this mine.

*Mr J CHIOLE: Mr Speaker, environmental patriotism is inseparable from true nationalism, and it is a characteristic peculiar to First World standards and governments throughout the Western World. It should therefore be clearly understood that the implementation of what the DP has stated would be its desired scenario after an election would result in a Third World government in South Africa which would neither appreciate nor understand this environmental patriotism. [Interjections.]

Similarly, having misled the voters in 1989, the NP's fervent desire to bring about a political coup on themselves in order to establish an ANC government in South Africa, would also result in a government which would not regard the conservation of our national heritage as a priority. Only a First World, truly nationalist, White government would have the patriotism to cherish our natural heritage jealously and to preserve it for posterity. [Interjections.]

*Mr SPEAKER: Order! Hon members must come to order. The hon member may proceed.

*Mr J CHIOLE: Mr Speaker, throughout the Western World we are seeing the introduction of serious restrictions in respect of mining activities as a result of the awakening of environmental patriotism and this has naturally resulted in sharp price increases for minerals. That is the NP's reasoning. As a result of the NP's chaotic economic policy, South Africa has been a capital exporting country for five years now. Therefore they now want to use open-cast mining in a disgraceful manner to destroy the natural heri-

continues

tage in Chapman's Peak and St Lucia in respect of which important agreements exist.

As a result of the NP's political suicide syndrome they are only interested in realising maximum revenue in the short term and that is why they are concealing this behind so-called environmental impact studies. Why will they not tell the department how many people from the Natal Parks Board are serving on the St Lucia Committee, for example? The CP maintains that the Chapman's Peak project is merely a larger prototype of the St Lucia project. Cancel the rights to prospect and to mine. [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, I believe matters of this nature should be approached unemotionally so that objectivity and realism can prevail throughout the search for a generally accepted balance between mining on the one hand, on which the economy of the country has been based, and conservation of the environment on the other.

Keeping the facts in mind, I make a strong appeal to hon members especially and to the general public to assess the merits of this case unemotionally so that the best interests of the country can be served.

The hon member for Simon's Town raised the matter of tourists who visit this area. Surely he should know that the environmental impact study did, indeed, look into the matter of tourism. It was found that approximately 500 000 people visit the Cape annually and spend about R180 million. They have also found that it is highly unlikely that the tourists who visit this particular part of the Cape Peninsula will be deterred from going there because of this mine [Interjections.]

Indeed, the Brackkeklouf Mine has been in Fish Hoek for 25 years. As one drives down from Chapman's Peak, the first thing that one sees is the Brackkeklouf Mine which is on the far mountain side. Yet, statistics have clearly shown that the Brackkeklouf Mine, which has existed for 25 years, has not had any impact at all on tourism in the Peninsula. The survey done by experts in their field indicates that it will not have an effect on tourism.

The hon member for Simon's Town knows that the environmental impact assessment . . . [Time expired.]

AN HON MEMBER: He knows nothing!

MR C W EGLIN: It is correct that the hon member for Simon's Town raised this issue, but it is not just a local issue. It goes far beyond that. Opposition to it includes the Cape Chamber of Commerce, Captour, Satour, the National Monuments Commission and people like Dr John Hall and Dr Douglas Hey. The objections also come from tens of thousands of ordinary citizens of South Africa who have a special feeling towards a Peninsula that was once described as the fairest cape in all the world.

Objections in regard to visual impact, physical impact, environmental impact and of social impact cannot just be wished away by the hard-handed Government. The objections are a cry from the heart of Capetonians when they see what is happening to the environment around them, for instance the urban sprawl engulfing the countryside, the spoliation of Table Mountain and the increasing amounts of sewage being pumped into the sea. Capetonians now see the opening of another mine at Chapman's peak as yet another step in the step-by-step rape of Cape Peninsula's priceless natural heritage.

HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR C W EGLIN: They see an insensitive Government that gave permission for mining and mining rights before they obtained an environmental impact study. They have to put this right. They can do it by imposing a moratorium on all mining in the Cape Peninsula for 25 years.

HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR C W EGLIN: Let future generations have the advantage of considering this issue against the background of history, but do not let present and future generations suffer because of the shortsightedness and the irresponsibility of a Government which has no sensitivity towards the quality of life of people or the quality of our environment.

MR J H MOMBBERG: Mr Speaker, today we have heard a lot about the rights of companies. I want to ask the hon the Minister: What about the rights of people? I want to tell Sanlam to use its muscle to stop this mine and to tell its affiliate Serrna that it is not in the interests of the people to go on with this.

I want to warn Sanlam that they must not underestimate the reaction of the people. We are going to have a million signatures next time, not 60 000, aimed against Sanlam and not against the mine. [Interjections.] I want to warn them that if they start the bulldozers on Chapman's Peak, the people will be there to stop them. Let them not ride roughshod over the wishes of the people! [Interjections.]

I want to conclude by quoting an excerpt from a letter which appeared in *The Argus* last week.

AN HON MEMBER: Jan, we are going to call it "Jan se gat"! [Interjections.]

***MR J H MOMBBERG:** That hon member remains a silly little fellow! [Interjections.]

I quote from the letter which appeared in the paper last week:

To mine for kaolin against Chapman's Peak is like having received Chapman's Peak in trust from God and throwing it back into his face.

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, I am sure that any reasonable person who has been listening to this debate will certainly accept that the hon member for Sea Point and also now the hon member for Simon's Town have exhibited the typical emotion that we so often see in matters of this kind. The hon member said that the Government was riding roughshod over the people. That is not true!

That hon member knows better than anybody in this House the tremendous investigation that has been done into this particular matter. That hon member knows of all the scientific organisations—the CSIR, the University of the Western Cape, the University of Pretoria, the University of Port Elizabeth, the University of Cape Town, all the engineering firms of world repute—which have investigated this matter. And then the hon member says we are riding roughshod over the people's views on this matter.

What about all the other people in South Africa whose very livelihood and future depend upon the economic development of this country? [Interjections.] What are we talking about? I ask the hon member what we are talking about. We are talking about a piece of land of 26,9 hectares in extent. Compare that with the Cape Peninsula as a whole. We are talking about four hectares of land being mined at any one time.

AN HON MEMBER: Forty metres deep!

THE MINISTER: The hon member again says 40 metres deep. When this mine is completed, the level of the land will be a mere 2 metres lower than it is today. [Interjections.] The hon member for Simon's Town knows it too.

In conclusion, I want to say that that hon member knows that a committee will be set up on which unremunerated people will serve voluntarily. There will be people serving on this committee with the relevant environmental expertise, such as a specialist rehabilitation ecologist, as well as representatives of the local residents and government authorities, and I invite that hon member to be the convener of that committee. [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

[Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

State President:

*1. MR D J DALLING—State President. [Question standing over.]

Ministers:

Multilateral Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund

*1. ADV J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether the Government investigated the state of the Multilateral Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund in 1991; if so (a) what were the reasons for the investigation, (b) who carried out the investigation on behalf of the Government and (c) what were the findings?

B1E



Dust flies as kaolin mine gets go-ahead

Rape, says Eglin. Too much emotion, says Bartlett

(56) ARG 5/2/92

KAOLIN mining at Chapman's Peak will not be stopped, but will be subject to stringent conditions, says Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr George Bartlett.

Speaking during an interpellation debate in reply to a question from Mr Jannie Momberg (DP Simon's Town), Mr Bartlett said the conditions, to be finalised between the departments of Environment Affairs, Agriculture and Water Affairs and Forestry, would be rigidly applied by his department.

The conditions would pertain to the mining operation itself, noise abatement, dust control, effluent management and soil erosion, protection of the ecological system, visual impact, road use, rehabilitation and mine closure, Mr Bartlett said.

Mr Momberg said more than 60 000 people had signed a petition against the mine over the past three years.

A time came when even the government had to decide what was good in the long term because the damage done by the mine would outlive the short-term benefits, Mr Momberg said.

"I call on the Minister to use every bit of legislation at his disposal to stop this mine."

Mr Bartlett appealed for an objective assessment of facts.

The environmental impact study, commissioned voluntarily by the Serina company (which will mine the area), had been carried out by an international firm of consulting engineers and scientists, in consultation with a "vast array" of local organisations.

According to the study, the Noordhoek Valley was "only an element of the tourist experience and not a specific end destination" of the about 500 000 tourists who visited the Cape annually.

Mr Colin Eglin (DP Sea Point) said the people of Cape Town saw the opening of another mine at Chapman's Peak as "yet another step in the step-by-step rape of the Cape Peninsula's priceless natural heritage".

The government should follow the example of the international community on the exploitation of Antarctica and place a 25-year moratorium on all mining in the Peninsula.

Mr Bartlett said Mr Eglin and Mr Momberg had "exhibited the typical emotion so often seen in matters of this kind".

"What about all the other people in South Africa whose livelihoods depended on kaolin?" Mr Bartlett asked.

Mr Joseph Chiolo (CP Pretoria West) said "soil patriotism" would not be guaranteed under the "Third World govern-



WHAT COULD BE: An abandoned kaolin quarry paints a dismal picture ... perhaps a taste of what to expect at Noordhoek?

ment" in which the DP's policies would result.

Mr Momberg warned life assurance giant, Sanlam, to use its muscle to tell its affiliate, Serina, to stop the proposed kaolin mine or it could face a petition of a "million people".

He said he was a Sanlam policy holder and he had no personal fight with Serina.

"Highly-respected people like Dr Douglas Hey, Mr Ian Player, Mr John Robert of Captour, Mr Gordon Oliver, as well as the National Monuments Com-

mission have called on the government and Sanlam not to go on with this mine," Mr Momberg said.

The last petition had yielded more than 60 000 signatures of people opposed to the proposed mining, "but we are going to have a million signatures next time".

"To mine kaolin at Chapman's Peak is like having been given Chapman's Peak by God in trust and throwing it back into His face," Mr Momberg said. — Sapa.

Mining of kaolin won't be stopped

STAR 5/2/92

The kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak would not be stopped, but would be subject to stringent conditions still to be finalised, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

Speaking during an interpellation debate on a question from Jannie Momberg (DP Simon's Town), he said these conditions, to be finalised between the departments of Environment Affairs, Agriculture and Water Affairs and Forestry, would be rigidly applied by his department.

They would pertain to the mining operation itself; the abatement of noise; dust control; effluent management and soil erosion; protection of the ecological system; visual impact; road use; rehabilitation and mine closure.

Mr Momberg said more than 60 000 concerned people had signed a petition against the mine. A time came when even the Government had to decide what was good in the long term and damage done by the mine would outlive the short-term benefits. — Sapa.

MP warns Sanlam to intervene in mine deal

CAPE TOWN — MP for Simon's Town Jannie Momborg warned life assurer Sanlam yesterday to tell its affiliate Serina to stop the proposed mining of kaolin at Chapman's Peak or it might face a petition of a "million people".

He was speaking in an interpellation debate yesterday during which Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett said the kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak would not be stopped.

However, it would be subject to stringent conditions still to be finalised.

Momborg said: "Highly respected people like Dr Douglas Hey, Mr Ian Player, Mr John Robert of Captour, Mr Gordon Oliver, as well as the National Monuments Commission called on the government and Sanlam not to go on with this mine."

The previous petition had yielded more than 60 000 signatures of people opposed to the proposed mining, "but we are going to have a million signatures next time".

A time came when even government had to decide what was good in the long term — the damage done by the mine would outlive the short-term benefits.

"Therefore I call today on the Minister to use every bit of legislation at his dispos-

al to stop this mine."

Bartlett said the mining conditions, to be finalised between the departments of Environment Affairs, Agriculture and Water Affairs and Forestry, would be rigidly applied by his department.

They would pertain to the mining operation itself; the abatement of noise; dust control; effluent management and soil erosion; protection of the ecological system; visual impact; road use; rehabilitation and mine closure.

Bartlett appealed to MPs and members of the public to "assess the facts objectively".

The environmental impact study, commissioned voluntarily by the Serina company, had been carried out by an international firm of consulting engineers and scientists, in consultation with a "vast array" of local organisations.

According to the study, the Noordhoek Valley was "only an element of the tourist experience and not a specific end destination" of the approximately 500 000 tourists who visited the Cape annually.

He raised the question of those whose livelihood depended on kaolin. — Sapa.

KAOLIN WAR

56

CT S/2/92

MINERS STRIKE

Miners' 'Business' Clash

By ANTHONY Political Cor

A "KAOLIN WAR" Parliament yesterday the government yesterday on Chapman's Peak and opposition MPs threatened a large anti-Sanlam campaign to block "the rape of the Peninsula's priceless natural heritage".

In one of the noisiest clashes in Parliament in recent years, the Democratic Party and the Conservative Party tore into the government for okaying what they branded "this madness" and "a scandal".

The Minister of Mineral Affairs, Mr George Bartlett, said during a 15-minute mini-debate that the mining operations would be allowed to go ahead — albeit under still-to-be-finalised "stringent conditions".

He said the kaolin deposits at

ity and the only of their kind in South Africa".

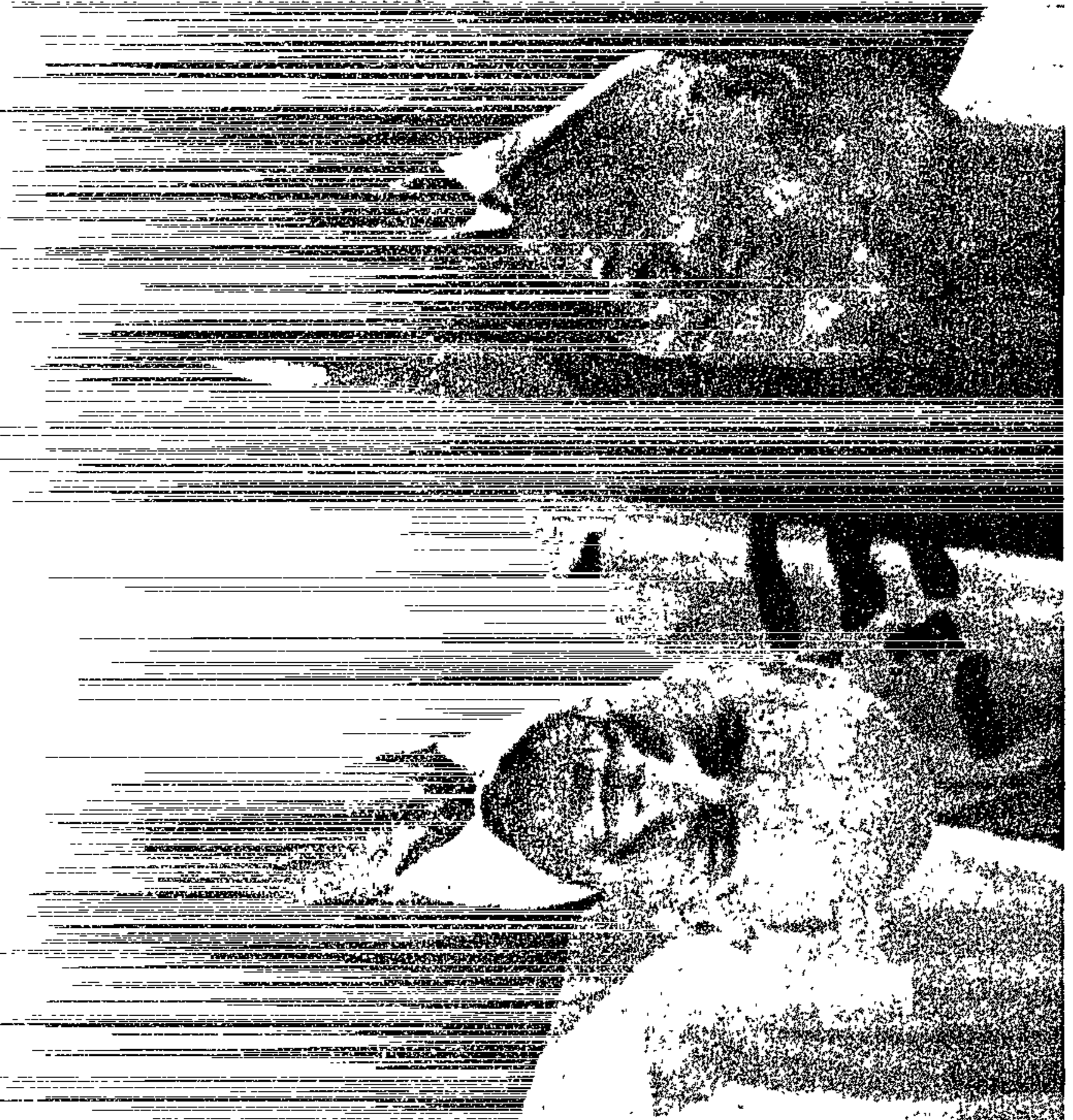
High-quality kaolin was a "very essential and extremely valuable" raw material and the need for general wealth creation and adequate employment "simply cannot be ignored".

Mr Bartlett said an environmental impact study had been commissioned voluntarily by the Serina mining company and carried out by an international firm of consulting engineers and scientists, in consultation with a "vast array" of local organisations.

But the MP for Simon's Town, Mr Jannie Momborg, after appealing to the government to "stop this mine", warned the "mega company" Sanlam (of which he is a policy-holder) "to use your muscle to tell your affiliate Serina to stop mining against Chapman's Peak" or face "a very dear price".

He predicted that the 60 000 anti-mining signatures already collected from the public would become a million anti-Sanlam signatures if the bulldozers moved in.

The MP for Sea Point, Mr Colin Eglin, said to jeers from Nat benches



PRIZED ...
President F W de Klerk collected two prizes this week in Paris — the Unesco peace prize, which he shared with Mr Nelson Mandela, and the Prix du Courage Politique for political courage presented by the journal Politique Internationale. Here the two shake hands after the Unesco award.

CITY

False Bay ⁽⁵⁶⁾ sludge move _{Apex 6/2/92}

Municipal Reporter

ENVIRONMENTALISTS are pressing the Cape Town City Council to extend the Steenbras sludge outlet pipeline to reduce visible pollution in False Bay.

A project identification report — which does not imply the project will be funded or approved — was given to the city council utilities and works committee.

It recommended the project be completed as soon as possible because the council had been accused of contributing to the pollution of False Bay and there was "increased pressure from environmental bodies".

A Council for Scientific and Industrial Research report said the toxicity of alum sludge — which was running out of the pipeline into the sea and creating a visible "fan" in the water — was so low it was unlikely to have any effect on marine life.

It said the plume was visible "about 13 percent of the time" and operations at Steenbras water treatment plant should be adapted so that desludging was done at night.

If the pipeline was built "for aesthetic reasons," only 50m would be needed to reduce the visibility of the plume.

Otherwise the pipeline should be built to the sea bottom to increase dilution of the sludge.

Dumped toxic waste burns children

By Carina Le-Grange (S)

STAR 6/21/92,

At least 15 Alexandra children received medical treatment yesterday after they suffered serious chemical burns on Tuesday as a result of illegal and dangerous dumping in the township.

It was later established the burns were caused by a substance called Xylol.

One child, six-year-old Thomas Mabheha, was admitted to Tembisa Hospital.

The other children, and at least one mother, were treated at the Alexandra Health Clinic. More children, with less serious chemical burns, were expected to come for treatment yesterday afternoon.

The chemical burns were suffered after a truck illegally dumped tons of a paint-related substances on an empty site — near to a children's informal playground — in Alexandra on Monday. Residents believe the truck came from Wynberg.

An official of the Department of National Health and Development said last year, during a visit to Alexandra by the director-general Dr Coen Slabber, that it was known "agents" from outside dumped refuse in the township.

While The Star visited the site yesterday, another unmarked truck arrived to illegally dump its cargo of waste.

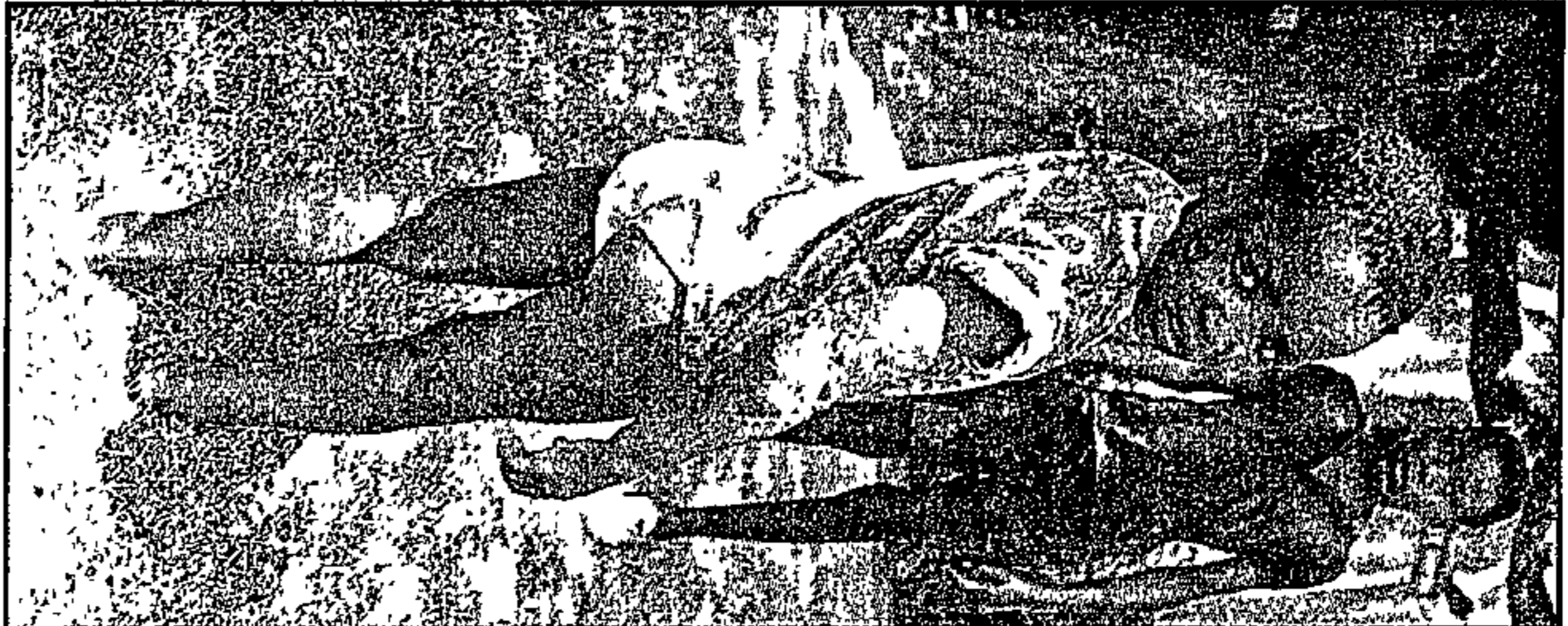
Moses Sedane, who works for excavators on the site, tried in vain to stop the driver and three passengers.

Sandton Environmental Health Services officer I P Ferreira, yesterday assisted the Alexandra Health Centre to establish the identity of the substance to expedite the correct treatment.

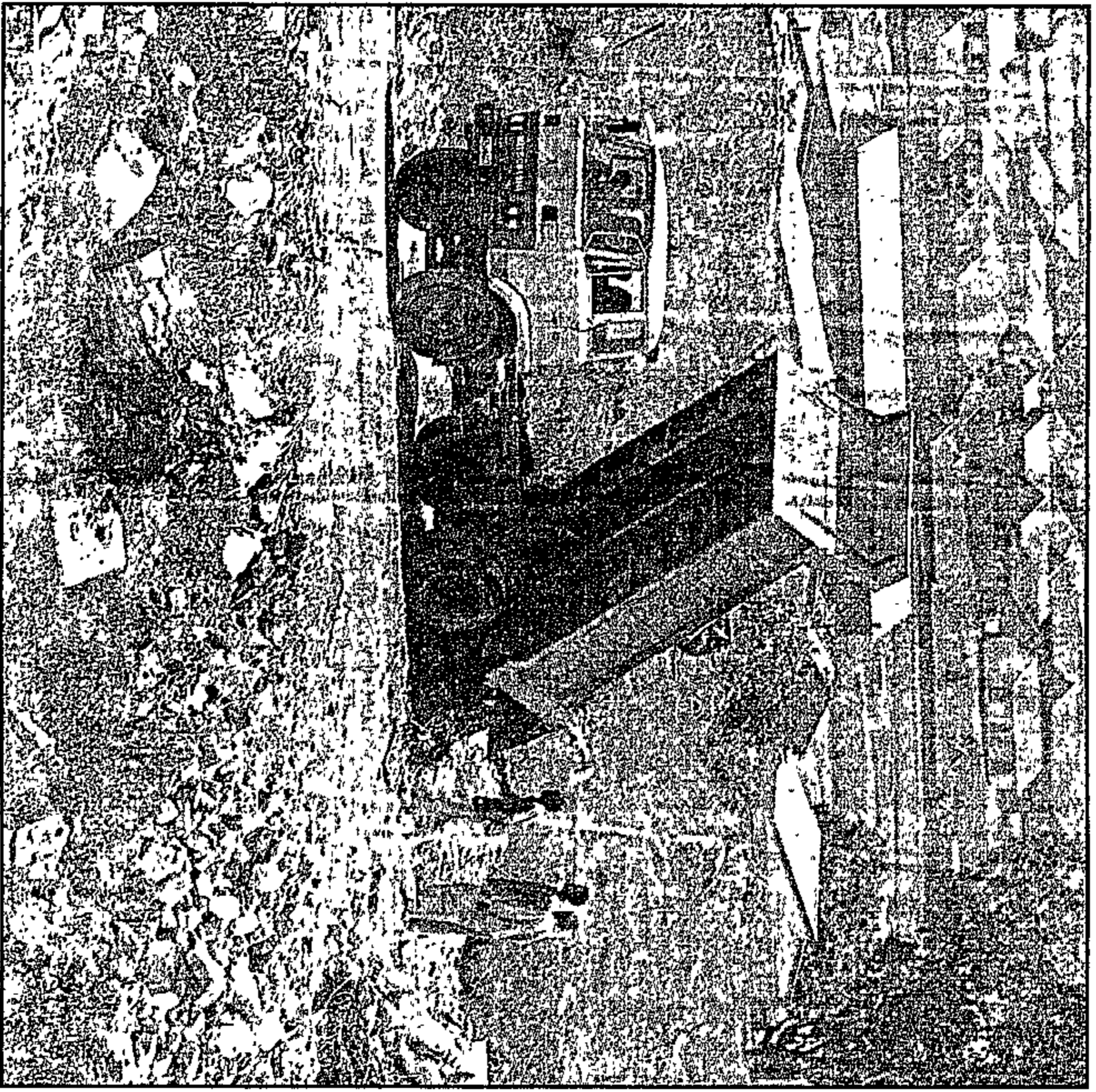
He said the area fell outside the jurisdiction of Sandton.

He said the substance had been identified as Xylol and it was a member of the benzene family. Xylol was used for purposes similar to paint stripping and was very dangerous.

Among other things, it could penetrate soft tissue, cause respiratory failure and lead to can-



Picked up on the playground . . . six-year-old Thomas Mabheha (above left) shows the chemical burns he sustained while his friend, who also sustained burns, looks on. (Right) A truck dumps its waste illegally in Alexandra yesterday.



cer and toxic dementia.

He said Sandton was investigating the matter and would take the necessary steps via the Department of National Health when they had established the origin of the substance.

Alexandra medical manager Dr Pascal Ngakane said his staff had been told that children had come into contact with the dangerous substance on

Tuesday, and that they woke up yesterday with blisters over large parts of their bodies and suffering burning sensations.

He said the clinic would monitor the children's condition over the next 48 hours.

Monica Rakoma, whose son Josiah (19) sustained burns, said the children were playing on a small soccer field when they were told by men on the un-

marked truck that dumped the dangerous cargo that they could help themselves to the "paint".

"The children got excited and played with the paint," she said.

Among the other injured children were Grant Mbedze (9), Arnold Mbedze (13), Justus Mponyane (13), Siphwe Janji (11), and brothers John (9) and Bongani (3) Mabheha. Mothers of the children ex-

pressed anger about what had happened, and said if white people had lived nearby the dangerous waste would not have been dumped.

"There have always been strange things dumped in Alexandra at times food which had gone off is dumped and the children, being children, would eat it and become ill," one mother said.

Regional Services Council chief executive officer Len de Wet said the responsibility for preventing illegal and dangerous dumping usually lay primarily with the local management who could contract with other bodies to execute the task.

It was not possible yesterday afternoon to establish who was responsible for environmental safety in Alexandra.

● Pictures: Herbert Mabuza.

New plan to protect the Cape coast

56 B/2/92

Staff Reporter

A COMPREHENSIVE coastal conservation plan for the Cape is being developed by the Cape Department of Nature Conservation in co-operation with conservation organisations and interest groups.

The department said the plan, "the first of its kind", would provide a framework for determining a policy for "the judicious conser-

vation and development of the coastal regions of the Cape Province".

It said that in the past "unco-ordinated recommendations often resulted in environmentally harmful development".

The announcement comes after several major rows between developers and conservationists who have charged that the Cape coast is being raped by greedy developers.

Among the issues which caused controversy last year were the development on the sandbar in the river mouth at Still Bay and plans for a R20-million housing development on the shores of the ecologically sensitive Langebaan lagoon.

The department said it had, for the past six years, been involved with impact assessments of development, evaluation of changes in land

use and the rezoning of land.

"In 1990 approximately 80% of all applications for development came from the coastal regions — a clear indication of the immense pressure being put on this part of the environment," they said.

A study of the sensitivity of Cape coastal vegetation is being undertaken by the CSIR on assignment for the department.



Miss Virginia Motau, construction worker Mr Moses Ntsibande and Dr Garth Japhet inspect the dumping area where the chemical substance that burned the children was found. Pic: MBUZENI ZULU

Chemical burns 15 children

AT LEAST 15 children, some as young as three years, were severely burnt by chemical substances while playing at a dump in Alexandra, not far from the residential area, a local doctor confirmed yesterday.

The children were treated at Alexandra Health Centre on Monday, the same day they tampered with chemicals left at the dump.

Four elderly women were also treated for burns at the clinic, Sister Lizzie Montwedi said.

The incident occurred after a truck believed to be from a chemical processing company offloaded drums containing paint and other substances.

Dr Garth Japhet said the burns on the victims were so severe that the children would have to be kept under strict medical supervision.

Thomas Mabhena (6) had to be admitted to Tembisa Hospital.

Soveran 6/2/92
By JOE MDHLELA

Japhet said health authorities would try to trace the people responsible for the dumping with a view to prosecution.

He hoped the clean-up campaign launched by the Sandton municipality and Alexandra's local authority would include means of eradicating the dumping problem.

"We need to make Alexandra a habitable place by removing dumps which are a health hazard," he said.

Japhet said tests conducted at a laboratory yesterday confirmed that the chemical used by the children was "Xylene", a paint-removing substance.

Mrs Monica Rakoma, one of the four women burnt, said they had used the chemical thinking it was "thinners" which they could use to remove paint from their hands.

y
192
the
ion
st"
ice
(4)
ing
of
led
m-
es,
ea-
lly
ee-
nd
ck-
nts
in-
for
nd
led
on
ge
as
le-
ke
nd
uy
of
ve
as
to
up
en
al-
ct
er
on
ap
ld
as
m-

8/Day 6/2/92

Emergency water supply on tap for eastern Cape

56
PAUL ASH

THE drought-stricken eastern Cape could be supplied with water from the Orange River within six months, says the Water Affairs and Forestry Department.

While the PWV was under no threat of a water shortage, the eastern Cape and northern Transvaal would need good rains soon to avert a crisis.

The Paul Sauer Dam, which supplies water to Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage as well as irrigation to farmers in the Gamtoos Valley, is 18% full, while the Njelele Dam in Venda is only 10% full.

Crops cultivated below the 53-million cubic metre Njelele Dam needed constant water and the dam level had dropped rapidly.

The department said under an emergency scheme first proposed for Port Elizabeth and surrounding areas in 1989, water was to be pumped from the Orange River into the Sundays River to replenish the Paul Sauer Dam.

The temporary pumps and treatment works were still on standby and could be installed at short notice.

However, as the cost of running the scheme was carried by end-users, the measures would be implemented only if the water supply worsened "considerably".

At the moment, the most cost-effective measure was the imposition of water restrictions.

Meanwhile, a permanent scheme to supply water from the Orange River was expected to be completed later this year.

Water supply to the PWV area was assured by the 2 617-million cubic metre Sterkfontein Dam. It supplies water to the Vaal and Bloemhof dams, which are currently about 53% and 47% full.

The deep Sterkfontein Dam, fed largely by run-off from the surrounding Drakensberg, had a smaller surface area than the Vaal Dam and lost less water through evaporation. It is 97% full.

Rainfall for the PWV during January was 113mm, down on the long-term January average of 131,9mm.

Water consumption on the Witwatersrand has not increased significantly, Rand Water Board PR Louise Fourie said yesterday.

"We are not really worried at this stage," she said, although a protracted drought could affect the board.

Drought to be debated in Parliament

8/Day 6/2/92
CAPE TOWN — The drought in large parts of the Republic is to be debated in the House of Assembly today as a matter of public importance.

The House's Order Paper showed the debate was proposed by CP chief whip Frank le Roux.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk is scheduled to visit the drought-stricken summer grain-producing areas early next week.

He expressed concern about the critical situation in the Free State and Transvaal in particular.

The SA Agricultural Union is to discuss the gravity of the situation with the Ministry of Agriculture at a meeting scheduled for February 14.

The Red Meat Producers' Organisation warned producers could face serious problems unless it rained soon. — Sapa.

Harvestime to



South (southeast) 6/2-12/2/92

Mining to go ahead

PLANS for titanium mining on the Transkei north coast will go ahead if the mineral is economically viable, despite opposition from conservationists.

This was said last month by the acting director-general of the homeland's Department of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Mr Elliot Mokoena. He said prospecting rights for the mining of virgin coastline between the Wild Coast Casino and the Mkambati area near Port Grosvenor had been granted some time ago to Richards Bay Minerals. This is the company involved in the controversial plans for the mining of titanium at St Lucia on the Natal coast.

He attacked conservationists for their opposition to the granting of prospecting rights, saying it was "natural" that such mining would be preceded by an environmental management study.

Mokoena said claims of a possible threat to the ecology of the area were unfounded as the environmentalists had not conducted studies to prove this, and that mining in the Transkei would be to the benefit of the people in the homeland.

Water curbs loom in sweltering Jo'burg

● From Page 1

3 200 million litres — in the 17 000 sq km area of supply. The situation, exacerbated by the heat-wave and lack of rain, was very serious, said Mr Papendorf.

The city had requested more water from the Rand Water Board and had diverted water from its other reservoirs to fill

up Eagles Nest.

Mr Pakendorf said the city council had been caught unawares by the high demand for water this week.

"This terrible heat has led to everyone using hoses to water their gardens and fill up pools. So we have not been able to maintain the levels in our reservoirs."

He said water should not be used for non-essential services, such as watering the garden.

One furious Meredale resident, James Patterson, who had no water yesterday morning, said it was shocking that the council had allowed such a situation to develop.

"In all my years in Johannesburg, in the last

drought and even during the war, we never had water run out like this. How could the council let it happen?"

Rand Water Board spokesman Louise Fourie said it appeared as if central Johannesburg and Walkerville had been the worst affected because there had been little rain.

Jo'burg may face water curbs

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter

Johannesburg could face water restrictions if the crippling heatwave continues and summer rains stay away.

Residents of two southern suburbs, without water for more than a day because a reservoir has run dry, have begun collecting water in buckets from emergency water points.

The Johannesburg City Council yesterday said residents of the higher-lying parts of Meredale and Naturena could collect water from two points — one a fire hydrant and the other a tap — until the Eagles Nest reservoir had been filled.

These are at Meredale Primary School, corner Maureen and Murray streets; and in Naturena at the intersection of Jan de Necker and Malta streets.

Further south, residents in Walkerville, Orange Farm and Ennerdale are also without water. Extra pumps have been brought into operation to increase the supply.

Reservoirs in Linksfield, Parktown, Hurst Hill and Brixton were on the danger list, the council warned. It urged residents to save water. "If the public do not respond to our appeal, we will have to consider water restrictions," said Johannesburg acting director of water, Wally Papendorf.

On Wednesday, the Rand Water Board recorded its highest demand for water —

● To Page 3



An Alexandra Township resident, Mrs Tiny Leboa, relaxes at a site used by certain companies to dump toxic waste. Pic: LEN KUMALO

Call to prosecute all toxic dumpers

Sowetan 7/2/92

(56)

COMPANIES dumping toxic waste in uncontrolled areas would have to be prosecuted, Mr David Cooper of Group Environmental Monitoring, said yesterday.

He was responding to the plight of 15 children who were burnt by chemicals dumped near the Alexandra's residential area on Monday.

He said the code of conduct to regulate the dumping of material had not been successful.

"Industrialists continue to defy the code of conduct and go to areas where they know they do not have to pay dumping fees."

Residents staying near the dumps said local authorities - Sandton and Alexandra municipalities - should double their efforts to prosecute the culprits.

They said for too long the industrialists' practice of dumping waste material had gone unnoticed, to the detriment of residents.

In Monday's incident children - some as young as three years - and four elderly women, were treated for burns at the

By JOE MDHLELA

Alexandra Health Centre.

Miss Margaret Makgatho, who stays about 50m from the dumping area, said on average six trucks a day dump a variety of waste material around the area.

"I have seen hungry children flocking to the dumps to scavenge for anything they can lay their hands on," she said.

Mr William Mashitwa, also resident near the dumps, said some of the substances were highly inflammable and potentially dangerous.

Cooper said the practice was unacceptable and the Government should prosecute those who dumped toxic material illegally.

Dr Garth Japhet of the Alexandra Clinic said they needed residents' co-operation to trace companies dumping waste material.

"We can only succeed if residents come forward and report such incidents," he said.

The Sandton Health Department was not available for comment.

Industrial pollution fears

8/10am 7/2/92
THE National Health Department is concerned about air and water pollution from industries and factories.

Air Pollution Control director Martin Lloyd said he was especially concerned about the PWV, eastern Transvaal and Durban. During the past decade industries had spent nearly of R2,5bn on air purification equipment.

Air pollution figures for industries and vehicles in SA were 5% to 10% lower than 1985 figures. This improvement was the result of more effective prevention of air pollution, as well as the millions of rands spent on this project. But there was a lack of preventative action.

Lloyd said SA's air pollution level compared favourably with that of other countries and internationally accepted levels were seldom exceeded. — Sapa. (56)

The curse that hangs over ~~Piet's~~ farmer

Piet's land

w/ Mail 7/2-13/2/92

STRANGE things have been happening on Piet Geldenhuys' once-thriving farm. Bull calves stop growing at six months. Those are the lucky ones; Geldenhuys claims to have lost half his dairy herd.

Farm children suffer from chest ailments and asthma. There seems to be a high incidence of kidney problems. Geldenhuys says his lungs are "rotting". Local workers will not live on the farm because there is a high incidence of women miscarrying.

What is the curse hanging over the Geldenhuys farm? He blames a factory next door which produces vanadium, an alloy which toughens steel. Some respected scientists agree.

A local vet says the cattle suffer from a disease called "illthrift" which suppresses the immune system of livestock, disrupts the animal's ability to digest food and impairs fertility. It is caused by long-term exposure to toxins.

Scientists at Onderstepoort near Pretoria believe that the animals on the Geldenhuys farm suffer from excessive levels of vanadium toxicity, which damages their immune system, making them susceptible to other diseases.

But the issue is more complex. The owners of the plant — which produces alloys strategically important to the arms industry —



have the government health department on their side.

The government's chief air pollution officer says: "The dust on

the windowsill in my office carries more toxins than the air in the eastern Transvaal."

Full story: PAGE 5

Photo:
GUY
ADAMS

56

7/2 - 13/2/92

A farmer claims that half his dairy herd has been poisoned by a vanadium factory in the eastern Transvaal — and there is serious concern about the health of residents in the area. By JENNIFER VERSTER and EDDIE KOCH

FARMERS in the eastern Transvaal are up in arms about toxic fallout from a German-owned vanadium plant that they say is linked to a disease which kills cattle and causes cows to abort prematurely.

And the health of people living near the factory, in the upper Steelpoort Valley 40km north of Middelburg, may be at risk. A farmer whose land borders the chemical plant claims his lungs have been made "rotten" by the pollution, while preliminary studies conducted by the Medical Research Council indicate that one in two people in the district suffer from eye irritation.

The department of health — responsible for monitoring pollution emanating from the Transvaal Alloys factory, owned by the German multi-national Norddeutsche Affinerie — appears to be dragging its feet over addressing the problem.

"Your factory poisons 30km and further the environment around you," said farmer Piet Geldenhuis in a letter to the company. "*In die natuur vrek al wat leef om u fabriek* (everything that lives around your factory dies): fish, birds, animals and a large number of plants and the people are being drastically affected."

The plant refines vanadium ore to produce vanadium pentoxide and ammonium metavanadate. These appear to be strategic compounds used in the armaments and nuclear industries as well as the manufacture of synthetic fuels. GR Hövener, general manager of Transvaal Alloys, refused to tell *The Weekly Mail* who the company's clients were.

Hövener has denied any responsibility for degrading the environment around the plant. He is backed by the government's chief air pollution officer, Martin Lloyd, who says "the dust on the windowsill in my office carries more toxins than the air in the eastern Transvaal".

But this has not deterred Geldenhuis from conducting a campaign against the multi-national. And the farmer has received backing from a team of scientists based at Onderstepoort near Pretoria — toxicology researchers began investigations after they received reports some 18 months ago of a strange disease afflicting cattle in the area.

Two-year-old bull calves on the farm seem to have stopped growing at six months. But they are the lucky survivors: in the past five years, Geldenhuis claims to have lost 50 percent of his dairy herd.

A local vet identified the disease as "illthrift" — a chronic disease that suppresses the immune system of livestock, disrupts the animal's ability to digest food and impairs fertility. It appears to be caused by long-term exposure to toxins.

Onderstepoort's final report, issued in August, concluded that vanadium toxicity was the underlying cause: "What this investigation has done is accumulate a library of circumstantial evidence that leads us to believe the animals on Mr Geldenhuis' farm have been suffering from the effects of excessive levels of vanadium... we feel confident that vanadium toxicity is the under-

lying cause of the illthrift problem experienced on the farm.

"On the basis of all our findings, and until proved otherwise, we conclude that there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to make a diagnosis of vanadium toxicity which was most probably caused by air pollution which most probably came from the nearby mine (processing plant)."

After months of research and post mortems on cattle and stillborn calves, together with grass and soil samples, the research team concluded that the cattle were suffering from malabsorption complicated by immuno-suppression and that the most likely cause was vanadium poisoning.

"There is now considerable evi-

dence to suggest that the animals on the farm have an impairment of their immune system. This then makes animals susceptible to a wide range of infections that would otherwise not cause problems," says the report.

Studies into the effects of exposure to vanadium toxins on humans are less conclusive. A team of medical researchers headed by Dr Petro Terblanche, of the Medical Research Council in Pretoria, has begun probing the issue.

"Fifty percent of the people living in the area complained of eye irritation," she told *The Weekly Mail*. "That is consistent with vanadium poisoning, but it needs to be verified."

Vanadium can cause respiratory problems, irreversible decline in lung function, reproductive complications, lower respiratory tract infections, skins rashes, gastro-intestinal disturbances and lethargy.

Exposure to vanadium dust over about 15 to 20 years can lead to dust pneumonitis, which in turn leads to emphysema and high blood pressure. It can also lead to mild renal tubular damage.

There is concern among the people living in the area about the effect pollution may be having on their health. Children suffer from chest ailments and asthma and there seems to be a high incidence of kidney problems. Geldenhuis says local workers will not live on the farm because there is a higher incidence of women miscar-

rying. M. Wide, conducting a study for the international journal *Environmental Research* in 1984, found an increased frequency in spontaneous abortions in Finnish women that correlated to metal industries where aluminium, cobalt, molybdenum and vanadium were used. She also found experimental evidence that a single dose of vanadium could interfere with foetal skeletal ossification in pregnant mice.

Vanadium is used for its tactile qualities to strengthen steel. South Africa has half the world's reserves and is the single biggest producer of vanadium products. Ammonium metavanadate is also used in the manufacture of dyes, inks and paints, and vanadium pentoxide in the manufacture of ceramics.

At the factory, vanadium ore from a nearby mine is milled, the dust is mixed with water and sodium sulphate and made into pellets. These pellets are dried and roasted in a rotary kiln at temperatures of 1220 to 1300 degrees Celsius. Smoke and gases from the kiln escape through chimneys. Pollution is possibly from two sources: vanadium dust from the crushing process or compound smoke and gases emitted from the kiln.

"Work done by the CSIR has shown that there is considerable fallout of vanadium dust near the mine (4710 micrograms a metre a day) and that these levels decrease further from the mine (processing plant) (536 micrograms a metre a day), which supports our own findings that aerial pollution of the farm is taking place and gives added evidence that inhalation toxicity could be playing a role," says the Onderstepoort report. "This is not the first case of vanadium toxicity to be reported in South Africa."

In 1976 a case was brought to the attention of the then minister of agriculture, Hendrik Schoeman, by a Mr Jacobs of the farm Leeuwklip in the Belfast district. This was the same farm that Geldenhuis now owns.

Geldenhuis bought the farm in 1986. Now facing bankruptcy because of his losses, he explained his problem to the Land Bank in Middelburg and was advised by the bank manager "to sell the farm as quickly as possible".

TA is adamant that it is complying with all standards and requirements set by the government (see accompanying article). Department of Health officials were unavailable for comment.



MPs in furious debate about kaolin mining

By GAYE DAVIS: Cape Town

W/m a/l 7/2-13/2/92

GOVERNMENT support for strip-mining kaolin on Chapman's Peak unleashed a furious response from opposition MPs in parliament this week — and threats of a campaign against Sanlam to force a halt to the controversial project.

The insurance giant has an interest in Serina, the company with rights to mine the kaolin, through its subsidiary Federale Volksbeleggings. It is not a shareholder and as such claims it cannot legally interfere with Serina's affairs.

Democratic Party MP Jannie Momberg — a Sanlam policy holder himself — was reported as warning Sanlam to "use its muscle" to stop Serina or face "a very dear price", in a mini-debate described as one of parliament's noisiest clashes in recent years.

Conservative Party MPs joined the DP in calling on the government to cancel Serina's mining and prospecting rights after Minister of Mineral Affairs George Bartlett said mining would go ahead once a set of "stringent conditions" have been finalised.

Serina is adamant it will begin mining — despite opposition from the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, which now has a record of 75 000 people opposed to the mine and is receiving an average of 500 letters a week, according to spokesman Ian Brownlie.

"The government talks of its willingness to consult and negotiate," said Brownlie, "so why has Bartlett consistently refused to meet us? We want to see that the government has departed from its iron-fist approach

of the past — because those days are over."

Opposition to the mine is based not only on the fact that it is situated on one of the Cape's most scenic drives and in a residential area, but also because on-site processing of the kaolin will result in up to 350 000 litres of effluent being disgorged daily into a stream feeding the Noordhoek Valley wetlands, according to an environmental impact study carried out for Serina.

"Serina has said it will filter its effluent, but it will still be discharging matter with a high saline content into the only clean stream running into the wetlands," Brownlie said.

"Also, the Chapman's Peak deposit is not the only pocket of kaolin in the area. If Serina goes ahead, it will open the stable door to others."

Opponents of the scheme include the Cape Chamber of Commerce, Captour, Satour and the Co-ordinated Council for Conservation in the Cape.

Brownlie said this week his group planned a nationwide petition, legal action and wide-scale protests in a campaign which would continue until Serina's mining rights — entrenched in the new Minerals Act of 1991 — were revoked.

According to Serina, the Chapman's Peak deposit is of a higher quality than any others in South Africa. Managing director Carl Tarrant has said that even if alternate deposits are located, Serina would still mine Chapman's Peak first.

Kaunda broke but won't beg, 'even if I'm robbed'

LUSAKA — Former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda says he's broke.

Dr Kaunda (67), who was defeated at the polls in October after 27 years in power, is living in a rented home paid for by his adult sons, the government-owned Zambia Daily Mail reported.

The paper quoted him as saying the new government headed by Frederick Chiluba still had not paid him any retirement benefits.

Dr Kaunda described himself as "financially very unstable" but said he would not go on his knees to claim his dues from the State. "I will not sink to being a beggar, even when I am robbed."

He has denied allegations that he channelled millions of dollars into a private bank account while president.

He told the Daily Mail he was unable to comment on recent media reports that he ran up a massive personal overdraft at the Central Bank during his years in office. He said he never handled money personally and had left payment formalities to his accountants.

He told the paper that if he was overdrawn he would ask his family to help clear the debt. Two of his five sons are successful businessmen.

The government has said it will pay Dr Kaunda all his retirement benefits when he formally quits politics, which he is expected to do in May.

Last month Dr Kaunda said he had received several invitations to take up lucrative tours in the United States and Canada. — Sapa-AP.

'Pollute the poor' row at World Bank

LONDON — The chief economist of the World Bank advocates exporting "dirty industries" and toxic waste to poor countries, where pollution complaints are less likely, reports The Economist.

"I've always thought under-populated countries in Africa are vastly under-polluted," Lawrence Summers wrote in an internal memo dated December 12.

"Shouldn't the World Bank encourage more migration of the dirty industries to less developed countries?"

The World Bank said the view did not represent its own position, which was to encourage economic and social development.

Summers had intended his memo to provoke debate and sharpen the analysis in a forthcoming World Bank report on the global economy, the bank said.

"Mr Summers deeply regrets and apologises for the obvious misunderstanding."

The Economist quoted the Summers memo: "The economic logic of dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest-wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that."

The Economist concluded: "The language is crass, even for an internal memo. But Mr Summers is asking questions the World Bank would rather ignore. The bank should make this debate public." — Sapa-AP.

ets boost from Japan

Detroit, Michigan, plays in the cello section of the amateur orchestra in Hamamatsu in central Japan.

She has worked as a translator since arriving in Japan in 1984.

She said she and other orchestra members resolved to help their South African soulmates after reading a story on the Sowetan musicians in the Japan Times.

"I always wanted to play music so badly, and ran up against lots of obstacles, but nothing like these people have to struggle with," she said.

The Hamamatsu ensemble

has a large stockpile of sheet music, while the Sowetans use dog-eared and torn photocopies. The Japanese have new strings for their instruments, while the South Africans scrounge old ones from white musicians.

The Japanese offered to become a "sister orchestra" and to exchange tapes. But the South Africans had no tape recorder.

So a cassette recorder went into the aid package.

"We're still playing in the toilet," said Mr Mantu.

"But, who knows, maybe that will change one day too." — Sapa-Reuter.

Chapman's Peak activists have a 'military' strategy

ST Times 9/2/92

(56)

By EVELYN
HOLTZHAUSEN

A PROTEST campaign planned with military precision has been mobilised to stop a mining company from bulldozing an open-cast kaolin mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak, in the heart of the Cape Peninsula.

The protesters are even more determined to win their fight after a heated debate in Parliament on Wednesday in which Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said mining would go ahead, but "under stringent conditions".

Action

In the debate, Democratic Party and Conservative Party MPs joined forces to tear into the government for what they labelled "this madness".

Yesterday, Save Chapman's Peak Action Group spokesman Ian Browlie said: "This is not the old South Africa, where decisions were imposed on people with an iron fist."

He said SCPAG had mounted a 24-hour watch to alert "cells" of protesters to swing into action the moment the miners set

foot on the site.

"Our campaign will be like nothing ever seen in South Africa. It will include a 'human chain' of activists linking arms to prevent trucks driving into the area, a vehicle barricade of the access roads and groups of people chaining themselves to trees, supported by first aid teams and caterers providing refreshment.

"We have also approached international celebrities

to bring the rape of our environment to the attention of people throughout the world," he said.

The 26ha scenic site, near Hout Bay, where the mine is to be dug borders two nature reserves.

Son

Serina Kaolin bought the right to mine kaolin — a decomposed derivative of white granite used in the manufacture of high quality paper and ceramics — on the De Goede Hoop Estate from the previous owner, Miss Edith God-

man, for R250 000 in 1978.

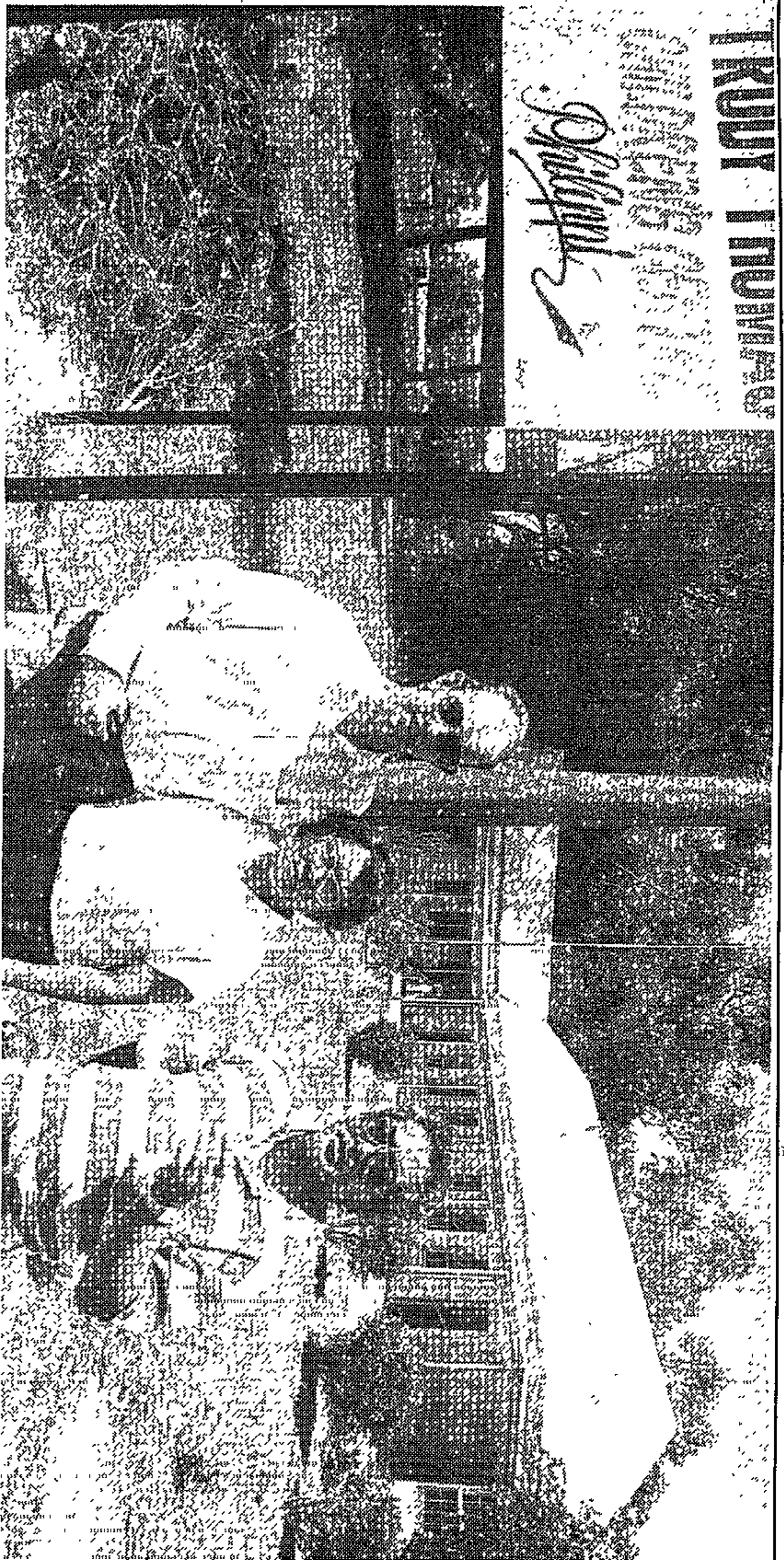
The land is now owned by the De Goede Hoop Development Company formed by Mr Jeremy Wiley, son of former Environment Minister John Wiley, who shot himself on March 29, 1987.

A spokesman for the company could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Early this week, Mr André Viljoen, executive director of Serina, said the company would continue with plans to mine in spite of the outcry.

TRUDY THOMAS

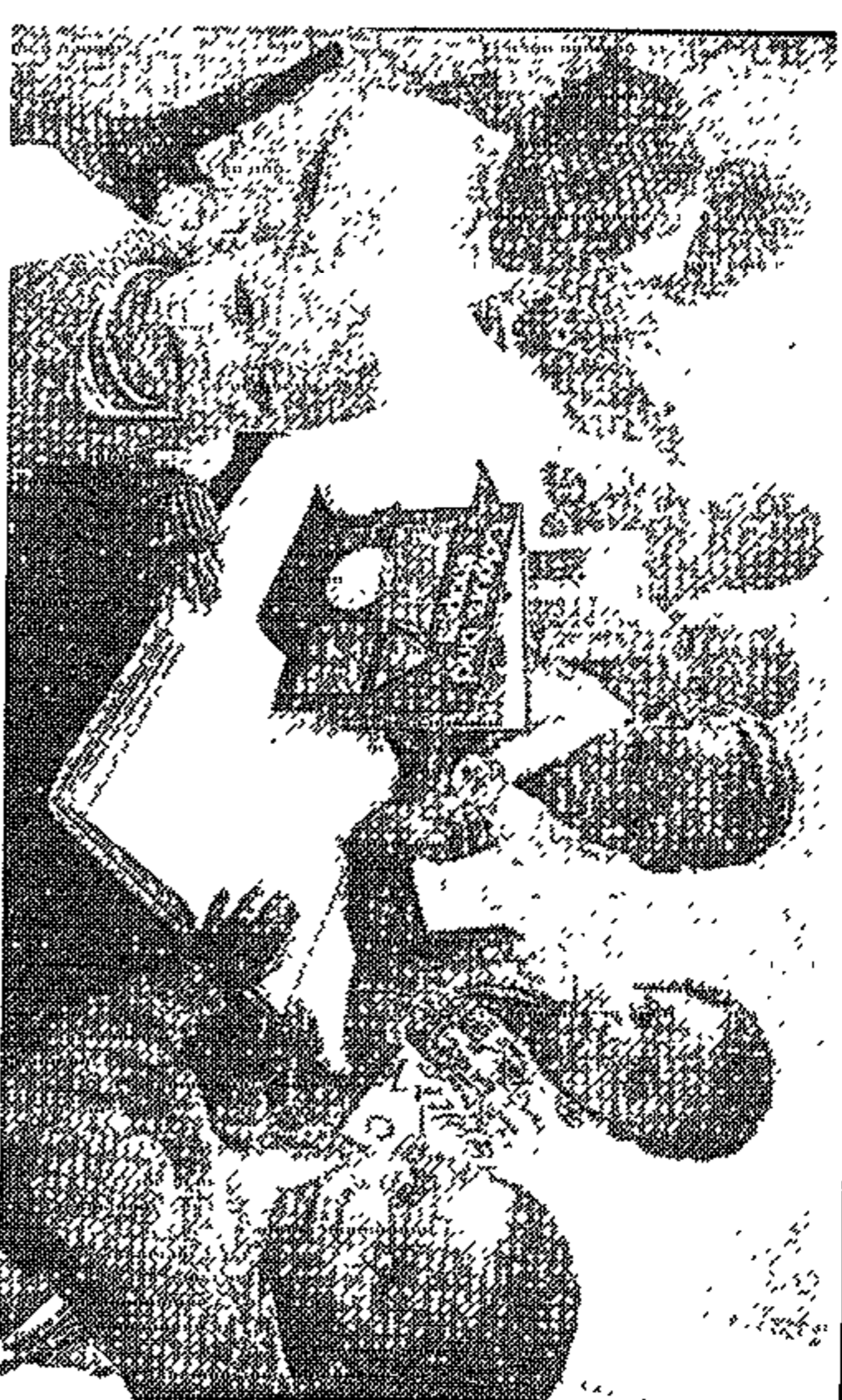
Philippine



56 Pictures: OBED ZILWA, ARG 10/2/92 The Argus.

A GOOD START:

These toddlers are off to a good start in life at the Trudy Thomas day-care centre in Phillippi, where they are provided with books to colour-in and are taught constructive social behaviour like table manners. They are cared for in a clean environment with nourishing midday meals.



Now, Trudy's toddlers get a good start in life

JACQUELYN SWARTZ
Staff Reporter

FARM children in Phillippi are being given a chance to escape their dreary lifestyles with the opening of a pre-school centre in the area.

The Trudy Thomas Children's Centre, which was opened on Saturday, could be regarded as a rescue operation, said Mr Rowland Rumbelow, a member of the committee which started it.

"It will provide children with a place of safety, a place of caring and love during the day, a place where they can be fed properly," he said.

When malnutrition specialist Dr Trudy Thomas did a survey in the area she found the conditions appalling.

"There was malnourishment, a high incidence of tuberculosis, child abuse was rife and the alcoholism rate among parents was about 95 percent," said Mr Rumbelow.

"The children were deprived in every sense of the word."

He said children were found also to have no stimulation and were left to their own devices during the day while their parents worked.

After seeing this, Dr Thomas called together a committee to

set up the centre.

It is housed in a disused three-classroomed school and can accommodate 80 pupils.

The children will be taught manners, be able to play with real toys instead of sticks, and will be physically and mentally stimulated.

It is hoped that, because of this preparation, they will be able to cope better than their predecessors when they finally go to school.

This will mean a decrease in the amount of primary school drop-outs who eventually end up being farm labourers.

So far, the school has 25 pu-

pils who are transported from the farms every day by the farmers.

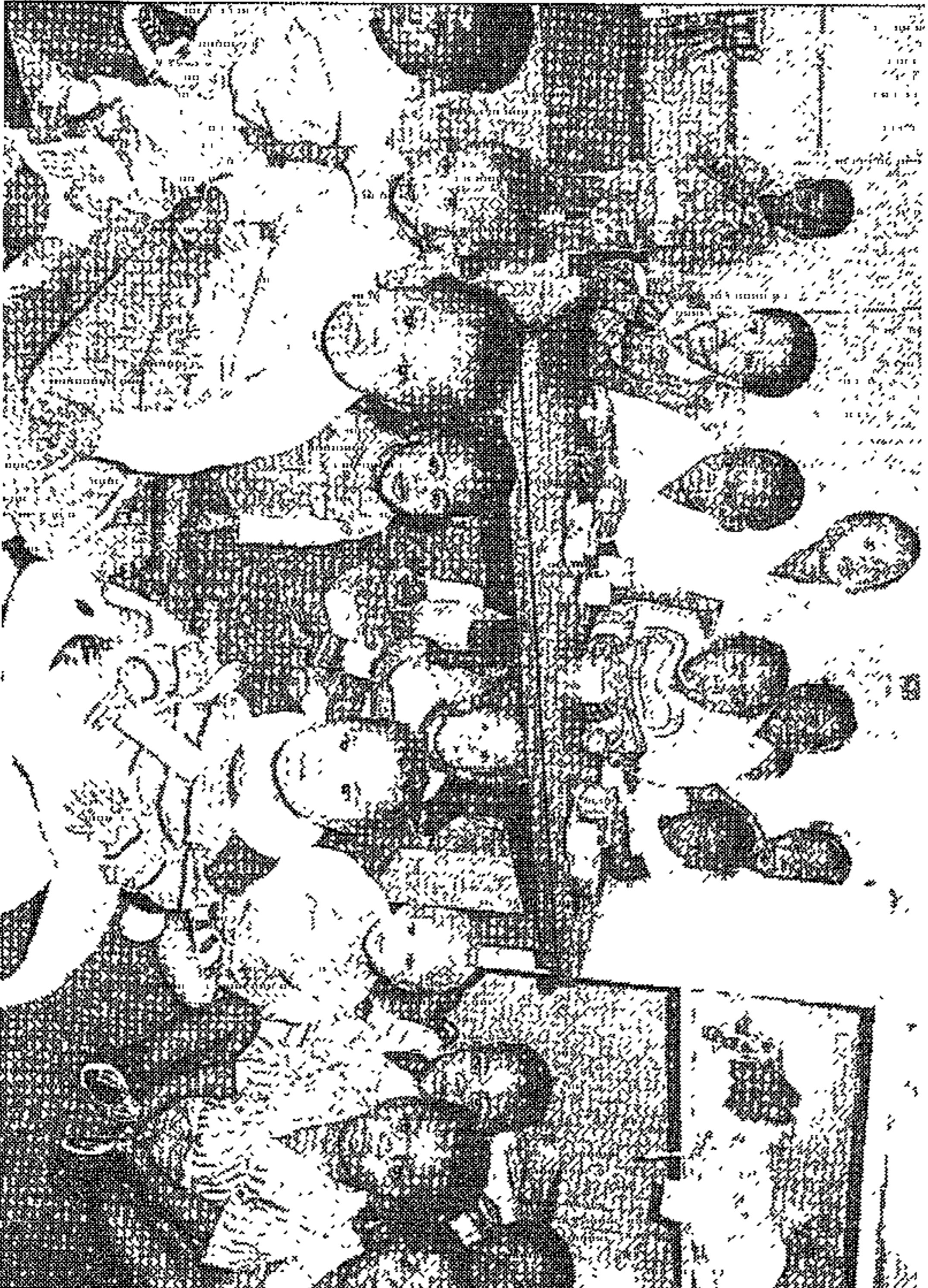
It also has three staff members and is running at a cost of about R4 000 a month.

When it is used to its full capacity, this amount will increase by about R2 000.

All the money used in the establishment of the project was from donations.

The school still needs many things such as audio visual and playground equipment, gardening tools, and catering facilities.

For more information, 686 3625.



A LOOK INSIDE: So far, there are 25 farm labourers' children at the school who range in age from 1½ to six years. It has room for another 55, but sorely needs additional equipment.

NEW SCHOOL: Committee members Mr Rowland Rumbelow, Mrs Theresa Henricks and Mr Solly Keraam.

Bold new plan will protect Cape coastline 'as a whole'

Staff Reporter

REC 10/2/92

56

A COMPREHENSIVE plan for the preservation of the Cape coast has been announced by the Cape Department of Nature Conservation.

"It is vitally important that the coast be managed as a whole, so that cohesiveness exists," said the chairman of the Coastal and Marine committee for the Council for the Environment, Dr Allan Heydorn.



Dr Allan Heydorn

"The main aim is to encourage development along the coast in the right places and in the right manner

and not to destroy nature in the process.

Dr Heydorn said that in the past natural coastal land had been spoilt by unco-ordinated development.

Various categories for coastal uses have been included in the plan.

These include nature reserves with formal conservation status, conservation areas where no further development is to take place and conservation areas where controlled development will take place.

The Council for the Environment formulated the principles, objectives and guidelines for the plan.

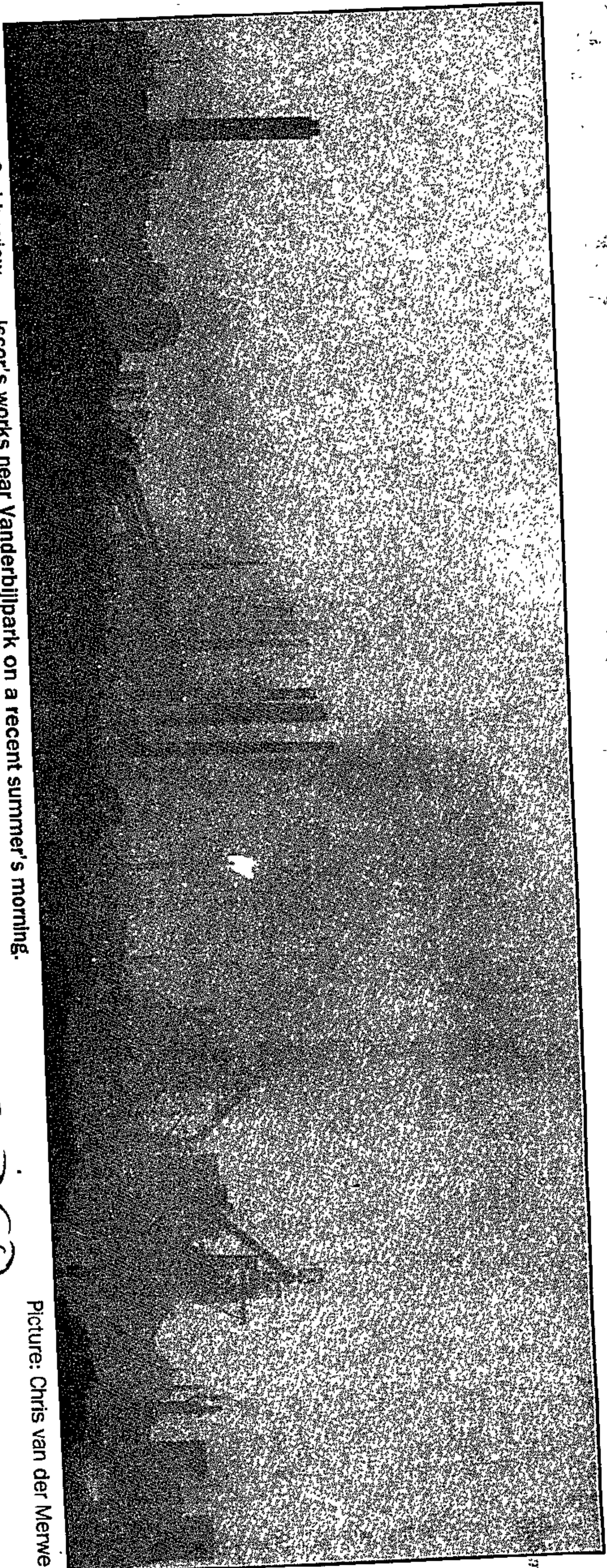
"This plan is representative of all affected parties, because members of local governments and interested parties took decisions together," said Dr Heydorn.

A spokesman for the Chief Directorate of Nature Conservation said there had been a sharp increase in pressure on coastal areas during the past year as a result of development.

He said the coastal areas accounted for 80 percent of development applications in 1990.

Clean up or lose out, Iscor

Picture: Chris van der Merwe



Grubby view . . . Iscor's works near Vanderbijlpark on a recent summer's morning.

STAR 10/2/92

(56)

DIRTY AIR
South Africa's competitors could use our poor air quality control to win contracts for themselves.
JAMES CLARKE reports.

NOW that Europe is interested in buying South African steel, will it do to Iscor what the Government has failed to do? (Get it to clean up its act, that is.)

The picture on this page shows Iscor's works near Vanderbijlpark on a recent summer's morning. It reveals how Highveld dawns can be just as filthy in summer as in winter. Iscor, for years, has been a dirty landmark and its policy has been NOT to become involved in the public debate about clean air.

When, a year ago, South Africa's big industries

Eskom, ABICI, Sasol, Nampak, Mondi, Samancor, the oil companies and many more — formed the Industrial Environment Forum, Iscor stayed out.

When industry, wary of overseas pressure, held a congress in Somerset West last November to discuss annual environmental audits and a new approach to pollution, Iscor did not take part.

The Department of Health, the sole arbiter of whether air pollution standards should be tightened, claims South Africa does not have an air pollution problem.
In an international journal,

Tomorrow, it reiterated the claim that South Africa's air was healthy enough.

Ironically, although the department has never used the 27-year-old Clean Air Act to fine an industry for pollution, it did once obtain a judicial order stopping Iscor from erecting a second iron works in Pretoria on the grounds that, whatever it said, it would still pollute the area.

A recent CSIR report criticised the Government's attitude regarding air pollution.

The CSIR environmental services division later warned that overseas buyers of South African goods were beginning

to insist that their South African suppliers certified that their manufacturing processes did not pollute unduly.

A South African company recently lost a long-standing overseas contract — it amounted to 80 percent of its output — when its buyers found a cleaner supplier.

The question is whether potential importers will use their leverage to force Iscor to accept higher standards. There is also a possibility that South Africa's competitors could use South Africa's poor air quality control to win contracts for themselves.
Nearly all other large in-

dustries, as a result of new pressures and in anticipation of new laws called for in the 1991 President's Council Report on environment, have announced willingness to state their clean-up targets and institute annual environmental audits — even to have them independently scrutinised.

Water supply normal again

STAR 10/2/92
Most of the areas south of Johannesburg which experienced a water shortage towards the end of last week, appeared to have received a normal water supply over the weekend according to a spokesman for the Rand Water Board.

The man, who did not

(56)
want to be identified, said he thought the Ennerdale, Walkerville and Orange Farm water supplies were back to normal, but Mondeor — which is supplied by the Johannesburg City Council's Eagle Nest reservoir — had experienced some problems. — Staff Reporter.

Anti-mine group on standby

56
CMA/2/92

Staff Reporter

THE Save Chapman's Peak Action Group is on 24-hour standby to move into action to stop the Serina mining company from extracting kaolin deposits on the slopes of Chapman's Peak.

The SCPAG has a battery of projects in its protest arsenal and planning has intensified since last week's parliamentary debate when the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr George Bartlett, vehemently defended Serina's right to mine.

SCPAG spokesman Mr Ian Brownlie said there was a 24-hour watch to alert cells to mount protests as soon as the miners moved their bulldozers on site.

Cells of activists were waiting in the wings to form human chains to prevent trucks and bulldozers entering or leaving the site, vehicles would be used to barricade roads, and people backed by first-aid teams would be chaining themselves to trees.

National and international petitioning had also been stepped up to alert people about the mining operation.

Legal avenues were being explored and boycotting of Serina products and increased public pressure on Sanlam were all part of the plan to stop the mining going ahead, said Mr Brownlie.

The residents of the Peninsula would not be browbeaten into submission, he said.

Quiz on sea pollution

Political Correspondent

THE ongoing controversy over pollution in the sea around the Peninsula will spill over into Parliament next week.

Mr Colin Eglin, MP for Sea Point, has tabled a series of questions for the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, on pollution levels in the sea around Cape Town.

Mr Eglin wants details on when and where tests have been conducted and the outcome of such tests.

The city council has been locked in rows with Cape Town residents in

recent months.

One of the chief sources of friction involved allegations of pollution from the Green Point sewerage outlet.

In Hout Bay, construction on a multi-million rand sewerage system with a marine outfall is continuing despite opposition by residents.

Anger has also been mounting among Muizenberg residents over brown waves, greenish water and debris fouling beaches in the area.

Environmentalists are pressing the council to extend the Steenbras sludge outlet pipeline to reduce visible pollution in False Bay.

1
e



Government slow on ozone protection, say conservationists

KATHRYN STRACHAN (56)

THE Wildlife Society has accused government of procrastinating over measures to control air pollution.

Wildlife Society ecologist Andrew Duthie said new evidence that ozone depletion was much worse than expected, and SA's proximity to the Arctic ozone hole, meant the matter should be addressed more urgently.

US and European scientists have reported record levels of chlorine-containing chemicals above the northern hemisphere. They say ozone depletion as severe as 30% to 40% has already occurred in the northern hemisphere.

The society has also criticised government for the delay in signing an international agreement on the use of certain chemical compounds. The London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol provides for a complete phasing out of CFCs, halons and carbon tetrachloride in signatory countries by the year 2000 and bans methyl chloroform by 2005. *3/Day 11/2/92*

The original protocol only required a 50% reduction in these substances by the year 2000. Ratification of the London Amendment by 20 countries is required before it comes into force.

National Health Deputy Minister S J Schoeman has said only six nations have ratified the amendments so far and it would be unwise for SA to sign if its main trading partners had not done so.

He said SA mines would have great difficulty in complying with the stipulations of the amended protocol.

Duthie said both Schoeman's claims were incorrect. He said the UN had confirmed that 16 countries and the EC had ratified the amendment, including Britain, the US, Russia, Germany, Canada and Japan.

He said CFC substitutes for refrigeration applications were now available in the mines in SA which, coupled with the speed at which research was progressing in this field, should ensure a smooth transition.

Sapa-Reuter reports that environmentalists throughout the world are demanding a faster phasing-out of ozone-depleting chemicals, following reports that the destruction of the ozone layer is far worse than had been previously thought.

Dangerous

Manufacturers of the chemicals argue that they are already well ahead of international phasing-out goals. They blame the makers of equipment that uses the chemicals. Worldwide, such equipment is reckoned to be worth about \$200bn.

The world's biggest manufacturer of ozone-depleting CFCs, E I de Pont de Nemours, said production of the chemicals had halved since 1986.

Some scientists say, however, that the alternatives to CFCs are also dangerous to the environment, or flammable and dangerous to consumers.

The ozone layer of the atmosphere protects the earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, which cause skin cancer and kill plants. Scientists first discovered the hole in the ozone layer over the Antarctic in 1986, and attributed it to chemicals containing chlorine that were widely used in refrigerators, air conditioners and aerosol sprays.

Recent investigations have shown that ozone depletion has reached alarming proportions from Hudson Bay in Canada to Europe, where the endangered area stretches from London to Moscow. Although there is not yet an ozone hole over the Northern hemisphere comparable to the one over the Antarctic, US scientists have said an Arctic ozone hole is almost certain this decade.

The area of depletion swirls and stretches from North America to Europe, varying in size and location day by day. A record level was observed on January 20.

The environmental group Greenpeace said in reaction to the reports that "the continued production of CFCs and other ozone-destroying chemicals by companies is utter madness".

ACTIVE

town, approached him in London for help because of difficulties with sanctions and trade embargoes.

granted a postponement until tomorrow to prepare his cross-examination of Jacquesson.

Conservation a priority, leaders told

LEADERS planning the future of SA should put environmental conservation on their agendas for the salvation of the country, says National Parks Board environmental educational officer Gert Erasmus.

Erasmus, who took a group of black journalists on a 668km tour of the 2-million ha Kruger National Park last week, also called on blacks to impart to other South Africans the wealth of knowledge they had on the cultural heritage of this country.

S/O 11/2/92

Monday 11/2/92
THEO RAWANA

Although the Kruger National Park and other parks managed by the board have been open to blacks since 1982, information on this aspect had not been properly disseminated to them, he said.

The board now hoped to reach all South Africans through an educational campaign exposing them to the "whole ecological experience".

and called out through a

C
N
S
h
d
s
b
l



Millionaire protest ests kaolin mine

(56) August 12/8/92

'Tiananmen Square-style' action is planned against

JOHN VILJOEN
Staff Reporter

PROTESTERS will block kaolin miners on Chapman's Peak "Tiananmen Square-style" says British millionaire and Noordhoek landowner Mr John Aspinall.

Speaking from London last night, Mr Aspinall said the mine would be fought for years if necessary, using every possible legal means.

Mr Aspinall, 64, attacked insurance giant Sanlam which, he claimed, had the power to stop the mine. He said he was surprised at government failure to respond to protests from international business tycoons Sir James Goldsmith, Mr Kerry Packer and Mr Conrad Black.

Mr Aspinall and his wife Lady Sarah regularly visit their Noordhoek home, which borders the proposed mine area.

They bought the former Sir Drummond Chaplin estate homestead for R1,9 million in 1987 from a trust controlled by the late Minister of the Environment, Mr John Wiley.

'Take consequences'

Reacting to reports that Serina Mining regarded plans for human protests on the site as "ridiculous", Mr Aspinall said demonstrations would prove otherwise.

"We are quite willing to protest on the site in a way similar to what happened at Tiananmen Square, and we are prepared to take the consequences."

"This applies to many of the homesteaders and property owners, many of whom are my age and feel as strongly as the younger people do."

"They (Serina) won't find our opposition ridiculous."

He said anti-mine campaigners had large resources to fund their opposition, "but not as large as Sanlam's".

Sanlam says it has only an indirect interest in Serina through its investment in Federale Volksbeleggings and can therefore not veto Serina's decisions.

'Influence'

But Mr Aspinall disputes this: "Sanlam's attempts to distance itself from the mine are very interesting."

Sanlam had "considerable influence" over the government, as they had over previous National Party governments. "So who is going to believe they can't influence a subsidiary?"

Sanlam's reputation and credibility were suffering because of the controversy but this was nothing compared to the knock it would take if the mine went ahead.

He said three friends — business tycoon Sir James Goldsmith and media magnates Mr Kerry Packer and Mr Conrad Black — had written to the South African government protesting against the mine, but had had no response.

This was "very surprising". Two of them were seriously considering investing in South Africa and would be "put out" if their inquiries were ignored "out of hand".

Mr Aspinall said President De Klerk had said on a visit to Noordhoek Manor that the estate was "a national treasure".

● See Page 6

Nature needs new approach

JOHN YELD,
Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa is spending a disproportionately large amount of its national budget on environmental matters, according to one of the country's top ecologists.

Professor Roy Siegfried, director of the University of Cape Town's FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, also said the most important and pressing need in South Africa's environmental dispensation was to get a better return on the "considerable" amount being spent.

He was speaking at a recent presentation of the institute's Conservation Biology Programme, entitled *South Africa — The Future Noah's Ark of Africa*.

Professor Siegfried said the loss of habitat and species was one of the

major environmental threats facing the world.

Explaining the evolution of conservation biology as a subject, he said isolated populations of plants and animals — such as those in nature reserves — were predisposed to lose genetic variation through inbreeding and random genetic drift.

This could lead such populations to extinction.

South Africa was particularly well-endowed with biodiversity, including a high proportion of endemic species (those occurring naturally only here) — "we have a treasure chest", Professor Siegfried said.

But it was a fallacy to think fencing an area of wilderness would mean this genetic viability could be maintained in perpetuity, he added.

The present system — which included "holy cow", anachronistic national parks — had to be reviewed and a new national strategy developed for protecting the most important areas of South Africa's biodiversity.

"We need a new mind set... we need a flexible system to fit into the new approach," Professor Siegfried said.

South Africa could not afford conflicts between "so-called environmentalists and so-called developers" — such as the proposed kolin mining at Noordhoek and exploitation of minerals in the St Lucia dunes.

"We are wasting money on a grand scale, and we're wasting the time and energies of experts."

Expert warns of big threats

PHILIPS
party
CAR
PHONE

Noordhoek mine protesters on 24-hour standby

JOHN VILJOEN, Staff Reporter

NOORDHOEK anti-kaolin mine campaigners are on 24-hour standby to act should work begin at the site — and they remain confident the mine won't see the light of day.

And what began among Noordhoek valley residents has grown into a national campaign. Mr Ian Brownlie of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group said the group had been on constant alert since Serena said they intended to mine as soon as possible.

There were no signs of activity at the site yet, he said.

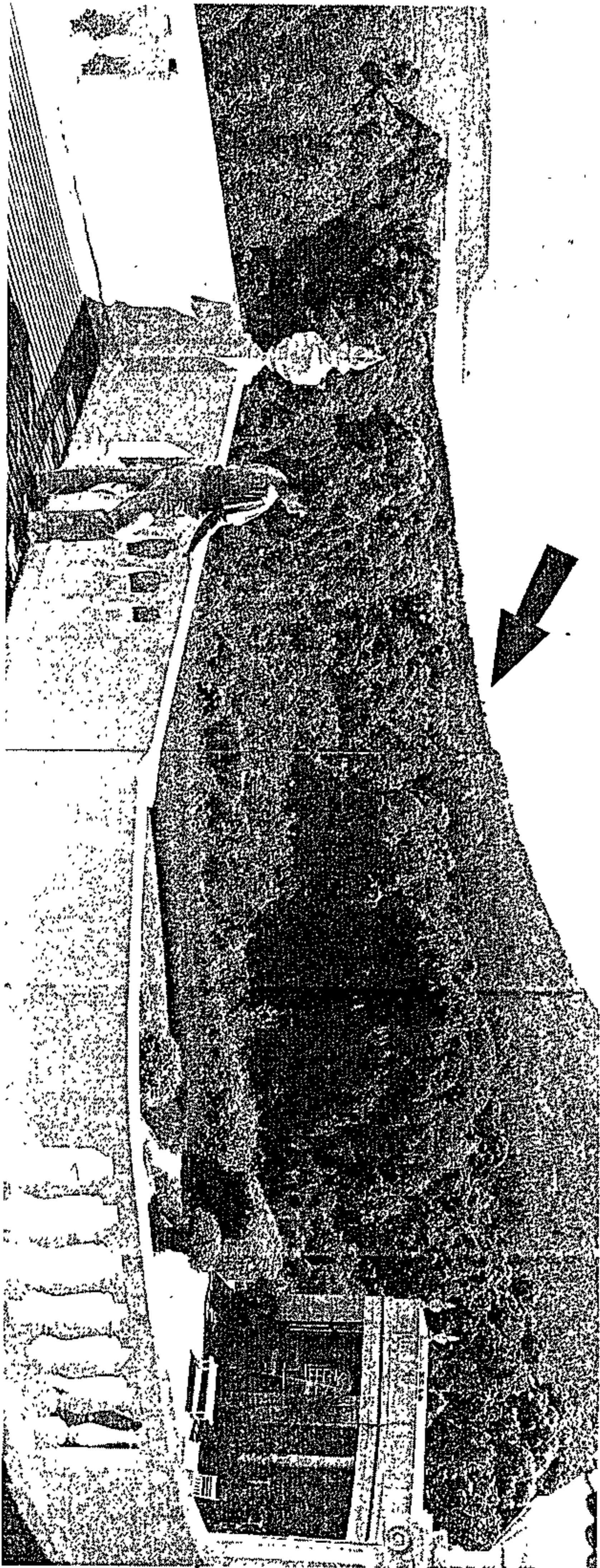
The group is co-ordinating its supporters with military precision to enable them to move quickly. "We are ready and able to co-ordinate a physical presence at the site if they begin doing anything," Mr Brownlie said.

The group is also broadening its support base, planning more meetings and canvassing support throughout the Peninsula.

The anti-kaolin mining lobby was still confident of stopping Serena, although the company had shown a "dogged insistence" on proceeding with the project and the government had been "sympathetic" toward it.

"The mine won't see the light of day," Mr Brownlie predicted.

The action group aimed to collect 750 000 signatures countrywide over the next three or four weeks and to present a petition to President De Klerk, Mr Brownlie said.



Picture, HANNES THIAFT, The Argus
KAOLIN VIEW: The site of the proposed Noordhoek kaolin mine — marked by an arrow — seen from London millionaire Mr John Aspinall's Noordhoek Manor. In the foreground is Mr Aspinall's estate manager, Mrs Daphne Shelton.

Reprieve for dog licence defaulters

DOG licences were due on January 1, but there will be no extra charge for late payment until March 31. A city council spokesman said 10 per cent a month would then be added. Inquiries: 210 2005. — Municipal Reporter

Nature needs new approach

Dam level plunges, but curbs unlikely

By Shirley Woodgate (56)

The level of the Vaal Dam has plunged almost 20 percent over the first five months of the summer rainfall period, but it is unlikely that water restrictions will be imposed in the PWV area.

Since the beginning of this month, temperatures have climbed to record heights and the combined effects of drought in the dam's catchment area and evaporation are hitting the multi-million rand boat and holiday industry on the PWV's major water supplier.

Instead of filling up during the traditionally wet period, the dam has dropped from the 71 percent mark in September last year to the present 51,4 percent, according to the latest Rand Water Board bulletin.

The Lake Denysville Yacht Club — the largest of the eight clubs and at least three marinas catering for an estimated 5 000 craft averaging R60 000 each on the Vaal Dam — has already been forced to move two thirds of its yachts further offshore.

Now anchored in deeper water 1/2 km away from the land, the craft are exposed to battering by wind and storms, said Commodore J Randall.

Yachtsmen are being forced to exercise caution because of underwater hazards such as islands, trees and large clumps of rock which are now closer to the surface, Mr Randall said.

New Aloe Fjord Holiday Resort manager Lionel Cooper said the number of holiday-makers increased or decreased according to the water level.

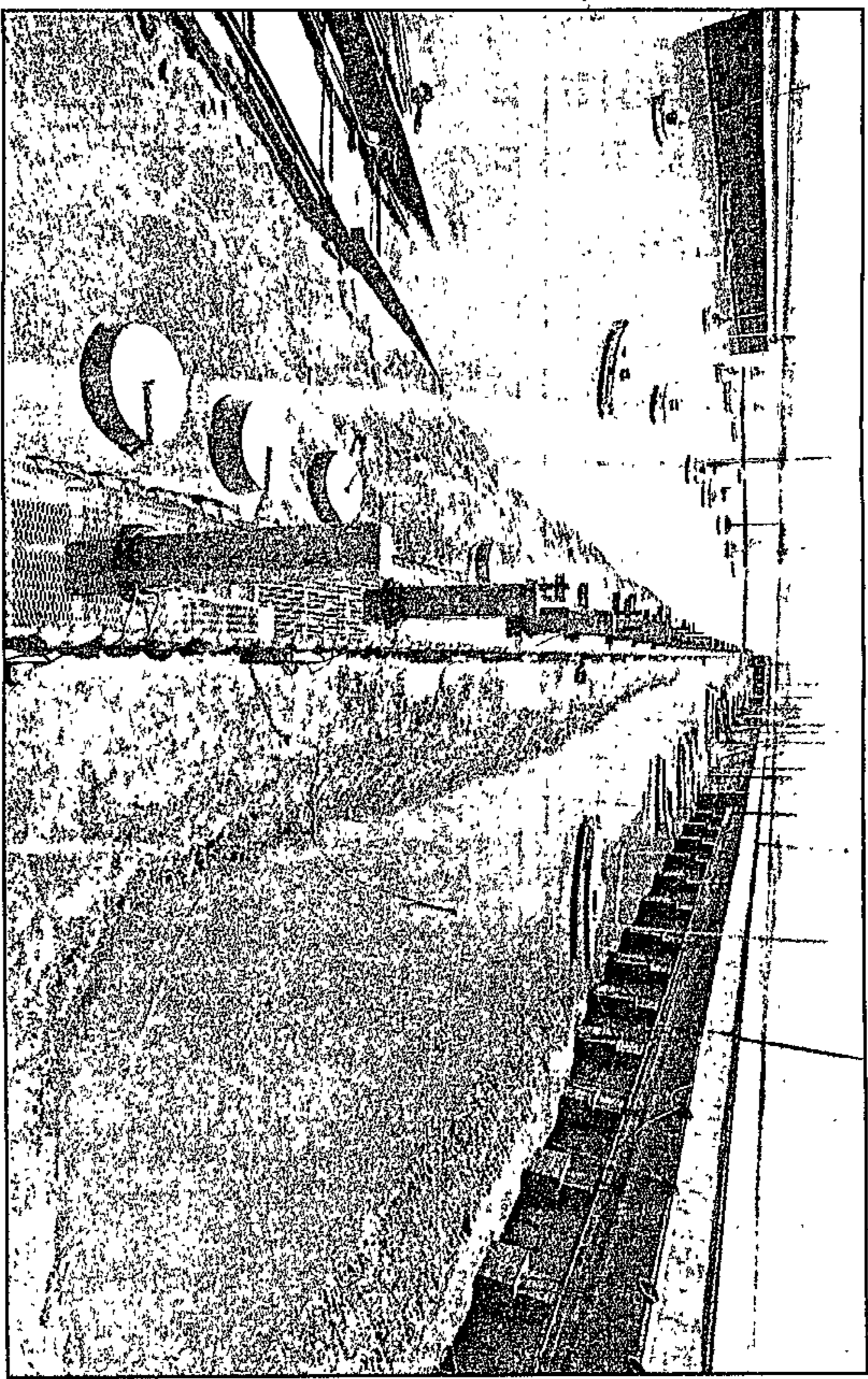
"Right now the holiday-makers are staying away and the place is deserted," he said.

Dick Mantien at Mantien Marina said the water level had dropped about 4,4 m in the hour which made launching and slipping a problem.

"The situation will become critical when we reach the 46 percent mark."

Department of Water Affairs hydrologist Stefan van Biljon said there is only a 0,5 percent risk of water restrictions being re-imposed before 1987 when the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme comes on stream.

Despite the rapidly declining level of the major water source for the PWV area, there was little real cause for alarm as the Vaal River System was 69 per-



The tide's out... about 400 m of the jetty at Mantien Marina on the Vaal Dam is exposed, and owner Dick Mantien has warned that underwater hazards which are surfacing are damaging the propellers of powerboats and leaving inexperienced yachtsmen high and dry. Picture: Etienne Rothbart

cent full and water stored in the Sterkfontein Dam (now 97 percent full) could be released to replenish the Vaal Dam when it reached the 15 percent mark.

The release of water is dependent on several factors including the water quality and a threat to the biological life in the Vaal Dam.

The exposed water surface of the Vaal Dam when full is 32 061 ha while that of the deeper Sterkfontein Dam is only 6 726 ha which therefore suffers less evaporation.

Evaporation differed by 6 mm to 10 mm a day (averaging 1,4 million cu m) from the Vaal Dam, depending on temperature and wind.

There are no signs that the current dry period will be broken before the weekend, the Weather Bureau said yesterday.

Fluctuating flow may mirror SA fortunes

By Shirley Woodgate (2192)

The level of the Vaal Dam reflects the mood of South Africa, a Department of Water Affairs engineer once claimed.

The dam's current 51 percent level could well reflect the pessimism of many South Africans about politics, violence and crime.

Over the past 10 years the dam's water level has swung from desperately low to excitingly high.

Unpredictable weather conditions drained the Vaal Dam from 81 percent in November 1981 to 25 percent by March 1983, when water restrictions were introduced in the PWV area.

Two months later a R30 million State pumping scheme was launched to boost the transfer of Tugela River water to the Vaal River, a project which became operative in June 1985.

When water from the Tugela, which was stored in the deep Sterkfontein Dam, was released to boost the shallow Vaal Dam, then only 16 percent full.

By December 1984, as the level continued to plummet, yachtsmen who had invested R20 million in boats on the dam claimed they faced disaster.

But less than three years later, in March 1988, the level soared to the 116 percent mark. Boats were riding high while officials were hell-bent on preparing flood warning control mea-

sures before opening seven sluice gates in February.

The good times were short-lived, however, and since April last year dam watchers have seen the level dropping from 90 percent to the current 51 percent — and still falling.

Coupled with below-average rains in the catchment area of the Vaal — as large as the Netherlands — is the vast amount of water lost through evaporation from South Africa's largest stretch of inland water.

It is estimated that at maximum conditions such as during the recent heat wave, evaporation from the 2 529 cu m capacity dam would equal the water

consumption of 2,5 million South African homes a month.

Besides providing 60 percent of the water to the industrially rich PWV region, the dam is the growing focus of a vast leisure industry, based largely on its 18 000 licensed boats, its 700 km shoreline, and picnicking and water-related recreation.

The development of the area as an inland playground was boosted in November 1988 when the Regional Development Advisory Committee revealed ambitious plans for the future of the 32 000 ha stretch of water.

The future of the ambitious plans now depends on the rainfall, and as far as this year goes, dam watchers regard February and March as crucial.

Nature area land swops urged for better control

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

MAJOR transfers of land within the Cape Peninsula mountain chain have been recommended to rationalise the management of the protected area.

The proposals are in a report by the technical sub-committee of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee, which also recommends upgrading the status of all public land in the Peninsula to ensure it is permanently conserved.

The report has been accepted in principle by Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring.

The report notes that 60,6 percent of the 29 125-hectare Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment is managed by the Western Cape Regional Services Council, 19 percent by the Cape Town City Council and 11,4 percent by the Cape nature conservation and State forestry departments.

It said State Forestry and the city council were understood to be considering exchanging Tokai and Cecilia state forest plantations for equivalent council plantations in the Boland.

The object was to concentrate commercial state timber production outside the Peninsula and enable the city council to manage forest areas in the Peninsula for recreation purposes.

Major recommendations in the report include:

- Transferring control Groote Schuur Estate above the M3 freeway — 301ha — to the city council;
- Transferring the management of privately-owned slopes below the Twelve Apostles — 260ha — from regional services to the city council;
- Transferring control of all Cape nature conservation department areas on Table Mountain — 945ha — to the city council;
- Reducing the SADF area around the Apostles Battery to the minimum and transferring the balance — 77ha — to the city council;
- Handing Cecilia state forest — 154ha — to the city council or Kirstenbosch for recreation.
- Transferring control of Cape nature conservation areas at Constantiaberg and Karbonkelberg — 1 556ha — to the regional services council;
- Extending Silvermine nature reserve (city council) by including 90ha of unused SADF land at Silvermine.
- Including the Tokai plantation — 642ha — in the Silvermine nature reserve.
- Transferring control of Cape nature conservation land in the mountains between Fish Hoek and the Cape Point nature reserve and unallocated state land outside Simon's Town's boundaries to the regional services council — 800ha; and
- Transferring control of Cape nature conservation land at Simon's Town to the municipality.

Water scarcity 'inherent to SA climate'

By Shirley Woodgate

SA

STRA 1312/92

Drought is an inherent part of the South African climate, according to a report to the Water Affairs Commission by Professor Walter Zucchini and P T Adamson.

"Statistics prove that not a single year passes without drought in some part of the country," concluded Water Affairs hydrologist Stefan van Biljon.

But three periods dominate, when vast areas of the country were affected: the early 1930's, from 1948 to 1949 and the recent major five-year drought from 1978

to 1983.

In 1963/4 and 1965/6 the eastern and northern Transvaal experienced some of the driest years ever. By 1972, the coastal areas of the south-western Cape and the southern interior were in the throes of its worst drought.

In this context, latest Water Affairs figures indicate the total amount of water in dams throughout the country has dropped 7 percent below the overall 72 percent recorded in February last year.

Natal is well supplied with water, the level only slightly down from last year's 75 to 74 percent.

At the other end of the scale, the critical state of eastern Cape water resources has seen dam capacities dwindle to the 33 percent mark from 46 percent last year.

Although parts of the western Transvaal are in the throes of a crippling drought, the 17 dams in the region were just over half full this week, averaging 53 percent.

In the Upper Orange River scheme, the Hendrik Verwoerd and the P K le Roux are dams recent (86 in 1991) and 70 percent full (59 in 1991) respectively. But the total for the 11 dams is down from 74 to 64 percent.

Govt plan to sell off plantations condemned

By Peter Wellman

The Government is determined — and in a hurry — to sell off State forests which would mean the end of cheap housing timber, saw milling sources said yesterday.

New Zealand is the only other government in the world that has tried to privatise its plantations — but it scrapped plans after 40 mills closed down.

Middle and lower-range housing would be most affected because it is the building industry's staple homes-market, said Solly Tucker, chairman of York Timber Organisation Ltd.

The Government plans a State-owned National Forestry Corporation which would later be privatised.

This concept has horrified millers, who regard the forests as a national resource no one should tamper with.

Yesterday the SA Communist Party raised the issue at a Codesa Working Group I meeting in Kempton Park.

The privatisation would be in defiance of an ANC/SACP/Cosatu demand for a moratorium on restructuring the economy, said Essop Pahad, SACP member of the working group.

He expected Magnus Malan, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, to present the plan to next week's Cabinet meeting.

It was originally scheduled for this week.

Milling sources contacted by The Star also said they expected legislation by next month.

They did not wish to be identified because they feared repercussions when they negotiate new log contracts with forestry officials.

Mr Tucker said: "Uncertainty has shaken the confidence of long-term contractors in the Department of Forestry and its plans for their future.

"Privatisation is no more"

● To Page 3

Plan to sell off State forests condemned

● From Page 1

than a cover for expropriation without compensation, and the handing over of the driver's seat of a strategic industry to a money-making monopoly," he said.

The Star faxed questions on the privatisation issue to General Malan yesterday.

A spokesman said the minister would reply before the end of the week.

Andries Swart, executive director of the South African Lumber Millers Association, said Salma did not seek a public confrontation with the Government.

"But now that the matter has been brought into the public arena, I have to say that selling the plantations to profit-driven private buyers would mean:

● "Rough log prices to sawmills would jump.

● "Sawn timber prices would have to follow.

● "Wood for home-building would be much more expensive for the average citizen."

If saw-log prices rose annually by 20 percent, production costs for sawn timber would double in the next 3½ years.

The State's 263 000 ha of timber plantations provide 55 percent of the logs cut at the country's 114 mills each year.

Salma's last annual report said: "The log price has risen by an average of 16,5 percent a year over the past five years and sawn timber has increased by 10,5 percent a year."

Mr Swart said Salma had big plans for helping to solve South Africa's informal housing crisis, with at least 7 million people in need of homes.

Noordhoek fears mine's noise, dust

(5b) CT 13/2/92

CHAPMAN'S PEAK anti-kaolin mine campaigners yesterday voiced their concern about noise and dust pollution at Noordhoek if the mining goes ahead as planned.

Mr Ian Brownlie, spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, said the noise and the dust would present a "major problem" for residents in the area.

He said an environmental impact study commissioned by Serina — the company with the rights to mine the kaolin — did

not take into account that the proposed site of the mine is in a natural amphitheatre, which would magnify the sound of heavy machinery and graders.

"Serina has promised to muffle their vehicles but the noise in this exceptionally quiet rural area will be totally unacceptable," he said.

Sun Valley residents had complained that the dust from Serina's Brakkekloof mine was a major hazard, he added.

"Locals have complained

that thick coats of dusts cover their homes, affect their plants and dirty their swimming pools.

"Some people are moving out because of all the dust pollution."

Mr Brownlie said Serina had promised to try to keep the dust level at Noordhoek to a minimum by watering the roads and keeping the speeds of heavy vehicles down.

"But Chapman's Peak is exposed to raging south-easters

and north-westers and the exposed kaolin will create major dust storms," he said.

Mr André Viljoen, executive director of Serina, said the mining would go ahead when the time was right, but a starting date had not been set.

Reacting to the concern about the noise and dust at Noordhoek, he said the environmental impact study was scientific and had covered those aspects to Serina's satisfaction.

Parks board woos blacks to ensure its survival

81 Day, 13/2/92

(56)

THE white journalists had all been to the Kruger National Park before. Most of their black colleagues were on their first visit, and few had seen a lion or elephant in the wild.

Last week's media tour forms part of a survival strategy as the National Parks Board seeks to ensure the parks will continue to enjoy support and protection in the new SA.

For this they need black opinion on their side. They appreciate that if people in black townships are aware of Kruger and the other national parks, they regard them as playgrounds for rich whites.

There is now a concerted effort to change that image, to make black people feel welcome and to instil an awareness of the cultural as well as natural heritage the parks represent.

During last week's four-day tour, officials stressed their desire to reach out to blacks and promote environmental awareness among them.

More such tours by black journalists are planned, says National Parks Board GM public relations and marketing, Braam van der Vyver. He says the Kruger park needs to reach out and woo blacks to keep its position as major income generator and custodian of the environment.

As SA's major top tourism draw-card, the 2-million ha park is also important as a job creator, with 5 000 people employed in its different segments.

"The Kruger National Park, Cape Town and the Blue Train are the foremost overseas tourist attractions and, since every overseas visitor who spends 21 days touring SA creates seven jobs, the park rates among SA's top job creators," says Van der Vyver.

The national parks have officially, but quietly, been open to all races since 1982. Since National Parks Board chief executive director "Robbie" Robinson took over last April, he has campaigned to make the fact known to all.

Advertisements were placed in the Sowetan in September. Using the black rhino/white rhino theme, the ads stressed that national parks were colour blind and black and white were equally welcome.

Van der Vyver says the board has had talks with groupings such as the ANC and PAC, stressing the importance of putting environmental conservation on their agenda. "If the Kruger National Park was done away with, not only the jobs it protects would be lost, but the economy

THEO RAWANA

of neighbouring regions and the whole of the Lowveld would be adversely affected."

Chief environmental education officer Gert Erasmus says political leaders, especially black leaders, need to take environmental conservation seriously and put it on their agenda. "Lack of ecological knowledge, especially ignorance of the importance of the environment in providing resources for humanity, will result in the erosion of natural resources, leaving helpless future generations to perish in starvation."

Replying to arguments that opening the park to blacks was a move aimed at generating income that is depleting because government subsidies are drying up, Erasmus says it is rather because of the change in the SA political scene.

"The board has always felt that it is its duty to expose blacks to the whole ecological experience. Now is the time to go all out on this campaign."

Erasmus points out that there are nearly 100 archeological sites in the

Kruger park, with San paintings and early iron furnaces part of the heritage of all South Africans.

He also urges black people to write down their knowledge of the medicinal and other uses of plants and trees. He points out trees used for tanning, and leaves and roots used to treat illness, but says details of many other special applications are being lost.

So are the trees and plants involved, and areas such as the Kruger park preserve them in an environmental reference library.

"A cure for cancer, or AIDS, may be locked up here," he says, pleading for customary knowledge to be recorded and tapped. Herbalists, traditional healers and other lay elders have a wealth of knowledge that should not die with them.

The totems and taboos of the Tswanas and the Zulus are a practical approach to the environmental ethic, says Erasmus. "Among the Tswana clans, the Bakgata worship the Kgabu (monkey), the Bakwena sing praises to the Koena (crocodile) and the Bahurutshhe take the Tshweni (baboon) as their sacred beast.

"These people would never kill or harm any of these beasts, and this is another form of the environmental

conservation ethic. All these practices need to be brought to the fore instead of forcing Western values on people."

It was partly with an eye to attracting black visitors that the Kruger park's camping facilities have been expanded. Officials found to their surprise that much of the demand has come from whites driving luxury cars.

Piet du Plessis, GM visitor services, says blacks currently are mostly day visitors, but this is expected to change soon.

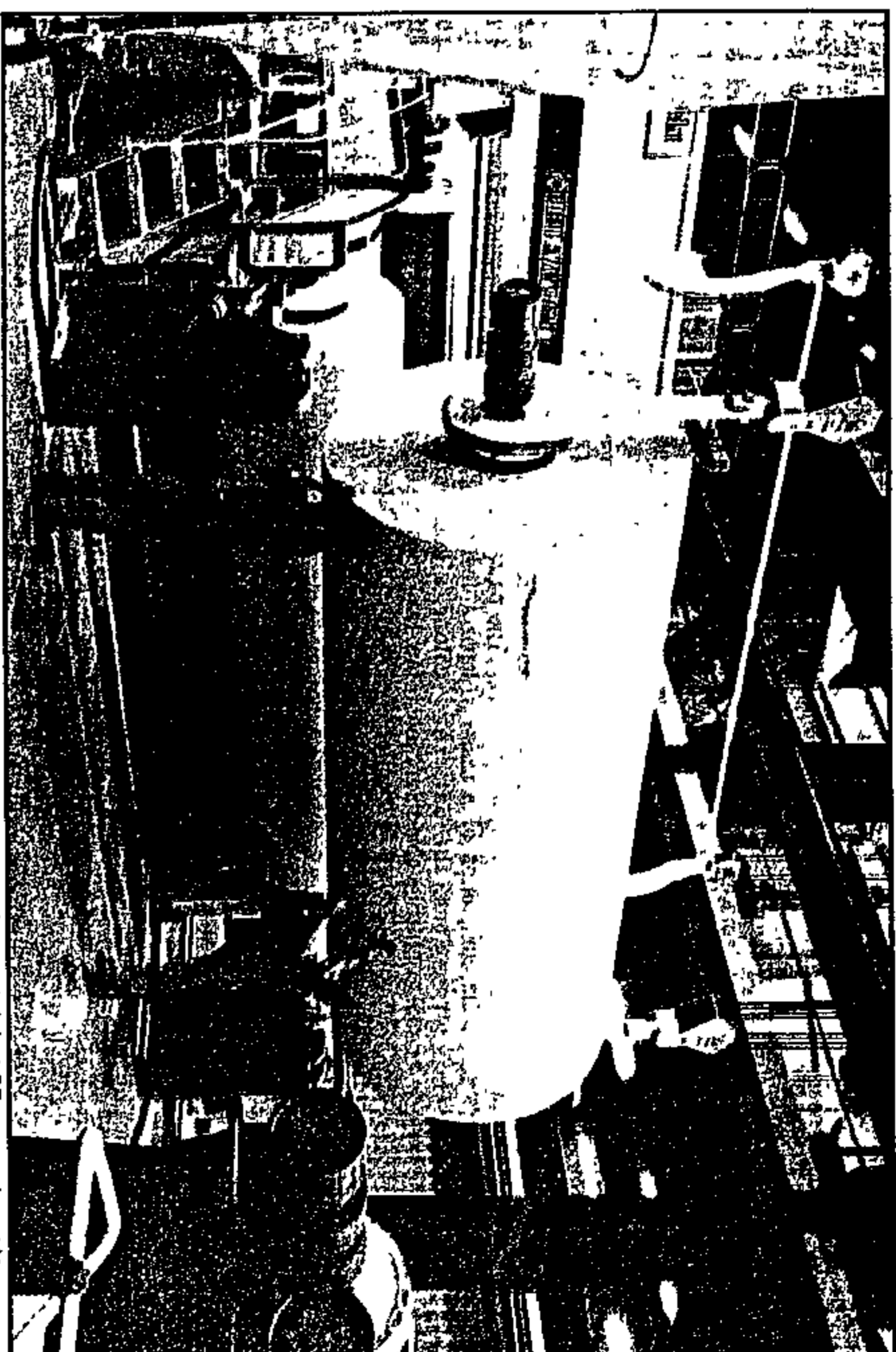
"We have tried to cater for a cross-section of visitors, and gradually the message is getting through to blacks that they are more than welcome here," he says.

It has got through to the Venda taxi drivers who specialise in day trips to the park, and to the small but increasing number of black people who book into the rest camps. Du Plessis and other top Kruger park management were pleased at the number of black visitors during the Christmas holidays, and at the way they were accepted by other visitors.

They are hoping for many more, not just as visitors but as opinion-formers in their own communities.



Growing on trees . . . beautiful scenery often has to be sacrificed for forests like this one in the eastern Transvaal.



SA's biggest paper manufacturer . . . Mondri regularly produces newsprint containing 25 percent waste.

New sprint to tackle paper pollution

Star 13/2/92

56

Newsprinters tend to sympathise with the "green" movement — but how green are newspapers? JAMES CLARKE reports.



"South Africa is actually ahead of the United States," says Mr Lay. "They are recycling about a quarter of their total paper consumption. South Africa — which uses 1.7 million tons of all kinds of paper a year — is recycling a third."

About 15 percent of newspapers and magazines are diverted to the pulp mills. The rest still ends up as landfill.

The arithmetic of this has to be changed and Mondri, with its nationwide Paper Pick-up scheme, wants to get South African urban dwellers into a rhythm of recycling news-

papers. About 30 percent of household rubbish is paper.

Local governments are also beginning to clog the solid-waste stream, and landfill sites are becoming very expensive.

Mondri has spent R5 million just buying trucks for its Paper Pick-up, which now operates in many areas of the Witwatersrand, Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town. But South African households, even in supposedly educated areas such as Sandton where people profess to be "green", homeowners are not showing sufficient enthusiasm for separating paper.

New legislation, hinted at in last year's President's Council report on the environment, could force the issue.

John Lay claims that since the 1970s a third of landfill volume in South Africa has been taken up by paper, and the single largest item is newsprint. "Yet," he says, "that newsprint is worth money. Every 1 000 tons of it can be turned into 850 tons of perfectly good blank paper. To produce that match paper out of virgin pulp would use up 13 000 trees."

Mondri — a subsidiary of Anglo American Industrial Corporation — saw the warning signs regarding the environmental impact of paper some years ago. "We realised that demands on wood for pulp and all other uses, including building timber, could outstrip our ability to

grow trees. We also knew that paper could be re-used time and time again as long as a certain quantity of new wood fibre was added," says Mr Lay.

Mondri, which is large even by world standards, produces nearly 2 million tons of paper products a year. Mainly through its paper waste division, it retrieves 250 000 tons annually. Paper Pick-up — a free service performed with the co-operation of public authorities and neighbourhoods — is part of the collection process.

Mondri is currently recycling 600 000 tons of paper a year — a third of its annual production. Translated into trees, that saves 23 million of them. More importantly, it saves having to smother additional thousands of hectares of land with exotic trees. About 200 000 tons of recycled paper products are exported

annually to Asia, Europe and North America.

Mondri has yet to produce a formal documented environmental audit, but when it does, the accounts should look good, even the water it uses contains one-third recycled waste water. According to the superintendent of the Merbank recycling plant, Owen Keates, newsprint can be recycled three or four times, but by adding virgin fibres, its life goes on for ever. We stood next to mumbused bales of newspapers, each bale weighing almost a ton. It costs R500 a ton to collect and a further R350 a ton to process.

Mondri's Paper Pick-up is costing the company a considerable sum, but it aims at falling into an economical rhythm of collection, transportation and processing once more public support is forthcoming. John Lay has his eye on the 150 trucks which deliver knock-drop newspapers in urban areas. "If they can drop newspapers, why can't they also pick some up?" □

"Green" pressure on the newsprint industry, newsprint already contains 15 percent recycled waste. In a recent experiment the Star's sister newspaper, the Daily News in Durban, printed an edition on 15 percent recycled paper.

American newspapers, to meet their recycling targets, are actually buying recycled paper from South Africa. Mondri, SA's biggest paper manufacturer, is regularly producing newsprint containing 25 percent waste at its mill in Merbank, Durban. It could technically go to 40 percent if it had the supply of waste.

I visited the Merbank plant and spoke to John Lay, divisional manager of Mondri's paper recovery and processing. In the last few years his division has sunk tens of millions of rands into its recycling plant

(pulp and timber) needs another 1 million — which means another 1 million hectares of South Africa may have to be turned into a cheap imitation of Canada.

The electronic age has not lived up to its boast of creating a paperless world. In fact, the opposite is happening — paper consumption is steadily increasing. The answer can only be in recycling.

To cut down on waste paper volumes being dumped on municipal dumps, some parts of the United States will not allow newspapers to go on sale unless they contain a certain percentage of recycled material. In California, newsprint must contain at least 25 percent recycled paper. Ironically, in South Africa, where there has been almost no

NEWSPAPERS which have for years carried the banner for environmental awareness are now themselves under scrutiny by the environment lobby.

The world over, newspaper people have never believed themselves to be among the "baddies" when it comes to environment. After all, paper rots and quickly turns to soil. And anyway, it grows on trees.

But waste experts have found that newspapers do not in fact rot as quickly as people think. You can pull a 40-year-old newspaper out of a rubbish heap and still clearly read about the unhappy love affair between Princess Margaret and Group Captain Townsend or the flight of the first jet airliner. And although paper does grow on trees, those trees need to be planted in high rainfall areas — that's just where the country's most scenic and biologically interesting areas are. So far 1 million hectares of South Africa have been planted to timber and now the industry

City, Grootte Schuur concern over smoke

AKF 14/2/92

5b

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

CITY health authorities and Grootte Schuur Hospital management are concerned about the black smoke that pours from the hospital's incinerator.

However, the smoke is not a hazard to human health, says medical superintendent Dr Frank Bowey.

The incinerator is used to burn pathological and theatre waste and other infectious material. The combustion temperature was high enough to destroy micro-organisms, Dr Bowey said.

Hospital management were cutting back on the amount of waste burnt, and were considering adding another incinerator.

A second incinerator would not necessarily resolve problems, and would depend on decisions yet to be taken about disposal of infectious waste.

Alternative methods of disposal would be costlier in the short term, he said.

In July, hospital authorities

told the city health department that only one incinerator out of three designed for the hospital was built.

Lack of money made it impossible to employ operators with the required level of skill, the hospital said.

City council medical officer of health Dr Michael Popkiss said the matter was serious because of the "considerable" amount of pollution.

In a reply this week to an inquiry by The Argus, Dr Bowey said skilled operators were not needed to run a modern incinerator in a hospital. Staff were given careful instruction, he said.

The hospital administration had discussed the problem with city council and provincial administration officials on several occasions, he said.

Dr Bowey said there had been a 25 percent reduction in the past six months in the amount of waste burnt and efforts to limit incinerated material would continue.

Some aluminium window frames on the new building were showing signs of corrosion, but this was detectable before the incinerator was commissioned. Walls close to the chimney stack had become discoloured.

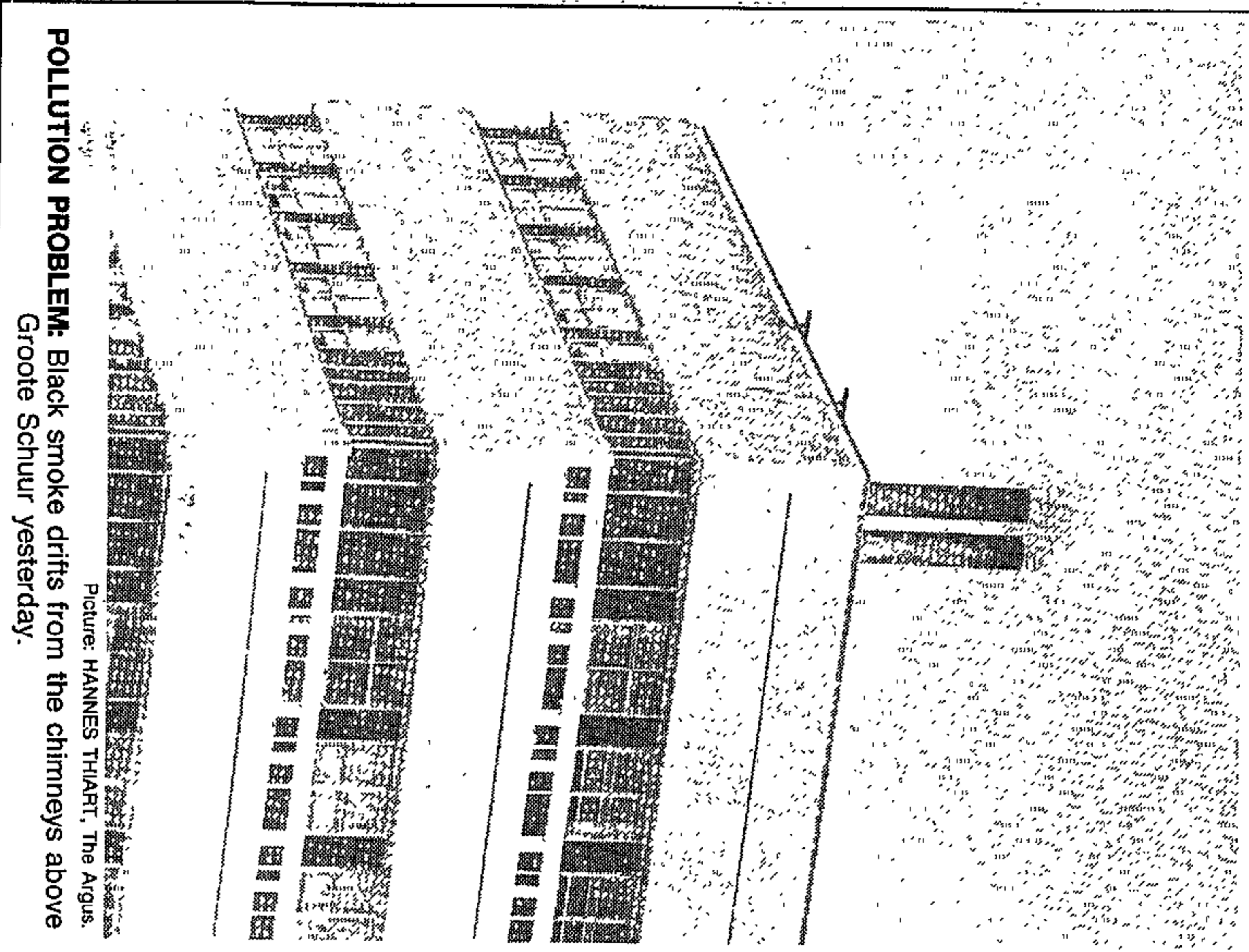
"The management of Grootte Schuur Hospital is deeply concerned about the problem and considerable time and effort has been spent on attempting to identify and remove the causes of the black smoke," Dr Bowey said.

Trials showed that the volume and amount of plastic in each load were "not significant factors".

Dr Bowey said the hospital was not aware of any body responsible for measuring the contents of emissions.

Dr Popkiss said the air pollution control team did not measure pollutants near Grootte Schuur Hospital.

Emissions were high in the air and unlikely to cause a high concentration of pollutants at ground level, Dr Popkiss said.



POLLUTION PROBLEM: Black smoke drifts from the chimneys above Grootte Schuur yesterday.

Picture: HANNES THIAFT, The Argus.

Call to use water sparingly as record amount used up

By Shirley Woodgate

(56) (10)

The Rand Water Board sold a record amount of water last Thursday, following 10 days of peak demand during the hottest period in 30 years in the PWV region.

General manager of operation James Gardiner appealed to consumers to use water sparingly so that levels could be restored in reservoirs.

The board supplied 3 236 MI of water on Thursday, the highest volume on a single day since the inception of the RWB in 1903, said Mr Gardiner.

"Although the demand remains exceptionally high, the RWB is in a good position to maintain supplies to all consumers," he said.

"We supply water to about

8,2 million people and 60 per cent of SA's industrial concerns fall within our region.

"This extends from Bethal in the east to Carletonville in the west and from Sasolburg in the south to Rustenburg in the northern region."

He said the RWB had the capacity to purify and pump 4 170 MI a day, and was at the moment using up to 74 per cent of this capacity.

Last week hundreds of southern suburbs residents were left without water when some reservoirs ran dry.

"Recent increased demand would naturally deplete the capacity of the reservoirs, but it was uneconomical to design infrastructure to cater for peak demands of short duration."

Water Affairs. The irony is that the conviction comes when authorities say the condition of the water in Durban Harbour is extremely good. But the department's deputy director of water pollution for Natal, Lin Gravelet-Blondin, says: "That shouldn't give us any cause either for complacency or to relax our vigilance." (56)

The incident occurred nearly a year ago and involved spillage from a Zenex storage tank. Durban Regional Court was told the spill was an accident — caused when a valve was opened instead of closed. The court, in imposing the fine, noted that Zenex took immediate steps to contain the spill; it cooperated with the harbour pollution officer and government officials in the clean-up, paying the costs, which generally range between R10 000-R50 000, depending on the extent of spills.

A much larger fine might have been imposed if the spill had occurred since April, when the maximum penalty for a first offence was raised by R10 000 and one year in prison to R50 000 and two years. A repeat offender could face a R100 000 fine and a four-year term.

Peter Glovovic, director of the Institute of Environmental Law, still questions whether maximum penalties are high enough to deter companies from pumping industrial waste into waterways. Many would risk being caught rather than pay for expensive process equipment to handle the waste.

Gravelet-Blondin believes the fines and

continue →

WATER POLLUTION FM 14/2/92
Cracking down (56)

In a sign that the authorities are taking a tougher line on pollution, Zenex Oil has been fined R5 000 for a diesel spill that drained into Durban Harbour.

This is the first time a company has been convicted of polluting a harbour under the Water Act, according to the Department of

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

FM 14/2/92 (56)
 publicity are a deterrent. "The fines are severe but just as important, in this age of environmental awareness, is the fact that no company can afford the publicity associated with being caught deliberately abusing water systems."

He points out that while the Zenex conviction is a precedent in terms of harbour pollution, the department is prosecuting more cases of inland water pollution. "This serves as a warning that the department now has the people on the ground and legal backing from Pretoria to prosecute infringements."

Portnet harbour pollution officer Coen Ackerman says harbour spillages are few and falling. In April there were six major incidents of harbour pollution. That rose to 10 the next month but the number has fallen steadily since. In December there was just one major incident. ■

ENVIRONMENT
FM 14/2/92
Chapman's pique (56)

Activists opposed to the opencast mining of kaolin on the lower slopes of Chapman's Peak may ask Greenpeace to assist with an international protest campaign. That's if their last-ditch appeal to President F W de Klerk to stop the mining fails.

In a parliamentary debate last week, Mineral & Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett said government would not stand in the way of the Serina mining company's plans to exploit rich kaolin deposits in the Cape's Noordhoek Valley.

The proposed mine is opposed by a wide range of organisations, including the Democratic and Conservative parties, the ANC, the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, Sator, Captour, the National Monuments Council, a cross-section of prominent businessmen, academics and environmentalists and 60 000 members of the public who have so far signed an anti-mining petition.

Objectors argue that the area is environmentally too sensitive to tolerate the mine and also that the southern Peninsula is becoming an "eco-destination" for foreign tourists who will be deterred by the mining operations.

Bartlett told parliament that the Noordhoek kaolin was the only deposit of its sort in SA. Serina, which is linked to Federale Volksbeleggings, which is effectively controlled by Sanlam, already operates another kaolin mine in the valley. It obtained the mineral rights to other deposits in 1979 and was granted a provisional permit to mine in 1988.

Bartlett said mining would be allowed only under stringent conditions currently being finalised by various government departments. They would include environmental protection and the rehabilitation of mined areas.

Kaolin is used mainly in the manufacture of paint, paper and ceramics including household crockery.

The DP's Colin Eglin said the proposed mine had become a national issue and called for a moratorium on all mining in the Cape Peninsula for 25 years so that future generations could consider the issue against the background of history.

DP MP Jannie Momberg, in whose Simon's Town constituency Noordhoek falls, appealed to Sanlam to stop the mine. "I want to warn Sanlam that they must not underestimate the reaction of the people. We are going to have a million signatures next time, not 60 000, aimed against Sanlam and not against the mine. I want to warn them that if

FM 14/2/92 (56)
they start the bulldozers on Chapman's Peak the people will be there to stop them. Let them not ride roughshod over the wishes of the people."

Sanlam has repeatedly said that its indirect investment in Serina does not give it the legal power to stop the mine. Serina in turn is committed to exercising its rights.

Ian Brownlie, spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, says opponents of the mine are committed to a range of physical protest actions to stop it going ahead if an appeal to De Klerk is unsuccessful. The group has made contact with Greenpeace in Holland and Germany to discuss protest action in Europe, which could focus not only on the kaolin mine, but also on government's apparent unwillingness to formulate an acceptable environmental policy.

"Everyone says we are in the new SA, but there's no tangible evidence of a shift from the old iron-fist attitude," says Brownlie. ■

'Mercury madness' at chemical plant

SOME of the worst cases of "mercury madness" seen this century have emerged at the Natal Midlands plant of Thor Chemicals — and it is set to become the focus of the country's highest environmental controversy this year.

The entire workforce at the British-based multi-national — which imports toxic waste — may be at risk, according to medical researchers. Already at least 12 workers have had their health damaged after being subjected to levels of mercury contamination far in excess of international limits.

At least three other victims have been examined by psychiatrists and neurologists who confirm that they display damage to the nervous system, a textbook symptom of mercury poisoning. Mercury is a red-listed toxin that also causes congenital defects in unborn children as well as respiratory diseases and stomach ailments.

The manufacture of mercury has been subjected to strict controls in most industrial countries since being identified as responsible for one of the world's worst environmental tragedies at Minamata in Japan some 35 years ago. Its use in the felt industry during the 19th century led to the phrase "as mad as a hatter" being coined and occupational dangers of mercury have been known for more than a century.

According to the workers, two who "went mad" from the exposure to deadly mercury fumes were forced to resign, and at least 10 others are facing a similar fate.

Thor Chemicals, however, denies it. "We have never sacked an employee suffering from any form of illness, especially an employee who has supposedly 'gone mad' from mercury poisoning."

In a statement yesterday, Thor said the allegations were "the most vicious kind of mischief-making" and were "totally unfounded".

But a company survey conducted in 1991 shows that 87 percent of the workforce had levels of mercury in their urine higher than the international safety standard and that the average level was four times the safety standard.

Some of the workers have told Dr Mark Colvin, who heads the Industrial Health Unit in Durban, that tests conducted by the company revealed their blood samples at times contained up to 20 times the accepted international limits.

The scandal has already led to calls for a full judicial inquiry into the recycling of imported toxic waste at the Thor plant in Cato Ridge near Pietermaritzburg.

The shock findings, which emerged after Colvin managed to track down retrenched workers from the Thor plant, come hard on the heels of news that the firm has been taken to the Industrial Water Tribunal in the Netherlands for polluting a river in Natal with toxic material.

Workers told Colvin that the level of mercury found in workers' urine at the time when Mkhize and his colleagues were contaminated had frequently been more than 20 times the World Health Organisation's safety limit.

"It was clear that at least four of them had been affected to a greater or lesser extent by their exposure to mercury. They have been seen by psychiatrists and neurologists. Two workers have expressed suicidal tendencies and one of them also expressed homicidal intentions," says Colvin.

"There are apparently at least another eight former workers who were affected by mercury but these men live in different townships and will be difficult to trace without the co-operation of the company."

wimail 14/2-20/2/92
Workers at a UK-owned firm which imports toxic waste are said to have "gone mad" from exposure to mercury fumes, reports EDDIE KOCH

Among the retrenched workers is Eric Mkhize (25), who was allegedly made to resign after showing symptoms of chronic poisoning. His is one of the worst cases of mercury contamination seen in this country.

Mkhize is said to have been retrenched after he went "crazy" and began handing out money, playing with toys and doing other bizarre things in Thor's offices.

"Management got him to sign a letter of resignation on the grounds that they would give good references for other employers. He still has both visual and auditory hallucinations that cause him great fear. For a long time he had to have people watching him when he slept because he used to wake up with anxiety attacks and run into the veld," Colvin said.

Thor said that Mkhize had worked there for only seven months, had resigned of his own

accord and did not have mercury poisoning when he left three-and-a-half years ago.

Mkhize, along with the other victims, has never been compensated for the damage caused to his health. He shakes, has frequent mood swings and has twice told doctors he plans to commit suicide. "His main worry is that he knows that he is unemployable with his body tremors, facial grimaces and emotional instability and yet he has received no compensation from the company," says Colvin.

"This is a textbook case of mercury poisoning and such a severe case should never occur in modern industry. I doubt if such a case has been seen in an industrialised country in 50 years."

Another victim is Siphwe Sibiyi (29). He worked at Thor between July 1988 and June last year when he was retrenched for unknown reasons. "He is now excessively shy and has stacca-

to-like speech — both typical symptoms of mercury," says Colvin.

Both workers were in normal health when they began working at Thor.

Thor said that Sibiyi had worked in the gardens at the factory and later in the textile manufacturing facility. "We find it extremely strange that someone without any exposure to mercury can be suffering from mercury poisoning."

The Natal branch of Earthlife Africa, which first alerted the public to pollution caused by Thor, has announced it will campaign for a full judicial inquiry into the shock disclosures.

The Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU), which organises the workforce at Thor, agrees that the scandal shows the need for an investment code that will oblige foreign companies in South Africa to enforce environmental standards that apply in their home countries.

The company has agreed to negotiate with the union around the health and safety problems faced by the workforce and Colvin is confident this will help to improve the situation there.

NOW

The Mild Family

COURTLEIGH

» **SATIN LEAF**

IN A NEW 20's

COMPACT · CONVENIENT



Water shortage critical as rivers dry up

STAR 15/2/92

(S6)

The natural flow of several major rivers, including the Orange, Vaal and Caledon rivers, has ceased and water shortages in parts of the country have become critical.

Parts of the eastern Cape and the far northern Transvaal are threatened with disaster conditions, according to an information document reviewing the drought situation issued by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in Pretoria.

However, water supplies to the major metropolitan areas are satisfactory, with the exception of the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area where dams to the west of the city are very low and the position is critical, the statement says.

The present drought "can be

regarded as an agricultural drought rather than a serious hydrological drought and dry-land farming and small irrigation schemes are affected most".

The statement lists the Vaal, Orange, Riet, Modder and Caledon as rivers where the flow of water has "on occasion" been stagnant or has ceased completely.

"The Caledon River has practically stopped flowing and very low flows are being experienced in the Orange River upstream of the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam," the statement says.

Due to a lack of rain there has been very little natural runoff into the rivers. Abnormally dry and hot weather conditions throughout most of the country

OWN CORRESPONDENT

are also contributing to the shortage of water.

Dam levels of the Vaal River system are lower than usual but are still 75 percent full and no water restrictions are envisaged in the foreseeable future for the PWV area, the Lower Vaal River or for major industries such as Eskom and Sasol on the eastern Transvaal highveld.

Restrictions

Apart from Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage, the other major metropolitan areas are well supplied in spite of the drought conditions.

The Mgeni River System near

Durban is more than 90 percent full and the Theewaterkloof Dam, which supplies Cape Town, is "unusually full".

The Gamtoos River Valley area in the eastern Cape and the Njelele and Albasini area of the far northern Transvaal are faced with disaster conditions and water restrictions will have to be implemented in these areas soon, according to the statement.

Serious droughts are also being experienced in the western Transvaal and the Little Karoo, where water restrictions will also have to be implemented shortly.

The main dams supplying the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area — the Paul Sauer, Charlie

Malan and the Churchill dams — are 16 percent, 29 percent and 48 percent full but sufficient water is available in the Sundays River to supply the city's needs.

However, the infrastructure needed to pipe the water to the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area does not exist as yet, the statement says.

An emergency scheme to supply 50 ml of water a day to the northern area of the metropolis will be completed by the end of this month and will supply about 20 percent of the water necessary.

The water will be slightly murkier than normal and will contain more dissolved substances than consumers are used to.

Tycoon mobilises friends against mining



FIGHTING . . . Britain's John Aspinall

Si Times 16/2/92
BRITISH millionaire John Aspinall, who owns the Cape's historic De Goede Hoop estate, has marshalled some of the world's most powerful businessmen to oppose mining plans on Chapman's Peak.

Incensed by the thought of a kaolin mine on his doorstep, at Noordhoek, the 64-year-old owner of former Environment Minister John Wiley's old homestead has called on his friends for help.

Influential

The zoo-owning conservationist and London casino-owner has extracted promises from influential friends who have been guests at his magnificent Cape mansion to write letters of protest to Foreign Affairs director-general Neil van Heerden, for onpassing to the State President.

Australian media mogul Kerry Packer, Canadian newspaper baron Conrad Black, British billionaire Sir James Goldsmith and

By CHARMAIN NAIDOO
London

Margaret Thatcher's foreign policy adviser, Sir Charles Powell, have all written impassioned pleas.

Mr Aspinall said in London this week: "I wrote to several hundred people — all outside South Africa — and asked them to write, through Neil van Heerden, to Mr De Klerk. Almost all of them did.

"I only asked those people who had visited Noordhoek to write. They, of course, being familiar with the splendour of the area.

"Neil van Heerden suggested the letter-writing. He said that if I could get the letters sent to him he would ensure that Mr De Klerk saw them when he was not too busy attending to more important matters of state."

However, Mr Van Heerden denied this week that he had suggested to Mr Aspinall that letters be sent to Mr De Klerk.

A spokesman for his office said Mr Van Heerden had met Mr Aspinall at a social function in Cape Town.

"After the meeting Mr Van Heerden received several letters from abroad on the kaolin issue and sent them to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs."

Mr Aspinall asked his influential friends to protest in writing at the siting of a kaolin mine "200 yards from my back door and 300 yards from my front door".

Treasure

But he claims their letters have not been acknowledged — "which is unwise, considering who some of these people are and that they want to invest in South Africa".

At an after-dinner speech at Mr Aspinall's Cape home recently, Mr De Klerk referred to Noordhoek as a "national treasure" to be cherished.

STAR 17/2/92

Malan mum on plans to sell forests

By Peter Wellman

Minister Magnus Malan has refused to reply to questions about a Government plan to sell off State forests.

The Star reported the plan last Thursday, quoting several sources as saying legislation was expected before the end of next month. And the saw-milling industry said the plan would mean the end of cheap wood for housing.

Among questions faxed to General Malan, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, was one asking how soon legislation could be expected.

General Malan replied on

Friday that the matter "is still sub judice" — and refused to answer the questions. He said he would deal with the matter during his Budget Vote later in the Parliamentary session.

Attached to his reply was a speech by the previous Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Gert Kotze, which referred to a long-term possibility of selling the State's forestry and timber processing interests to "the investing public".

Saw millers said they feared the consequences if forests ended up in the hands of profit-seeking investors.



Magnus Malan . . . refusing to answer questions about a plan to sell off State forests.

Air pollution: Govt attacked

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Wildlife Society has accused the government of procrastinating over measures to control air pollution. *See 7/1/92*

Wildlife Society ecologist Mr Andrew Duthie said new evidence that ozone depletion was much worse than expected, and South Africa's proximity to the Antarctic ozone hole meant the matter should be addressed more urgently.

US and European scientists have reported record levels of chloro-fluor carbon (CFC) chemicals above the northern hemisphere. They say ozone depletion as severe as 30% to 40% has already occurred in the northern hemisphere.

The society has also criticised the government for the delay in signing an international agreement on the use of certain chemical compounds.

Faeces-bearing slime sends bathers running

(56)

27/12/92

Staff Reporter

BATHERS at St James pool on Saturday afternoon were aghast when the tide came in bringing with it brown slime bearing faeces and chicken feathers.

Mr Paul May and his wife Joan, who swim there regularly, have laid a complaint with the Muizenberg beach constables.

"We would never make a fuss but it was disgusting," said Mrs May. The sea pollution had even turned the sand black in places and the smell was terrible, they said.

Mrs Lona Baugaard was another disgruntled Saturday bather and described the pool as "stinking".

There were quite a number of people swimming at the time but most of them ran out when the tide brought the slime in, she said.

Mr Ted Doman, public relations officer for the city council, had not yet heard of any reports about the pool.

Yesterday the water in the pool was clear.

Meiring 'should call urgent meeting'

JOHN YELD (56)
Environment Reporter

ADMINISTRATOR Mr Kobus Meiring should be asked to convene an urgent meeting of landowners and government departments involved in the management and control of Table Mountain and the rest of the Peninsula mountain chain.

This recommendation has been put to the Cape Town City Council executive committee by the Cape Town Environmental Advisory Committee.

The advisory committee told Exco that the multiplicity of landowners meant co-ordination of management activities on the mountain chain was a "major problem".

The Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee (PNE), a loose federation of landowners, fulfilled a constructive role, although it had a

purely advisory function without any legal power.

The management system lacked status in the public eye, and the PNE committee was "not truly representative".

Overlapping and conflicting legislation — including the Forest Act, Nature Conservation Ordinance, National Monuments Act, Rhodes Will Act and Land Use Planning Ordinance — was another major problem.

Although there was a trust fund, a more stable source of funds was required to bring the mountain management labour force to its required capacity.

"Due to a duplication of infrastructures, a lot of unnecessary costs are being incurred, a problem which would be addressed by the rationalisation of curatorships," the advisory committee said.

Exco decided to ask the city

engineer to prepare a position paper before asking the administrator to call a general meeting.

"They were obviously sympathetic to the idea but want to prepare themselves first," a council spokesman said.

● The Botanical Society's flora conservation committee has welcomed the call for an urgent meeting on the issue but wants the public to be invited as well.

"Our committee recently raised the problem of Table Mountain management and the multiplicity of ownership with the administrator and we fully support the call by the Cape Town Environmental Advisory Committee," said chairman Mr Doug Jeffery.

"However, we do hope that public input to their discussions will be permitted."

Kaolin: Captour joins fray

(56)
CT8/2/92

Staff Reporter

CAPTOUR yesterday joined the "war" against the proposed kaolin mine on Chapman's Peak.

The tourism body sent an urgent appeal to the central government and the CPA to delay the mine for "two to three years".

But a spokesman for the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs in Pretoria said the mining at Noordhoek had already been approved, and it "was unlikely" that anything could be done at this late stage.

The chief executive of Captour, Mr Gordon Oliver, in a statement yesterday said it was with "considerable concern" that Captour had noted ministerial approval being given to the kaolin mining proposals at Noordhoek.

Mr Oliver pointed out that the one unique and rare asset the Peninsula had was its spectacular and breathtaking scenic beauty.

"Our concern is not simply that the proposed mining relates to one particular site in the Noordhoek Valley.

This is merely the thin edge of the wedge. Before long there may well be a string of mining activities throughout this area and that would be a tragedy," he said.

He appealed to the government and the CPA to allow the tourism potential of the Peninsula to establish itself and then to review the situation in the light of political and economic considerations after two to three years.

A spokesman for the Regional Services Council, under whose jurisdiction Noordhoek falls, said there had been no final application from Serina to mine at Noordhoek.

The CPA had not replied to Captour at the time of going to press.

Mr Ian Brownlie, spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, said he was "very pleased" with Captour's statements as South Africa and Cape Town in particular had the potential to become the winter playground of the northern hemisphere.

Mr Brownlie said there were alternative kaolin sites to those at Chapman's Peak.

Toxic dumping charges to be probed

LONDON — New evidence claiming SA's government is illegally allowing Natal to be used as a dumping ground for imported hazardous chemical waste will be submitted to an international scientific jury in Amsterdam on Thursday.

The Second International Water Tribunal will focus attention on the activities of British-owned company Thor Chemicals at Cato Ridge, Maritzburg.

The tribunal jury's verdict and recommendations will be submitted to the UN Conference on the Environ-

IAN HOBBS

ment and Development and will feature at a major "earth summit" in Rio de Janeiro in June. (56)

The tribunal is expected to support Earthlife Africa's calls for an independent international investigation into Thor's activities and government's attitude.

The tribunal has examined a massive file of evidence on mercury pollution of the Mngweni stream and environment at Cato Ridge.

New evidence to be submitted by Earthlife Africa

includes video footage and medical reports on former Thor employees stricken by mercury poisoning.

The tribunal will hear detailed claims that government is collaborating with Thor to cover up activities and plans to expand processing of hazardous waste from abroad.

Our Durban correspondent reports that Thor has called for an independent panel of experts to investigate the mercury poisoning allegations.

It said the allegations were "totally unfounded".

18/2/92
18/2/92
18/2/92

Green dilemma for car makers

56

ARC 19/2/92

ANTHONY DOMAN
Motoring Editor

EXHAUST pollution, traffic jams and other transport problems have manufacturers wracking their brains as they grapple with the problem of creating environment-friendly transport that isn't necessarily boring.

Many still regard cars as a status symbol and disregard the damage they do to our habitat. But all that is changing amid demands for a cleaner environment.

When even the politicians jump on the environmental bandwagon, it's time for industry to sit up and take notice. Recently US president George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major joined the call to bring forward the internationally-agreed 1997 deadline for banning chemicals that destroy the ozone layer.

Industries producing environmentally harmful waste are already having to clean up their acts or face the wrath of the people.

And the motor industry has been an easy target for that wrath. To their credit, manufacturers are taking the criticism to heart and recent motor shows have reflected the concern about the environment. At the Frankfurt Motor Show, Audi introduced an almost

completely recyclable car, the Quattro Spyder, for instance.

Audi says it has for a long time had a policy of using the highest possible proportion of recyclable materials in its cars. The zinc-galvanised bodies, 85 percent of the plastics and the engines are recyclable. Where lead-free petrol is available, the cars are fitted with catalytic converters.

Audi test driver Hans-Joachim Stuck says that in future cars will change to fit in with what he calls "the new world of the car".

Audi engineers and researchers are working on electric and "hybrid" cars. The "hybrid" is a car that will be battery driven in the cities, where the pollution problem is the worst, and petrol driven for long-distance travel, the company said in a statement.

Stuck, who has test driven a prototype electric car, says: "The biggest problem that researchers have is to develop a battery that can propel a car for longer than half an hour, is rechargeable and can provide the same speed as petrol-driven machines. We believe that an operating time of five hours for such a vehicle would be acceptable."

The merits of solar powered vehicles are also being investigated, although Stuck believes that cars of the future will be electrically powered.

Urban centres in Europe and North America are facing "traffic collapse" and Stuck says cutting down on the number of vehicles using the roads is the first step towards reducing damage to the environment.

British scientists believe the answer could be an ultra-light biodegradable plastic made from wood pulp and vegetables. The unlovely "plastic pig" from East Germany, the Trabant, has bodywork made entirely from a type of papier maché.

The Argus Foreign Service has reported that the new materials planned for use in the West are a third cheaper and just as tough as glassfibre, according to researcher Dr James Bolton of the University of Wales.

● Stuck, one of Germany's most famous racers and test drivers, is soon to enter South Africa's living rooms when he appears in a new series of advertisements.

Not many racing drivers number yodelling among their leisure-time pursuits or use their victor's garlands as hula hoops on the winner's rostrum. But the lanky Stuck's antics belie his concern about issues such as the environment.

"Cars will have to become smaller, more fuel efficient and must be fully recyclable," he said.

Hansard

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B70E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.

- (1) (a) 9 132 (inclusive of Municipal Police and Police Assistants)
 (b) (i) 1 733.
 (ii) 5 February 1992.

(2) No.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, while indicating how pleased I am that there appears to be an increase in the number of policemen who have been trained, I should like to ask him whether he will please assure the House that he will have a discussion with his Minister about how to allay the fear and concern of suburban residents about the increase in crime. I want to assure him and the House that there is indeed great concern and worry about this increase in crime.

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, we are also concerned about the high crime rate, and this question has already been addressed by the Department and the hon the Minister.

Illegitimate children: rights of access to fathers

*7. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether it is the intention to introduce legislation in terms of which rights of access will be granted to fathers of illegitimate children; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what is envisaged in this regard? B78E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

The rights of a father regarding his illegitimate child are being investigated by the South African Law Commission. A working paper is being compiled at present and it is expected that it will be published during this year.

SARCC: protection of commuters

*8. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether the South African Rail Commuter Corporation recently announced additional measures for the protection of commuters; if so, (a) what is the extent of

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Hansard

these measures and (b) what is the cost involved in these measures;

- (2) whether any other State departments are involved in the application of these measures; if so, (a) which State departments, (b) to what extent and (c) at what cost? B79E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) Yes.
 (a) and (b)

(i) The five-year security programme which would have been completed on 31 March 1995, has been accelerated and will be completely phased-in by 31 March 1993. This entails that all stations will be secured for policing by erecting security fencing, providing lighting, introducing access control and providing on-site accommodation for the SAP. Communication between the train driver, control room and the SAP is being improved to permit the speedier reporting of dangerous situations and incidents. The costs involved in this are estimated at R9,5 million for the 1991/92 financial year and at R18,24 million for the 1992/93 financial year.

(ii) An investigation into the desirability of opening end doors of coaches is being conducted. All trains are also regularly stopped and searched for dangerous weapons. On the Soweto section a number of metal detectors are employed on a trial basis. The costs involved in using these metal detectors is R40 838.

(iii) Toll-free telephone numbers for reporting crime are in operation in all regions and cash rewards are offered for reporting useful information. The Corporation reacts continuously on any media reports regarding security and the media and commuters are continuously informed of

Hansard

steps taken to improve the security situation. The cost involved in the toll-free crime reporting numbers as well as the cash rewards is estimated at R60 000 for the 1991/92 financial year.

(iv) Security personnel are used to support the SAP in their actions. The cost involved in this is estimated at R15,3 million for the 1991/92 financial year.

(2) Yes.

(a) and (b) The SAP is responsible for manning the stations which are already secured for policing and for the maintenance of law and order on premises and trains. Stations not policed on a full time basis are intensively patrolled. The SA Defence Force renders a support function at the request of the SAP.

(c) The costs involved to this is not readily available and will be furnished to the Member who posed the question as soon as the information has been received from the organisations concerned.

Damaging of ozone layer: research

*9. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether any independent research in respect of the damaging of the ozone layer is being undertaken by South Africa at present; if so, (a) to what extent is his Department involved in this research, (b) (i) what amount has been budgeted for it and (ii) how many researchers are involved in it and (c) what do the findings indicate so far;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B80E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, I reply to a question of the hon member for Pretoria West whom I also do not see in the House. [Interjections.]

(1) Yes.

(a) The Department of Environment Affairs provides financial backing for a joint Weather Bureau/Natal Univer-

Hansard

sity programme, namely the South African National Ozone Research Programme (SANORP). The Department of Environment Affairs in collaboration with the Department of National Health and Population Development also provide financial backing for the Cape Point Trace Gas Research project implemented by the CSIR.

(b) (i) For the 1991/92 financial year R280 000 was allocated towards SANORP. Financing for the 1992/93 financial year has not yet been authorised. R130 000 per annum is allocated towards the Cape Point Trace Gas Research project

(ii) Two researchers of the Weather Bureau and two professors of the University of Natal and a number of student researchers are involved in SANORP. There are three researchers involved with the Trace Gas Project.

(c) A comparative study between ozone data of the mid-1960's and data collected since August 1989 show that in the stratospheric ozone layer (between 12 and 36 km altitude) ozone concentrations have decreased by 6%, relative to the earlier period. The decrease in ozone concentrations in the stratosphere between the 1970's and 1980's alone was 3% to 4% over South Africa and 17% at SANAE. Ozone concentrations in the lower atmosphere over South Africa have, conversely, increased. Comprehensive information is available from the Department of Environment Affairs.

(2) No.

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

Codexa: costs paid by State

*10. Adv J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Constitutional Development:

- (1) What part of the expenditure in respect of the institution called Convention for a

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

a) The Estate Agents Act, 1976 (Act No 112 of 1976) is entirely being revised at present. (56)
(b) It is anticipated that amending legislation will be furthered during the 1993 Parliamentary session.

Financial problems: teachers/lecturers

*19. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) Whether he has received any complaints and/or representations relating to the financial problems being experienced by teachers and university lecturers whose conditions of employment enable them to obtain free or subsidised education for their children, which benefit is now subject to taxation as a result of the deletion by section 12(1)(i) of the Income Tax Act, No 129 of 1991, of the provisions of section 10(1)(qA) of the Income Tax Act, No 58 of 1962;

(2) whether he will consider amending the legislation in question to provide relief to these educators? B132E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) No complaints or representations relating to the financial problems being experienced by teachers and university lecturers as a result of the deletion of section 10(1)(qA), have been received. Representations have, however, been received regarding the principle that benefits of this nature will, in future, be taxable.

(2) No. The fact that a teacher or lecturer's child may study free of charge at the educational institution where he is employed, is unquestionably coupled to the services rendered by such teacher or lecturer and represents a fringe benefit which is, as is any other form of fringe benefit, taxable in the hands of that teacher or lecturer.
In accordance with present legislation, the value of the fringe benefit will be equal to the cost thereof to the employer. In the case of free or subsidised education for children or teachers or lecturers, the cost to the employer will accordingly be determined on the basis of the marginal-cost method, i.e. the cost to admit a further

scholar or student. In the majority of cases, the value of the fringe benefit for tax purposes will be minimal and should therefore not cause any financial problems for parents. (56)

Mercury pollution: Mngweni River

*20. Mr W U NEL asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(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 given any instructions by his Department regarding mercury pollution of the Mngweni River; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what is the name of the company concerned;

(2) whether this company has complied with such instructions; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, what steps, other than legal steps, have been taken by his Department in this regard? B134E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) Yes.

(a) The company concerned was requested to cease production of mercurial effluent thus obviating the need to use evaporation dams for mercurial effluent disposal and to obtain the services of a recognised consultant to determine the cause of the mercury pollution and to advise on measures to prevent such pollution.

(b) Messrs Thor Chemicals SA (Pty) Ltd.

(2) Yes. The company concerned complied with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's instructions and undertook the following measures to eliminate water pollution:

- (a) Lined all evaporation dams used for mercury effluent disposal;
- (b) improved housekeeping to prevent contamination of ground and surface water;
- (c) closed off the leach pad which was a major cause of pollution in the past. *continued*

(d) process wash water and rainwater being held in the containment area and which was contaminated, are now force evaporated through a steam process. (56)

In order to safely dispose of the historical mercurial effluent, the company concerned has been authorised to irrigate this effluent under strict conditions, which include, *inter alia*, pre-treatment to a mercury limit well within the General Standard and control of the irrigation to prevent any further ground water pollution.

Continuing monitoring is taking place and has so far revealed that the concentration of mercury in the particular stream downstream of the factory is well within the accepted standards applicable to drinking water and is thus safe for human consumption and other domestic uses

Imported substances defined as raw materials

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

(1) Whether it is the policy of the Government to define all imported substances from which something is extracted as raw materials; if so,

(2) whether the Government recently amended this policy; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not;

(3) whether the Government still considers mercury-containing wastes imported by a certain company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, to be raw materials; if so, why; if not, what is the position in this regard;

(4) what is the name of the company in question? B135E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) No. The policy not to import wastes remains unchanged. Raw materials are not waste materials. The definition of a raw material does not depend on the origin or the physical or chemical state thereof. Whether it is imported or manufactured locally, is also irrelevant. The phrase "raw material" is defined in ac-

knowledge dictionaries as a substance from which something is, or will be manufactured. A raw material could be a substance such as iron ore from which iron is extracted for the production of steel, a manufactured product such as flour for baking bread, a waste product such as blast furnace slag that serves in turn as a raw material for the manufacture of cement; or a by-product such as polypylene from Sasol's oil-from-coal process.

(2) This question falls away. As already stated this is not a matter of policy but rather the definition of a term. (56)

(3) Yes. Mercury is extracted from the substances concerned for the manufacture of a product and thus per definition, those substances are raw materials.

(4) The name of the company concerned is as provided to me by the hon member.

Pollution of Mngweni River: legal steps

*22. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) Whether any legal steps have been instituted against a certain company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, in connection with pollution of the Mngweni River; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, why not;

(2) what is the name of the company in question? B136E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) No. When the pollution came to the attention of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, immediate steps were taken to rectify the pollution problems. I refer the hon member to my earlier reply to Question 20 in which I gave particulars of the actions taken by both the Department and the company concerned to prevent water pollution. In the light of these actions the compliance with the Departmental instructions and the positive response, it was decided not to institute any legal steps. I wish to stress, however, that should the situation

deteriorate in future, legal steps can still be taken

(2) Messrs Thor Chemicals SA (Pty) Ltd

Mercury-containing substances imported

*23 Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

Whether a certain company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, imported any mercury-containing substances in 1991; if so, (a) under which import codes and (b) what is the name of the company in question?

B137E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Although two import permits have been issued in favour of the company concerned, the Department of Trade and Industry cannot confirm whether the permits were utilised.

(a) Import code 2620.90

(b) Thor Chemicals (Pty) Ltd

New questions:

AK 47 rifles seized/surrendered

*1. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(a) How many AK 47 rifles have been (i) seized in the course of police action and (ii) voluntarily surrendered to the South African Police for reward since 1 January 1990 and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B120E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) (i) 1 075

(ii) 241

(b) 1 January 1991 until 24 January 1992.

Right-wing organizations: members guilty of acts of terrorism

*2. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether any members of right-wing organizations were convicted of committing acts of terrorism during the period 1 January 1991 up

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

to the latest specified date in 1992 for which figures are available; if so, (a) how many, (b) of which organizations did they claim to be members and (c) of which acts of terrorism were they convicted?

B122-3E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

No.

(a), (b) and (c) Fall away

Working group on education

*3 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) Whether he, any members of his Department and/or any other Ministers were involved in a working group on education which sat between March and July 1991; if so, (a) which persons were involved and (b) what were the dates of the meetings of the working group;

(2) whether the group devised a draft report on its activities; if not, why not; if so,

(3) whether any party, group or individual repudiated the report in any way after it had been drafted; if so, what are the relevant details;

(4) whether a final report was accepted?

B138E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(1) Yes.

(a) Persons involved:

Dr C J van der Merwe: Minister of Education and Training

Adv L A Pienaar

Minister of National Education and Environment Affairs

Mr P G Marais:

Deputy Minister of Education and Development Aid.

Dr J B Z Louw:

Director-General, Department of Education and Training

Dr J G Garbers:

Director-General, Department of National Education

Mr J Samuel:

Head, ANC Education Desk

continued

Prof N C Manganyi: Vice-Chancellor, University of the North

Dr N J McGuck: SA Association of Independent Schools

Mr S M Ramokgopa: AZAPO

Mr I Rensburg: General Secretary, National Education Co-ordinating Committee (NECC).

(b) 9 March 1991

28 March 1991

20 April 1991

17 and 18 May 1991

14 June 1991

17 July 1991

(4) No. The report was however accepted by the working group. The working group originated after a meeting between the State President and a delegation lead by Mr Mandela on 25 February 1991 regarding education matters. At a follow-up meeting on 19 August 1991 the contents of the report were noted.

Recognition of two teacher bodies

*4. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) Whether he has recognised the purposes of negotiation in education, two teacher bodies, the names of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if not, why not; if so, (a)(i) when and (ii) under what conditions were they so recognised and (b) what number of teachers does each represent;

(2) what are the names of these two bodies;

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

B139E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(1) No, because the applications are still being considered.

(a) (i) Falls away.

(ii) Falls away.

(b) Final, verified membership numbers of the two bodies are not yet available.

(2) The names of the bodies are:

(i) South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU); and

(ii) National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (NAPTOSA).

(3) No.

Financial institutions: deposit insurance

*5. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) Whether, in the light of the recent failure of certain financial institutions, the Government is considering (a) the introduction of deposit insurance for financial institutions in South Africa and (b) giving assistance to investors in a certain financial institution, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (i) what conditions are being contemplated in regard to such insurance and (ii) what assistance to such investors is being contemplated; if not, why not, in each case;

(2) whether it is the intention to give such assistance in the future; if so, what assistance;

(3) what is the name of the financial institution referred to in paragraph (1) above?

B144E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) (a) No: Notwithstanding the cost burden which would be placed on the industry, deposit insurance would lead to an undermining of management efficiency and risk management in financial institutions;

(b) No. Investors voluntarily contracted with the institution concerned to invest their investments as agent and according to the agent's discretion. The Government or regulatory authorities cannot be held responsible for the business decisions of investors, given the fact that the aforementioned investors without coercion and by agreement granted a

continued

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

tion and begin to create consequent judicial certainty in connection with the matter. In general such a step should contribute towards a successful transition from the present system to that of a *Rechtsstaat* or constitutional state in which the rule of law prevails.

Cape Peninsula: pollution level of sea

*20. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: (56)

- (1) Whether any tests were conducted recently to determine the level of pollution of the sea around the Cape Peninsula; if not, why not; if so, (a)(i) when and (ii) where were these tests conducted and (b) what was the finding in respect of the pollution level;
- (2) whether this pollution constitutes or at any stage constituted a hazard to human and marine life; if so, what are the relevant details?

B207E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) (i) — Heavy metals in black mussels every six months since 1985
 - Radioactivity weekly in sea water and quarterly in biota since 1980
 - Faecal coliform levels are measured every two weeks in sea water
 - (ii) — Heavy metals at 30 positions between Bloubergsstrand and Pringle Bay
 - Radioactivity measurements made in sea water at Silverstroom Strand and Melkbos and in biota at Yzerfontein, Dassen Island and Melkbos
 - Faecal coliform measurements made at 55 sites around Cape Peninsula between Milnerion and Monwabisi.

- (b) — Heavy metal concentrations in black mussels were in most cases

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

below those set internationally for human consumption.

— Radioactivity levels were well within internationally acceptable limits. (56)

— Faecal coliform levels at most sites complied with EEC bathing water standards. EEC levels were exceeded on occasions in Hout Bay, Mouille Point, Rocklands, Three Anchor Bay and at some sites in False Bay (mainly in the winter).

- (2) — No. None of the monitored pollution levels pose a threat to marine life

— Faecal contamination has the potential to impact on human health in some areas, at times Comprehensive information is obtainable from the Department of Environment Affairs.

Union buildings: partially vacated

*21. Adv J R DE VILLE asked the Minister of Public Works:

Whether any section of the Union buildings is to be vacated, if so, (a) when, (b) for what reasons and (c) who and/or which State department is accommodated in this section at present? B209E

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

No, (a), (b) and (c) fall away.

SADF: certain organization financed

*22. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether a certain organization, the name of which has been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was at any stage financed or otherwise supported by the Defence Force; if so, (a) for what (i) purpose and (ii) period was it so financed or supported and (b) what is the name of this organization;

(2) whether such financing or support was provided through front organizations?

CONFIDENTIAL B210E

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) and (2)

This matter is presently being investigated by the Commission of Enquiry into the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation (also known as the Goldstone Commission). I, therefore, do not consider it advisable to anticipate the findings of the Commission.

SADF: training of two persons

*23. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether two persons, whose names have been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, have at any stage undergone training by the Defence Force or any of its associated companies; if so, what are the names of these persons;
- (2) whether the Defence Force or any of its associated companies provided training at any stage for Transvaal members of or persons sympathetic to a certain organization, the name of which has also been furnished to the Defence Force; if so, what is the name of this organization?

B211E

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) and (2)

This matter is presently being investigated by the Commission of Enquiry into the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation (also known as the Goldstone Commission). I, therefore, do not consider it advisable to anticipate the findings of the Commission.

SADF: financing of secret camp at Mkuze

*24. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether the South African Defence Force financed, through front organizations, the establishment and equipping of a secret camp at Mkuze in Northern Natal; if so, what was the cost of this project;
- (2) whether, at this camp, Caprivi trainees were housed and front organizations trained leaders and activists of a certain organization, the name of which has been

furnished to the Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, what is the name of this organization;

(3) whether the trainers were linked to the South African Defence Force; if so,

(4) whether the Defence Force's involvement in the Mkuze project was discussed with and agreed to by the leader of the organization referred to in paragraph (2) of this question;

(5) whether this project has been suspended; if so, why?

B212E

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) to (5)

This matter is presently being investigated by the Commission of Enquiry into the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation (also known as the Goldstone Commission). I, therefore, do not consider it advisable to anticipate the findings of the Commission.

Targeted aid schemes: spending of amount budgeted

*25. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of National Health:

With reference to the R220 million originally budgeted for the targeted aid schemes, as well as any further allocations that may have been budgeted for this purpose, (a) how much of the budgeted amount has been spent, (b) by which Government Departments or organizations was it spent and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished? B217E

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(a) R94 550 000,00 is in the process of being paid out,

(b) *State Departments and State infrastructures*

* Clinics operated by local authorities and provincial administrations

* TBVC States

* Self-governing Territories

Non-governmental organizations

Southern Transvaal:

* Imqalife

* Food Gardens Foundation

* Street-wise

CONFIDENTIAL
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

- * Mes-aksie
- * Save the Children Fund
- * Kupugani
- Natal
- * Kipugani
- * Feed the Babies Fund

- * Eastern Cape:
- * South African Ministers Unity Independent Churches Association
- * Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage and District School Feeding Fund
- * Valley Welfare
- * Port Alfred Psychiatric Work Group
- * East London Psychiatric Work Group
- * Grahamstown Blind Workers Self Help Group

- Northern Transvaal:
- * Hluvakani
- * Kerlike Aksie Noodhulp
- * Living Waters Development Foundation

- National Councils:
- * SA National Council for the Aged
- * SA National Council for Child and Family Care and
- (c) 13 February 1992.

Disability pensioners: date of pension National Health:

*26. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) Whether the date or dates on which disability pensioners of all race groups receive their pension have been changed; if so, why;
- (2) whether the pensioners concerned were given any notice of this change; if not, why not; if so, what notice?

B213E
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) Dates of payment of social allowances are determined annually and it is possible that the dates of payment may not be the same each year
- (2) The dates of payment of black people in Natal will be changed again as from 1 April 1992 due to a new payment system;
- (2) yes, pensioners are informed in writing of the dates of payment. Black people are

also informed verbally at the different points of payment.

Prisoners transferred to mental institutions

*27. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

- How many sentenced prisoners were transferred to mental institutions in 1991?
- B214E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

Thirty-one (31). This figure includes one (1) prisoner who was admitted to a hospital prison for psychopaths in terms of section 30 of the Mental Health Act, 1973 (Act No 18 of 1973) as amended.

St Lucia: conservation of wetlands Environment Affairs.

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

- (1) Whether he intends tabling, during the current session of Parliament, legislation on the conservation of wetlands for the specific purpose of preventing mining at St Lucia; if not, why not;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B215E
The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No, it is not considered necessary and appropriate to table an Act specifically to prevent mining at St Lucia. Adequate legislation already exists and therefore this matter will be dealt with on merit in terms of the existing applicable legislation and conventions.
- (2) No

Boxing and Wrestling Control Act: representations

*29. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of National Education:

- (1) Whether he recently received any representations in regard to amending the Boxing and Wrestling Control Act, No 39 of 1954; if so,

- (2) whether, in response to these representations, he intends tabling amendments to the said Act during the current session of Parliament, if not, why not; if so,
 - (3) whether such amendments will be aimed at (a) making boxing safer and (b) making it possible for members of the South African National Boxing Control Board to be elected?
- B216E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No, negotiations are still in progress between the interested parties
- (3) (a) No. This aspect has received detailed consideration in 1991
- (b) It will depend on the results of the negotiations that are in progress between the parties concerned

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Teachers: termination of services

Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

Whether he intends to terminate the services of any teachers during the 1992-93 financial year as a result of the abolition of posts; if so, what are the relevant details?

B197E.INT

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

Mr Chairman, the hon member for Pinetown would have taken note of the joint media statement issued on Monday by me and by the hon the Minister of National Education. In this statement I announced a new education plan which would ensure that thousands of teaching posts were retained in the Department of Education and Culture, Administration: House of Assembly, and give significant self-determination to communities. I also indicated my intention to consult the advisory bodies of the department. This will take place early next week.

The hon member is aware of the fact that since the allocation to my department has been cut for the 1992-1993 year it will be necessary to terminate the services of teachers, since our personnel costs constitute 83% of our Budget. The exact figures are not available at this stage, because this depends on certain variables, but there is a starting point.

The new staffing provisions for schools will come into effect on 1 August 1992 and will result in approximately 4 000 teaching posts being abolished. The uncertain factors, however, relate to the number of teachers who will avail themselves of the opportunity of early retirement, and also the number of schools which will convert to model C. The more schools there are which retain the status quo, the more teachers would have to be retrenched. I am, however, confident that the overwhelming majority of schools will appreciate the advantages of the model-C option and grasp the opportunity of achieving significant self-determination and of maintaining standards.

It is significant that the Teachers' Federal Council has given its support to the proposed plan. In a statement Mr Allan Powell, chairman of the TFC, said the following, amongst other things:

The Teachers' Federal Council would have preferred to avoid these measures, but the realities are inescapable.

The council is convinced that, under the circumstances, the best package has been obtained for teachers and for education in general. Posts will only be abolished where absolutely necessary. On account of the variables and uncertainties, it serves no purpose to speculate on the numbers involved. However, I can assure the hon member that staff whose posts may have to be abolished will be sympathetically handled and that they will be entitled to benefits as stipulated in the various Acts applicable to their conditions of service. This has been my department's policy in the past and will remain its policy in the future.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Chairman, the hon the Minister said on TV the other night that I had to be patient. He knows that I am not patient when it comes to the children of South Africa and what they should be getting from everybody.

Cosatu to fight forest privatisation

COSATU will soon add its muscle to the range of forces lining up against government's plan to privatise state forests, according to a union source. (56)

The source said Cosatu would this week take a plan of action to its alliance partners, the ANC and SACP, to try to halt the privatisation plans. (56)

Last week Forestry Minister Magnus Malan told a delegation from the Forestry Council that he was determined to finalise the privatisation of forests before July.

The Forestry Council told Malan it was disturbed that the private sector had not been consulted. (56)

Council chairman Fred Otter said yesterday he could not comment on the meeting. Government plans a state-owned national forestry corporation, the Companies Act and later be privatised.

DIRK HARTFORD

Malan has said it would be premature to comment on the plan. He would deal with the issue in this parliamentary session.

The 1,5-million strong Cosatu has more than 16 000 forestry workers organised into the Paper, Pulp, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu).

There are about 80 000 workers in the industry.

Cosatu has called for a halt to all privatisation initiatives until an interim government is in place. B/pan

It insists that any economic restructuring be a product of negotiations between the key players — labour, employers and the state. 19/2/92

The issue of privatisation has already been raised at Codesa by the SACP.

Wilderness wounds

56 MCG 20/2/92

Ombudsman told of PW 'interference'

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

ALLEGATIONS of interference by former President P W Botha, malpractice, illegal actions and political intimidation surrounding the controversial N2 freeway between George and Knysna are being studied by the Ombudsman.

Mr Botha is alleged to have personally ordered Cape nature conservation officials to allow skiboaters — many of them commercial fishermen — to use the sensitive Kaaimans river estuary near Wilderness, the Ombudsman has been told.

The skiboaters, members of the George Ski-boat Club, had been moved from four other locations — including the Touws River which flows past Mr Botha's home at the Wilderness.

According to a submission to Ombudsman Mr Justice P van der Walt, Mr Botha's administration authorised construction of the new N2 between George and Knysna which "desecrated" the Kaaimanskloof valley, one of the country's most beautiful and culturally historic areas.

The valley is a zoned nature area in terms of the Physical Planning Act, but the submission claims to proper environmental impact assessment was done before the route for the road was decided.

The submission is from Kaaimans riverfront property owner Mrs Marie Lillienfeld, who headed the now-disbanded Kaaimanskloof Action Committee.

Mrs Lillienfeld alleges malpractices, irregularities, illegal actions and political intimidation in the valley since 1984. These include:

- Promises by the National Transport Commission to restore the valley and remove thousands of tons of fill dumped into the river were not kept;
- The Council for the Environment was initially intimidated into not taking action, with the chairman saying "I can't do anything, it's P W's baby";
- People serving on the Kaaimanskloof Action Committee or assisting it were professionally intimidated;
- A design engineer working for the National Transport Commission who objected to being ordered to build the road through the sensitive area was summarily dismissed from the project;
- A television producer who made a film about the issue for SABC's 50-50 was hauled over the coals and banned from giving further coverage to



MORNING BEAUTY: The Kaaimans River mouth at sunrise ... skiboaters are now allowed to use the sensitive estuary.

Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

"gagged" from reporting the issue:

- Title deeds giving the public the right to use part of the Kaaimans estuary as a public outspan were "arbitrarily held in contempt";
- Centuries-old milkwood trees were chopped down in the public outspan to create access for the skiboaters; and
- After "clandestine negotiations", an illegal road across the beach was constructed by the NTC to allow the skiboaters access to the sea.

This road was subsequently removed after objections, but a new application to reinstate it has been made.

Mrs Lillienfeld said Mr Botha gave a written instruction to Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of the Cape's Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation, to issue a temporary permit to the George Ski-boat Club to allow it to use the estuary.

"Dr Neethling requested me in a stormy telephone conversation to 'take your complaint back to the Council for the Environment, because, madam, I am sitting with a written instruction from P W to

ronment, I was informed that the council opted not to deal with the matter.

"I have already stuck my neck out too far" were his words to me," Mrs Lillienfeld said.

(The Council for the Environment subsequently did become involved, although the temporary permit to the ski-boat club has been renewed annually.)

Mrs Lillienfeld said in her submission that an official of one of the government conservation departments had acknowledged to her that they had, for some time, "baldly acted as a front to keep me quiet while the malpractices were perpetrated".

She said the new road had been forced on them "in the crudest and most damaging and insulting manner ...

"It was a bewildering experience to suddenly oppose the mighty State machinery riddled with secrecy, power and fronts behind which malpractices were perpetrated, with explanations of 'it's a sensitive matter and we can't discuss it'".

Mr Justice Van der Walt confirmed that he had

'Powerboats must be kept from Kaaimans estuary'

Environment Reporter

REPRESENTATIONS to keep powerboats out of the Kaaimans estuary near the Wilderness have been noted by the Council for the Environment, chairman Professor Roelf Botha said.

He was reacting to a submission to the Ombudsman by Kaaimanskloof property owner Mrs Marie Lillienfeld, former chairman of the now-disbanded Kaaimanskloof Action Committee.

Professor Botha said he wanted to restate precisely the council's position on the issue.

The council had from the outset been opposed to the construction of the new N2 through the kloof. "Our position was that a suitable route over the plateau (behind the kloof) was already available," he said.

When it appeared a decision had already been taken to build the road through the kloof, the council recommended that an environmental impact study be done and landscape architects appointed for rehabilitation work, to ensure that environmental damage and visual impact were minimised.

"This was in fact done," Professor Botha said. There had already been talk at that stage of providing an access road for power boats in the Kaaimans estuary, and the council had been strongly opposed to this — "because it was unacceptable from an environmental point of view."

"Especially now that there is again consideration being given to the building of a road to make the estuary accessible for power boats, we repeat our standpoint: the use of the Kaaimans estuary for power boats is totally undesirable and a ban on facilities for them should remain."

The council had taken note of allegations of political pressure applied at the time of the upgrading of the road through Kaaimanskloof, Professor Botha said.

"The council did not interfere in the decision-making process because it was not its function, and the council distances itself from any accusations in this regard."

● Asked whether he wanted to comment on Mrs Lillienfeld's submission, Dr Johan Neethling of the

Faecal ⁽⁵⁶⁾ pollution ^{20/2/92} 'too high'

Political Staff

FAECAL pollution exceeded European Community levels "on occasions" at different Peninsula beaches, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said yesterday.

This was in Hout Bay, Mouille Point, Rocklands, Three Anchor Bay and at some sites in False Bay (mainly in the winter), he said.

However, faecal coliform levels at most sites in the Cape Peninsula complied with EEC bathing water standards, he said, in reply to questions tabled in Parliament by Mr Colin Eglin (DP Sea Point).

"Faecal contamination has the potential to impact on human health in most areas, at times," Mr Pienaar said.

He added that comprehensive information was obtainable from his department.

Faecal coliform measurements were made at 55 sites every two weeks in sea water around Cape Peninsula between Milnerton and Monwabisi.

Mr Pienaar also said heavy metal concentrations in black mussels were "in most cases" below those set internationally for human consumption.

Radioactivity levels in the sea water were "well within internationally acceptable limits".

"None of the monitored pollution levels pose a threat to marine life".

Heavy metals in black mussels had been monitored every six months since 1985 at 30 positions between Bloubergstrand and Pringle Bay. Radioactivity in sea water had been monitored weekly in sea water at Silverstroom Strand and Melkbos and quarterly in biota since 1980 at Yzerfontein, Dassen Island and Melkbos, Mr Pienaar said.

On the trail of litterbugs

THE public use of hiking trails and nature walks in the Cape has risen sharply in recent years — but so has vandalism and littering. (56)

According to the annual report of the National Hiking Way Board, tabled in Parliament yesterday, vandalism and littering are becoming a problem on trails in the Western Cape, Southern Cape and Tsitsikama Forest regions.

The report noted that where possible, accounts for damage were sent to the persons responsible. © 20/2/92

In the Southern Cape forest region, several groups were losing their way, placing a heavy burden on foresters after working hours.

In the Tsitsikama Forest, several hikers with injuries had had to be helped.

Thor asked to end pollution

CAPE TOWN — Thor Chemicals SA had been asked to stop producing mercury effluent to end pollution of the Mngewini River in the Natal Midlands, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Gen Magnus Malan said yesterday.

The company had complied with departmental instructions to end the pollution, he said in reply to a question by Mike Tarr (DP Maritzburg North).

Thor Chemicals SA (Pty) Ltd had also been asked to obtain the services of a recognised consultant to determine the cause of the pollution and advise on measures to prevent a recurrence, he said in reply to another question by Wessel Nel (DP Mooi River).

Trade and Industry Minister Derek Keys said two permits allowing the im-

port of mercury bearing substances had been issued to the company.

Replying to a question by Rob Haswell (DP Maritzburg South), Keys said the Department of Trade and Industry could not confirm if the permits had been used.

Malan said it had been decided not to take legal steps against the company because of its positive response to departmental instructions. "I wish to stress, however, that should the situation deteriorate in future, legal steps can still be taken."

It was being monitored constantly and, so far, the concentration of mercury downstream of the factory was well within the accepted standards for drinking water. The water was "safe for human consumption and other domestic uses".

The request to end production of mercurial effluent had obviated the need for evaporation dams.

Thor Chemicals SA had lined all evaporation dams for mercury effluent disposal, improved housekeeping to prevent ground and surface water contamination and closed off the leach pad, previously a major cause of pollution.

Contaminated process wash and rain water held in the containment area were now being force-evaporated through a steam process, he said.

The company had also been authorised to irrigate mercury effluent under strict conditions.

These included pre-treatment to a mercury limit well within the general standard and control of the irrigation to prevent any more groundwater pollution. — Sapa.

Thor asked to end pollution

CAPE TOWN

Thor Chemicals SA had been asked to stop producing mercury effluent to end pollution of the Mngewini River in the Natal Midlands, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Gen Magnus Malan said yesterday.

The company had complied with departmental instructions to end the pollution, he said in reply to a question by Mike Tarr (DP Maritzburg North).

Thor Chemicals SA (Pty) Ltd had also been asked to obtain the services of a recognised consultant to determine the cause of the pollution and advise on measures to prevent a recurrence, he said in reply to another question by Wessel Nel (DP Mooi River).

Trade and Industry Minister Derek Keys said two permits allowing the im-

port of mercury bearing substances had been issued to the company.

Replying to a question by Rob Haswell (DP Maritzburg South), Keys said the Department of Trade and Industry could not confirm if the permits had been used.

Malan said it had been decided not to take legal steps against the company because of its positive response to departmental instructions. "I wish to stress, however, that should the situation deteriorate in future, legal steps can still be taken."

It was being monitored constantly and, so far, the concentration of mercury downstream of the factory was well within the accepted standards for drinking water. The water was "safe for human consumption and other domestic uses".

The request to end production of mercurial effluent had obviated the need for evaporation dams.

Thor Chemicals SA had lined all evaporation dams for mercury effluent disposal, improved housekeeping to prevent ground and surface water contamination and closed off the leach pad, previously a major cause of pollution.

Contaminated process wash and rain water held in the containment area were now being force-evaporated through a steam process, he said.

The company had also been authorised to irrigate mercury effluent under strict conditions.

These included pre-treatment to a mercury limit well within the general standard and control of the irrigation to prevent any more groundwater pollution. — Sapa.

hou
S
Glo
hou
Mrs
in o
TY
of fd
Po
a pa
"Zukl
the h
An
shoul
gean
Clarer
611

Fire ravages bush

Staff Reporter (56) OCT 21 1942

A SECOND raging bush fire within a week has destroyed 100 hectares of fynbos and rooikrans near Cape Hangklip.

At 2.30pm yesterday staff of the Overberg Regional Services Council were sent to fight the blaze, which started near a powerboat slipway between Cape Hangklip and Betty's Bay. It was out by 10.30am.

● On Tuesday firemen and navy personnel put out a fire between Cape Hangklip and Pringle Bay.

Next sea water ⁽⁵⁶⁾ report in April

Staff Reporter

CITY ENGINEER Mr Arthur Clayton said yesterday that the next report on sea water quality was due before the city council in April.

In the summer months, the water quality at all the bathing beaches was well within the guideline levels, with the possible exception of Three Anchor Bay.

On the False Bay coastline, pollution levels had in the past exceeded the guideline level at the Mitchells Plain treated sewage outlet, but Mr Clayton was confident that the next report would show an improvement. New settling ponds had been commissioned there.

Serina 'yet to apply' to mine kaolin

(56)
CT21/2/92

Staff Reporter

KAOLIN mining company Serina was unaware yesterday it had to obtain permission from the Regional Services Council before starting its controversial operations.

The latest stumbling block in the mining company's bid to unearth 3,2 million tons of high grade kaolin ore, worth about R1 000 million, on the slopes of Chapman's Peak was revealed to the company yesterday by the Cape Times.

The mining site is zoned as "rural" under the RSC local land use planning ordinance, which only permits mining operations "conditionally".

Sources at the RSC say an application to mine the site has yet to be made by Serina.

They said it was a "sensitive issue" and applications for mining were taken on merit, taking into account local resident approval or opposition.

Serina chairman Mr Bill Pavard said yesterday Chapman's Peak was "earmarked for kaolin mining and we do not know of any other act which changes that. But we are open to correction".

He added: "If we have to, we will get permission."

Mr Ian Brownlie, spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, said the group had been aware of the RSC proviso for "some months".

UCT prof quits nature group

5b 21/2/92
Staff Reporter

UNIVERSITY of Cape Town botany Professor Eugene Moll resigned yesterday from a Peninsula environmental advisory group because they had "no scientifically-based management plan" for the area.

Resigning from the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee, he called for the establishment of an independent, publicly-accountable committee with executive powers.

AN IDEAL FUTURE COMMUNITY

THIS title of talk to be given by Paul Cohen at the Zikhithisani Community Programmes Forum, on February 21 at 5pm, at the YMCA in Rissik Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg.

Communities are plagued by many ills such as air and river pollution, crime, violence and child abuse. The Zikhithisani Community Programmes will be holding open forums for non-governmental organisations every two months, looking at ways of eliminating these problems. A forum for African Voluntary Development Organisations (Favdi) will be held on March 20. How to mobilise and unite NGOs in southern Africa.

For more details call B Mfetyana, programmes manager at (011) 403-3243/4.

Moving towards an

RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

AN afternoon seminar, presented by the Operations Research Society and Decision Support Services Programme at the CSIR, will be held on February 25. The cost is R50.

Speakers include Dr Faan Pretorius, of the Industrial Health Department of NCP, who will talk about the toxicological impacts of gaseous releases during normal plant operations; and Dr Louise Botha, senior manager of Urban Social Development of the

PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSES

South African Housing Trust, who will discuss socio-psychological perceptions of risk, with specific reference to the nuclear industry. Contact: Mrla Grange or Miss Meyer at (012) 841-4716 or 841-3713.

PERMACULTURE offers solutions to housing, community design, land use and distribution, economic deprivation and environmental degradation. The courses are being organised to meet the demand for formal training and will be held at the

UNC

Cam 1 to 1 Th Redu able, Fo Lake

THE Group for Environmental Monitoring (Gem) and the Natal Rural Forum (NRF) are organising a

lands in 1990. The remaining third of the income was returned to BNPP for the maintenance costs. The Bakgalla have also been allocated 10 percent of gate money from Piliamburg Park.

The BNPP hopes that financial kickbacks from its current approach to conservation will overcome the debt to the past and produce tangible long-term benefits for the local communities.

In many cases it is already a better economic proposition to maintain

AN IDEAL FUTURE COMMUNITY

The title is given by Paul Coker, at the Community Programmes Forum, on Tuesday 14 March, at the YMCA in Risik Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg.

Communities are plagued by many ills such as air and river pollution, crime, violence and child abuse. The Zikhuhlezi Community Programmes will be holding open forums for non-governmental organisations every two months, looking at ways of eliminating these problems. A forum for African Voluntary Development Organisations (Favd) will be held on March 20. How to mobilise and unite NGOs in southern Africa.

For more details call H. B. Mfanyana, programmes manager at (011) 412-2434.

Moving towards an ideal community

RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

AN afternoon seminar, presented by the Operations Research Society and Decision Support Services Programme at the CSIR, will be held on February 25. The cost is R50.

Speakers include Dr Faan Pretorius, of the Industrial Health Department of NCP, who will talk about the toxicological impacts of gaseous releases during normal plant operations; and Dr Louise Botha, senior manager of Urban Social Development of the

South African Housing Trust, who will discuss socio-psychological perceptions of risk, with specific reference to the nuclear industry. Contact: Mr la Grange or Miss Meyer at (012) 841-4716 or 841-3713.

PERMACULTURE DESIGN COURSES
PERMACULTURE offers solutions to housing, community design, land use and distribution, economic deprivation and environmental degradation. Two design courses are being organised to meet the demand for formal training, and will be held at the

Campbell Village Alpha in Malmesbury from March 1 to 14 and from March 20 to April 2. The cost, including board and lodging is R1 000. Reduced rates for campers and commuters are available, as well as subsidies for deserving delegates. For further information, phone Julia Wilson or Lori Lake at (0225) 22345.

UNCED AND SOUTH AFRICAN NGOS
The Group for Environmental Monitoring (Gem) and the Natal Rural Forum are organising a

workshop for developmental and environmental organisations in Durban from February 28 to March 1. The aim is to discuss a South African position on the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in June, and to find ways of co-operating on issues in the future. To find out more contact Gem at (011) 838-544 or NRF at (031) 324210.



Whitewash?

W/maad 21/2-27/2/92

From PAGE 19

56

to clean up the cloud over Modderfontein caused by the ammonium plant cost R7-million.

"In the present economic climate," says Fogel, "the emphasis is on repairing rather than expanding; on living with what you have and continually monitoring existing plants."

At an international conference held in Prague last year, where the theme was "Clean production — its opportunities and challenges", delegates identified a far-ranging set of challenges.

"Industrial enterprises face major challenges in re-orienting industrial practices away from waste incentive, environmentally damaging technologies and products, towards clean production."

The other challenge to industry was the aggressive development and marketing of environmentally friendly products.

Industry also bears some responsibility for changing consumer trends from a replace to a repair tack. Delegates at the conference said manufacturers could introduce leasing agreements for durable goods and upgrade their repair services.

Any measures undertaken by industry have to be supported by innovative initiatives by government. The first priority would be regulations which set a timetable for industries to reduce their emission to standards set for all industries. Laws to regulate the use of certain materials and the introduction of product liability, for example, taxing goods which produce non-recyclable waste.

Another suggestion is for environmental departments to institute a pollution prevention inspectorate to police industries.

Other simple suggestions for government are:

● Local recycling schemes

● Negotiate longer warranty periods for consumers and to establish the viability of re-manufacturing industry, especially with cars.

Punitive taxes were also suggested by the conference: "Governments should introduce tax structures which penalise the use of non-renewable materials and resources, industrial emissions and products which result in a high level of post-consumer waste."

But delegates also felt fiscal measures need not only be punitive: subsidies and low interest loans for industries and companies which develop proven clean methods of production were also mooted.

Consumer activism is crucial for the success of clean production technologies. They suggested the more conventional green activities like participating in recycling schemes, supporting environmentally friendly products with their buying power and demanding longer warranties on goods.

The conference also challenged consumer organisations to demand waste minimisation audits as well as to carry out company assessments for consumers.

South African industry has to come a long way before it emulates these stringent standards. But there are signs that managers and directors are moving in this direction — and a major reason is clean production can be profitable.

The steel industry is notorious for a high degree of waste and emissions, much of which has been in water pollution. But according to Alex Holmes, the Iron and Steel Corporation's Environmental Affairs manager, the industry is well aware of the problem.

A new iron-making process and the establishment of a multi-million rand waste recycling plant are among Iscor's plans.

Holmes says there are problems in the metallurgical processes of recycling but that these will be ironed out by the end of the year by a special working group. The same group is looking for markets for the recycled material.

"Already, Iscor is benefitting from the money value of the waste," says Holmes. The slag from the blast furnaces is sold to cement manufacturers to produce "slagment" used in the same way of cement. Slagment was used in the Mossgas project.

Bleaching processes during paper production release many dangerous effluents. But Sappi, one of the largest paper companies in southern Africa, claims a leadership position in the research and development of technology to reduce the use of chlorine in paper production, according to environmental manager Paul de Bruyn.

Most paper producers have also introduced oxygen bleaching and it "has become mandatory in view of its environmental friendliness".

Fruit farmers are also actively pursuing ways of reducing the use of pesticides. According to the Citrus Exchange, biological methods of pest control will replace chemical pesticides as the major method of pest management.

Clean-up or

If any industry has earned the wrath of the green movement for environmental damage, it has been the chemical industry. That chemicals for mercury poisoning, Chronic Chemicals for the chronic poisoning of workers and the community and vanadium plants in the eastern Transvaal have all hit the headlines recently.

But more and more of South Africa's biggest and dirtiest industries, especially in the chemical industry, are apparently switching to clean production technologies for an image that is good, clean and fresh.

Dr Bob Fogel, in charge of AECI's environmental affairs, says the chemical industry has spent R5-million on preventive clean technology in the past few years.

"Clean technology" has come down the track, says Fogel. He points out that South Africa's chemical industries import technology and technical expertise and that these are built to "environmental standards higher than ours".

He says, for example, that amounts of sulphuric and nitric acid released into the atmosphere through chemical processes was five percent 30 years ago. With technological developments, that amount is now 0.1 percent.

But not everybody is convinced that local industry is doing enough to clean up its act.

David Cooper, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring (Gem), warns against leaving industry to do their own dirty washing. "By advertising their efforts at pollution control they are saying, 'don't worry we have it under control', but they don't," he says.

According to Cooper, a major problem is industry's environmental campaigns have, thus far, concentrated on producing green products for consumers and this does not necessarily include reduction of toxic effluents in the production process.

"Clean production goes beyond producing environmentally friendly goods," he says. "Industries are advertising green products without telling consumers about the complexities of the issues around reducing waste."

Green products can frequently involve the creation of dangerous effluents, he adds. Fogel is aware of innovations that prevent industry from looking like it's just been washed with Clorox.

He says recessionary times may retard the movement to clean technologies. There is no increase in the demand for chemicals at the moment and it would be too expensive to over-haul industries completely.

Fogel says installing a new chlorine plant, for instance, will cost in the region of R300 million. The new producers and scrubbers used

Good, clean and well, how fresh?

W/maad 21/2-27/2/92

BY PAUL STÖBER AND FERRAL MAFPAJEE

To PAGE 20

Recycling: Emptying rivers with a teaspoon

By JUSTIN GEORGE

As households trash more paper, plastic, metal, wood, garden refuse and kitchen waste, so landfill sites begin to fill up. And the costs of transporting trash to new landfill sites can cost upwards of R15-million — a cost the ratepayers will ultimately have to bear.

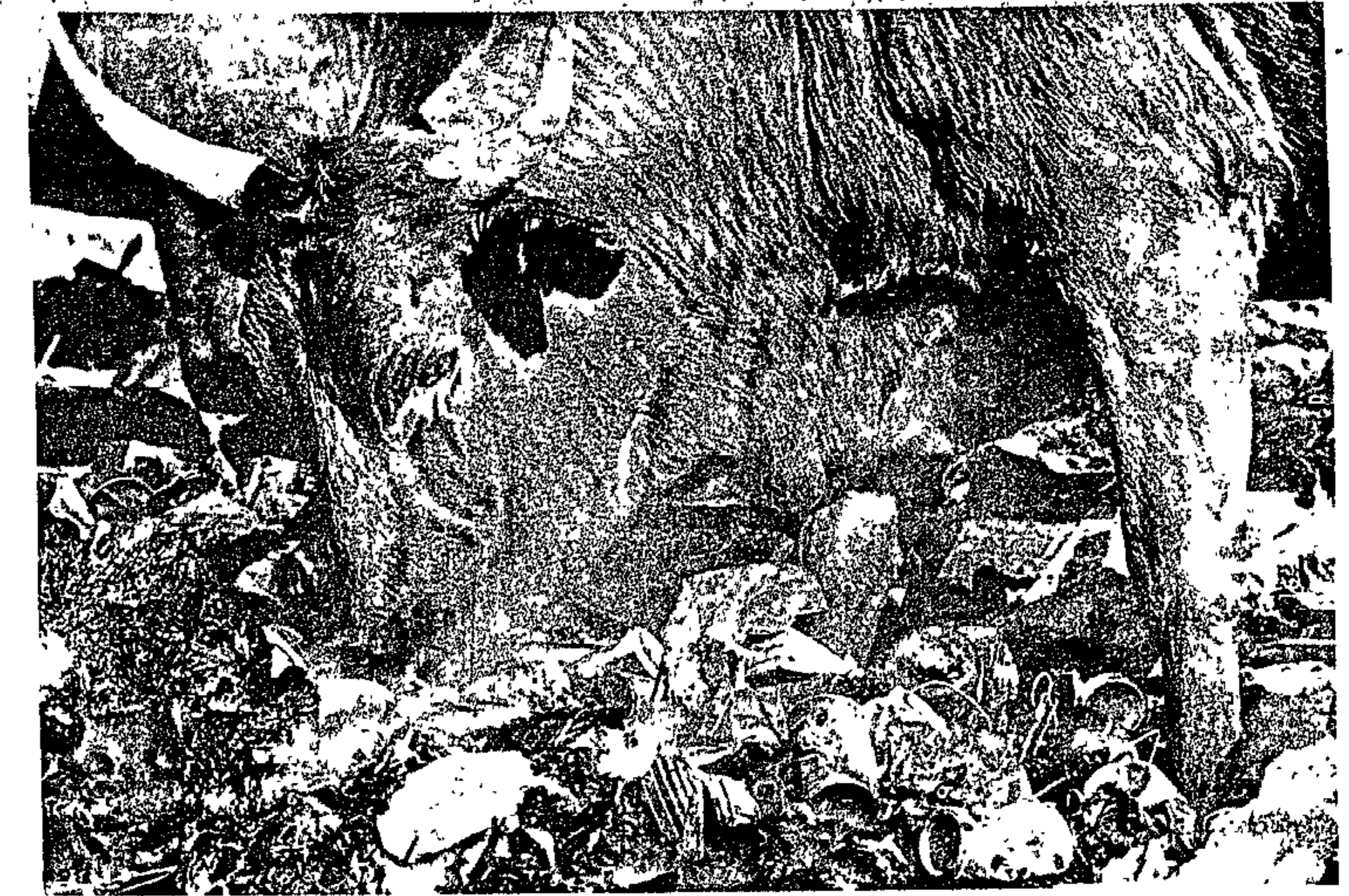
To the north and north-west of Johannesburg, the ratepayers of Randburg and Sandton don't want foul smelling landfills near their homes, so municipalities are moving their dumps far from the suburbs, into the open countryside, where they contaminate the soil, foul the air and poison borehole water, rivers and dams. However, high land prices, rising transport costs, ratepayer resistance to constantly rising rates and the spread of suburbs into country areas means putting landfill sites in "out-of-town" areas is rapidly disappearing as an option.

At the Kya Sands garbage dump near North Riding, a private company has set itself the task of recycling more than half the household waste generated by the residents of Randburg and Sandton.

The pollution caused by landfills is so serious that legislation to prevent contamination of surrounding soil and underground water has had to be introduced. Cleaning up landfill pollution is expensive, as the West Germans have found.

"South Africa is now doing what West Germany did after World War II," says John Des Ligneris, managing director of Resource Recycling, the company recycling Randburg's Kya Sands dump. "Now the Germans are faced with the costly consequences of choosing the landfills as a cheap way of dealing with trash.

"The Germans now have to trench round their landfills, often to a depth of 40 metres, and isolate them with double casing concrete, to stop contamination of soil and water, a very



Recycling is a viable alternative to landfills

costly operation. Sometimes the entire landfill has to be dug up. South African ratepayers will face similar costs in the future, when there is a greater degree of environmental awareness, and once environmental pressure groups start objecting to the pollution generated by landfills."

The best option, says Des Ligneris, is recycling, because it will ensure that only neutral materials are dumped into landfills.

He believes his company will be able to recycle considerably more than 50 percent of the Kya Sands household waste. Metals, plastics, building rubble, paper and glass (the "dry" recyclables) can all be recycled many times over.

"Paper has a limited recycling life, but high quality waste paper can be

used to make printing and writing pad paper," he says. "Poorer quality waste paper, and paper which has already been recycled, can be recycled into cardboard packaging and toilet paper.

"The recycling life of plastics is much greater than paper. Plastics can be used into packaging, containers, furniture and building materials," says Des Ligneris.

"Bricks and concrete made of sand and stone produced from recycled building rubble meet South African Bureau of Standards specifications. 'Wet' wastes like garden and kitchen refuse are recycled into compost used by nurseries and suburban gardeners."

Advantages of recycling household wastes are many. First, the landfills don't fill up as rapidly as before, so their life is extended. The result is a

reduction in the refuse removal costs that have to be borne by the ratepayer. No less important is a cleaner environment: materials that used to leach into soils and underground water supplies are converted into new raw materials, and directed back into the production process. Organic wastes from kitchens and gardens will no longer foul the surrounding air.

Recycled raw materials like glass, plastic and metal produce considerable savings for industry, and thereby cheaper products. When aluminium is produced from bauxite ore, 20 times more energy is required than when recycled aluminium is used. Recycled steel requires a third as much energy as steel produced from iron ore.

In the US and Europe, some power generation companies have argued

that it would be more economical to use household waste as a fuel to generate electricity. Some South African municipalities seem to be thinking along similar lines.

However, burning these wastes releases toxic gases and heavy metals into the air that can cause cancer and respiratory ailments. A US study has shown that if 2 250 tons of waste were burnt every day, the incinerators would emit five tons of lead every year.

Recycling is not new in South Africa, but still consists largely of what Des Ligneris calls "scavenging the eyes of the waste stream", while 95 percent of the waste is ignored.

Tackling the growing mountain of waste in this way is rather like trying to empty a river with a teaspoon.

Photo: KEVIN CARTER

Winning hearts and minds for conservation

STAR 22/2/92
STAR 22/2/92 (56)

By giving local villagers a direct financial stake, a new 'people-friendly' game park aims to reduce poaching. JULIENNE DU TOIT reports.

CHIEF Victor Suping knows a money-spinner when he sees one. His village, Supingstad, in Bophuthatswana, is right next to the newly proclaimed 75 000 ha Madikwe reserve, which is set to become the fourth biggest reserve in South Africa.

And it will be the biggest park to be "people-friendly" in a significant way. "Initially when the parks board people came along, we were against the idea," Mr Suping said.

"But we have already benefited from the park, because my people have been allowed to remove and keep the internal fencing."

He pointed out that the villages around the Pilanesberg game reserve had achieved a far higher standard of living since the park came into operation. And villagers had already expressed their satisfaction that jobs would be available close to home.

Apart from the job opportunities, there will be direct cash or other benefits for the villages of Molatedi and Supingstad, which are the only ones on the park's borders.

The exact benefits still have to be decided upon by the villages and the Bophuthatswana National Parks Board (BNPB), but are likely to include a percentage of entrance fees and hunting rights.

White farmers bought out

This method of "people-friendly conservation" has dramatically cut down poaching in places like Namibia's Kaokoveld and the Phinda Resource Reserve in northern Natal.

Communities will also be allowed to collect thatching grass and wood as the bush is cleared.

The Madikwe park, close to Zeerust and about 3½ hours' drive from Johannesburg, used to be a white cattle-farming area.

The farmers were bought out by the Bophuthatswana government some time ago in order to consolidate and join

the Lehurutshe and Madikwe areas.

The decision on what to do with the land was made after several studies had been conducted. Cattle farming was a tricky option because of the sporadic rainfall.

But the one factor that swayed the Bophuthatswana Ministers was employment — cattle farming in the area would generate only 80 jobs but the tourist industry 1 200.

Farmworkers who used to work in the area were earning between R50 and R150 a month. BNPB's minimum wage is R700, and any private developer that built lodges in Madikwe would be obliged to pay workers no less than this, said BNPB chief Roger Collinson.

No one had been displaced from the park except former farm labourers, who had no leasehold, and these would be given preference when recruitment began, said Mr Collinson.

The farmers who had leasehold farms in the park would be given land elsewhere, and according to Mr Collinson, are happy with the arrangement.

The park will be divided into two sections. On the northern side of the Dwarsberge, exclusive luxury Londolosi-style lodges will be built, with guests being taken out on track roads in four-wheel-drive vehicles.

This section will be stocked with all the "big and hairies", such as lion, leopard, elephant and rhino.

On the Molatedi Dam in the south, a Sun City-style resort will be developed with facilities for watersports, camping and caravanning.

This section will be stocked with game that does not go bite in the night.

The park is due to be opened in 1994, but work is going so well that it may open before then, says BNPB spokesman Rick Matthews.

Some structures already on the park grounds, such as the historic mission station and some farm homesteads, will be preserved and used as education centres and hunting lodges.

All-night battle to clean up spill

ARG 22/2/92
Weekend Argus Correspondent

(66)

JOHANNESBURG. — The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry worked through the night to clean up a chemical spill into the Wilge River near Delmas.

A spokesman from Spoornet's Southern Transvaal region said yesterday the black liquor — an alkaline waste product of wood processing — had been contained by two walls, but it was not certain the extent of the environmental damage.

She said the chemical was likely to inflict a certain amount of damage to the ecology because it would upset the pH balance of the river and black liquor absorbed oxygen required by the aquatic life.

Department of Water Affairs officials could not be contacted as they were still at the spill.

A Sappi spokesman said the 180 000 litres of black liquor were being transported from Ngodwana in the Eastern Transvaal to the Sappi mill in Tugela, when the train carrying the chemical derailed.

Twenty-one trucks, including five tankers carrying the chemicals, had derailed causing the bridge over the Wilge River to collapse.

CP JOINS DP IN BID TO HALT ST LUCIA MINE

THE Conservative and Democratic parties will join forces in support of privately introduced legislation aimed at preventing international conglomerate Richards Bay Minerals from mining at Lake St Lucia.

This follows Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar's rejection this week of conservationists' demands for the tabling of a Wetlands Protection Bill, which would have empowered the state to stop mining.

In terms of existing law, nothing — not even the outcome of a current environmental impact study — can stop RBM from mining St Lucia's eastern shores.

South Africa's environmental lobby has been shocked by Mr Pienaar's action, which came in the face of a 300 000-signature petition and growing world concern at the threat to the unique sanctuary.

The lobby was also dismayed because the minister failed to indicate that he would initiate the wetlands monitoring procedure now that St Lucia has been put on the endangered list by Ramsar, the international wetlands convention to which the South African government is a signatory.

Concern

Mr Pienaar said adequate legislation existed to allow the matter of St Lucia mining to be dealt with on merit. But conservationists and concerned CP and DP MPs dispute this.

The chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia, Mr Oliff D'Oliveira, immediately faxed the minister a letter advising him that both opposition parties in the House of Assembly would be approached to table the proposed Wetlands Conservation Act in the current session.

Senior CP and DP sources said although the matter would have to formally go before their respective caucuses, it was virtually certain that both parties would support a private member's motion tabling the proposed bill, which would effectively allow for the prevention of mining at St Lucia.

By ROY RUDDEN

The CP's Mr Joseph Chiole said: "We must entrench in this battle on behalf of South Africa."

He said it was increasingly apparent that South African authorities were not paying enough attention to environmental dangers, which "transcended" party political concerns.

The DP's Mr Rob Hasswell said the government was "not honouring" its international obligations.

In his letter, Mr D'Oliveira said Mr Pienaar's refusal to table the Act "leaves us in shock ... you must be aware that in terms of existing legislation the mining lease in respect of the eastern shores of the Ramsar site of St Lucia must be granted, unless you take the firm steps we have proposed".

Granny's jackpot

By ROSEMARY BROWN

WILHELMINA SMIT wept tears of joy when she won R20 000 in the Red Cross scratchcard game this week. "I was crying because I needed the money so much," she said.

The 42-year-old grandmother from Silverton, Pretoria, was divorced 14 years ago and lives with her daughter in a bachelor flat. Now she can afford to rent her own accommodation.

She says she is sometimes lucky at the Carousel and has won R1 000 and R400 before, but "never as much as this". Mrs Smit runs a franchise selling overalls in Pretoria.

**ANGRY PROTESTERS GEAR UP AS
MINERS PREPARE TO CLEAR SITE**

D-day in battle to halt mine on Peak

S/Times (cm) 23/2/92

56

THE battle for Chapman's Peak is set to begin in earnest this week when labourers start to clear a two-metre ribbon of fynbos and alien scrub to fence off the 26ha site of a proposed open-cast kaolin mine.

The move has been slammed by the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group (SCPAG) which has threatened to apply to the Supreme Court for an interdict to stop the mining company, Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd, from even moving workers onto the site.

SCPAG spokesman Mr Ian Browlie has warned that a 24-hour watch had been mounted to alert "cells" of protesters to swing into action the moment the miners set foot on the site.

"The campaign to stop mining will be like nothing ever seen in South Africa before," he has said. "We intend to form a human chain of activists linking arms to prevent

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

trucks driving into the area, a vehicle barricade of the access roads and groups of people chaining themselves to trees supported by first aid teams and caterers providing refreshment.

"We are not a scraggly band of people who will disappear overnight. We are deadly serious. Chapman's Peak must never be mined!"

Mr Jeremy Wiley, son of former Environment Minister Mr John Wiley, whose De Goede Hoop Development Company owns the land on which the mine is to be dug, confirmed that Serina has told him of its intention to begin fencing off the area.

He said: "We are legally bound to allow Serina access to the site but that does not mean we have given up our search for a legal means to stop the mining."

The proposed kaolin mine has enraged Noordhoek residents, Cape tourism officials and environmentalists, who say it represents the "rape" of one of the most picturesque valleys in the Cape Peninsula.

Their protest has been backed by British millionaire Mr John Aspinall, who owns the Noordhoek Manor House overlooking the site.

Mr Aspinall has rallied support from international businessmen, Mr Kerry Packer, Sir James Goldsmith and newspaper baron, Mr Conrad Black — all of whom have been his guests at the Noordhoek mansion.

The proposed mine was recently the subject of a heated debate in Parliament, when Democratic Party and Conservative Party MPs joined forces to tear into the government for "this madness".

Conform

In spite of the protests, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr George Bartlett, said mining would go ahead, but "under stringent conditions"

On Friday Mr Browlie said

he was surprised that Serina had decided to begin fencing. "My understanding of the Minerals Act (Act No. 50 of 1991) is that nothing relating to mining can begin until a rehabilitation permit has been granted. As far as I know Serina does not yet have that permit and will therefore be acting illegally by fencing off the site.

"We will try to stop them with a Supreme Court interdict," he said.

However Serina Executive Director, Mr Andre Viljoen, said his company "is acting well within its legal rights and has every intention of mining".

Gain

He pointed out that Serina was bound to conform to stringent conditions relating to the rehabilitation of the site. In terms of the Act mining company officials can be jailed for ignoring conditions of rehabilitation set out in permits required for mining.

This week, for the first time since the controversy over the mine began, the consulting engineering company which last year undertook the environmental impact study (EIS) of the site has defended its report.

Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten project co-ordinator Ms Mary-Jane Muller said attempts to discount her EIS as biased and 'in-house' and compiled to appease a client — as alleged by the SCPAG and other protesters — came from people who had obviously not studied the report in detail.

"An EIS does not dictate what decisions should be taken," she said.

Her company would not risk its integrity or its membership of the South African Association of Consulting Engineers for short-term financial gain merely to satisfy a client.

The EIS is believed to be one of the most comprehensive ever done in SA.

● A spokesman Sanlam this week said that whether to proceed with the mine was solely a Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd management decision which Sanlam did not consider morally wrong.

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A smear campaign is on to counter the Southern African states' attempt to have the moratorium lifted on trade in elephant products, according to South African conservationists.

Reports appeared yesterday in Britain's Independent on Sunday newspaper and the London Sunday Times alleging that the South African Defence Force was acting as a conduit for tusks of elephants shot by Renamo soldiers in Mozambique.

These are old reports, said head of the Endangered Wildlife Trust Dr John Ledger. "I'd be very sceptical about their allegations.

"Anyway, practically all trade in ivory has stopped since the moratorium. It's highly improbable that any organised attempts are going on to smuggle ivory, unless it's to stockpile it in the hopes of the ivory trade resuming.

"But I really doubt it," said Dr Ledger.

He said exactly the same allegations came out just before the last Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in 1989 when the worldwide ban was imposed.

"Possibly some of it is true, but it is three to four years old, and only involved individual members."

A spokesman for the SADF categorically denied any involvement.

Cites is to review the ban in a meeting beginning on March 2. The head of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, Mr Tony Ferrar, is to put the case of local non-governmental organisations to Cites delegates.

Head of the Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU) Major Pieter Lategan said stories such as these often proved to be insubstantial.

Far from turning a blind eye to poaching, as the two London newspapers alleged, the unit would investigate anyone, even up to ministerial level, said Major Lategan.

"I have personally invited Allan Thornton of the Environmental Investigation Agency to join us in investigations, and so far there has been no response."

In 1990, the report said, five tons of ivory was flown to Swaziland and South Africa, which it called a major outlet for poached ivory from all over the continent.

The agency also called Zambia a sanctuary for poachers and accused the Zimbabwe Parks Department of involvement in poaching elephant and rhino in the Gonarehou and Chizarira parks.

British press claims seen as bid to counter SA campaign

SA IVORY 'smear'

AGF 24/2/92

51

Ivory: SA, Zimbabwe armies accused

LONDON. — The armies of South Africa and Zimbabwe are involved in the illegal smuggling of ivory, an environmental group has claimed.

The Environment Investigation Agency, a London-based conservation group, accused the governments of both countries of turning a blind eye to the military's involvement in the ivory trade and elephant slaughter.

A report was released by the group here before delegates to the UN convention are scheduled to meet in Ja-

pan on March 2 to rule on applications from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi and Namibia to lift the protected status of elephants so that the ivory trade can resume.

Britain, France, Germany and Portugal have agreed not to lift the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) ban, but Spain and Belgium have said they will support resumption of the trade.

The six remaining EC countries are undecided.

In the past, the EC has voted at CITES as a block and this represents the first major split.

The EIA report alleges that members of the SADF ran a major ivory smuggling operation out of Angola, and set up another in Mozambique, where they smuggled tusks from elephants shot by Mozambican rebels.

The report also claims soldiers from Zimbabwe's national army killed elephants in their own country and in Mozambique, and murdered several

people including an officer who threatened to expose their activities.

An SADF spokesman said last night that similar allegations were investigated two years ago but no evidence had been found to support them.

A government official, in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, speaking on condition of anonymity, said some soldiers and police had been involved in poaching and smuggling of ivory over the years and had been taken to court.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bl Day 24/2/92

EC to speed up CFC ban

ESTORIL — EC environment ministers backed proposals over the weekend to speed up the phasing out of CFCs and other chemicals that destroy the earth's protective ozone layer. (S) (S) (S)

EC Environment Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana said all 12 ministers had backed a plan for a phasing out the chemicals by the end of 1995.

This is four years earlier than stipulated by the Montreal Protocol and one and a half years earlier than the EC's present internal deadline.

10
11
12
13

Black businessmen to exhibit wares abroad

8/10 days 24/2/92
30/11/80/13/5/1A
WILSON ZWANE

SA's black businessmen will have an opportunity to exhibit their wares in three African countries this year.

Business consultant Willie Ramoshaba said his company, W R Associates, had been co-ordinating trade missions for black businessmen in Africa and abroad for the past five years.

The intention was to broaden their horizons, Ramoshaba said.

The missions had been to the US, the Far East, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Cameroon.

"We are now setting a scene for business dealings between SA's black businessmen and their counterparts in other African countries.

"We have arranged for small- to medium-sized black businesses to

exhibit their goods in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Angola this year."

The first trade show at which the South Africans would exhibit was the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair.

This, he said, was expected to attract 270 000 visitors and 1 250 exhibitors.

Prospective exhibitors should not have qualms about financial support as his company had secured the co-operation of the Trade and Industries Department, he said.

"As a result (of this co-operation) each exhibitor will pay R6 980 instead of the normal cost of R16 000 or more."

Lawyers oppose early releases

GERALD REILL

PRETORIA — The Association of Law Societies has come out strongly against the early release of common law criminals.

In a statement last week association president Ed Southey said sentences imposed by the courts had to be served if respect for the law was to be upheld. 8/10 days

The association shared the concern of judges Didcott and Strydom in deploring the early release of jailed common law criminals.

"The association is sympathetic towards prison authorities and has an understanding for the overcrowding in SA jails." 24/2/92

But, Southey said, time and effort spent by professionals in determining suitable and just sentences were effectively overturned by early releases.

Vegetable milk, straw bricks compete for award

BRICKS made of straw, milk from vegetables and biodegradable oil are just some of the 200 innovations entered in the Audi Innovators for the Environment Programme.

The programme aims to encourage and reward solutions to environmental problems through the R250 000 Terra Nova Awards, which will be presented for the first time on Friday.

One innovator, Len Bes-tele, has devised a way of utilising waste products such as sawdust, maize

8/10 days 24/2/92
LINDEN BIRNS
stalks and straw to produce lightweight bricks and panelling. The system has been used in low-cost housing projects in Mauritius.

Alan Winer developed vegetable milk with the same high-protein content as dairy milk. The vegetable milk does not contain lactose, which can harm malnourished children.

Samples of Winer's milk have been sent to the UN, which is apparently interested in using it in a

Mozambique famine relief programme. (36)

Entrants are not limited to private individuals. Lubricant supplier Castrol has entered an environmentally friendly oil called Biolube 100. This marine engine oil recently won the Pollution Abatement Technology Award.

C G Smith Chemicals has entered a product which it says provides an instant and cost effective clean-up method for polluted rivers and waterways. The company found that hydrogen peroxide countered the ef-

fects of effluent spill quickly and efficiently.

Institute of Inventors and Innovators Research and Development president Donovan Pilkington said it was heartening to see such a wide interest in the programme. Entrants ranged from international firms to schoolchildren.

Scenic protection plan

Environment Reporter

56 APR 28/2/92

THE Cape Town City Council has invited public comment on its proposals to protect the city's eight proclaimed scenic drives.

The drives are Victoria Road, Kloof Road through the Glen, Kloof Road between Bantry Bay and Camps Bay, High Level Road — and Camps Bay, Ocean View, De Waal and Boyes drives.

According to a recent report from the city planner, the drives offer some of the best scenery but, because of weaknesses in zoning regulations, they have been exploited to the detriment of the views.

Copies of this report are available from the enquiries counter, 16th floor, Civic Centre.

Comments should be sent to the town clerk before March 31.

Call for help with Cape coastal plan

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

NEARLY 130 conservation organisations, local authorities and government departments have been asked to help nature conservation officials draw up a coastal conservation plan for the Cape.

Cape Nature Conservation was often asked to make recommendations about coastal developments and although they had no

(56) 19/02/25/plan
decision-making powers, it was considered a vital opportunity to contribute to conservation of the coast, said spokesman Mr Chris Gaigher.

"Advice has of necessity been based on site-specific considerations, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that this ad hoc approach is leading to fragmentation of the coast, unacceptable precedents, and, in gen-

eral, bad development and the loss of conservation management options."

There was widespread knowledge and expertise about the coast and public participation would be an important opportunity to pool this knowledge

Anyone wishing to assist should contact Mr Gaigher or Mr Alan Southwood at 0441-741567/8 by the end of the month.

'Regret' over ecologist's decision to quit committee

Environment Reporter

(5) AUG 26/2/92

THE Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring, has taken note of why UCT ecologist Professor Eugene Moll resigned from his advisory committee on Table Mountain and the rest of the mountain chain.

Professor Moll, who announced his resignation from the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee last week, said the committee was "ineffective" in protecting the Cape's priceless natural heritage.

The professor, who represented the Botanical Society's Flora Conservation Committee, also called on the rest of the committee to resign.

In a statement, Mr Meiring said he had been told of Professor Moll's resignation and had taken note of his reasons. "I accept his decision with regret.



Professor Moll

"Moreover, I infer from Professor Moll's letter that the Botanical Society no longer wishes to participate in the activities of the (advisory) committee. If this is indeed the case, I again have no option but to accept the decision with regret."

Pollution laws 'will come to SA'

B/D ay 26/2/92 (56)

DARIUS SANAI

STRICT pollution regulations and the widespread use of environmental audits are inevitable in SA and firms should gear themselves up for such developments now, say senior environmental lawyers.

The lawyers, speaking at a seminar hosted by Johannesburg law firm Werksmans, said yesterday that last year's far-reaching President's Council report on the environment and the growth in environmental awareness round the world meant strict European-style practices would inevitably be introduced to SA.

This meant "dirtier" SA firms risked hefty fines if they did not clean up their practices. SA firms would also be required to present a "clean" environmental audit to foreign firms if they were competing for tenders, the lawyers predicted.

They said one case had already been reported of an SA firm losing a tender bid to a foreign firm because the SA firm could not offer an environmental audit.

An environmental audit is an assessment of a firm's overall environmental performance conducted by teams of inside and outside assessors.

Environmental audits are used widely by firms in Europe and North America as methods of indicating "greenness" to other firms, environmental groups, customers and regulatory authorities, which often have

strong punitive powers to exercise against offending firms.

Many foreign firms include environmental audits as parts of their tenders, the Werksmans lawyers said.

Wits University law lecturer Joe Campanella told the seminar that any future SA environment law would have to ensure foreign companies operating in SA complied with their parent companies' standards on environmental protection, thus preventing foreign companies from setting up "cheap" subsidiaries in SA.

The liability of companies for environmental pollution had increased dramatically with the 1989 introduction of the Environment Conservation Act, Werksmans lawyer Des Williams said. But laws would have to be tightened further to come into line with regulations introduced in Germany and the US.

A spokesman for Safto said yesterday he did not think stricter pollution regulations would make any difference to potential investors examining SA for investment opportunities.

"Their primary worries are violence, political stability and the political agenda; most firms in Europe already have stricter standards than anything in SA, and would not be affected by a change of environmental laws," he said.

D
K
D
E
P
R
E
S
S



Whether only his Department is involved in the sale of stockpiled crude oil; if not, (a) which other State Departments are involved in it and (b) why are they thus involved?

B183E

†The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

Yes,

(a) and (b) fall away.

Sale of stockpiled crude oil: tenders

*2. Mr P J PALULUS asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

(1) Whether tenders were invited for the sale of stockpiled crude oil; if not, why not; if so (a) how were the prices determined and (b) what are the relevant details;

(2) whether any agents or intermediaries were involved in the transactions in connection with the sale of this crude oil; if so, (a) why and (b) who are these agents or intermediaries? B184E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

(1) No, because the stockpiled crude oil comprises different types of crude oil which are not stored on a segregated basis. This mixture is difficult to market internationally and within the limited South African market it is highly unlikely that favourable prices could be achieved through tender.

(a) and (b) Fall away. It can, however, be mentioned that on grounds of an analysis of the stockpiled crude oil, a price base was negotiated with local refiners; ultimate selling prices were comparable to international market prices.

(2) Yes, for sales to Madagascar,

(a) because they had a supply agreement with Madagascar in 1991; and

(b) The Addax and Oryx Group Ltd.

*3. Mr A J Leon—Justice. [Question standing over.]

National Parks Board of Trustees: appointments

*4. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:†

56

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

†Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask whether the hon the State President exercised any pressure in his personal capacity on the executive of the Natal Parks Board in respect of the appointment of board members and non-Whites to their executive.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I cannot speak on behalf of the hon the State President, but as far as I am concerned—if it were a function I were to perform for him—I can frankly say to the hon member that no pressure whatsoever was exerted on the Parks Board in respect of the appointment of board members during the time that I have been Minister of Environment Affairs.

†Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask him whether any pressure has thus far been exerted by the ANC or whether the Government has entered into any agreement with the ANC to appoint exiles in certain posts. [Interjections.]

†An HON MEMBER: Ah, you are backbiting! †The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I can assure the hon member that there was no such agreement and that no such negotiations occurred.

†An HON MEMBER: Go and say that in your constituency!

†Transed bursaries

*5. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:†

(1) (a) What was the purpose of the institution by Transnet of the Transed bursaries, and (b) when were these bursaries instituted and (c) what are the conditions attached to the granting thereof;

(2) how many Transed bursaries have been granted to (a) Whites and (b) non-Whites for the 1992 study year? B219E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited replied as follows to the hon member's question:

(1) (a) Transed was at a stage only a planning concept to determine needs.

(b) It was never introduced as a bursary scheme.

(c) Falls away.

(2) (a) and (b) Fall away.

†Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I wonder whether he would elaborate for us on a letter dated 20 June 1991, in which the Managing Director of Transnet makes certain recommendations regarding the reasons for Transed bursaries.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the reply which I gave to the hon member states clearly that such bursaries were never awarded, that at one stage, however, thoughts were exchanged and information was gathered on the concept of such a scheme, but that the whole concept was later abandoned and thus never implemented.

†Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, I would like to ask him whether further consideration will be given to awarding Transed bursaries in future in the light of the scenario of the new South Africa proffered by the Managing Director. They say that it must be borne in mind that for bridging purposes with a view to tertiary education these candidates must be employed for a year.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I can reply to questions, but not to speculations. [Interjections.]

Certain person arrested: Wesselon

*6. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was arrested in Wesselon in August 1990 on suspicion of murder; if so, what is his name;

(2) whether any other persons were arrested with him in connection with the above offence; if so,

(3) whether he and the others arrested with him have been released; if so,

(4) whether, at the time of these arrests, the police confiscated any weapons belonging to these persons; if so,

CONF - - - P

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Drinking water 'all clear'

FISH HOEK'S drinking water has been given the "all clear" by the Cape Town City Engineer's department despite repeated claims by residents that the water has tasted strange and in some instances made them ill.

Earlier this year, the water engineer for the council, Mr John Saunders, told the Constantiaberg and False Bay Review that the musty taste and smell in the tapped water was caused by algae in the Theewaterskloof Dam.

He said that was a seasonal problem, and did not render the water toxic in any way and was normally treated with activated carbon. However, as the department was exper-

encing problems with one of the activated carbon plants, the taste had persisted for some time.

Several residents contacted the paper last week complaining of nausea which they felt could be caused by the water. A local doctor confirmed that some patients with stomach complaints had blamed their condition on the drinking water.

Mr Saunders was contacted once again and he said the problem with the algae at the dam had been rectified and should not occur again until the same time next year.

Mr Doug Smit, the Fish Hoek town clerk, said the City Engineer's department had tested the town's water at several points and found it to be clear.

Curb High Cape plans, RSC urges

56

CT 27/2/92

and al-
level-
port,
er of
den-
ting
sive
and
tab-
s of
ads
S
e
r
le-
ear
ing
ric-
0%
of
be-
on
ing
ort
pe
in-
an
of
ad
re-
ort
ld
ng
nt
re
es-
er
ld
02
ls
d

By PETER DENNEHY

NEARLY half of the as-yet-undeveloped High Cape site above De Waal Drive should be left as it is rather than having houses built on it, the Regional Services Council recommended yesterday.

The first 110-unit phase of the upmarket development on the slopes of Devil's Peak on what is known as the old SABC site has already been approved. It is not affected by yesterday's RSC decision.

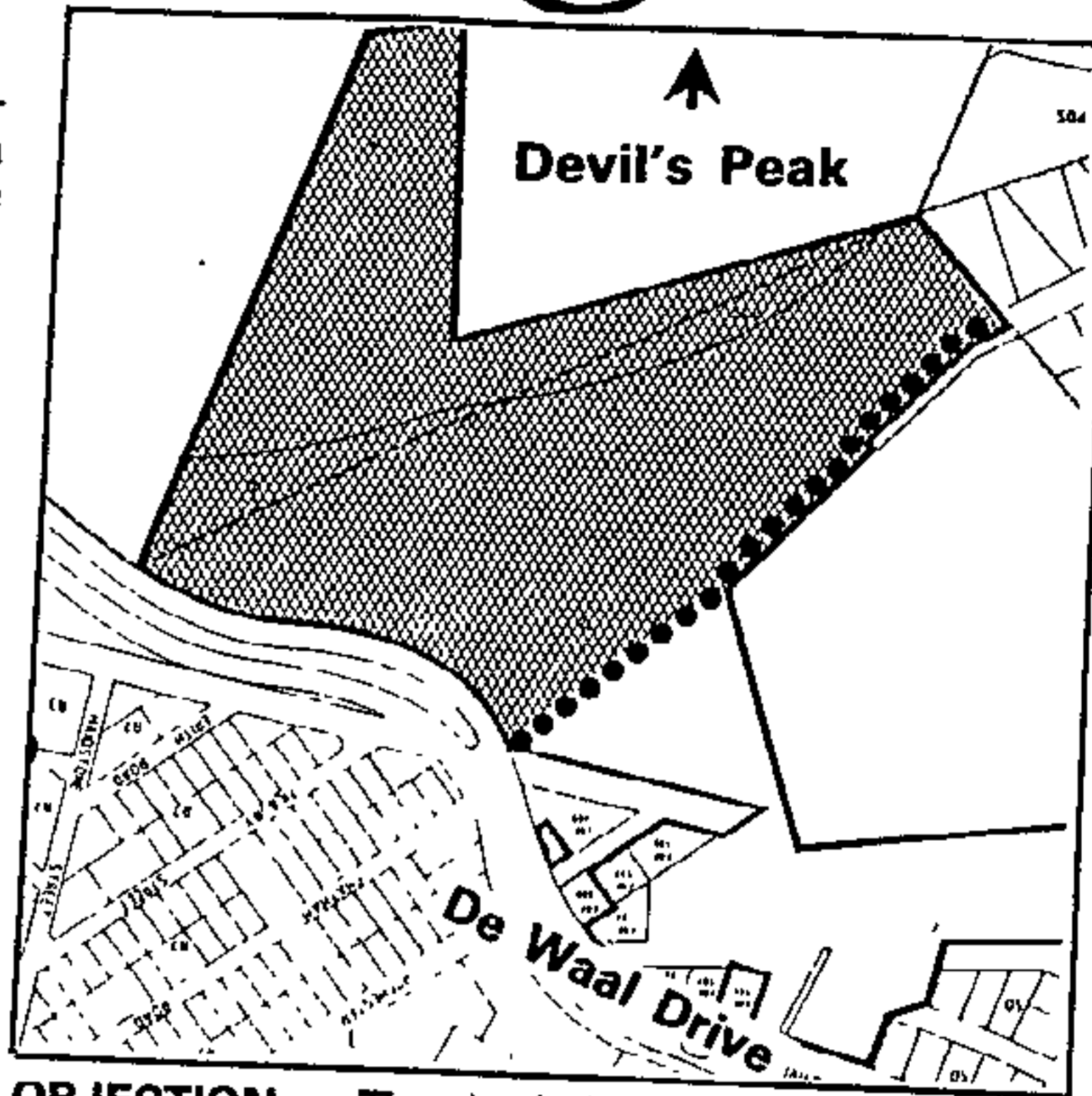
Only the second phase was considered by the RSC yesterday.

The RSC accepted a report from chief executive officer Mr Chris Mocke that said any development on the slopes would be "visually obtrusive" and would "add to the destruction of this amenity (Table Mountain)".

Mr Mocke said the slopes of Devil's Peak were an important recreational facility for residents of the wider metropolitan area. Footpaths leading to various parts of the mountain were in daily use. Development should not impose on this facility.

Part of the proposed development site was already surrounded by development and the RSC could accept that this section should be rezoned to a subdivisional area and then developed.

The RSC was in favour of defining



OBJECTION ... The shaded section is the area that the RSC believes should not be developed.

an "urban edge". Development would not be allowed beyond this as it would be highly visible.

"The principle must be to allow only infilling," the RSC said.

The RSC adopted Mr Mocke's report, which suggested that the city council should refer the development application to the National Monuments Council (NMC) for comment, as Table Mountain was a national monument.

Mr John Wilkinson, managing director of Condev, which is doing the development, could not be reached for comment yesterday.



N Tyl dam declared water famine area

STAR 28/2/92

56

The Njelele Dam near Messina in the northern Transvaal has been declared a water famine area after falling to a critical 1,8 percent of its capacity, the Department of Water Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

According to the declaration, the remaining water has been placed under the control of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry so that it can be used in the best public interest.

Though the dam main-

ly provides water for irrigation, preference will be given to domestic users and the watering of stock.

"Severe steps are also being taken to remove illegal structures in the river to ensure the uninterrupted flow of water.

"The aquatic life in the remaining pools in the dam is causing a serious water quality problem and no further releases for irrigation can be considered before this problem has been solved." — Sapa.

SA group for talks on endangered species (56)

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — A high-powered delegation from South Africa leaves today for Kyoto, Japan, to attend the Conference on International Trade in Endangered Fauna and Flora Species (Cites). *RC 28/2/92*

One of the priority items for discussion will be South Africa's proposals for downlisting its elephants and white rhino from appendix one to appendix two of the convention.

For the elephant and rhino this will mean international trade in these animals and/or their products (hides, horns, tusk, meat) will theoretically be possible. It will still leave the country the choice of maintaining the existing moratorium should it be appropriate.

South Africa's elephant and white rhino populations are so healthy that utilisation of the species is possible.

Funds obtained from selling products of these animals can be used for conservation of other species and areas.

The proposals have drawn attention from international conservation organisations and the delegation can expect opposition.

Dr Piet Mulder, chief director of the Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation of the Transvaal Provincial Administration heads the delegation. Other members are Dr George Hughes of the Natal Parks Board, Dr Johan Neethling of the Orange Free State Provincial Administration, Mr Herman Grove of the Department of Environment Affairs and Mr Naude Steyn of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Uncollected refuse 'an air pollution problem'

Staff Reporter (56) CT 28/492

THE non-existent refuse collection in disadvantaged communities added to the city's "alarming" air pollution problem, the city council's control officer, Mr Derrick Oxley, said last night.

Addressing a meeting of the National Association for Clean Air in Milnerton, he said the city was already battling increased photochemical smog, also known as brown haze, during the winter months.

The cause of this pollution was primarily from the peninsula's 600 000 motor cars, he said.

But with the migration of low-income people to the Peninsula, wood supplies had been exhausted and the communities were turning to the mounds of uncollected refuse and burning these instead, he added.

FM 28/2/92 (56)

around R8,4m. As the ban came into effect, the price of raw ivory plunged from R168/kg to R8/kg. But Leakey says that the price has rebounded to around R42/kg in anticipation of resumed trade.

Some observers argue that the ban has become too lucrative for Kenya. Says wildlife economist Deborah Nolte: "Kenya gets a lot of aid money — around US\$360m — to help them enforce the ban and this doesn't encourage them to institutionalise changes that would protect elephants without the ban. Kenya needs independent controls rather than any more dependence on the world ban." Nolte predicts that, without internal reform in Kenya, the world ban will remain.

She suggests the solution lies in the incentive of private ownership. She points to Zimbabwe, where the local community protects the herd because it receives the proceeds from hunting. "The greater the benefit to be derived, the greater the incentive to protect the elephant." ■

IVORY TRADE FM 28/2/92 Shifting positions (56)

When members of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meet this week in Japan, to discuss the worldwide ban on ivory sales, they will find that SA has backed away from its previous rigid stance which favoured a total lifting on ivory trade restrictions.

This month Environment Minister Louis Pienaar announced that SA's Cites working group will press for only a relaxation of the ban — in effect since 1989 — to allow for international trade under a rigidly controlled system.

The statement shows that SA is moving towards a position more in keeping with world opinion, which favours the ban. Until recently, SA was at the fore of the movement to lift the ban completely. Along with Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, it has spearheaded the campaign to legalise the sales as they attempt to unlock a potential multimillion-rand industry.

They argue that their elephant herds are efficiently managed and that culling is essential to preserve the limited habitat. These countries agreed to the moratorium to help control rampant poaching in countries such as Kenya and Tanzania, where elephant numbers had plunged prior to the ban.

Natal Parks Board CE George Hughes questions the value of any ban. "The ban on black rhino has been in place for nearly 15 years but the black rhino population has nevertheless decreased by 90% in this time." Hughes suggests that controlled trade would have been more successful.

The official SA position has become less clear in recent weeks. Pienaar says that, in Japan, the SA delegation will take into account the positions of other Cites members and also will be "influenced by the progress made with effective control measures by countries that import ivory." Whether this means SA can be talked into joining the pro-ban forces is uncertain.

There is no doubt the ban has meant millions of rands in lost income for southern Africa. The countries fighting for renewed ivory sales argue that an international ban is inappropriate to deal with herd mismanagement. Kenya, however, argues that renewed ivory sales will mean more poaching.

Particularly controversial is Kenya's Wildlife Services director Richard Leakey, who, it is argued, almost single-handedly brought about the ban. He organised the burning of 12 000 kg of elephant tusks worth

It is a dream that southern African conservationists have nurtured for many years — and now there is hope that it can be realised: the world's largest game reserve is in the making, reports **PATRICK FARRELL** of Weekend Argus

The biggest game reserve on earth

56
 Feb 29/2/92

THE first phase of a plan to establish the largest conservation area in the world has been completed by the Southern African Nature Foundation.

The plan is to increase the size of the Kruger National Park by about four times by linking it with the Banhine area in neighbouring Mozambique.

The initial idea was put forward by the Mozambican government in 1990 after talks between Dr Anton Rupert and President Joaquim Chissano.

The South African Wildlife Heritage Trust has given R75 000 to sponsor the initial feasibility study, which was carried out by Mr Ken Tinley and Mr Willem van Riet, and has now been given to Mozambique to examine.

Dr John Hanks, chief executive of the nature foundation, said the civil war in Mozambique was the biggest obstacle to the plan.

"The World Bank is interested in funding the idea which will be a fantastic example of cross-border cooperation for conservation in Southern Africa, but the war must stop first."

Mr Johan Kloppers, chief manager of research in the Kruger Park, described the link up as a "beautiful vision for conservation but with lots of problems".

"Easy access to automatic weapons, empty stomachs and the incentive to poach are going to be some of our major problems."

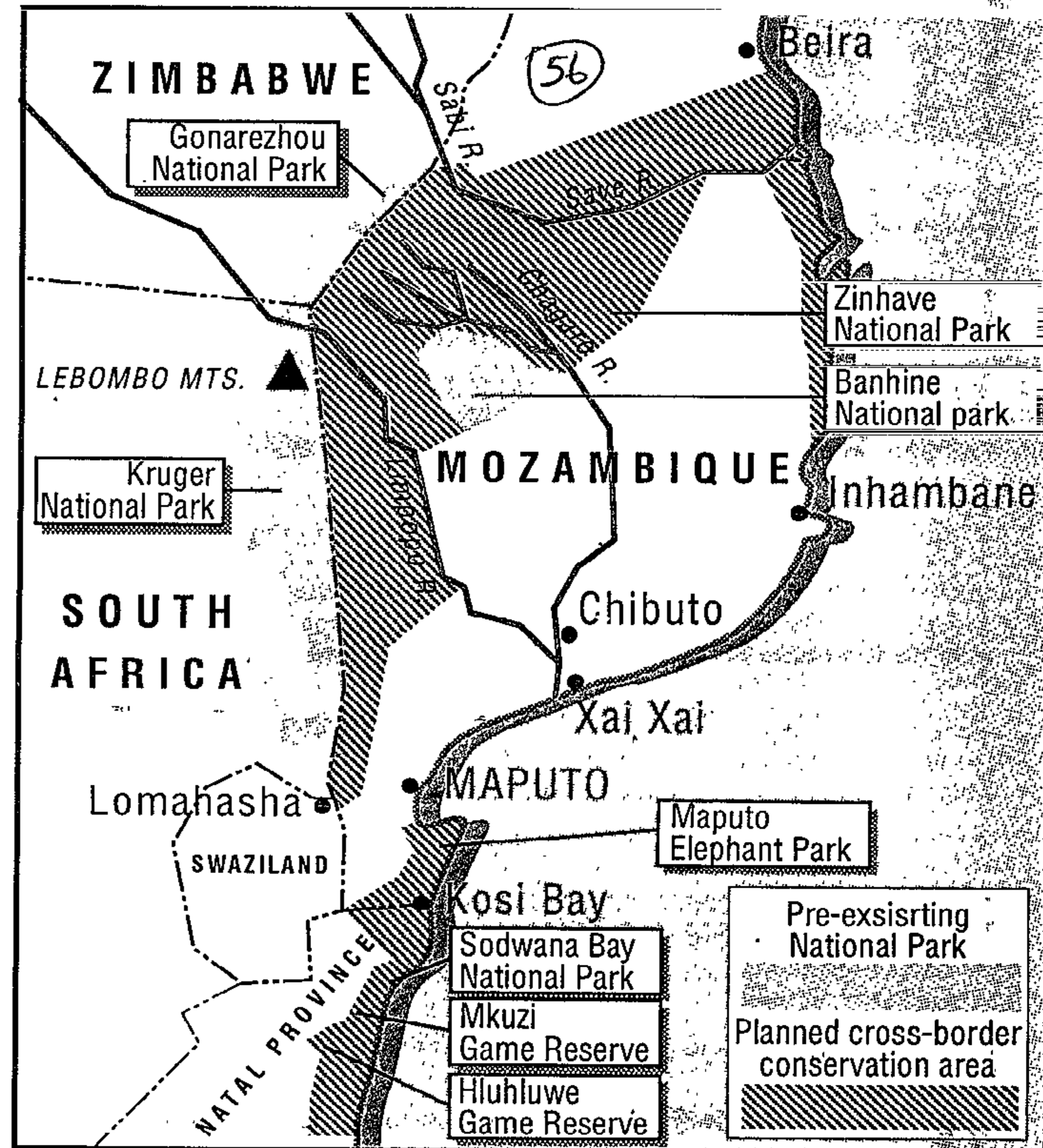
The Portuguese colonisers of Mozambique thought of making the Banhine a national park 50 years ago but nothing came of it. The area was a popular hunting area during colonial rule but the war in Mozambique has wiped out all the animals.

"This will not be a problem because the habitat is perfect, untouched with no people.

"Restocking is not a problem as long as you have the area and this one is pristine," he said.

"What is amazing is that the proposed giant park will be a complete conservation area, perhaps allowing farming side-by-side with the animals and tourism."

But the area would have to be proclaimed as a park before the displaced population could start moving back.



Map BOB GRIERSON, The Argus

Kaolin plan for Cape 'totally inappropriate'

56

ARG 29/2/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

OPEN-PIT mining for kaolin in the heart of the Peninsula is "totally inappropriate", according to the Fairest Cape Association.

In a strong statement against Serina's proposal to mine kaolin on the slopes of Chapman's Peak, Fairest Cape executive director Mr Roger Hulley described the mountain and the Noordhoek Valley as "a precious environmental asset" and said they would do everything possible to assist the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group which is leading the anti-mine lobby.

"There are other kaolin deposits that can be mined without such a detrimental effect on the environment, and it is therefore not acceptable to allow Serina to go ahead and mine Chapman's Peak," Mr Hulley said.

"Besides the aesthetic aspect and the negative effect the mining could have on tourism, there is a consequential danger of pollution of the nearby wetlands, noise pollution from heavy machinery and trucks, and the dust generated from an open-cast mining operation."

Noordhoek was a quiet, suburban area zoned for residential occupation, and to allow an open-mine pit in the middle of such an area would be "appalling town planning", he said.

"In this connection I welcome the news that the whole project must still be cleared by the local authority planners, the Western Cape Regional Services Council and the Administrator.

"Perhaps such local decision-makers will show more sensitivity to the opposition of Capetonians to this scheme than have the mandarins in Pretoria."

A number of large corporations had come out in support of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, Mr Hulley noted.

"This is encouraging as it shows that business is starting to realise that development has to go hand-in-hand with responsible environmental management.

"We will do everything in our power to assist the anti-mining lobbyists to put a stop to this degradation of our environment," he said.

Serina 'has not asked permission'

5/29/92 Staff Reporter (5b)

KAOLIN mining company Serina has still not asked permission from the Regional Services Council to go ahead with their planned mining development on the slopes of Chapman's Peak.

Mr Carl Tarrant, managing director of Serina, said yesterday he did not believe permission from the RSC was necessary for the mine, but that if it was he would be prepared to apply. He said his company planned

on starting the mine in a "month or two".

An RSC spokesman said that Serina had not submitted a Conditional Use Application in terms of the Land Use Planning Ordinance.

EDITED BY FRED ROFFEY

BUSINESS

Companies combine to show concern for the environment

CONCERN over industrial development and the environment has led the Cape Chamber of Industries to form an environmental sub-committee comprising chamber members who have experience on industry and its impact on surroundings.

The sub-committee aims to co-ordinate industry, environmental groups and authorities so as to reduce the risk of environmental disasters and to draw up plans should industrial disasters occur.

It also wants to promote the concept of self-regulation rather than face prescription by government.

The chamber warns against new industrial development being stifled by extreme standards, and says a balance needs to be struck which acknowledges that development must proceed in a responsible

manner by taking into account the sensitivity of the environment. Industry does have a responsibility to minimise the impact it has on the environment and to acknowledge that it should be accountable for reinstating any damage caused, says the Chamber.

Meanwhile, two major motor companies are in the vanguard of environmental concern by industry. Toyota has significantly reduced the use of CFCs—chlorofluorocarbons or gaseous compounds that cause a breakdown of the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere—in the manufacture of its vehicles in South Africa.

"We are now using environmentally friendly substances as solvents in the manufacture of most electrical components and in the production of many of the plastic foams used in upholstery," said

John Nimmo, the company's manager concerned with vehicles and the environment.

"The Toyota Motor Company in Japan is conducting final tests on an acceptable alternative to be used as a refrigerant in vehicle air-conditioning in the near future."

He pointed out that CFCs will be completely banned by the year 2000 under an international agreement—the Montreal Protocol of which South Africa is a signatory. Industries are developing alternatives—HCFCs, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, or HFCs, hydrochlorocarbons. As they contain no chlorine, they cause no damage to the ozone layer.

Another leading motor company, Nissan, made a major breakthrough in recycling technology which means that in future it will

be able to fully recycle previously painted bumpers.

The company's engineers have developed a secret chemical process whereby the paint can be separated from the polypropylene plastic during recycling—a technique, says Nissan, which BMW has not been able to match.

The separation process is so successful that Nissan says the paint can also be re-used for industrial purposes.

Nissan has taken out patents on the system and says it is prepared to exchange the process with other companies in return for information on other advanced technologies.

The technique is not yet available in South Africa but Nissan SA says it is keen on hearing from interested industrial companies or motor manufacturers.



New chair will manage environment

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(5b) MKT 2/3/92
A UNIVERSITY chair to promote policies aimed at managing the environment for effective sustainable development has been established at Natal University.

The BP Chair of Environmental Policy and Management, a full profes-

sorship attached to the university's Institute for Natural Resources, is a joint initiative with BP Southern Africa.

BP spokesman Mr Dave Hatton explained that the chair would be oriented to practical initiatives, not to research and teaching, and would be guided by a board.

Call for 'open' register of all trading in wildlife

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CONSERVATIONISTS have called for a public register of all wildlife traded to or from South Africa, following disclosures that small numbers of Cape fur seals were sent regularly to zoos overseas.

During the past two years, 58 seals — mostly young ones — have been sent to institutions and zoos in Taiwan, Britain, West Germany, Portugal, Japan, Israel and Switzerland, sometimes at the request of diplomats.

Details of export permits over the past two years have been released to *The Argus* by the Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries, after an incident last month in which a Lakeside man was charged with keeping a young seal illegally in his backyard.

Most of the legal captures and exports have involved local wildlife trader Mr John

Visser, who works from his Joostenbergvlakte estate.

The call for a public register has come from the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, which was started in the wake of a public outcry over Mr Visser catching dolphins in Hout Bay 1969.

Sea Fisheries chief director Dr Louis Botha acknowledged issuing export permits for live Cape fur seals — mostly to major overseas zoos — but said each application was treated on its merits.

"The essential point is that we don't refuse on principle to issue permits for the export of live seals, but it depends on each individual case," he said.

The Cape fur seal has a limited protected status in terms of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

"We would give a permit only to recognised zoos which complied with various minimum standards and subject to

a CITES' permit, and not for private zoos.

"The guy who catches the seals must be competent to catch them in a humane manner and that sort of thing — we won't just give a permit to anyone, obviously."

Dr Botha pointed out that Cape fur seals were abundant, only small numbers were exported, and this could not be compared in any way to the cruel, wasteful wild bird trade.

Dr Botha said he had no objection to a public register of wildlife trade.

"That's very much in keeping with our general policy — to be absolutely open about all things. It's certainly not our intention to sneak things under the table.

"The new Sea Fisheries Act also provides for this openness — for example, there's a public register of quota allocations... My attitude its positive — the more open one is about these sort of things, the better for everybody."

Mrs Rice said she wanted South Africa to have a system similar to that of the United States, where all applications for the import and export of wildlife were recorded in a federal register.

This register is open for public scrutiny, but all applications are also previewed by 'Monitor' members — reputable conservation and animal welfare organisations — who make recommendations on each application.

She said questions which needed to be asked about the wildlife trade included mortality rates during capture and transport.

● Anyone finding live seal pups, or sick or injured adults, should report their location to the relevant authorities — the Sea Fisheries Research Institute's Marine Mammal Laboratory, ☎ 419-1573 (office hours) or ☎ 689-8683, ☎ 790-2675 or ☎ 583759 (after hours); the SPCA; or the nearest harbour master.

R3,6m for
clearing
alien ^{max 3/3/97} (56)
vegetation

Municipal Reporter

CLEARING of alien vegetation to prevent fire hazards, now well behind schedule, is to get a R3,6 million boost.

The city council amenities and health committee yesterday approved a programme to clear more than 2 000 ha of alien vegetation in the Table Mountain and Silvermine nature reserves.

Clearing each hectare will cost R978 in labour, R245 in transport and R362 in materials such as herbicides, petrol and oil.

Burning will not be used to eradicate the alien vegetation because the operation is aimed at "re-cleaning", that is, eradicating isolated alien species competing with natural vegetation.

Chemicals will be used to clear the acacia species.

The best method was to use biological means, including the introduction of fungi, together with mechanical equipment.

R3,6m for
clearing
alien ^{APL 2/3/72} ₍₅₆₎
vegetation

Municipal Reporter

CLEARING of alien vegetation to prevent fire hazards, now well behind schedule, is to get a R3,6 million boost.

The city council amenities and health committee yesterday approved a programme to clear more than 2 000 ha of alien vegetation in the Table Mountain and Silvermine nature reserves.

Clearing each hectare will cost R978 in labour, R245 in transport and R362 in materials such as herbicides, petrol and oil.

Burning will not be used to eradicate the alien vegetation because the operation is aimed at "re-cleaning", that is, eradicating isolated alien species competing with natural vegetation.

Chemicals will be used to clear the acacia species.

The best method was to use biological means, including the introduction of fungi, together with mechanical equipment.

RSC unlikely to support kaolin mine

(S)

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC) is today likely to turn down a request to comment on draft government conditions for allowing kaolin mining at Chapman's Peak.

And, because of existing zoning, RSC planners are unlikely to support any attempt by the company Serina to mine kaolin in the Noordhoek valley.

This could lead to a sustained legal wrangle between the mining company, the RSC and the government.

The RSC's committee for land usage and transport planning will today probably accept a recommendation from its officials that, until a comprehensive statement of the mining proposal is given by Serina, it is not prepared to comment on draft kaolin min-

ing conditions.

This follows a letter from the director-general of the department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, asking for the RSC's comment on various draft conditions for the extraction and processing ("beneficiation") of kaolin at Chapman's Peak.

The RSC committee, headed by Cape Town's acting-mayor Mr Clive Keegan, has been told by the RSC's chief director (engineering services) that Serina had not applied to the RSC for conditional mining.

The site was zoned for rural purposes and the RSC's zoning scheme allowed possible quarrying under certain conditions.

The chief director said a copy of an environmental impact statement — prepared for Serina — and reports had been sent to the RSC by Serina's

consultants in September last year.

But Serina's position was unclear with regard to recommendations made to it in the statement and reports.

"Serina must furnish the council (the RSC) with a clear and comprehensive statement of their full proposals ... for council to respond adequately," said the chief director.

He recommended that the RSC inform the director-general of Mineral and Energy Affairs that, without the required "comprehensive application for conditional use", no comment could be made on the government's draft mining conditions.

Serina last month said it was unaware it had to obtain permission from the RSC and that it was obtaining legal advice.

Yesterday chairman Mr Bill Paverd said the company had

not yet heard advice "as far as I know".

Mr Keegan said yesterday the RSC's legal opinion was that mining was permissible only with council's consent and no application had been lodged. Attempts to mine would be illegal and "we would be obliged to take steps in terms of our public obligations".

Given earlier decisions, he said RSC planners were unlikely to agree to mining in Noordhoek.

ACT 4/5102

Wetland timber influx errors being corrected

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(56)

ARC 4/3/92

PAST mistakes in introducing commercial timber plantations in wetland areas are being corrected, the Forestry Branch has told the Wildlife Society.

Wetlands are among the most important — and threatened — of all ecosystems and international efforts are underway to protect them.

At a recent meeting with the society, forestry officials gave assurances that the protection of wetlands was high priority in state forestry practice.

They also gave an undertaking that primary conservation

areas within state forests would remain protected, despite changes of ownership.

The society was concerned that such conservation areas — including plains which provide the only remaining habitat for the critically endangered blue swallow — might be affected with the commercialisation or privatisation of the timber production section.

The society said in a statement after the meeting it had been "greatly encouraged" to learn that the timber production section would initiate environmental audit procedures on its forestry estates this month.

Councils to pay more for water

By Michael Sparks

The Rand Water Board yesterday announced a 9,5 percent increase in the cost of the water it supplies in bulk to municipalities effective from April 1.

However, many municipalities will not be passing the increased rate on to the consumer immediately.

In the case of Johannesburg, a spokesman said the water tariff was considered along with the budget in June, so there would be no increase before then.

Sandton treasurer Ken Roelofs said the municipality had just received notification of the increase and could not comment on it. However, he said, for the past three years the municipality had absorbed such increases until July. Relevant in-

formation and recommendations would go to the management committee and the council by the last week in April, when a decision would be made.

The same was true in Krugersdorp, Randvaal and Verwoerdburg.

A spokesman for the Rustenburg municipality said the previous budget would be studied and, if more money came in from the sale of water than budgeted, then the increase would not be passed on to the consumer. But, he added, there was normally an increase, although he did not know when it would be.

While the tariff increase affecting households would depend on individual municipalities, if only the water board increase was passed on, an aver-

age household using 30 kilolitres a month would pay an additional R2.

Last year the tariff increase for water supplied by the board was 11,5 percent.

From April 1 bulk consumers will pay 78,1c/kl, up from the present 71,31c.

A levy of 10c/kl to help finance the construction of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is included in the increase.

For small consumers outside of municipal areas, water will increase from 118,32c to 129,56c/kl.

Water board chief Vincent Bath said that since the increase in the cost of raw water and electricity had been moderate, the board was able to keep the increase six points below the inflation rate.

Tackling the 'green' challenge

STAR 4/3/97

(56)

THE WORLD'S biggest environmental conference, the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June, has become a north versus south battleground over money in a race to avert global ecological catastrophe.

The aim of the conference is to ensure that development in the Third World is carried out in an environmentally sustainable way and that urgent measures are taken by the industrialised countries to reduce the damage to the global ecology from pollution and the over-use of the Earth's non-renewable resources.

Heads of government from every United Nations country have been invited and so far about 60 have said they will attend.

"This will be the most important meeting in the history of humanity," according to Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the conference. He said Third World countries would

What is being touted as the world's most important environmental conference to date is due to take place in Brazil this year.

need as much as R350 billion a year to develop without adding to the damage already done to the environment by the industrialised world.

Poor countries already receive about R140 billion in aid transfers. The increase in aid, as well as conditions under which it should be given, form some of the most contentious issues before the conference.

Mr Strong, a Canadian millionaire, accepts that in the current global economic climate there is no hope of developed nations coming up with tens of billions of dollars of extra aid annually. But unless several billion are on offer in the run-up to Rio, the Third World is unlikely to co-operate.

It is hoped that in June heads

of government will endorse sweeping measures to halt global warming, curb pollution, protect tropical forests and save endangered species of wildlife.

The negotiations have become mired in acrimony by the failure of the industrialised North to make commitments on aid and demands for total control of how the aid is spent by the Third World.

The Rio summit is also expected to approve a treaty to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

At the preparatory conference, Michael Heseltine, Britain's Environment Secretary, pleaded for a US change of heart on gas emissions. Most developed nations had set themselves targets for stabilising

their emissions, and Britain would consider bringing forward its stabilisation date — currently the year 2005 — if others did likewise.

The Rio conference is expected to adopt a general statement of principles known as the Earth Charter and a blueprint for governments, known as Agenda 21.

Before agreeing to the Earth Charter, the developing world wants promises of money and free access to advanced technology to enable them to industrialise without causing further ecological harm.

Mr Strong has said the aid should go to a variety of agencies, especially the World Bank. The bank has already established a pilot programme which controls a fund of about R3.6 billion which provides interest-free loans to poor countries for projects to protect the environment. — The Independent News Service. □

Water tariffs go up 9,5%

B10cy 4/3/97

LINDEN BIJNS

WATER tariffs in the Witwatersrand, Vaal Triangle and southeastern Transvaal would increase by 9,5% from the beginning of April, the Rand Water Board announced yesterday.

The increase was lower than last year's 11,5% hike and was below the 16,2% rate of inflation, the board said.

Bulk consumers will pay 78,10c a kilolitre, representing a 6,79c increase. To the average household using 30kl a month, the tariff translates to about an extra R2 a month.

Tariffs for small consumers outside municipal areas will increase by 11,24c/kl. This will raise their tariffs to 129,56c/kl.

Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath said the increase was below the inflation rate because hikes in the costs of raw water and electricity had been moderate this year at 5% and 9,5% respectively. Loan charges to finance capital expenditure had increased by less than 3%.

Greater efficiency had also contributed to keeping the costs low, he said.

However, costs for coal, chemicals, transport and other sundry items were higher and in line with overall inflation.

The drought would result in a 4% increase in water sales, which was higher than expected. There was sufficient water in the Vaal and Sterkfontein dams — the major storage dams — for at least another two to three years.

In February the Vaal and Sterkfontein dams were 48,9% and 97,7% full respectively. The Bloemhof dam was 39% full and the Woodstock dam 84,2% full. Total rainfall for February was 68mm, more than 100mm less than February 1991.

Bath warned that water restrictions could be introduced if the drought continued into the next rain season. These would be implemented to conserve supplies until water from the Lesotho Highlands scheme was received in 1997.

Since 1988 a 10c/kl levy had been imposed by the state to finance a portion of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, for which SA was responsible. This will be increased on October 1 of each year until 1996.

A further 1,43c/kl Water Research Fund levy was implemented on January 1.

Apartheid era, environment damage linked

57
ARC 5/3/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

APARTHEID failed to achieve the hoped-for economic development, aggravated poverty, and resulted in agricultural over-exploitation and incalculable environmental damage, the United Nations has been told.

This is one of the points in a report *Building the Foundation for Sustainable Development in South Africa*, prepared for the Department of Environment Affairs by the CSIR.

The substantial document has been sent to the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UnCED) — the Earth Summit — which is being held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

The secretariat is using similar documents from many UN member countries as the basis for negotiating international environmental conventions that will be signed by heads of state in Rio during the summit.

Conventions expected to be ready for signature include those on global warming and climate change, ozone depletion and rain-forest destruction. The summit will also seek agreement on an international agenda for integrating development and environmental conservation into the 21st century.

Although "apartheid" is not used directly, the South African report makes it clear that government policies during the apartheid era were incompatible with the concept of sustainable development.

Measures instituted since the 1930s to address the degradation of agricultural land had in retrospect been short-sighted and even counter-productive.

The state had spent "thousands of millions" of rands in an attempt to create a command economy in the agricultural sector.

"Since ecological systems in South Africa are driven by events, particularly by rainfall, the capacity of such government interventions to alter the outcome significantly is limited."

In a section headed "Policy and institutional failure", the report noted that attempts to drive agriculture

through a command economy had failed.

"It failed either to halt the damage being done or to make the agricultural industry more successful.

"It was also shown that the policy of moving large numbers of people to the homelands failed to lead to the economic development hoped for, and that it aggravated poverty and resulted in agricultural over-exploitation and, consequently, incalculable environmental damage."

There was a climate for change in South Africa and opportunities existed to find new solutions.

"All sorts of damaging policies of the past have recently been swept away, including the drought relief and other agricultural subsidies that used to distort incentives.

"New approaches to water pollution control and to hazardous waste management are being developed."

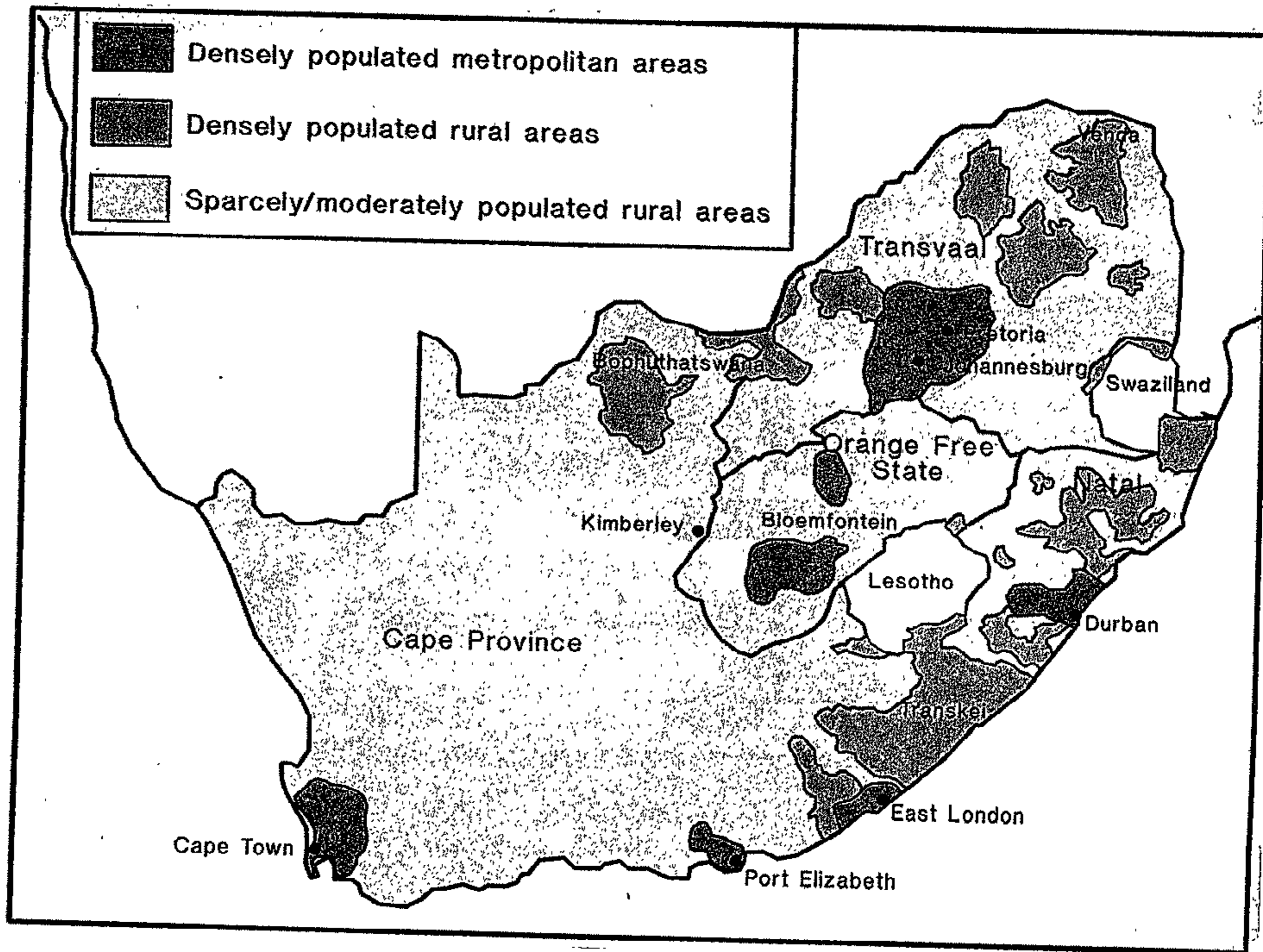
Projects such as the ecotourism utilisation strategy at Mthethomusha in Kangwane, and efforts by the Wilderness lakes and Richtersveld contractual national parks, reflected a new thinking in conservation, all involving local communities in their management, the report continued.

Several rural development projects, designed by research groups such as the University of Natal's Institute for Natural Resources or by consultant groups such as the Environmental Development Agency, were beginning to demonstrate successful sustainable development.

The recent President's Council report on an environmental management system for South Africa — which it quotes widely — provided an immediate opportunity to look for new approaches to link economic growth, environmental conservation and other needs within an overall framework of sustainable development, the report stated.

"UnCED comes at a very opportune time for South Africa, which has experience and expertise to offer the world and a pressing need to learn from the experiences of others.

"Moreover, anticipating the likely implications of global change, and managing these implications, South Africa will have to join the rest of the world community."



MLT 5/3192

TV1 backs Trees for Africa

Television Reporter (56)

TV1 has adopted the conservation group Trees for Africa as a social responsibility project.

Trees For Africa's mission is to improve quality of life and conserve the environment through the planting and maintenance of trees, supported by environmental education.

Launched in 1990, the organisation contributed to the planting of more than 150 000 trees in its first year.

TV1's support would be in the form of promoting the mission and activities of Trees for Africa on the air, said TV1 consumer marketing manager Mr Gary Nowlin.

"Trees play a vital role in our lives and the fact that they are being destroyed faster than they're grown indicates a lack of education and understanding.

"We believe TV1 can play a major role in engraving the message of preservation in the hearts and minds of all South Africans."

Kaolin (5)
mining ARCT 5/3/92
conditions
held back

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE government has refused to disclose draft conditions for allowing kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak, saying they will be made public only when final approval and mining authorisation have been given.

Authorisation could be given within weeks but this is unlikely before the referendum.

A set of the draft conditions was put to the Western Cape Regional Services Council for comment by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, but the council's committee for land usage and transport planning refused to react.

The committee accepted a recommendation from its officials that until the RSC had a comprehensive mining proposal from Serina, it would not comment.

The RSC's attitude is that, because the area is zoned rural, Serina must apply for permission to mine.

Serina is taking legal advice on the issue.

Responding to a request from The Argus for sight of the draft conditions, a spokesman for Mr George Bartlett, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, said these would not be made public before final approval but mining authorisation was likely to be granted to Serina soon.

Enviro groups will go to Rio

ENVIRONMENTAL groups from all over the country will attend the Earth Summit in Brazil in June.

The summit has been organised by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

At a conference in Durban at the weekend, new governmental organisations discussed the UnCED process and how the groups in this country could work together on developmental and environmental problems.

Many delegates had serious reservations about the UnCED process which they felt was more concerned with problems of the north - the rich countries or the First World. There was no mention of poverty - the problem the south faces - in the list of issues to be raised in Rio.

The concern in Rio "is the global climate change", said a spokesman. *Sowetan 5/3/92*

Mr Peter Ngobese of the Zimbabwe Environmental Research Organisation said the northern countries wanted to prescribe to the Third World what they should do with their environments.

The view was that South African NGO's should take part and raise these issues at the Rio summit.

ROOTS

AN ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMN



By MUSA ZONDI

Green issues are your problem, too

Sowetan 6/3/92

WHY is it that when a chemical company dumps toxic waste into our rivers, it's only a group of white liberals that stands up and makes noises?

Why is it that when one mentions the word environment to a group of activists, one is met with sneers and jeers and told: "That can wait - there are more important issues to be solved now"?

No, it cannot wait.

One of the few black environmentalists in this country, Mr Joe Seremane, says blacks have to realise that liberation will be meaningless if it means we will have to inherit a country that is infested with toxic nuclear waste, polluted streams, rivers and eroded agricultural land.

These are the words that should be ringing in the ears of every black person who is concerned about the future of this country, its people and its resources.

It is high time that blacks stood up and saw the fight against pollution, soil erosion and desertification as part and parcel of the struggle.

Recently I attended a workshop, organised by the Group for Environmental Monitoring, on the church's involvement - or lack of it - in the green issues.

There were about 30-odd people there.

Of that group, only three were black - a fieldworker from the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, a bishop from one of the African independent churches and me.

The main question was: Is the church doing much work in green awareness or the related issues?

It seemed a pretty weird topic at the time. But it later turned out to be a very valid subject.

The church in this country has a history of speaking out when human rights are abused. Church leaders have been jailed and tortured in their pursuit of truth and justice.

However, until very recently there has been a deep silence within the Christian church about environmental issues.

In a paper titled "The Greening of the Church in South Africa", Professor Jacklyn Cock of the University of the Witwatersrand said the church could help in creating environmental awareness and literacy since at least 70 percent of South Africans subscribed to one kind of Christianity or another.

She said the church had, however, been silent on this issue.

"In major documents, such as the Pastoral Plan, issued by the Catholic bishops in 1989 there is no mention of environmental issues.

"The same silence emerges from an analysis of the resolutions of the Provincial synod Church of the Province of South Africa (Anglican Church)," she argues.

Both these churches issued a great number of publications but an analysis of the content over the past five years revealed no mention of green issues.

When different churches came together at Rustenburg in 1990 and rejected apartheid as a sin, there was a reference to "restoring the land to the dispossessed people".

But there was no mention of concrete environmental issues such as air and water pollution, soil erosion and desertification, she said.

The South African Council of Churches, in conjunction with the World Council of Churches, has launched the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation project.

The theme of the project is to widen the "definition of justice and peace to include the environment".

Countries look at greening of books

56

Sowetan 6/3/92

FOCUS

LEYDEN (Netherlands) - How do you place a value on a forest that has been cut down, a polluted river, land ravaged by soil erosion, clean air, open space, even silence?

For years a dedicated band of economists and scientists at the Netherlands' Central Bureau of Statistics, has wrestled with the concept.

And they have urged Dutch government officials - planners and policymakers - to ponder it too, raising questions about the wealth of nations that 18th-century economist Mr Adam Smith probably never dreamt of.

Their thesis in a nutshell is that a country's national account should reflect environmental damage and changes in its natural wealth.

Wealth

The Dutch team, led by economist Mr Roefie Huetting and Mr Peter Bosch, a soil scientist, is devising a set of indicators for calculating a "green" gross national product, contending that governments are deluding themselves in the way they measure a country's wealth and its output of goods and services.

Last month they published a pioneering report outlining a methodology for calculating "a sustainable national income" for the Netherlands alongside the traditional figures.

"Conventional GNP relates only to the human production of goods and services, but you should not use it to measure how a whole economy is doing. You have to put something new and usable alongside it," Bosch said in an interview.

"Our system provides an indica-

Countries may soon have to include the "environwealth" when they compile their national accounts - at least this is what two Netherlands scientists have in mind.

tor of environmental losses which can be used together with GNP. We hope this calculation of sustainable national income will play a major role in policymaking in the Netherlands."

Take a forest for example. When it is cut down and sold, the proceeds enter a country's accounts as income.

No account is taken of the loss of the trees, even though they may not be replaced and their removal could result in soil erosion, flooding and hardship for local communities.

Conventional GNP figures record changes in wealth only when they reach the market. So the value of a forest is recorded only when the trees become timber.

Analysts

Across the planet environmentally-minded analysts like Bosch and Huetting are arguing persuasively that this is wrong.

They say it encourages governments to behave as though natural wealth were limitless and does not take into account the scars of economic activity on the environment.

Their views, once regarded as maverick, are now getting some heavyweight attention.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are both working on guidelines for compiling green accounts.

"It's an issue that has been discussed pretty widely for the past three years, but it's only in the past year or so that major institutions are putting resources into developing it," said Mr Cameron Duncan, an economist with the environmental group Greenpeace in Washington.

Environment

"Through ecological accounts we need openly and quickly to replace the GNP figure with a more reliable figure that will help monitor crucial damage to the environment," he said.

Some charge that by ignoring the toll of industry on the environment, many countries' GNPs are inflated and sometimes massively distorted.

"The object of greening the books is to deduct environmental damage from the national accounts," said Mr Fulai Sheng, an economist at the Geneva-based World Wide Fund for Nature.

Implications

"It has tremendous implications for developing countries as subtracting the depletion of resources would impact heavily on their national income figures."

Economists at the World Resources Institute in Washington have already recalculated the accounts of Indonesia and Costa Rica to reflect the impact of resource

depletion.

They came up with radically lower GNP than the conventional figures.

The WRI and other proponents of green accounting want the UN statistical office, which sets guidelines for the standard system of national accounts, to announce at the UN "Earth Summit" in Brazil in June that depletion of natural resources will no longer be treated as current income.

It is also absurd, some economists contend, that measures to repair or compensate for environmental damage - like water treatment plants, cleaning up oil spills or buying catalytic converters - shows up as growth in national income.

Environmentalists reckon that if pollution does not count as a reduction in GNP, then expenditure on cleaning it up should not count towards increasing GNP.

Reasoning

After years of ignoring such reasoning, some governments are starting to listen.

The Dutch environment and foreign affairs ministries have both supported Huetting and Bosch's work on ecological accounting and Sweden has sought the Netherlands' advice on starting its own system.

France, Norway and Germany are also linking economic activity to the environment.

The European Community, in a draft of its environmental programme, envisages asking its 12 member states to publish "pilot" green accounts from 1995 and official ones from 1999. - Sapa-Reuter.

2
see
SA
ti-
rd-
2
in-
er-
ion
of
ga-
of
the
nt,
of
ion
aw
led
ber
rad
ost
in
van
ted
esi-

Call for public mercury probe

B1 Day 6/3/92
Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The bitter war of words between the environmental watchdog body Earthlife Africa and the Thor chemical company ended yesterday — with both organisations demanding government set up a full judicial commission of inquiry into the Cato Ridge mercury pollution row.

At a news conference in Maritzburg, Earthlife said there was still too little information available about the issue — and this could be solved only by having a public inquiry.

The organisation also accused the Water Affairs Department of withholding the results of continuing tests on the water quality of the Mngweweni Stream.

Challenging the department to release the test results, Earthlife said: "We can only assume the evi-

dence is too damning of both their and Thor's activities." ~~SB~~ SB

Thor MD Steve van der Vyver and a spokesman for the Water Affairs Department in Pretoria could not be reached for comment yesterday. Van der Vyver has already called for a judicial commission of inquiry into the row.

□ The Thor Chemicals case heard recently in Amsterdam brings sharply into focus the need for urgent legislation giving South Africans the right to information.

Earthlife said its Right to Know campaign launched last year has already won the support of a number of organisations, including the Chemical Workers' Indus-

trial Union, the SA Rivers Association, the Merewent Ratepayers' Association and the recently formed Environmental Lawyers Association.

"Environmental activists throughout the country have come up against the impenetrable walls of officialdom whenever they seek to investigate cases of illegal dumping, air pollution, water pollution, herbicides and pesticides damage and animal abuse," the spokesman said.

"We need legislation not to prevent us from knowing what's going on but legislation like the US's Freedom of Information Act that will give us the right to know.

"In SA for political reasons we have an overall attitude of government in secrecy which has spun off into all sorts of government departments."

Group Limited

December 1991

1991 are as follows:

Six months ended 31/12/90	Year ended 30/06/91
R'000	R'000

Court's power is disputed

B1 Day 6/3/92 WILSON ZWANE
SA's magistrates' courts were not empowered to try cases involving offences committed abroad, the Johannesburg Regional Court heard yesterday.

Arguing in a case involving billions of rands in fake promissory notes, Advocate Johan Rousseau said the Magistrate's Court Act did not confer any powers on magistrates to try cases involving offences committed abroad.

Rousseau was appearing for Ben Armstrong, who together with Gordon Webb, is charged with fraud involving R3,7bn in fake promissory notes. The notes, which gave the United Bank of SA and the SA Reserve Bank as debtors, were allegedly cashed at the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Ruling on whether the court has jurisdiction to try the case will be given today.



First concession in ivory trade battle

CF 6/3/92 (56)

TOKYO. — Five southern African nations yesterday offered the first concession in a heated battle over the ivory trade which has dominated a world wildlife conference in the ancient Japanese city of Kyoto.

Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Namibia said they would consider a voluntary moratorium on the ivory trade which is currently banned worldwide.

South Africa said it would continue to forbid any import or export of ivory or ivory products for the time being.

The five have not, however, withdrawn their requests that the African elephant be re-classified under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to allow a limited trade in ivory.

The trade was banned at the previous CITES meeting in 1989 after the African elephant population fell by 50% from 1.2 million in 1981.

Many non-governmental organisations are fiercely against any re-classification, saying poachers would see it as the first

step to re-opening the ivory trade.

Southern African nations say they need their elephant resources for revenue and blame the developed north for not providing enough funds to help them in conservation efforts.

In Dar es Salaam yesterday Tourism Minister Mr Abubakar Mgumia said that Tanzania had lifted a three-year ban on elephant hunting imposed to stop poachers slaughtering the animals for ivory. He said the ban was no longer needed to save the country's elephants. — Sapa-Renter

S
fter
at
ver
eat,
ad-
be-
her
an,
sed
tory
it a

MILLIONAIRE mercenaries and impoverished rural people, two species on opposite ends of southern Africa's political landscape, will each be affected by the outcome of the most heated environmental debate this decade: to ban or not to ban the sale of ivory.

If the ban on elephant products is upheld, rural people will lose the right to make a living from one of their most valuable natural assets. But if the ban is relaxed, corrupt military men who make their fortunes from dealing in the tusks of dead elephants will be rubbing their hands in glee.

These are the horns of a dilemma on which all genuine conservationists in South Africa find themselves. The only way out of the quandary is for this fraternity to lobby strongly against any form of military involvement in the illicit ivory trade.

South Africa's delegation to the eighth international conference of countries that have signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) has gone into the summit at Kyoto in Japan with a potentially progressive position and an unusual array of allies.

The conference, which lasts until next Friday and is billed as a summit that will finally decide the fate of the African elephant, is being attended by a high-powered team of state officials and conservationists from non-government organisations.

They will argue for elephant to be transferred from the Cites Appendix I list of endangered species, which prohibits the trade in products from these animals, to the convention's Appendix II, which will allow legal trade in elephant products to resume.

But, in a gesture of support to those countries which believe a pause in the ivory trade is necessary to stamp out illicit poaching and drive down the price of tusks on the black market, the South Africans will agree to a zero ivory quota until the next gathering of Cites members.

Dr Richard Leakey, director of the Kenya Wildlife Service and Africa's most vociferous proponent of the ban on trade in elephant hide and tusks, has agreed to the compromise — and the South Africans can, for once, rely on extensive support from some unlikely bedfellows.

A central tenet of South Africa's position is that elephant and other animal species are among the only resources that rural communities in many parts of southern Africa can exploit to make a living and, thus, it is important to win the principle that these people be allowed to use wildlife resources in a sustainable way.

The ivory war

w/m a/c 6/3-12/3/92
The future of the African elephant and those who benefit from trading in ivory and skins — rural communities and men of war — will be decided when Cites opens in Japan this week.

EDDIE KOCH reports

"Wildlife must and can pay its way. And that payment must reach the people who have no choice but to live cheek by jowl with wild animals in remote areas," says Tony Ferrar, executive director of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa and member of the South African delegation to Cites.

"Conservationists in southern Africa must consolidate a clear and powerful message, delivered with conviction, that defines the policy of sustainable economic use of wild species. This must be done not only for the good of those species but for the benefit of local people and the economic and ecological systems on which they depend."

The position will be supported by progressive conservationists from all over southern Africa, including proponents of the Campfire programme in Zimbabwe. This is a promising scheme in which villagers are given control over wildlife in their tribal areas in exchange for sale of their products. Several of these communities have built creches, schools, clinics and other facilities from the proceeds of conservation programmes in their areas.

Backing will also come from a reputable team of researchers attached to the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom.

In a recent book, *Elephants, Economics and Ivory*, members of the unit argue the ivory ban is having a detrimental effect on innovative conservation programmes in southern, and South, Africa that encourage local communities to participate in the preservation of wildlife rather than to engage in poaching.

But enter the military and things no longer look so good for the South Africans. The London-based Environmental Protection Agency (EIA), a vociferous group of researchers opposed to any relaxation of the ivory ban, recently issued a report which claims that the Mozambican army, the SADF and Renamo and are heavily implicated in ivory wars that are driving some of the sub-continent's remaining herds to extinction.

EIA director Allan Thornton's report is thin on evidence about the SADF's said involvement in this conspiracy. But there have been more reliable indications recently that members of the South African military are profiting from poaching in Mozambique's war zone.

The Defence Intelligence Agency, an undercover unit attached to the United States Defence Department, last month leaked a report which claimed that support for Renamo rebels in Mozambique was still being supplied by elements in the SADF as late as February 1991. The DIA's agent says that his informant, a defector from the rebel movement, provided evidence of "another Renamo connection to South Africa — ivory poaching".

The report cites the informant as saying: "When he was a member of a section he was often tasked to go into a huge area with lots of elephants to kill the elephants for their tusks. He said this group brought the tusks to a camp near the border, where the tusks were given to a group of whites, including a white woman."

Documents captured by the Mozambican army when it overran a Renamo base at Gorongosa in central Mozambique last year record instructions from rebel leader Alfonso Dhlakama to his chief of staff, one General Anselmo, that a consignment of ivory be airlifted to South Africa.

Another document, this time from a Renamo field commander to Dhlakama, says: "We need anti-aircraft weapons. We can provide ivory on a landing strip. When we have the anti-aircraft (weapons), the ivory must be ready to be taken out."

The Weekly Mail has also seen film footage, taken by a foreign television crew last year, which shows Renamo insurgents hawking ivory tusks across the electrified fence that separates southern Mozambique from South Africa — in full view of an SADF platoon.

Kaolin battle heats

A war of words as Serina fires a broadside shot in

GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE war of words between the kaolin mining company Serina and the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group (SCPAG) continued with Serina firing a broadside at the conservation group in the form of a full page advertisement in Weekend Argus.

Among the allegations levelled at the SCPAG — which has sworn to stop kaolin mining on the slopes of Chapman's Peak at all costs — was that the action group had failed to answer an 18-page document sent to them by Serina's attorneys.

The document allegedly called for the retraction of

"falsehoods" communicated by the SCPAG in the Argus.

However, SCPAG spokesman Mr John Butterfield threw himself into the fray by saying it was a pleasure to respond to Serina's "hardy" attempt to muster support for what he called their "lost cause". He labelled the advertisement "laughable".

He said the SCPAG was not obliged, nor even inclined to respond to the 18-page document which was full of excerpts from Serina's own mining report which had been rejected by SCPAG as being misleading.

"We see no reason why we should retract our information as 'falsehoods' in the light of the contents of Serina's document," he said. Serina, which has in turn in-

sisted it will mine kaolin because it has the mineral rights to the site, also stated that an advertisement placed in The Argus on December 13 1991 by the SCPAG has been ruled by the Advertising Standards Authority to be in contravention of the code of advertising practice.

But this was denied by Mr Butterfield who said the SCPAG was never in contravention of the advertising code as a result of any "falsehoods" contained in any of their advertisements.

Serina also warns in the advertisement that their employees had reached boiling point at the callous attitude of those who wanted to "build 10houses for rich people on the Noordhoek site and leave 700 hundred men women and children destitute".

"What will happen when their patience finally snaps?", the company asks in the advertisement.

Serina also asked whether the international friends of Mr John Aspinall, the owner of Noordhoek Manor which overlooks the site of the proposed mine, were aware of these undertones and the implications of the loss of 140 jobs.

But Mr Butterfield rejected this by asserting that 140 jobs would not be lost. He said Serina's management team made up half of their payroll and would be able to move to any new location that the company chose to mine. The balance of their labour requirements would be recruited locally, he said.

"There will definitely be no overall employment loss to the

Cape if Serina moves out of the Peninsula," he said.

He accused Serina of being hypocrites in even mentioning unemployment when the holding company, Continental China, had recently retrenched employees in Atlantis.

"What they don't say in their advert is why Serina should relocate to the West Coast where they could be in a position to re-employ some of the people retrenched by Continental China."

Serina, a subsidiary of the insurance giant Sanlam, also insists in the advertisement that there are no viable alternative sites to the present one at Chapman's Peak.

The company states the SCPAG for continuing to allude to viable alternatives.

"But at no time have they published the locations, the drilling results and the viability studies", Serina says. However, Mr Butterfield's reply was that there were in fact other viable kaolin deposits in the Western Cape. He said details of these deposits had been made available by owners to Serina who had not investigated these deposits. According to Mr Butterfield the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs acknowledged that their geological survey of kaolin deposits was not exhaustive and that alternative sites could exist. "Serina has also publicly stated that they do not have to consider alternative sites because they have the exclusive rights to mine kaolin in the Peninsula," he pointed out.

defence

RG 12
24
25

Health officers launch new professional organisation

By KURT SWART

HEALTH officers in the Western Cape plan to launch a professional body this month to represent their interests, following the launch of a national health officers' association late last year.

Mr Johnny Slingers, chairman of the steering committee, said a preliminary meeting was held at the Peninsula Technikon in Bellville last Saturday to discuss the launch of the new organisation.

This followed the formation of the Southern African Association for Environmental Health Officers (SAAEHO) at Soshanguve in Pretoria on September 30 last year.

Said Mr Slingers: "The first national council meeting was held in Kimberley at the end of November last year and was attended by delegates from all over Southern Africa, including the Western Cape.

"The meeting last week served as a re-

port-back to fellow health inspectors as well as a forum to discuss the formal launch of a Western Cape region of the SAAEHO."

The local SAAEHO steering committee is calling on all health officers in the Western Cape and neighbouring areas to register and attend the launch at the Peninsula Technikon at 2pm on Saturday, March 21.

For further information call Mr Johnny Slingers and Mr Emmanuel Rusford on ☎ 952 7640 and 959 6366 respectively.

The new body will be the first organisation of its kind run on a non-racial basis, said Mr Slingers.

Environmental health officers, or health inspectors, are responsible for disease control, hygiene, environmental health and "community involvement and upliftment".

The association, "a professional body for professional people", will be a rival grouping to the predominantly white Health Officers' Association of South Africa.

SI Times (Cus) 8/3/92

56

COUNCIL APPROVES PLAN CRITICS CALL AN ECOLOGICAL NIGHTMARE

Undersea pipeline for toxic chemicals

S/Times [cm] 8/3/92

By CHIARA CARTER

THE Cape Town City Council has given the go-ahead to a chemical company to build an undersea pipeline to convey highly toxic chemicals from Table Bay to Paarden Eiland — despite objections that the scheme could become an ecological nightmare.

The council gave notice last year that it intended entering into a contract with Witney Chemicals, a Durban-based company which wants to convey the chemicals styrene monomer and vinyl acetate to the Total storage tanks in Paarden Eiland.

City Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said the council had now agreed to the contract and would sign once Portnet and Caltex, both of whom were also affected by the proposal, gave the go-ahead.

Mr Doman acknowledged that several objections to the scheme had been lodged

with the council and that the council's cleansing department had expressed concern at the toxic nature of the two chemicals involved.

Styrene, which can ignite spontaneously, is given the highest possible hazard rating by several international authorities.

At least part of the objections lodged with the council are based on environmental concerns that the chemicals involved are highly hazardous, the pipe could break resulting in spillage into the sea and vapours could be emitted at the storage tanks.

According to sources, the council's Waste Department has expressed concern about several aspects of the scheme, including the toxicity of the chemicals and the need for planning in the eventuality of a fire at the storage depot or a need to evacuate people from the surrounding area.

One party objecting to the scheme is the chemical company, Sentrachem.

Sentrachem wrote to the council saying the proposal was a threat to public safety, arguing that it was unsafe to transport hazardous chemicals via a lengthy pipeline under the sea to a tank site close to residential areas.

Sentrachem's managing director, Mr Glen Carter, said the company did not want to debate the matter in public since it was involved in the industry. However, the company felt the scheme should be evaluated by an independent body.

"The Cape is not known as the Cape of Storms for nothing. If a pipe bursts, 60 tons of styrene could be pumped into the seas. We think the scheme is an ecological hazard," Mr Carter said.

Rivalry

Mr Mark Witney, managing director of Witney Chemicals, disputed this, saying the public had nothing to fear as the pipeline would have inbuilt safety measures and once above ground, the chemicals would not emit "significant vapours".

"A spill would mean a bad smell but you would have to ingest the chemicals to be badly affected," he said.

Mr Witney said a similar line was operating in Durban and claimed objections were based less on environmental concern than trade rivalry. A rival group wanted to build a storage depot in the docks, he said.

"This would be as much of an environmental threat. We are providing a less expensive, more viable option which will keep our customers able to compete."

Cape Town's port captain, Mr W G Shewell, said modern pipelines were built to safeguard against disaster and while vapour discharge did occur in the docks it was "minimal".

However, he felt chemicals and fuel should be stored within the docks, not in areas where there was dense population or likely to be residential development, as was the case with Paarden Eiland.

"We need to think of the future when we site storage facilities," Mr Shewell said.

Standards

Dr Bob McDaniel, a spokesman for the environmental group, Earthlife Africa, said the organisation needed to investigate the proposal before providing a detailed response but they would like to be assured that adequate measures were being taken to safeguard the public and the workers involved.

The proximity of the harbour to the city centre made this vital.

"Present handling in the harbour leaves much to be desired. The creation of a potentially explosive situation in the harbour or elsewhere needs careful investigation and comprehensive safeguards including compliance with international standards," Mr McDaniel said.

Beer cartons for gardens

5/ Times (BUS) 8/3/92 56

NATIONAL Sorghum Breweries (NSB) plans a R20-million clean-up operation by building a bio-conversion plant at its Pelindaba brewery near Atteridgeville.

With the assistance of an unnamed American partner, the company plans to convert waste products, including cardboard beer cartons, into fertiliser for use by farmers and gardeners.

The plant is expected to be operational in about eight months after the equipment has been imported.

NSB believes that at least another nine units of the same size will be needed to clean up the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area.

Three NSB directors — chairman Mohale Mahanyele, Siphonhlapo and Langa Bheki — recently returned from America where they investigated the new process.

Mr Mahanyele says that once the project gets off the ground, it will become a major industry in the black

By DON ROBERTSON

community.

"People will collect garbage and deliver it to the plant and in this way we will create jobs. We will not buy trucks, but will encourage people to collect rubbish.

"Initially the plant will be manned by NSB engineers, who will undergo training in America," he says.

First

"The environment-friendly technique is the most advanced yet. It has been in operation in Texas and Arizona.

"We will be the first to use the technology outside America."

The black community is the worst affected by littering and local authorities are unable to handle it. This has caused a health hazard, says Mr Mahanyele.

"We have been painfully aware that our product causes litter and we now seek a solution."

Mining protesters ask for new study

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

PROTESTERS opposed to open-cast mining on the slopes of Chapman's Peak will support mining if "an objective" environmental impact study shows the site will not be irreparably harmed.

"We will not stand in their way if the government commissions a CSIR study which shows mining will not have an adverse effect on the environment," said Mr Ian Brownlie, coordinator of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

But his proposal has been dismissed by Mr Klaus Zirker, chairman of Continental China, which owns Serina Kaolin Ltd.

"As far as I am concerned the environmental impact study commissioned by Serina is objective and I have no reason to believe the CSIR or anyone else will be able to contradict its findings.

Fencing

"In any event our study was found not to be biased by Professor Richard Fuggle, professor of environmental studies at UCT.

"I also believe it is one of the most comprehensive studies of its kind ever done in this country.

"Ordinarily, I would welcome another study but there is no time. We have already followed the correct legal procedure and have every intention of fencing the site soon. We have to begin erecting our processing plant there by the end of the year," he said.

Meanwhile, Serina employees, afraid that they will lose their jobs if the protesters succeed in halting mining, intend to line the route of a Peninsula cycle tour today with posters calling on the Save Chapman's Peak lobby to end its protest.

Referendum on March 17 menu

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(Sb) MG 9/3/92

A LAST-MINUTE chance for business leaders to discuss the referendum and its wider implications — including repercussions for the environment — is the "green" breakfast hosted by The Argus and the Fairest Cape Association on March 17.

The breakfast is the first in a series, planned as an information dissemination exercise, to involve the business community to a greater degree in caring for the environment.

The series also complements the Fairest Cape Association's 500 Foundation, launched in 1986 to raise funds from the corporate sector for environmental education.

Mr Neal Chapman, chairman of

Southern Life and honorary president of the 500 Foundation, will host the first breakfast on referendum day.

Guest speaker Dr John Hanks, executive director of the Southern African Nature Foundation will talk on *Environmental Management — The Role Of The Private Sector In The Western Cape*.

The breakfast is being held at Southern Life, Great Westerford, Rondebosch on Tuesday, March 17, at 7.15 am.

The cost is R32,50 and proceeds go to the 500 Foundation. Contact Pam Herr Organisation, ☎ 782 5892 or fax 782 1774 for further inquiries.

Cheques should be made payable to Fairest Cape Association, PO Box 30176, Tokai 7966.

Serina throws challenge

Action group must prove its reckless statements, says kaolin company

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE kaolin mining company Serina, through its holding company Continental China, has challenged the accuracy of statements by the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

In the latest round of the war of words, Mr Klaus Zirker, chairman of Continental China, said the thrust of a Serina advertisement in Weekend Argus was to urge editorial staff to check facts before publishing "numerous false statements" on the proposed Noordhoek kaolin mine.

A Weekend Argus report about the advert contained illustrations of this, he said.

Among them was the assertion by action group spokesman Mr John Butterfield that Continental China had retrenched staff at its Atlantis factory.

"(This) is patently false. The staff numbers have remained constant for years and a telephone call to the manager of the plant would have established the truth," Mr Zirker said.

Similarly, the fact that the Save Chapman's Peak Group advertise-

ment on December 13 was found to contravene the Advertising Standards Authority's code could have been checked.

"Why did Mr Butterfield deny it?" Mr Zirker asked.

Mr Butterfield's reference to alternative deposits of kaolin "illustrates his lack of knowledge", he said.

"We have a number of internal and external studies of the West Coast deposit available for Argus staff to study. The deposit is not viable and we ask The Argus to call upon Mr Butterfield to produce proper evidence of the location, drilling results and viability of any alternative sites.

"Furthermore, we have never rejected any deposit without detailed study. Please note that Mr Butterfield's expertise lies in insurance marketing and not in geology."

Mr Butterfield's suggestion that half the staff at Serina were senior underscored his "penchant for reckless comment", Mr Zirker said.

● Mr Butterfield was busy with appointments today and said he would respond fully tomorrow.

'Chemicals pipe will not run under bay'

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

(56) ARG 9/3/92

A PIPELINE to transport hazardous chemicals from Table Bay to Paarden Eiland will not run undersea, according to the chemical company planning to build it.

Claims that the pipeline would run under Table Bay prompted concern from environmentalists, among them Earthlife Africa, that a break in the line would cause "havoc".

The city council gave the go-ahead for the pipeline last year.

Portnet's decision on permission for the pipeline to run through the harbour area is pending.

Witney Chemicals of Durban is to build the pipeline, which will transport vinyl acetate and styrene monomer.

Vinyl acetate is used to make PVA paint, while styrene monomer — rated as one of the most hazardous chemicals in the world — is used in packaging.

Witney Chemicals managing director Mr Mark Witney said the 3,5km pipeline would run from the eastern mole in the harbour and would follow the road to Paarden Eiland.

The 15cm stainless steel pipeline would run parallel to the 34cm Caltex pipeline.

"It will not be undersea at any point," Mr Witney said.

The pipeline was to be designed by a firm of consulting engineers "well acquainted" with the stringent specifications of international safety requirements.

"Our pipeline will be about 90cm from a pipeline that has been transporting crude oil and petroleum products without incident for more than 20 years," Mr Witney said.

He dismissed claims that escaping vapours could endanger residential areas.

Mr Witney said earlier Portnet provisional approval for the pipeline had been withdrawn.

He claimed the controversy was provoked by competitors who had plans of their own for storage tanks in the harbour.

"If Portnet does not give approval for our pipeline, we shall go to the Competition Board," Mr Witney said.

Portnet spokesman Mr Roger Farley was not available for comment.

City council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said the council approved the pipeline, on the recommendation of the utilities and works committee, on January 31 last year and notice was given of the project in an Afrikaans and an English daily newspaper on December 5.

Death threats end ivory probe

(56) CT 9/3/92

By GUY OLIVER

SOUTH AFRICAN Police scotched a two million rand international operation against the ivory trade when operatives targeted smugglers for assassination, it emerged yesterday.

Codenamed "Operation Lock", and bankrolled by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, the operation was launched in 1987 to infiltrate the ivory smuggling rings in Southern Africa and halt the destruction of the black rhino.

The operation was initially aimed at information gathering and surveillance and carried out by former members of the elite British Special Air Services (SAS).

However, the head of the police endangered species protection unit, Major Pieter Lategan, said they had ceased co-operation with the "professionally trained military" team in February last year because of a lack of trust.

Police say they did not trust unit

He said members of the team, which varied from 12 to four men, had discussed assassinating ivory dealers in Botswana.

Major Lategan said he believed the team withheld information from the SAP.

"We did not know what they were doing."

It was on this basis that co-operation was closed, he said. There were no monetary constraints to carrying on.

The operation was born after the chief executive officer of the SA Nature Foundation, Dr John Hanks, based in Stellenbosch, introduced Prince Bernhard to

Colonel Ian Crooke, the chief of a London security firm, KAS Enterprises.

Yesterday Dr Hanks said KAS employed former SAS operatives and they had proven success in surveillance activities in Northern Ireland.

He said he had asked a colleague in the SANF to give assistance to "a team investigating the illegal trade in rhino horn".

Dr Hanks said this took place without the knowledge or approval of the WWF International or the executive committee of SANF.

He said the operation was designed to gather information to be used in the courts against illegal ivory traders.

Dr Hanks dismissed allegations of Operation Lock operatives being used as hit men in the war against the illegal ivory trade and said the operation, which was not without its successes, was closed when the money ran out in February last year.

Toxic chemical pipeline slammed

Staff Reporter

56 CT9/3/92

A DECISION by the city council to give the go-ahead for an undersea pipeline to convey highly toxic chemicals from Table Bay harbour to Paarden Eiland has been slammed by Earthlife Africa as "ludicrous" and "hazardous".

The council gave notice last year that it intended entering into a contract with Durban-based Witney Chemicals, who wanted to convey the chemicals styrene monomer and vinyl acetate to the Total storage tanks at Paarden Eiland.

According to council spokesman Mr Ted Doman, the council had advertised the project for objections last year and had then approved the application on condition that Portnet and Caltex, both affected by the proposal, approved of the project.

The alternative to the pipeline would be to convey the chemicals by truck, but trucks could break down too, Mr Doman said.

Styrene, which could ignite spontaneously, has been given the highest possible hazard rating by several international authorities.

Concern has been expressed that should the pipe break it could lead to the pollution of the sea, and vapours could escape at the storage tanks, which would be located close to a residential area.

Dr Robert McDaniel, a spokesman for Earthlife Africa, said yesterday transporting that kind of chemical by pipeline was hazardous.

Building the pipeline from the harbour was perhaps a cost-saving measure but its potential for causing havoc in the harbour was great, he said.

No tax relief on Model C fees

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Tax relief will not be given to parents for the compulsory fees they will pay for their children at the almost 2 500 House of Assembly schools which become semi-private from next month.

Commenting on answers given by Minister of Education Mr Piet Marais to queries about model C schools, the Receiver of Revenue in Natal, Mr Geoff Grant, warned

yesterday that fees were considered domestic or private expenses which were "specifically prohibited as a deduction in terms of section 23(b) of the Income Tax Act".

Fees are expected to rise by at least 100% under the new system, in which the state allocation will cover only the salaries of staff and parents will have to fork out for all other expenses.

However, schools will not be

required to collect VAT on these fees, although they will have to pay VAT on purchases and services.

Another concern of parents and teachers was that the earnings and trust funds of model C schools would be taxed.

Mr Grant said that the act provided for the exemption from tax of the "receipts and accruals" of educational institutions, whether or not they were subsidised by the state.

5 OCT 10/3/92

...suitable and
...willing candidate for rehabilitation".

Chemical pipeline (56) CT 10/3/92 'to go overland'

A PROPOSED pipeline transporting toxic chemicals from Table Bay harbour to storage tanks in Paarden Eiland is to go overland and not under the sea.

This was said yesterday by Mr Mark Witney, managing director of Durban-based Witney Chemical (Pty) Ltd, who hopes to install the pipeline.

It was "infinitely preferable from a sea pollution point of view" to have an overland pipe than a storage tank "virtually on the water", he said.

Every two or three months a shipped consignment of styrene (a highly flammable chemical used in the manufacture of polystyrene) would be pumped to the storage tanks, he said.

Mr John Vogt, managing director of Richards Bay Bulk Storage, who favours a different scheme involving a storage tank within the docks and no pipeline, said he could not comment on the safety of someone else's pipeline, especially that of a competitor.

● The Cape Times yesterday carried a report that the city council had given the go-ahead for a pipeline carrying the toxic materials undersea.

This followed a Sunday newspaper report about the alleged undersea pipe in which council spokesman Mr Ted Doman was quoted.

When phoned at home on Sunday Mr Doman told the Cape Times that "nothing had happened in the matter" since he had spoken to the Sunday newspaper. The Cape Times had reason to accept from this that the story was correct in all aspects.

...between the present white
...Citrusdal town
...Canton

PW, Gorbachev similar

ALTHOUGH former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev was often compared with fellow reformist President F W de Klerk, Gorbachev was actually more similar to De Klerk's predecessor, P W Botha, a visiting Russian academic has concluded.

Vladimir Tikhomirov, who has spent the last six months writing a book which compares the transition process in SA to that in the former Soviet Union, argues that although the frequent comparisons between Gorbachev and De Klerk are understandable, the comparison does not bear scrutiny.

Both Botha and Gorbachev initiated the reform processes in their respective countries with the intention of securing the dominance of their parties, Tikhomirov says. Speaking at a media

Russian

In the last week, Tikhomirov said both leaders' reforms were intended to restructure ailing economies, to a great extent leaving aside the political implications of their actions.

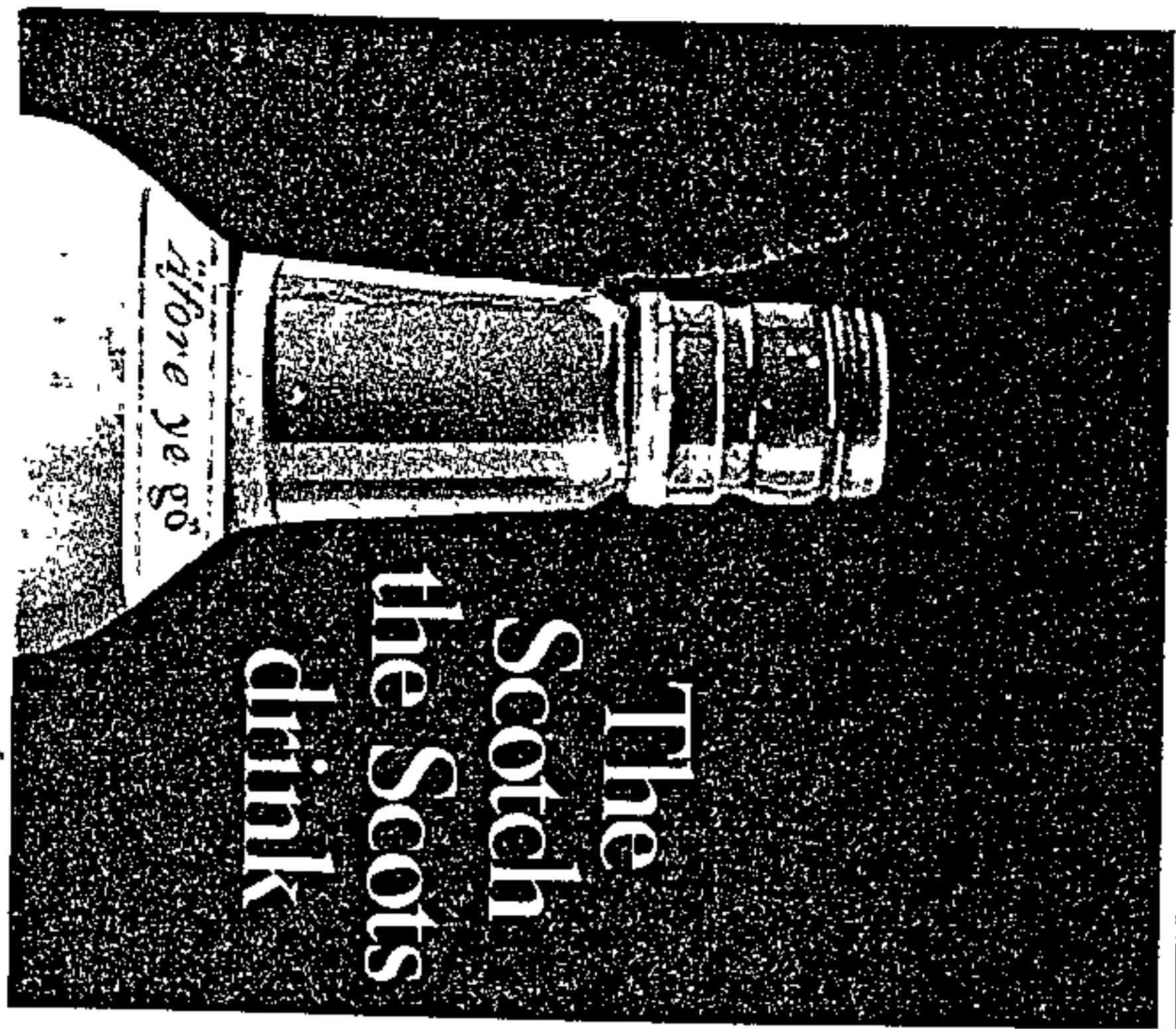
Because he initiated the reform process, Botha was a great SA leader, even though his reforms were limited, Tikhomirov said. But Gorbachev and Botha both became paralysed when the reform process they initiated required the restructuring of political power relations, something neither of them could see through to its ultimate conclusion.

Tikhomirov also made the controversial assertion that a new SA parliament should make provision for an ethnically elected chamber to limit the possibility of ethnic conflicts.

Such a chamber should not have veto rights over legislation, he said, but should provide ethnic groups with a means of protecting their rights.

Tikhomirov's book will be published soon by the International Freedom Foundation under the title: States in Transition: Russia and SA.

81 Days 10/3/92
TIM COHEN



The
Scotch
the Scots
drink

Companies slated over

pollution of SA rivers

COMMERCIAL and industrial pollution is turning SA rivers into "cess-pools", and industries, notably in Durban, must rectify the situation immediately or be threatened with consumer boycotts and factory pickets, says a leading scientist.

Michael Schleyer, assistant director of the Oceanographic Research Institute in Durban, said in a statement yesterday that many firms were clandestinely pouring their waste into the nearest stream or stormwater drain instead of paying for professional waste disposal services.

Waste being dumped ranged from old engine oil to highly toxic heavy metal waste, Schleyer said.

The problem was particularly bad in the Durban area, which suffered from inadequate sewage facilities. The recession had worsened matters by making firms more willing to cut corners to trim expenses.

Three rivers and the city's storm drainage system all flowed into Durban's bay area, he said.

"Unless the harbour pollution problem is urgently addressed, it will affect Durban's status as SA's premier tourist resort," Schleyer said. "It's only a matter of time before our beaches become littered with junk heaps of waste."

He said the Oceanographic Research Institute could play a pivotal role in monitoring pollution, but needed the private sector to provide funds necessary to establish a

56
DARIUS SANAI

monitoring unit. Some businesses had realised the extent of the problem and had started to police themselves, Schleyer said.

Authorities were "virtually powerless" to redress the situation. The Durban municipality had more pressing problems on its hands, including the provision of housing for an estimated 2-million squatters on the city's doorstep.

The Water Affairs Department was hampered by a shortage of personnel and ponderous legislation which had resulted in only a handful of successful prosecutions over the past decade.

Portnet, which controls the badly polluted harbour area, could only react to the pollution flowing into areas under its jurisdiction.

Two pilot projects had been set up by businesses wanting to police themselves. The first, the Maydon Wharf Conservancy, was started last year, and Schleyer said it had been a success. Industries policed their neighbours and kept a lookout for illicit dumping.

"Retribution of offenders is limited to a stern chat and, if need be, ostracism at the local club — but it's having the desired effect," Schleyer said.

But the schemes were not enough, and the problem had to be addressed with far more urgency.

01 01011011 wou uan no1 naid eouanuj eaisnioxε s'ajuarivB auqiv q'iqv + '0



(56) ARG 12/3/92

SA moves on whale and dolphin capture

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

DOLPHINS or killer whales unfortunate enough to land in a proposed dolphinarium on Reunion will definitely not come from South African waters.

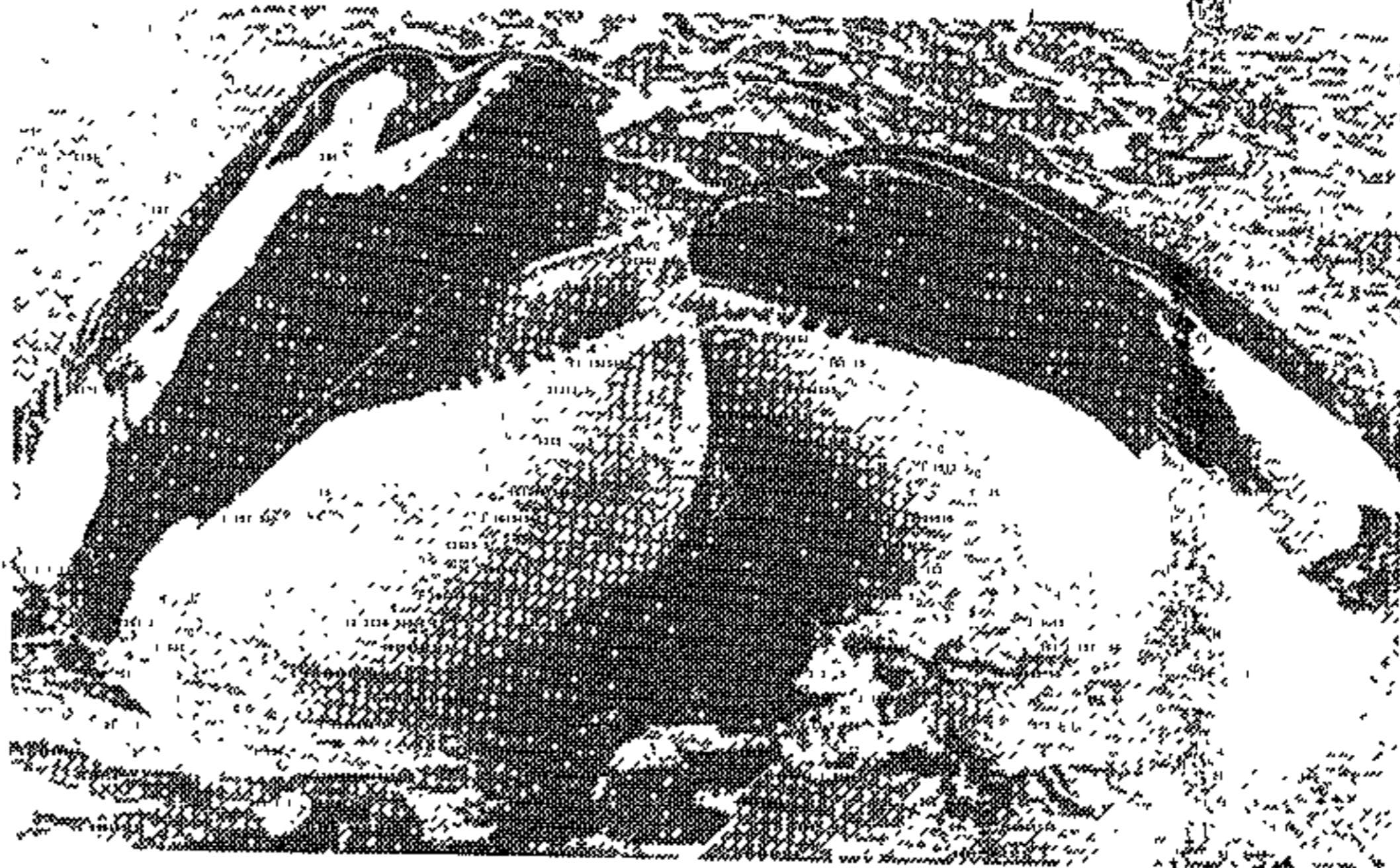
And permits for scientific research, which entails killing marine mammals will no longer be granted unconditionally, following changes in the Department of Sea Fisheries' policy.

These assurances have been given to Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection by Sea Fisheries chief director Dr Louis Botha, who said South Africa would not issue permits for the export of dolphins and killer whales to any country.

Mrs Rice said that, despite earlier denials, a report had appeared in the Reunion press alleging that cetaceans (whales and dolphins) would be caught in South African waters for the proposed dolphinarium on the Indian Ocean island.

"Greenpeace France and a society calling itself Reseau Cetaces started campaigning and sending letters asking people to write to the French Minister of Environment.

"I eventually had to ask for Dr Botha's assistance and I have also asked French Environment Minister Mr Lalonde to inform anyone writing to him that South Africa is not involved."



Killer whales ... free and friendly.

Mrs Rice said Dr Botha had told her the granting of a permit for lethal research on dolphins, issued in 1985, would not be repeated.

Asked for confirmation, Dr Botha told The Argus the previous policy of freely granting permits had been changed and that any future applications for lethal research on cetaceans would be individually examined.

"We will only grant a permit if the research is absolutely justified," he said.

Mrs Rice welcomed the changes, although she remained opposed to any lethal research, and said she wanted to see all

scientific permit applications publicly reviewed.

"In countries such as the United States, not only is lethal research frowned upon, but any scientist wishing to interfere with cetaceans or other sea life in the course of benign research has to have his application put before a special committee.

"Then this is circulated to all the conservation and animal welfare organisations for comment and approval.

"The time has come for South Africa to fall in line with more enlightened countries, and to monitor research involving marine mammals far more strictly," Mrs Rice said.

Environment 'vital to Cape economy'

Business Staff

THE long term future of the Western Cape calls for sound environmental policies to go hand-in-hand with economic growth and increased tourism, says Roger Hulley of the Fairest Cape Association.

He told Cape Town Chamber of Commerce community affairs committee yesterday that the support of business was needed for "a widely accepted green agenda for the Western Cape".

Hulley said that if SA business wanted to move into international markets it would have to keep up with world trends. One of the most important of these was to protect resources.

"For example new legislation in Germany requires products to be 'Green Dot' coded to prove they are environmentally acceptable and recyclable.

"This system is expected soon to become standard throughout the EC and will therefore need to be observed by all exporters to Europe. Products which do not comply will be

excluded. CT 12/3/92
"SA must monitor such green developments overseas and respond."

Fairest Cape was in the process of developing an environmental strategic plan for the Western Cape, with recycling as an immediate priority.

"Recycling and improved waste management can reduce the taxpayer's cleansing costs burden, provide many job opportunities for unskilled workers, reduce pressure on scarce resources, and improve the environmental consciousness of the broad public.

"In the final analysis we need changes in the way society markets goods, and in the way we handle all forms of waste in our homes.

"It is evident that one of the real limits to sustainable economic growth is the capacity of the environment to deal with waste.

"We cannot simply continue to pile up mountains of waste in our city areas when much of it can be put to good use. Suitable dump sites are also increasingly difficult to find and service."

Fairest Cape 'aiming for acceptable green agenda'

(5b)

ARC 13/3/92

Environment Reporter

A MIX of sound environmental policies, economic growth and increased tourism are needed to ensure the long-term future of the Western Cape, Fairest Cape Association executive director Mr Roger Hulley says.

Addressing the community affairs committee of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, Mr Hulley said one of his association's main priorities was to establish a widely accepted green agenda for the region.

Support for this was needed from the business community.

The association was developing an environmental strategic plan with recycling being an immediate priority, Mr Hulley said.

"Recycling and improved waste management can reduce the taxpayers' cleansing costs burden, provide many job opportunities for unskilled workers, reduce pressure on scarce resources, and improve the environmental consciousness of the broad public."

In addition to its anti-litter campaigns, the association also intended playing a leading role in the reduction, re-use and recycling of solid waste.

56 AR/T 13/3/92

Changing land use laws 'will foster secrecy'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

DRAFT changes to the Cape's land use planning legislation will increase secrecy and give greater powers to officials if they are accepted as law, a concerned landowner has told the Ombudsman.

Mr Joh Groenewald, a co-owner of the Groenkant private nature reserve near Still Bay, also asked Ombudsman Mr Justice Van der Walt to consider why Cape planning officials now wanted to give greater powers to the white "own affairs" minister when the tricameral system was being phased out.

Mr Groenewald said the Land Use Planning Ordinance Amendment Bill (Cape) had been tabled in parliament and referred to the white "own affairs" standing committee of the House of Assembly.

He pointed out that the new Bill followed hard on the heels of highly-critical comments by a Supreme Court judge on the secret way in which Cape provincial authorities had dealt with a development application at Langebaan.

Granting an interdict in December preventing Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd., from proceeding with a township development at the lagoon, Mr Justice J H Conradie expressed unease at the "alarmingly secretive" way in which the go-ahead for the development had been obtained from authorities.

Mr Groenewald also reminded the Ombudsman of the controversy over CPA planning permission for a devel-

opment at Ystervarkfontein near Still Bay.

According to the memorandum to the Bill, the minister would be empowered to issue conditions for township development and "the right to appeal is limited", Mr Groenewald said.

The memorandum neglected to point out that the Bill scrapped the requirement to advertise such conditions and delegated increased powers to officials.

The Bill also contained changes to the way in which affected landowners had to be informed and in which the public was notified through the media.

"These (new) definitions mean that an official can decide who will be affected by a land use application, whether he wants to inform such an affected landowner, whether he can or will obtain his address, and how he will inform this affected landowner."

As part of the normal democratic process, the process of land use planning — including decisions, departures, rezonings and changes — required that interested parties were informed, Mr Groenewald said.

However, the Bill scrapped the words "advertise" or "advertisement" in seven places and referred instead to "notify".

This meant that advertisements in newspapers would not be necessary.

The Bill included a clause which allowed officials charged with specific responsibilities to delegate their authority to other officials. This had given rise to several controversies in the Cape.

The Bill also appeared to channel responsibility upwards to the minister away from the Administrator.

Stop watering gardens, city engineer warns

WATER restrictions could soon be in force in parts of Johannesburg as the city's 20 reservoirs were suffering from excessive drain-off, chief water engineer Kurt Rohner said yesterday.

The culprits, said Rohner, were people who watered their gardens 24 hours a day, thereby draining off excessive quantities.

The city council yesterday "urgently requested" residents of Parktown and surrounding areas not to water their gardens as this "could result in other areas being without water".

The Parktown reservoir is only 20% full.

13/3/92
ADRIAN HADLAND

while the Hurst Hill reservoir — which supplies Greenside and Triomf — is also running low.

A spokesman from the Rand Water Board said the Vaal water system could cope with overall demand at present. But water could not be pumped in fast enough to some of Johannesburg's reservoirs.

The size of the pipes leading to the smaller reservoirs and their inability to keep supply up with demand was the cause of the shortage, the spokesman said. This

was quickly depleting reserve storage capacity in reservoirs around the city.

"We supply water in bulk to local authorities and it is their responsibility to deal with local demand and the upgrading of the city's water infrastructure."

The Vaal Dam has dropped to about 45% of its capacity, but more than adequate reserves are available from the deeper Sterkfontein Dam should the city's immediate supply drop to less than 36 hours.

Water reserves in the Vaal system are estimated to be able to last for up to two years in the event of total drought.

Boesak fires a salvo in war over kaolin mine

AP's 14/3/92

51

GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Weekend Argus Reporter
and Sapa

DR ALLAN Boesak, leader of the African National Congress in the Western Cape, has stepped into the growing war of words about the proposed kaolin mine on Chapman's Peak.

As the Save the Chapman's Peak Action Group yesterday blasted mining company Serina — saying the report which gave it the go-ahead to mine the peak allowed for no scientific input from protest groups — Dr Boesak said the government had ridden roughshod over the environment in the same way it had done to the black people in South Africa for the past 40 years.

"They have been as insensitive to the environment as they have been to us."

Dr Boesak said South Africa had areas of wonderful natural beauty and the few places that remained, had to be left alone.

"Most certainly this country does not need the short-term gain that kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak might bring," he said.

Asked whether he would not be accused of jeopardising jobs for more than 100 people in the area, Dr Boesak said other countries had been guilty of creating jobs for the immediate future without thinking of the long-term effect and damage to the environment.

"Although one should be very sensitive to those who are unemployed, there surely must be other ways of creating employment for our people, such as tourism, than mining for kaolin in this sensitive area."

"For too long, South Africa has taken the easy way out without thinking about the long-term im-



Dr Allan Boesak

environment, he said.

"While I am not saying ignore those people who are desperate for jobs, I am challenging both the government and industry to find alternative means of creating employment."

Meanwhile, Mr Ian Brownlie of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, said although Serina's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) included a reference to opposition from his action group, at no time had the group been invited to put forward the substantial scientific research they had commissioned independently.

In the growing war of words surrounding an already volatile issue, Mr Klaus Zirker, head of Continental China, the company that owns Serina, denied Mr Brownlie's accusation as "yet another falsehood". He said assessors Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten were selected by a joint committee comprising representatives from Serina, the government and the opposition lobby.

The company looks set to move on site soon, but has not yet applied to the Regional Services Council for a permit to mine it.

The RSC still has to issue such a permit and

plications, and we cannot allow this government to agree to this mine, the bitter fruits of which a democratic government will have to explain to people 10 years from now," he said.

Workers and trade unions also had learned to look at what kind of industry in which they were getting involved. They were extremely critical of the way the developed world had plundered the

anti-mine lobbyists are hopeful it will not do this.

Whatever the case, the action group was waiting for the referendum dust to settle before launching what it said would be the biggest environmental protest campaign South Africa had seen.

A spokesman for the government-funded Committee for Integrated Environmental Management, meanwhile, confirmed yesterday the committee was opposed to Serina's mining proposal.

Mr Brian Egan said the committee already had made its report to the government, noting alternative kaolin deposits on the West Coast.

He confirmed the Chapman's Peak EIA had been done under the committee's strict class 1 regulations, which stipulated an early draft of the report must allow for public scrutiny and input.

Mr Brownlie said action group scientists had not had an opportunity to air their views.

"The final report was presented as a fait accompli," he charged.

Mr Zirker said Serina had looked at 92 other kaolin deposits, but all had proved unsuitable in terms of quality or because the size of the deposits was fragmented.

He dismissed the action group allegation that Serina had not considered alternative deposits because of the required extra expenditure — having already bought Chapman's Peak mining rights for a bargain in 1978.

The unsuitability of the deposits meant there had not even been discussion on cost, he said.

Mr Zirker said the EIA had indicated steepness of terrain would not prohibit rehabilitation.

He claimed the site in question was weed-ridden, in fact, and was not rich in fynbos.

Asked about the impact of mine traffic, he said roads would be tarred and mine trucks moving in and out the area would be limited to eight a day and would be spaced at least 15 minutes apart.

Plan to store hazardous chemicals in harbour

By CHIARA CARTER

SI Times (CM) 15/3/92

A PLAN to store hazardous chemicals in Cape Town Harbour — an alternative to a scheme to convey them to Paarden Eiland by pipeline — has also come under fire from critics this week.

The pipeline plan, by Witney Chemicals — reported in Cape Metro last week — involves building a pipeline to convey styrene monomer and vinyl acetate.

It has been described as "environmentally hazardous" although the company's managing director, Mr Mark Witney, this week denied critics' claims that part of the pipeline would run underwater.

He said it would run along the coast about 100 metres from the sea and asked the Sunday Times to clarify that when he said a section would run "below sea level" he meant on land below sea level.

The alternative plan, to build a tank farm on reclaimed land in Cape Town Harbour, has been proposed by Portnet and Richards Bay Bulk Storage (RBBS), who have formed a joint company to develop the tank farm, which they say is "perfectly safe".

But Earthlife spokesman Dr Bob McDaniel, who criticised the pipeline scheme last week, said this week that there was also "potential for major problems" with the harbour scheme.

"Storing corrosive, explosive or inflammatory substances close to the harbour is pushing one's luck," he said.

"While Cape Town harbour is a working port it is also right next to the city centre and contains the new Waterfront entertainment complex."

He questioned whether it was advisable to convey and store a toxic chemical like styrene in Cape Town at all.

Mr McDaniel said there was a risk of spillage in both plans when chemicals were offloaded in the harbour.

"At least with the present system of trucking styrene, an accident would mean a truckload, not tons, spilt."

He said the pipeline was "probably the lesser of two evils" since it was better to risk an accident in Paarden Eiland, an industrial area, than the docks, which were next to the city centre.

Portnet and RBBS this week confirmed their plans to build the tank farm.

Safe

Mr John Vogt, managing director of RBBS, said the company had been chosen as a partner by Portnet after Portnet had called for submissions to develop the site last year. A joint company had been formed.

"Our primary concern is to provide a safe and effective tank farm to serve the needs of Western Cape industries. This company is not a user or producer of chemicals, but a professional tank farm operator."

He said the site was isolated from high-activity areas, had access from both the land and the sea and had unlimited water for tank cooling and firefighting.

"In the unlikely event of a problem, the terminal is so remote as to ensure that no effect could be felt in the city or tourist areas."

The design would be done by a company of international repute and would follow standards set by Portnet, the SABS and American codes.

Cape Town's port manager, Mr Rudie Basson, said it could be built this year.

Rival

The storage site, the tanks and piping procedures would comply with accepted safety standards, he said.

Although styrene — which can ignite spontaneously — is given the highest possible hazard rating by several international authorities, he said Portnet constantly handled chemicals and did not anticipate any problems.

He said Portnet was not opposed in principle to conveying chemicals by pipeline and was awaiting details of the rival scheme by Witney Chemicals.

According to Mr Witney, styrene would be pumped through hoses from ships in the docks to the wharf where it would enter the pipeline, which would run through the harbour before following the Caltex pipeline between the seafront and Marine Drive in Paarden Eiland.

It would then cross under the road to the Total storage farms.

St Lucia in world spotlight

S/Times 15/3/92
By ROY RUDDEN

RAMSAR, the world body which protects wetlands, is to send a team of experts to South Africa next month to investigate the controversial Richards Bay Minerals plan to start mining at Lake St Lucia.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, has formally

invited the Campaign for St Lucia to make a presentation to the Ramsar team on April 30.

Environmentalists say they are heartened by positive developments in the saga. They claim that

largely foreign-owned industry is threatening the life of one of the world's few remaining great estuarine complexes.

In one recent development, Professor Steven Njuguna of Kenya, alternate representative for Africa of the Ramsar Convention (to which the SA

government is contracted) and an ally of the anti-mining lobby, has contacted campaign chairman Oliff D'Oliveira to say he will be accompanying the Ramsar mission which will be in SA from April 25 to May 5.

Mr Pienaar has written to Mr D'Oliveira assuring him that maintaining the ecological integrity of St Lucia was of "major concern" to the government.

His letter followed a Sunday Times disclosure that the Democratic and Conservative parties plan to support a private members' motion in the House of Assembly to introduce a Wetlands Conservation Bill which could effectively block RBM's mining plans.

Law

In his letter, Mr Pienaar said he had "only recently" received a Ramsar proposal concerning the application of monitoring procedures — which conservationists want him to invoke.

"As always ... our conduct has been strictly in accordance with the rules laid down by the convention," he wrote.

Clearly, world pressure would make it embarrassing for the government to oppose the opposition-introduced Bill.

Householders risk water cuts

STAR 16/3/92

Staff Reporters

Failure to upgrade Johannesburg's water reticulation system after the 1982 to 1987 drought has landed the city on the brink of another water crisis.

Rainfall on the Witwatersrand this year is down to 406 mm — less than the 410 mm recorded in the 1982/3 drought year — and unless it rains on the Reef this month, water tankers may have to be rushed in to supply emergency rations to householders and hospitals in the Houghton area.

Only 2 mm of rain has been recorded over the Witwatersrand this month. The long-term average for March is 96 mm.

Officials on the West and East Rand and in Vaal Triangle towns are satisfied with the water situation in their areas and do not foresee restrictions.

But the Johannesburg crisis means there is an increasing threat of curbs, with high-lying houses in the north-eastern suburbs temporarily

without supplies if the council is forced to take emergency action when reservoirs run dry.

Suburbs in the danger zone are those served by the Parktown/Linksfield reservoirs on the north-eastern side of Johannesburg, including Houghton, Orange Grove, Waverley, Highlands North, Saxonwold, Sandringham, Craighall, Dunkeld, Melrose and Sydenham, said council director George Keay.

Threatened

Problems are also being experienced in the Fairland and Brixton areas.

First hit if the reservoirs dry up would be houses on city ridges, Mr Keay said.

Hospitals that could be threatened by the looming water crisis included the Johannesburg and Kenridge hospitals and the Park Lane Clinic, which would have to be fed directly from the Parktown reservoir. Less critical supplies to consumers would be cut off.

Consumers have been urged to stop watering their gardens, and businesses to relieve pressure on the reservoirs.

There has been no rainfall in the Vaal Triangle since the beginning of March but on the West and East Rand, and in Vaal Triangle towns, council officials said they did not expect water rationing this winter. They would, however, abide with any decision from the Rand Water Board (RWB).

The RWB blames the city council for the current crisis in Johannesburg.

"We are well-stocked with water: despite the 47 percent level of the Vaal Dam, the Vaal River system is 67 percent full and the Sterkfontein feeder dam, which can supply the Vaal when it drops to about 20 percent, is bulging on the 98 percent full mark," said a board spokesman.

Mr Keay said demand for water, which had decreased dramatically after the drought years, had now returned to pre-1982 levels.

Though it was uneconomical to plan for once-in-40-year droughts, he said the system had not been upgraded to handle demand once it returned to normal after the five-year drop.

Public to learn more about mountain plans

(5)

ARG 16/3/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SOME recommendations about the management of Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain will in future be made public.

This follows a request by The Argus to the chairman of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Advisory Management Committee, Dr Douglas Hey, to be allowed to attend his committee's meetings.

The committee advises Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring and has in the past argued that it is not permitted to release details of its activities.

Divisional councillor Mr Len Pothier was fired from the committee — then named the Cape Peninsula Nature Area Advisory Committee — by former Environment Affairs minister the late Mr John Wiley, for disclosing details about a planned development

at Sandy Bay within the nature area.

Subsequently, Mr Meiring told The Argus he had no objection to the press attending meetings.

But the committee was not happy with this proposal, Dr Hey said in a letter to The Argus.

"The consensus of the committee was that, although some benefit would be derived from media attendance at committee meetings, it is outweighed by the disadvantages."

The "disadvantages" were not specified in the letter.

Dr Hey said he had discussed the issue with Mr Meiring and they had decided to hold press briefings after the committee's meetings.

"On these occasions the chairman will convey matters of interest to the press and answer questions on items ... which the committee has authorised him to release information."

Environment, lifestyle link to diseases 56

The Argus Foreign Service

AUG 16/3/92

GENEVA. — Three-quarters of all deaths worldwide are caused by diseases related to the environment and to lifestyle, especially infectious diseases and cancer, the World Health Organisation says in a report published here.

Calling for urgent action to stop environmental deterioration to avert potentially disastrous consequences for human health and survival, the report said 2.5-billion people had illnesses arising out of insufficient or contaminated water and lack of sanitation.

The 270-page report, *Our Planet Our Health*, the UN agency's contribution to the Earth Summit in Brazil in June, calls for measures to reduce population growth, waste and overconsumption in industrialised countries and poverty.

The report says that while economic development has historically led to big improvements in human health, population pressures in poor countries and profligate lifestyles in rich ones are degrading the environment in ways that damage health.

It cites urban overcrowding and insanitary conditions, high levels of air pollution from open fires, unsafe working conditions especially in poor countries, and growing pressures on water reserves.

International problems include acid rain, disposal of hazardous wastes, atmospheric ozone loss and global warming, which may lead to crop failures and migration of diseases.

Call on business to lobby for unified environment affairs

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

ARG 18/3/92

THE business sector and environmental organisations should lobby for a strong, unified and properly funded department of Environment Affairs, says South Africa Nature Foundation chief executive Dr John Hanks.

He was speaking yesterday at the first in a series of "green breakfasts" for the business community, organised by The Argus and the Fairest Cape Association.

Dr Hanks said there were several ways in which the private sector could help formulate, encourage and introduce a strategy for sustainable living.

These included lobbying for a unified environment affairs department, "with a realistic budget and a minister who understands the complex socio-economic relationships between rapidly growing communities and their environment.

"It is absolutely unacceptable to have the environment portfolio tacked on the back of national education, with water affairs and forestry in a completely different ministry," Dr Hanks said.

He said there had been a major shift in the conservation philosophy of the international environmental agencies during the past 20 years.

One of the main problems of the past was that the conservation agencies had concentrated their efforts on nature sanctuaries, while neglecting local neighbouring communities and the extent of their "disheartening" poverty.

"Africa south of the Sahara has 29 of the world's 36 poorest countries, where about 325 million people live in a condition of absolute poverty with annual income of less than \$100 (R291).

"As population densities build up, impoverished rural communities have no alternative but to destroy the very resources on which their survival depends — woodlands, grasslands and soil."

The challenge for the future was to introduce a new conservation ethic which continued to support protected areas and which encompassed the total environment of each country, but which also dealt with issues such as poverty and degradation.

"Conservation should become 'humanised' by being more people-oriented, and conservation and development must be seen as part of a single process," he said.

● The next "green breakfast" is on May 7, and the speaker will be economist/author Mr Clem Sunter of Anglo American.

Power-line collapse sparks fynbos fears

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

AN ESKOM power line brought down in high winds has started veld fires in Betty's Bay, prompting fears that the proposed full electrification project could put the area's incredibly rich fynbos at risk.

But, according to Eskom, this type of incident is rare and work to correct the problem is scheduled for next month.

The issue of the electrification of the scenic coastal village in the heart of the Cape floral kingdom has been highly controversial, with many holiday home owners opposed to the project and the few permanent residents largely in favour.

The fires started when a raging wind brought down one of the cables of the main power line from Kleinmond, completed as far as Hangklip last November.

The broken cable was the cause of one fire in the immediate vicinity and at least two others elsewhere after falling across a wire fence, which acted as a conductor.

The Reverend David Newby of

the Central Methodist Mission in Cape Town was one of those alerted to help fight one of the fires.

"The fire was being fanned by a strong berg wind, but fortunately the road and tracks left by a truck provided a firebreak, thus making our job a lot easier," he said.

"If a south-easter had been blowing, as is usually the case, there's no doubt the fire would have swept along the mountain-side, burning all the vegetation preserved during the Easter 1991 fire.

"It was only in the calm after the initial panic that we reflected on the irony of how we, who were opposed to the installation of electricity in Betty's Bay, were the ones who had to bear the brunt of protecting the environment from the possible ravages its installation could cause."

Property owner Mrs Stella Hofmeyr said she did not believe repairing existing cables offered any long-term solution to the problem because of the gale-force winds typical in the area.

(56) ARG 18/3/92
The incident reinforced their view that Eskom cables should be laid underground. "In fact, we thought an undertaking had been given to this effect," she added.

It has — the cables *will* go underground, except the main 22kV feeder from Kleinmond because of the expense involved in laying it underground, Eskom spokeswoman Mrs Carin de Villiers told The Argus.

She also confirmed that the fires had been started by the broken cable.

"An investigation found that the conductors in this area were too loosely strung. Work to correct the problem will take place in April, and as an added precaution, the wire fence beneath the line has been earthed."

Eskom would meet consultant engineers "within the next couple of months" to finalise the design for the Betty's Bay electrification project, Mrs De Villiers added.

"The final design for any area takes all weathers into account. In this particular instance, as the line is near the sea, the 22kV feeder has 33kV insulators."

Wildlife chief warns on fate of elephants

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Emotion and politics may have put paid to the African elephant and many other species, according to one of South Africa's top wildlife experts.

Mr Tony Ferrar, head of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, who has arrived back from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) which ended in Japan last Friday, had scathing words on the emotional meeting.

The African elephant was concentrated on to the detriment of other more endangered species because it has become a "mythical, overblown humanoid wild animal" to Westerners, he said.

The lion, which one expert said had a population of fewer than 200 000, was not mentioned at the meeting in Kyoto. And the rhino, with a population of 11 000, was given scant attention, Mr Ferrar said.

These animals were not a conservation priority to Westerners, who were daily told how close the lives of African elephants — of which there are 600 000 — are to those of humans.

The Cites members voted overwhelmingly against scientific data presented by monitoring, scientific and funding bodies of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the United Nations Environmental Programme (Unep) and the

Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce (Traffic).

Cites itself was the loser of the conference, said Mr Ferrar. At best it had become irrelevant to southern African states which have kept their animal populations stable for years.

"At worst it is a hindrance to their initiatives."

Cites members showed themselves to be incapable of making rational, scientifically based decisions, said Mr Ferrar.

Two British elephant support groups had given Zambia money to withdraw from the southern African alliance and burn confiscated ivory.

"About R30 000 of that money was to go to Traffic. Now it's up in smoke," said Mr Ferrar bitterly.

He said US and British lobbies empathised with the southern African standpoint, but their governments had advised them not to alienate elephant-loving voters by lobbying against the bans.

"The rural people of Africa who live under the horny hoof of the elephant will continue derive no benefit from the creature that destroys their crops and sometimes them."

● The Government representatives that formed part of the South African delegation to Cites, who return later this week, will soon decide, with conservation bodies, whether to withdraw from Cites or continue a voluntary moratorium on trade.

56

ARG 18/3/92

d
ur
ro-
ng
in-
rd-
of
le-
x-
id.
LA
le-

Game lodge wins locals' nod

56

B/D ay 18/3/92

DARIUS SANAI

PHINDA, the new luxury game lodge near Lake St Lucia in Natal, appears to be succeeding in achieving the most difficult of its initial aims — gaining the support of the impoverished local black population.

Phinda was opened in October last year by the Conservation Corporation, a new company headed by Londolozi's co-owner Dave Varty.

Central to the venture, Varty says, is the phrase "Care of the land, care of the people, care of the wildlife". Preserving wildlife in the colonial manner, by shutting off game reserves to resentful local blacks, would not work: the project had to have the active support of the local people.

Phinda is now six months old, and although it is hard to gauge the overall feelings of the surrounding population — the Zulu communities are very rural and scattered — all the locals involved with Phinda are full of praise.

Phinda's GM, Les Carlisle, says the Corporation is not satisfied with the old third-world investors' adage of "we're providing jobs for people who would otherwise have had no hope". The locals have been consulted on every development, from the building of fences to restocking the reserve.

The reserve employs 170 black staff, and "resource exchanges" take place between

the reserve and the locals, who can buy wood for basket-weaving and fire-making, leaves for beer-making, and various plants for traditional medicines.

Walter Zulu, a local farm labourer who has been appointed community relations officer by Phinda, says the reserve has made a significant difference to over 1 000 local people. "They can't stop praising the place," Zulu says. "Most of them have never earned that much". Starting salary for Phinda employees is R300 a month, compared with between R45 and R100 for farm labourers.

Aware

Phinda is also triggering a fundamental change in attitude on the part of the locals. "The workers have never been treated well, so having staff committees, and a white management that actually comes and asks for the opinion of local people, is changing the way they think", Zulu says.

"And they are becoming aware of what game is and why it should be there; they appreciate it."

Phinda has shown local children pictures and slides of the big game which will be roaming the reserve once the restocking process is completed.

Zulu said most of the wild game which once roamed the area had been killed by hunters: blacks killed antelopes and warthogs for food, while whites killed predators such as lions and cheetahs.

"We also appreciate the return of lions and other wild game because they feature in Zulu mythology," Zulu says. Most of the local Zulu chiefs have only ever seen a lion at the circus or zoo in Durban.

Carlisle says his open approach has also cut down poaching drastically, without the need for expensive counter-measures and guarding. "They understand our game has a value, just like their farmland animals have a value. No white farmers explained this to them before."

To fulfill Varty's initial aims, Phinda has to become a touristic and investment success, as well as a plum for the local population. Varty said at Phinda's launch he aimed to raise about R50m from investors in Europe and the US, towards the R83,3m required in investment funds.

Carlisle said Phinda could be a pilot project for the touristic development of Maputaland, with other wilderness reserves offering the same combination of conservation, local involvement, investment and tourist attraction.

Zulu says this is the only chance for the local people.

C
fo
S
DU
no
ne
ear
the
ear
Na
of
ne
is
con
sch
fro
han
enu
R9
rev
(La
sar
ser
me
ov
"sk
pr
fis
ma

'Jobless numbers to increase'

B/D ay 18/3/92
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — SA's unemployment problem would continue to worsen for at least the rest of the year, Manpower Commission chairman Frans Barker said yesterday.

He estimated that 5,4-million economically active South Africans were unable to find work in the formal sector. However, 2,5-million found some work in the informal sector.

This left nearly 3-million potential workers without jobs and without incomes — a major reason for the country's high crime rate and the high level of violence, Barker said.

Latest estimates, he said, were that 400 000 new workers entered the labour market annually, but the overwhelming majority would look in vain for formal or even informal work.

To absorb new workers the economy would have to grow at a rate of 5% a year — light years away from

the current situation.

According to unemployment figures included in the 1991 census report released recently, 83 000 whites, 202 000 coloureds, 43 000 Asians and 1,6-million blacks were unemployed by their own reckoning in mid-1991.

On skilled manpower, Barker said when the growth rate picked up, the shortage of skilled and professional workers would place a definite ceiling on growth. Barker's views on unemployment and growth are included in a book he has just completed.

TIME

TIME Holdings Limited

(Reg No 84/02541/06)
("Time")

Cautionary announcement

Shareholders are advised that negotiations for the disposal of a substantial part of TIME housing division are in progress and the market price of TIME's shares. Shareholders should exercise caution in their dealings.

Johannesburg



Conservation pays for tribal authorities

(56) Own Correspondent (18/3/92)

DURBAN — Three tribal authorities in northern KwaZulu have been given nearly R200 000 from the revenue earned by nature and game reserves in the area. *Biday 18/3/92*

The recent handover of money earned by the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources is part of its policy of giving 25% of revenue to reserve neighbours. The bureau says the money is intended to help neighbours with community projects like building schools and clinics — and so benefit from tourism and conservation.

Of the total amount, R78 126 was handed to the Mathenjwa tribe (revenue from Ndumo Game Reserve); R96 000 to the Tembe tribe (Kosi Bay revenue) and R25 200 to the Imbila tribe (Lake Sibaya revenue).

The bureau says it is has been necessary to fence off the proclaimed reserves in KwaZulu to protect environmentally sensitive areas from overpopulation, overstocking and "slash-and-burn" farming methods.

However, a controlled management project allows neighbours to enter the reserves to harvest resources such as fish, bark, herbs and thatching material.

000
Sali
als
RV
TC
iate
al
MM
Te
3 e

t

negotiations regarding the
ME's South African low cost
and could have an impact on
Shareholders are advised to



pleted according to the initial planning.

(ii) (aa) Falls away;

(bb) It is expected that the project will be finalized during the second half of 1993.

Number of persons sentenced to community service

*6. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Justice:

How many persons were sentenced to community service during the 1991 calendar year?

B380E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

755

Relocation of ore-terminal: PE

*7. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

(a) What is the estimated cost of relocating the Port Elizabeth ore-terminal to another convenient site and (b) in respect of what date is this estimate furnished?

B381E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

The Managing Director of TRANSNET LIMITED replied as follows to the hon member's question:

(a) The relocation of the existing ore loading facility (equipment, etc) to another site within the Port Elizabeth environment has not been considered. The cost of such a move has also not been determined.

The moving of the facility to Saldanha Bay has been considered and the estimated cost to provide additional facilities is approximately R135 million which does not make the project economically viable.

(b) The estimate with regard to the shifting to Saldanha is at 1990/91 cost levels.

Cango Caves: concerts/moss

*8. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) On what date was the first concert held inside the largest chamber of the Cango Caves and (b) (i) how many per-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

sons had attended concerts in this chamber, and (ii) how many persons (excluding concert-goers) had visited the Cango Caves, from the date of the first such concert up to 31 December 1991.

(2) whether any unusual growth of moss has been noticed in the Cango Caves; if so,

(3) whether any steps have been taken to establish the cause of this growth of moss; if not, why not; if so, with what result?

B385E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

In terms of the Cango Caves Ordinance, 1971 (Ordinance 5 of 1971) the Cango Caves fall under the jurisdiction of the Oudshoorn Municipality. According to the Municipality the replies to the questions are as follows:

- (1) (a) 1964 (b) (i) 15 000 (ii) 4 471 806
- (2) No
- (3) Falls away.

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Schools: restricting admissions

Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether he intends to prevent schools in his Department from restricting admissions on a racial basis; if not, why not;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B344E.INT

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Mr Chairman, in his address at the opening of Parliament on 1 February 1991 the hon the State President said the following (Hansard, col 15):

If we wish to create a future South Africa without discrimination and with equality of

opportunity, this will have to be true of education as well. However, distinctive or indigenous education, conducted with Government assistance within a single system for those who desire it, has to remain an option.

That is how we see the future and that is what we are working for. Our efforts will undoubtedly be given tremendous momentum by the outcome of yesterday's referendum.

In regard to this process the hon the State President also said that the present educational system shall and must be changed.

Work on this is being done on the political and educational levels. In the meantime education has to continue in an orderly manner. At this point in time the admission of pupils is still regulated by the present Constitution. I am referring to section 14 and paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act, in which it is stated that education at all levels is the own affair of a population group.

Since the present Constitution and provisions referred to are still valid, admission according to population group is legally still possible. I have no authority to prevent schools from applying the provisions of the Constitution of the country. The reply to the hon member for Pinetown's question is therefore as follows: Firstly, no, because I have no authority to do so, and secondly, no.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Chairman, I am pleased that the hon the Minister referred to the historic referendum of yesterday and the overwhelming landslide vote for reform. I would also like to mention the hon the State President's speech at 15:00 today in which he made reference to the historic turning point and the getting rid of apartheid that this referendum signified. [Interjections.] It is on precisely that point that the hon the Minister sticks. Apartheid is like pregnancy, in that one cannot be half pregnant. One is either pregnant or not pregnant. One either has apartheid or one has no apartheid. [Interjections.] If one is going to have closed schools, one still has apartheid. [Interjections.] The key question—and this is true for all of those hon members—that they are going to have to address is whether their schools are open or closed, not whether they received a Yes or a No. [Interjections.] If own affairs is to go and to go soon, as we understand, then it is perfectly

possible that section 14 and Schedule 1 of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act will disappear, and we will be very pleased [Interjections.] However, it still remains a possibility that schools could apply racial restrictions on admission. One must draw attention to the reasons why they should not, and in this respect I would like to refer to the Interim Report on Group and Human Rights of the SA Law Commission, in which the following quote from the De Lange Report of 1983 appears:

However, differentiation also rests purely on the basis of race or colour, which cannot be regarded as relevant for inequality of treatment.

Then they go on to propose a new draft article 10 for a bill of human rights for South Africa which would contain the following clause:

Everyone has the right to freedom of choice with regard to the available public educational and training institutions and fields of study: Provided that—

- (c) no state school or state-aided school or institution for education and training shall refuse to admit a pupil or student merely on the ground of his or her race, colour, religion or ethnic origin;

Less than three weeks ago the hon the Minister of Justice said that this country should get an interim bill of rights in the near future. I am now asking the hon the Minister of Education and Culture to commit himself to what the interim bill of rights may say and to state categorically that it is the policy of the NP that no State school or State-funded institution should be able to refuse racial admission restrictions. That is the keypoint. The hon the Minister should commit himself to a goal, he should commit himself to getting rid of apartheid and to promoting open schools. Today is the perfect day to do so. He has 68% of the country behind him to do so. [Time expired.]

*Mr A GERBER: Mr Chairman, the hon member for Pinetown raised a very important matter this afternoon on which we want a clear and unequivocal reply from the hon the Minister. Up to now we have accepted that what the Government had in mind was a new education system in which race would play no role regarding admission to schools. However, it was also accepted at the same time that the present traditional admis-

CO 41 . . . 12

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

SA expands water and power links

56

STAR 19/31 92

South Africa News Service

South Africa has recently signed two agreements that illustrate the Republic's expanding infrastructural links with the rest of Africa.

Under a co-operation agreement with the Ivory Coast, Eskom and its Ivorian counterpart, the Energie Electrique de la Cote d'Ivoire (EECI), will exchange technical information and consulting services and will co-operate in construction projects, maintenance and staff training.

The two countries, according to Eskom, have interests in the proposed development of large, multinational electricity supply schemes in Southern Africa and West/Central Africa.

Eskom chief executive Ian McRae said at the signing ceremony on March 13 that economic recovery and wealth creation in Africa were closely bound up with bringing electricity to the millions of people who still did not have it.

On the same day as the electricity agreement was concluded, South Africa signed an

agreement with Swaziland for a joint water scheme, an agreement that will soon be expanded to include Mozambique.

The agreement opens the way for new economic development in the Komati Basin, initially through the building of a R328-million dam at Driekoppies in the eastern Transvaal, on the Lomati River close to the border with Swaziland.

The Lomati rises east of Badplaas and flows through Swaziland. The river re-emerges in South Africa to join the Komati River, which is then joined by

the Crocodile River before becoming the Incomati River in Mozambique, which in turn runs into the sea north of Maputo.

Later a second and larger dam, costing R432 million at today's prices, will be built in Swaziland on the Komati River, at Maguga.

At the end of this month South Africa and Swaziland will sign an agreement with Swaziland governing the use of the Komati Basin waters and, among other things, undertaking to respect Mozambique's rights to these waters.

Whites must share coast, says Meiring

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

56 MAR 19/3/92

WHITE South Africans have enjoyed the use of coastal facilities for the past 100 years and cannot now deny their black counterparts similar developments, Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring has warned.

He was speaking in Cape Town at a function to launch the second part of the Council for the Environment's policy document for coastal zone management — Guidelines for Coastal Land-Use.

The first part — Principles and Objectives — was published in 1989.

Mr Meiring said his administration accepted the guidelines as an important part of coastal management. He appealed to all coastal local authorities, conservation bodies and "especially developers" to bind themselves to the guidelines.

But he warned that whites could not now expect to stop all coastal development, which they had enjoyed during the past century.

"We will have to think seriously about that," he said.

Dr Allan Heydorn, chairman of the

Council for the Environment's Committee for Coastal and Marine Systems which compiled the guidelines, also warned that black participation was essential if any legal system to protect the coast was to be effective in the new South Africa.

In the past this had been ignored and people had felt they had been prescribed to without consultation, he said.

"It was relatively easy to draw up the guidelines but a big consultation process must be put in place to achieve proper law enforcement — there's no short cut."

Council for the Environment chairman Professor Roelf Botha said the two policy publications needed to be complemented by an urgent third phase, involving an integrated plan for the entire coastline.

This would indicate, inter alia, sensitive areas where no development should be allowed.

This should be done by means of local authority structure plans, and he appealed to Mr Meiring's administration to support the process of drawing up such plans as quickly as possible by providing funds and expert advice.

Oil pollution fund doubles (56)

EXPENDITURE on combating oil pollution off the SA coast is to double, with R22,2m allocated to its prevention, up R10m from last year. 8/10/92

A further R16m, up from R13,9m last year, has been provided under the merchant shipping programme in the Transport Vote.

East Rand air pollution *STAR 20/3/92* 'unacceptable'

By Julienne du Toit ^(S)

Air pollution in the Edenvale, Kempton Park and Modderfontein areas periodically exceeds health levels, according to the CSIR.

The CSIR's Airkem project showed that the 24-hour health standard for sulphur dioxide was exceeded on two occasions — on November 29 and January 19.

The Airkem project was initiated by the CSIR's Earth, Marine and Atmospheric Science and Technology (Ema-tek) division after numerous complaints from the public in that area.

In November, the average concentration of sulphur dioxide came close to the Department of Health limit.

The gas, which poses a health risk to sensitive or asthmatic individuals, was found to be emanating from the AECI plant.

Airkem project manager Dr Petro Terblanche said other potential sources of the pollution were the Kelvin power station, veld fires, and coal fires from adjacent townships Tembisa and Alexandra.

Other sources outside the area would also be investigated, she said.

From November to

January, respirable dust levels were generally lower than those for the previous three months when very high levels of particulate pollution were registered.

In December, high levels of dust pollution occurred, but the 24-hour health standard was exceeded only once — in the Illiondale area.

Most of the dust fall-out appears to be coming from Kelvin power station. Nitrogen oxide, mainly caused by car exhaust emissions, was low and should have no impact on health, said Dr Terblanche.

The Airkem project is funded by AECI, NCP, South African Airways, Edenvale and Kempton Park town councils, Johannesburg City Council and the Department of National Health and Population Development.

Dr Terblanche invited the public to document any air pollution problems they noticed — such as odours and respiratory tract irritation — on a weekly basis, with time of day, and information on odour, irritation and location.

Information could be sent to her at Box 395, Pretoria 0001, or faxed to (012) 804-1354. The data will be correlated with measurements.

Oil slick threat ⁽⁵⁶⁾ to Dyer penguins

CT 21/3/92

Staff Reporter

A 16km-long oil slick is threatening the ecologically-sensitive Dyer Island penguin colony.

The slick is the result of the collision this week between the freighter Fathulhair and the cargo vessel Onibe off Quoin Point, near Agulhas.

The 5 200-ton Onibe sank in 100m of water minutes after colliding with the Fathulhair in heavy fog early on Monday, taking with her 160 tons of marine fuel oil and 53 tons of gas oil.

On Monday the Kuswag 7 patrol aircraft spotted fuel bubbling up from the wreck of the Onibe, the Department of Environment Affairs said.

A Kuswag vessel began breaking up the spill by towing "breaker boards" through it.

A total of 64 oil-soaked penguins from Dyer Island were delivered to the SA National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds in Table View on Thursday. About 90 more arrived yesterday.

ARG 23/3/92 (56) (57)

Three still critical after chemical-plant poisoning

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — The conditions of three critically ill former employees of Thor Chemicals in Cato Ridge, near Durban, are unchanged.

Mr Peter Cele and Mr Engelbert Ngcobo were admitted to St Augustine's Hospital in Durban last week with suspected mercury poisoning.

They are still semi-comatose and responding only to pain stimuli, while Mr Albert Dlamini is still showing signs of mercury poisoning.

Mr Dlamini has experienced difficulty in walking and talking and has lost sensation in both hands.

Dr Mark Colvin of the University of Natal's Industrial

Health Unit said the unit intended visiting Thor Chemicals this week with a team of medical and engineering experts to establish how the workers had been poisoned.

He said the team would consist of local and overseas experts and members of the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union.

Dr Colvin said the IHU would also trace other employees who had worked at the mercury plant and would undertake a long-term project to trace all the workers, including casual labourers, who had passed through the plant.

Results of tests already done on the employees were still being awaited, he said.

C

Bathing warnings as sewage flows into sea

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

56

NOTICES warning bathers to stay out of the water have been posted at Seaforth, near Simon's Town, after a pump broke and overflow sewage effluent was diverted into the sea.

Beach constables told bathers to use Boulders beach instead at the weekend.

According to irate resident Mr Greg Silovich, neither the constables nor the notices referred to a possible health risk from the sewage.

"There was no reference to sewage. People were directed to Boulders beach, but because of the south-easter that was blowing, I can hardly imagine that only Seaforth beach was affected," he said.

"Sewage can give you typhoid — people can die from this."

Simon's Town Town Clerk Mr Charles Chevalier said the pump — one of a series which feeds sewage from Murdoch Valley to the treatment plant at Simon's Town — had failed on Wednesday night and had been repaired by Friday.

"We put up the notices as a precaution — there was no certainty that there was a health hazard."

The seawater was monitored regularly and water quality tests were being done at present.

Boulders was unlikely to have been affected because of the current and the wind, Mr Chevalier said.

Mr Sinovich said the faulty pump had broken down previously and raw sewage had ended up in the sea.

Because of the smell from the pump station, the issue had been raised at a ratepayers' meeting. There had also been calls for an emergency pump.

"But nothing was done about it," he charged. "Mechanical problems do happen but at least let's be open — no one was prepared to talk about this."

Mr Chevalier said "One cannot simply substitute a portable pump — the pump is built into the system underground and has to be taken out and repaired."

"This (a break-down) is fairly rare," he said.

ARG 24/3/92

CP 24/3/92
**Ivory: SA
still waiting**

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — South Africa is still waiting for an official invitation to join the "rebel" ivory-making group proposed by Southern African states. (5)

This is according to Dr Piet Mulder, chief director of the Transvaal department of Nature and Environment Protection.

Zimbabwe, Namibia, Malawi and Botswana will meet in Windhoek next month to map out a possible resumption in ivory trading after their efforts failed in Kyoto, Japan, to make their elephant populations a marketable commodity.

Zimbabwean Environment Minister Mr Herbert Murerwa said last week the countries were dedicated to a regional centre for ivory auctioning.

Farms and La Motte state plantation threatened as
hundreds fight blaze fanned by gale-force south-easter

Valley of Fire

Aug 24/3/92

(B)

HENRI du PLESSIS, Tygerberg Bureau

HUNDREDS of firefighters and three fire tenders are battling a blaze, fanned by a gale-force southeaster, which has destroyed a large area of veld between Pniel and Simondium.

The fire started just before midnight when a powerline on Rhodes Fruit Farms was blown down by wind, shorting on the ground and setting grass alight.

At 8am today the fire was out of control on the eastern flank near Simondium, threatening a number of farms and a section of the La Motte state plantation, forestry officials said.

A Cape Nature Conservation official said it was impossible early today to assess how much damage had been done.

The fire started about 11.55pm, said a spokesman for the RSC fire brigade in Stellenbosch.

Vegetation burnt was mostly for grazing and by sunrise the fire was under control over most of its front, the spokesman said.

No buildings, vines or fruit trees were threatened.

"An extensive area of veld has burnt, as well as some parts of a plantation.

"The Department of Forestry has about 100 men out there and we have three fire tenders at the scene.

"The blaze seems to be more controllable now, but you can't tell what the heat of the day or the wind will do to it. We will be keeping a close watch."

The spokesman said the fire was reasonably contained on one flank and was moving to an area which was burnt about two months ago.

● Cape Town firemen fought a huge bush and grass fire on the lower slopes of Table Mountain off Camps Bay Drive for more than two hours today.

A fire brigade spokesman said the fire, fanned by gale-force winds, destroyed an extensive area of vegetation before staff put it out at 3.38am.

The fire was believed to have been started by a cigarette butt thrown from a car.

There were also two bush fires in Athlone between 1am and 2am and reports of a fire on the West Coast Road, north of Table View.

By about 8.45am the fire seemed to be coming under control on Rhodes Fruit Farms, said general manager Mr. Don Tooth.

A narrow but very long piece of land was burnt on this farm, but it was fynbos and a portion of pine forest which had taken the brunt of it," he said.

"Fortunately none of our fruit trees was damaged and we did not lose any grazing. We have had workers up there fighting the fire since last night and they had just changed the shift.

"Those men were very tired and we had to swop them with fresh people, so I have no idea at the moment how many we have up there.

"As far as we know a tree was blown over by the wind and it fell on a powerline, breaking it. This happened about midway up our property and the fire spread from there.

"It burnt along a very narrow but very long section so I really don't know yet how much veld has been burnt. I will be going up there a bit later to make an assessment," said Mr Tooth.

Water demand going from trickle to flood

ARGT 24/3/92

56

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CAPE TOWN is rapidly running out of water.

It sounds alarmist, but unfortunately it's true.

To most residents, the existence of the municipal water supply is as natural as the air you breathe. You turn on a tap, and there's a reassuring flow of crystal-clear, decent-tasting water.

Of course, there's a small price to pay. Quarterly water accounts arrive, but they're generally modest and don't merit much more than a fleeting budgetary irritation.

That situation is quickly drawing to a close as water becomes increasingly scarce and more expensive.

And, for the first time, citizens will be forced to evaluate both the straightforward cost of having clean water piped to their homes and the broader environmental and ecological costs of supplying that life-giving resource.

It is clear from projections by the Department of Water Affairs that the Western Cape's conventional water sources will not meet future demand.

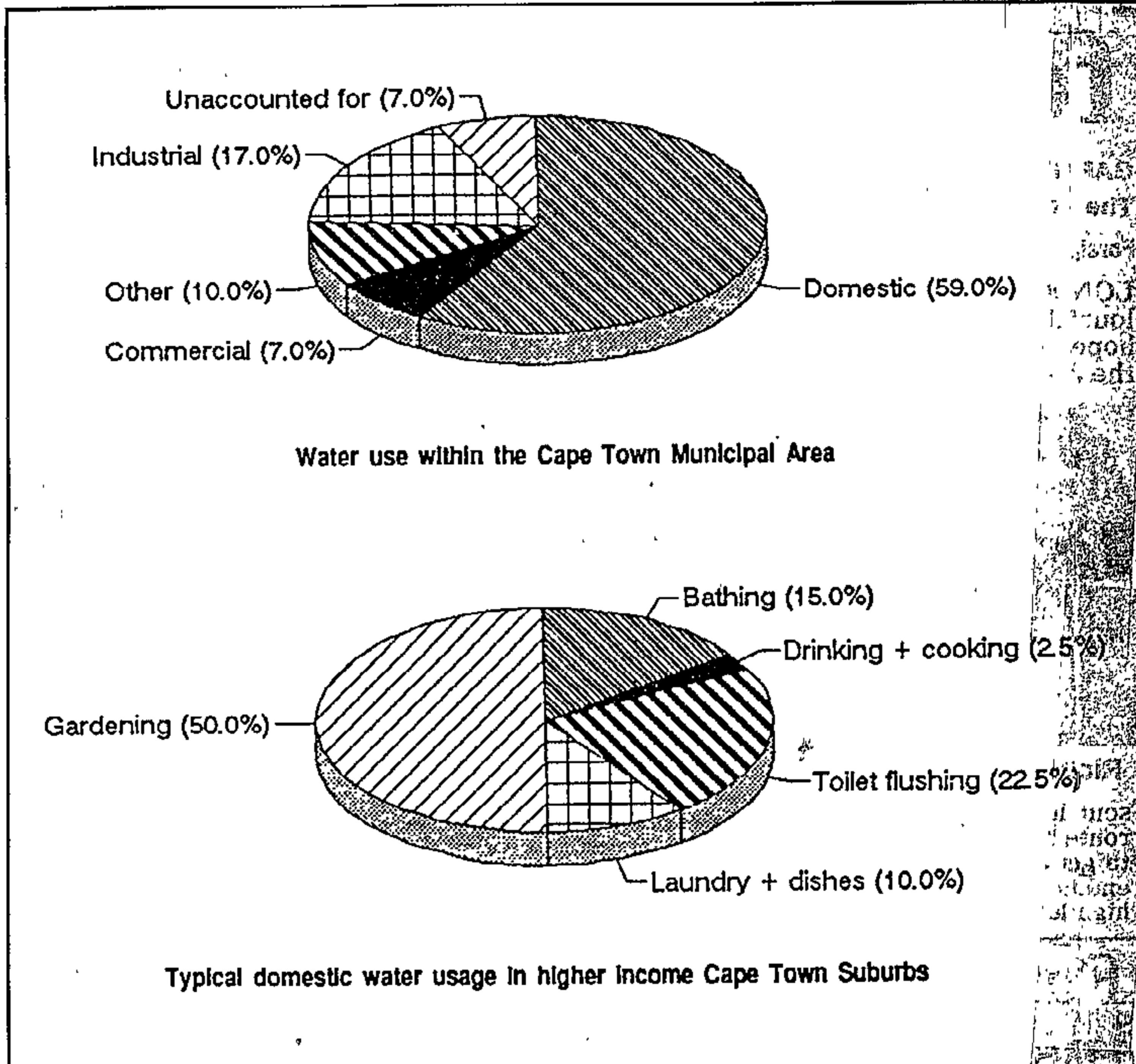
In 1990, the demand in the greater Cape Town metropolitan region was 258,5-million cubic metres.

The region's present water resources are a healthy 364,7-million cubic metres, but this situation will last for just eight more years, according to water supply planners.

The anticipated annual demand for the year 2000 is 372,4-million cubic metres — already exceeding supply — and by 2020 is expected to reach a staggering 584,6-million cubic metres.

Traditionally, greater Cape Town's supply has been provided by damming rivers. Now, few undammed rivers remain to provide relatively cheap water.

Of these, the Palmiet River



WATER USE: Pie charts show how water is used in the Cape Town municipal area (top) and how a typical higher income family uses its share (below).

is probably the most important, and the Department of Water Affairs has launched an intensive public involvement programme — *Tomorrow's Water, Today's Responsibility* — to discuss the options available from the lower reaches of this river.

This stretch could yield 100-million cubic metres of good quality water a year for Cape Town — but only at a significant environmental cost.

“Downstream of (the existing) Kogelberg dam, the Palmiet River passes through very productive farm land before entering the ecologically important and sensitive Kogelberg state forest, and therefore the construction of dams in these areas is problematic,” a Water Affairs’ report states.

● A second public meeting of the Palmiet workshop is being held at the University of the

Western Cape tomorrow to discuss future water options for the region.

Workshop organisers are hoping that representatives of civic associations, squatter communities and low income groups will attend.

The first meeting in November drew mainly conservationists and landowners, who expressed concern they were not properly representative of public opinion.

Big boost for UCT conservationists

5b

APR 25/3/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A HUGE gift to the University of Cape Town by an unnamed benefactor will provide a major boost for the conservation of the Cape's rich natural heritage.

The benefactor, whose identity is a closely guarded secret among UCT's top management hierarchy, has endowed a new Chair of Plant Conservation in the botany department.

The university has not disclosed the amount of the endowment but it is believed to involve about R5-million.

Professor Richard Cowling — one of a group of young researchers described by National Botanical Institute chief director Professor Brian Huntley as "a rapidly expanding corps of 'Young Turks' in the fynbos community" — has accepted the new chair.

In essence, it is a research post to co-ordinate research around conservation issues in the Western Cape, he said in an interview.

He intended to invite a wide range of people to a workshop to discuss the direction they believed research into regional plant conservation should take. But he had already begun to formulate his own ideas and vision, which focused specifically on economic utilisation.

"To make conservation really effective, it's most important to put across the economic value of the plant resources of the area."

This could involve the normal, "tried-and-tested" commercial exploitation of medicinal plants such as buchu or of indigenous cut flowers, which were earning the country more than R40 million in foreign exchange every year.

"Like any resource, as people make money from it, they look to its long-term conservation. So the best way to conserve our plants outside the formal reserve areas is to see them as a sustainable resource and manage them appropriately," Professor Cowling said.

"And you can link the excellent research which is being done to problems of practical significance — in other words, you have to know how fynbos works to harvest it effectively and prevent extinctions."

A second major focus of attention would be eco-tourism.

South Africa had a huge potential resource in its fynbos and in the succulent Karoo vegetation, both of which could generate significant income.

"We take it (fynbos) for granted but our values are not those of, say, the European who doesn't

live with or experience such phenomenally interesting flora on a daily basis," Professor Cowling said.

A third area of research would focus on restoration ecology because large areas of the Western Cape were degraded, mostly by alien invader plants.

"We must try to gain a predictive understanding of the restoration potential of transformed landscapes — such as the Noordhoek basin, some of which has been under aliens for 40 to 50 years.

"We have to argue — what is its restoration potential? Or should we simply be harvesting the aliens for fuelwood, as agroforestry to benefit local communities?"

The "real hard question" involved the most appropriate way to use fynbos areas in terms of economic and ecological sustainability, Professor Cowling continued.

"Just saying 'I love fynbos' isn't going to work, especially because of economic pressures. Fynbos huggers won't win the battle. Ultimately, it must be an economic question.

"Managing a fynbos area for its plants makes a lot of economic sense — that's our intuitive response, but we have to develop this."

Mountain blaze rages on

④
CT 25/3/92

Staff Reporter

HUNDREDS of fire-fighters were still battling last night to stop the raging mountain blaze that has destroyed vineyards, orchards and 200 ha of plantation on the Simonsberg near Stellenbosch.

The fire started on the Anglo-American Rhodes Fruit Farms about midnight on Monday when an electricity pylon was blown down by wind, setting the grass alight.

But, the efforts of the fire-fighters may be in vain because farmers started backburning at Delheim and Simonsberg farms just before midday yesterday.

The flames are moving around the mountain and back into the La Mott State Forest which the fire-fighters are trying to protect.

Wiesenhof nature reserve manager Mr Rainer Kulenkampff said the animals on the reserve had been moved to an area which had been burnt some time before.

Fire tenders, tractor-drawn fire tenders, fire beaters and controlled backburns had all been used to contain the fire, said Rhodes Fruit Farms manager Mr Ken Pargiter.

CPA forestry officer Mr Braam du Preez said fire-fighters who went to the top of Kanonkop to stop the blaze reaching the 200 ha plantation noticed a pall of smoke coming from the other side of the mountain.

"It appears that some farmers on the other side of the mountain decided to start a backburn to prevent the fire from reaching Delheim. Another fire at Simonsberg was also started and we are worried that other farmers may follow suit," he said.

Mr Du Preez said that if the wind started blowing harder they would have to get the fire-fighters out of the area because their lives would be at risk.

He said the fire was racing up and along the mountain, threatening the plantation although most areas were now under control.

Mr Pargiter said yesterday that three fire tenders had arrived with 14 men and 35 on foot and farm workers had been called in to help. It was impossible to use more men because of the nature of the terrain.

"The fire-fighters have had a rough time of it since it began and the flames were pretty wild when the south-easter was howling," he said.

ACF 25/3/92

(5)

Fire Crisis

Call on Air Force

to water bomb

blazing winelands

**GRAHAM LIZAMORE and
HENRIETTE GELDENHUYS**
Staff Reporters

THE Air Force is to be asked to send helicopters to "water bomb" the fire on the slopes of Simonsberg which is still raging today.

Throughout the night farmers backburnt in a desperate bid to protect vineyards and homes.

The upper reaches of the mountain between Paarl and Stellenbosch have been burnt out by the fire which threatened Wine Route estates including Delheim, Uikyk, Kanonkop, Lievland, Kelsey, Schoongezicht and Simonsvlei.

The blaze swept through the Wiesenhof game reserve between Paarl and Stellenbosch early today, but game, including gemsbok, springbok, bontebok, zebra, black wildebeest, cheetah and eland were reported to have been moved to a safe area.

Acting on the advice of a private forester, Mr John Segalla, farm managers, friends and about 40 workers cleared a firebreak a kilometre long halfway up the mountain above Schoongezicht at 11 last night.

Electrified security fences were deactivated to allow tractors through the thick fynbos and about 10 hectares of fynbos were backburnt to push the blaze higher up the mountain.

"The fire would definitely have reached the farms if we hadn't backburnt," said Kelsey manager Mr Hannes Hofmeyr.

"But this is merely a diversion. We are by no means putting out the fire. It will come down again. We have managed to push it back for a couple of hours," he said.

The blaze started when an electricity pylon blew down about midnight on Monday on Rhodes Fruit Farms from where it spread onto the Simonsberg in a gale-force southeaster.

Firefighters put out the flames above Delheim by backburning yesterday afternoon and the Pniel side and Rhodes Fruit Farms were out of danger, said Schoongezicht foreman Mr Norman Lemmetjies.

On the Paarl side, farmworkers and about 60 firefighters from the Western Cape Regional Services Council and the Kleintjieskraal, Jonkershoek and La Motte forestry stations battled throughout the night to try to control the fire around Kanonkop, according to a forestry spokesman.

Women and children supported their exhausted husbands and workers by supply-



THIN RED LINE: A red line traces the path of the approaching fire down the slopes of the Simonsberg as the flames cast an eerie light on the undergrowth. **More pictures on page 23.**

Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

ing them with food and drink.

They also damped down thatched roofs and manned radios and telephones.

Last night about 100 workers protected farms on the western side of the mountain which was burnt out except for plantations owned by Stellenbosch Farmers Winery, the Department of Forestry and the Marais Trust.

Department of Forestry spokesman Mr Braam du Preez said today the fire was contained on the Paarl side from Rhodes Fruit Farms to the plantations.

"We had to guard this area right through the night because it was smouldering all over the place — it's been quite a headache," he said.

It had been impossible to send men close to the larger fires last night without endangering their lives.

One of the main problem areas during the night was Kleinsimonsvlei farm.

He said Mr Hannes Joubert had backburnt through the night with the help of firefighters from the Wemmershoek Town Council and the Department of Forestry.

Serina needs 'RSC consent to mine'

CT 26/3/92

56

By PETER DENNEHY

THE kaolin-mining company Serina would be acting illegally if it attempted to mine the controversial Noordhoek site without permission from the Regional Services Council (RSC), Mr Clive Keegan said yesterday.

However, Mr Keegan, who chairs the Western Cape RSC's Committee for Land Usage and Transport Planning, said at the RSC monthly meeting that it "does not prejudge how we would respond to the application".

The director-general of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs had asked the RSC to comment on various draft conditions which were intended for incorporation "into the mining permit the Department in-

tends issuing to Serina (Kaolin) (Pty) Ltd."

The RSC had taken legal advice and resolved that it would inform the director-general that in the absence of the necessary comprehensive application, no comment could be made on the draft conditions.

Councillor Mrs Eulalie Stott said she did not see why the company was obliged to ask for the RSC's permission to mine, as the land was zoned rural and that "includes mining".

However, Mr Keegan responded that mining was permitted in a rural area "as a consent use". This consent had to be applied for and advertised.

The council had not yet received such an application.

Row brewing over Silvermine rezoning bid

5b

CT26/3/92

By CLAUDIA
CAVANAGH

A ROW is brewing among environmentalists, authorities and developers in Fish Hoek over a rezoning application for a large portion of land in the Silvermine Nature Reserve behind Peers Hill.

The first application to develop there was blocked by the then Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr John Wiley, in 1986. Recently, an application to have Extension 7 Zone C rezoned from an indeterminate zoning to a sub-divisional area was received with shock by local environmentalists.

The rezoning was advertised and numerous objections were received from organisations and members of the public, including two Fish Hoek town councillors, the Fish Hoek residents' Association, the Silvermine River Society and DP MP for Simon's Town, Mr Jannie Momberg.

The developers have still to approach the Department of Nature Conservation to have the land excised from the nature reserve.

Members of the public attending the Fish Hoek town council meeting this week expressed surprise when Councillor George Patterson suggested that the council approve the rezoning application as long as the the Department of Nature Conservation agreed to the land being excised from the reserve.

This would allow orderly development in the area, he said.

"It would also relieve the Fish Hoek town council of the expenses related to squatter control and clearly demarcate the nature area," he said.

The deputy mayor, Miss Marequita Townley-Johnson, said development would be preferable to allowing the area to become unsightly. She seconded his proposal, which went to the vote and was rejected by five votes to three.

The town clerk, Mr Doug Smit, said this week: "In Zone C we have a vast area of privately owned open space on which people are paying rates, yet they cannot develop the land. It is almost inaccessible, it's certainly unsafe for the general public, is considerably fouled and is a fire and health hazard.

"Perhaps orderly development with about 46% provided as proper public open space as proposed, to which the public will have access, will be a solution."

Mrs Kim Kruyshaar, a local environmentalist who has followed the issue closely, said the development would not eradicate the squatters but simply move them further back.

She said: "The area includes the road reserve, which is unlikely to be deproclaimed. This is far better barrier for the nature reserve. Where a nature area abuts a residential area, problems often arise when people dump rubbish into the reserve over their back walls."

The council is now to seek legal advice on the ramifications of turning down the rezoning application.

SA facing new toxic dump risk

(56) CT 26/3/92

By VICTORIA HOLDSWORTH

LONDON. — The European Community failure this week to reach consensus on a full ban on dumping toxic waste on developing countries could mean South Africa is targeted as a "waste colony" for industrialised nations.

The 12 EC member states who met in Brussels on Monday failed to close loopholes which excluded from present regulations a so-called "green" list of hazardous material which includes toxic lead, cadmium and zinc waste.

And countries such as South Africa, and areas in South East Asia and Central America remained vulnerable to pressure to accept deadly cargoes from the industrialised nations.

With the loopholes in present legislation left unplugged, it is highly profitable for Third World countries to disregard safety and make bilateral deals with EC toxic waste producers.

The Organisation for African Unity is leading African countries in the race to try to enforce action to avoid

being poisoned by Western waste.

"South Africa is the Achilles heel of Africa in that it is the only country, apart from Morocco, that is not a member of the OAU," said Mr Jim Puckett, of Greenpeace International. The OAU met in Mali last year to draft its own convention to regulate waste dumping on the continent. Mr Puckett said Greenpeace hoped the resulting Banako Convention would be in force by 1993.

"South Africa is seen as a potential place to send waste. Even with a new government, the emphasis to attract investment will be a temptation that will remain," said Mr Puckett.

Greenpeace said Third World and Eastern European countries with high foreign debt could be forced into making deals with industrialised nations to "recycle" their toxic material.

Mr Puckett said the organisation had yet to find a "clean" recycling venture in Africa.

He cited the example of Thor Chemicals — the British-owned recycling plant at Cato Ridge in Natal — as precisely the sort of Western dumping operation that had to be banned.

(5) 20/3/92

Kaolin mining illegal without consent, say RSC's lawyers

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

WESTERN Cape Regional Services Council lawyers say mining kaolin on Chapman's Peak would be illegal without RSC consent.

The RSC resolved yesterday to refuse to comment on government draft conditions for approval of kaolin mining at Chapman's Peak, until it gets a formal application from Serina for approval of mining.

The chairman of the committee for land usage and transport planning, Mr Clive Keegan, said the area was zoned for rural use.

Mining could be permitted as a "conditional use" only if formal application was made, advertised for objections, and approved by the RSC.

"We have had no such application and our legal advice is that any attempt to start mining would be illegal," Mr Keegan said.

This did not mean RSC response to a mining application was being prejudged, he said.

The RSC was responding to a request by the director-general of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to comment on various draft conditions for mining kaolin on the Chapman's Peak site.

chief director of RSC engineer-

ing services, Mr R Gillmore said Serina (Kaolin) Pty Ltd would have to give the RSC a "clear and comprehensive" statement of their full proposals for the council to respond adequately.

RSC chairman Mr Pietie Laubser said the RSC could not pronounce on the conditions until it had got an application.

"It is not up to us to tell people to apply, we presume that Serina have lawyers to advise them," he said.

Foresters monitor smouldering Paarl fire to prevent another flare up

(5) ARCF 26/1/92

Staff Reporters

THE fire on the Simonsberg between Paarl and Stellenbosch is under control.

But the weather over next three days will be crucial.

The wind could come up again and the mountain would have to be monitored carefully until the weekend, said Mr Johannes du Toit, assistant district forestry officer for Drakenstein.

Two Air Force helicopters water-bombed the mountain yesterday, cooling the area and easing the task of hundreds of firefighters.

"The Pumas helped us a lot. Those guys know what they are doing," said Mr Du Toit.

An Allouette helicopter was also sent to monitor the blaze yesterday.

The fire in the Wiesenhof game park was brought under control last night, largely due to the water-bombs, said manager Mr Rainer Kulenkampff.

He said about 25 of his own men and workers from neighbouring farms had been able to withdraw from the mountain about 8.30pm last night.

The animals were safe in areas cleared by controlled burning last year, he said.

At Schoongezicht wine farm on the south-eastern side of Simonsberg, fynbos was still burning about 10pm last night, but there was no danger to property, Mr Du Toit said.

The fire had also died down late last night in Section E of the La Motte plantation at the foot of Kanonkop.

Earlier more than 140 forestry department firefighters battled the blaze, which reached the plantation at midday.

The fire started about midnight on Monday when an electricity pylon on Rhodes Fruits Farms blew down in a south-easterly gale, shorting on the ground and setting grass alight.

On Tuesday it threatened several well-known Wine Route estates, including Schoongezicht, Kanonkop, Simonsvlei, Delheim, Uikyk, Lievland and Kelsey.

WATER PROVISION

To the last drop

56 

FM 27/3/92

Regional agreements on water and energy should flow from political accord

Every time SA is hit by drought, a great debate arises — and since we are so frequently hit by drought, perhaps it's time the real issues of the debate were clarified.

Certain essentially simple questions lie at the heart of the matter — though the kinds of argument they provoke are far from simple. They have to do with the availability of water for a growing population and economy. Will there be enough to go around and is it in the right places? If not, where will the water come from — and how?

The provision of water is no longer only a national issue; it has to be seen in a broader, subcontinental context. As Eskom CE Ian MacRae's vision of a power grid linking SA with its northern neighbours begins to take effect — with Zaire's massive Inga hydro-power scheme acting as the possible fulcrum for growth — co-operation on water needs to be thought out too.

The Inga project is designed to harness the mighty waters of the Zaire River and offers a potential 50 000 MW boost for linked African states, compared to SA's total current

demand of 25 000 MW. It is this Zairean power rather than the river's ample water (it would simply not be feasible to pump it down here) which offers a solution to SA's water scarcity. Cheap hydropower would enable us to consider imaginative projects, such as pumping desalinated seawater from the coast to the PWV.

With a political settlement realisable within a few years, the doors now opening to MacRae's vision would similarly allow regional thinking on water politics to benefit massively the entire subcontinent. This does not mean that making the best use of local water is to be scorned.

Thus, consulting engineer Basil Lund suggests, cheaper local water could be obtained by pumping water from the Orange up a series of 20 weirs in the Caledon River to provide almost the same volume as the Lesotho Highlands Water Project at a fraction of the cost. But regional co-operation will bring synergies from regional agreements — already the case with Lesotho — and Swaziland, Mozambique and Botswana have

signed similar multi-use agreements with SA.

The big targets remain Zimbabwe and Zambia and future use of the ample waters of the Zambezi.

The financial dimension is as important. Potentially huge injections of foreign aid and investment in power and water projects could become the catalyst for a continental trade and economic co-operation bloc from the Cape to Sudan and even Egypt.

Desmond Midgley — hydrological consultant and former professor of hydraulic engineering at Wits University — puts the matter in perspective: "While an arid SA has been blessed with mineral riches and is the natural economic powerhouse for the region, our neighbouring states to the north should start trading with SA in something that can be far more lucrative than relatively cheap labour sold to our mining houses — water and power."

Eskom's MacRae adds: "We now have the effective co-operation of all the Southern African Development Co-ordination Confer-

Continue - 12

P. T. O.

ence states, including Tanzania, for launching a study on the implementation of a regional power grid. This will begin next month." He says Italian firms are sniffing around for possible contracts and the World Bank is interested.

MacRae — who tirelessly propounded the power grid philosophy right through the sanctions years — says linking power and water makes sense. The two are often directly interlinked, as with the Tugela pump storage scheme — admittedly only between two SA provinces. "By importing about 10%-15% of its power needs from southern African states from 2000 onwards, SA would not only save the capital costs of funding a R12bn power station over the next 30 years; the cheap power from Inga would also assist in keeping down our electricity prices and so make desalination more viable."

Other direct spin-offs would include conserving coal reserves for future use or exports and protecting the environment against further acid rain and CO₂ pollution.

Pumping water to SA from the Zambezi would meet SA's burgeoning water demands from 2020 onwards. Once political ramifications have been contractually sorted out with downstream users in terms of the so-called Helsinki guidelines (on developing rivers to the benefit of riparian countries) huge volumes could be pumped to SA and Botswana at contracted fees.

Midgley says that by 2020 there will be an annual 1bn m³ water shortfall in the PWV heartland — even after inclusion of an annual 2,5bn m³ from the Lesotho project and 2bn m³ from the Tugela and other eastern escarpment rivers. This shortfall could be met from the Zambezi — given the right agreements.

Supplies from the Zambezi could rise towards 4bn m³ annually, Midgley adds. "The main problem would be compensating these states for the potential loss on electricity generation by diverting a portion of the river's flow to SA and Botswana. But, while a 10% diversion of the estimated 40bn m³ annual flow at Victoria Falls would require upstream storage, this would enable a major increase in the power generating potential at Victoria Falls and at Batoka Gorge, which would greatly reduce the need for downstream compensation."

He points out that diverting the initial 20 m³ per second (cumec) flow — about 600m-700m m³ a year — could be done without building a dam. It would involve canals of about 1 300 km and pumping stations to push the water to SA. The 20 cumec flow would be similar to the yield from the initial phases of the Lesotho scheme and yield water at much the same cost — about R7bn at current levels.

Henry Olivier — retired chairman of LTA and the man responsible for building the huge Kariba and Cahora Bassa dams on the Zambezi — sounds a warning. It is "virtually impossible" to obtain contractual agreement on third-party usage of international waters because downstream riparian owners of the Zambezi's water (Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique) would have to agree to sell some of the river's excess to SA.

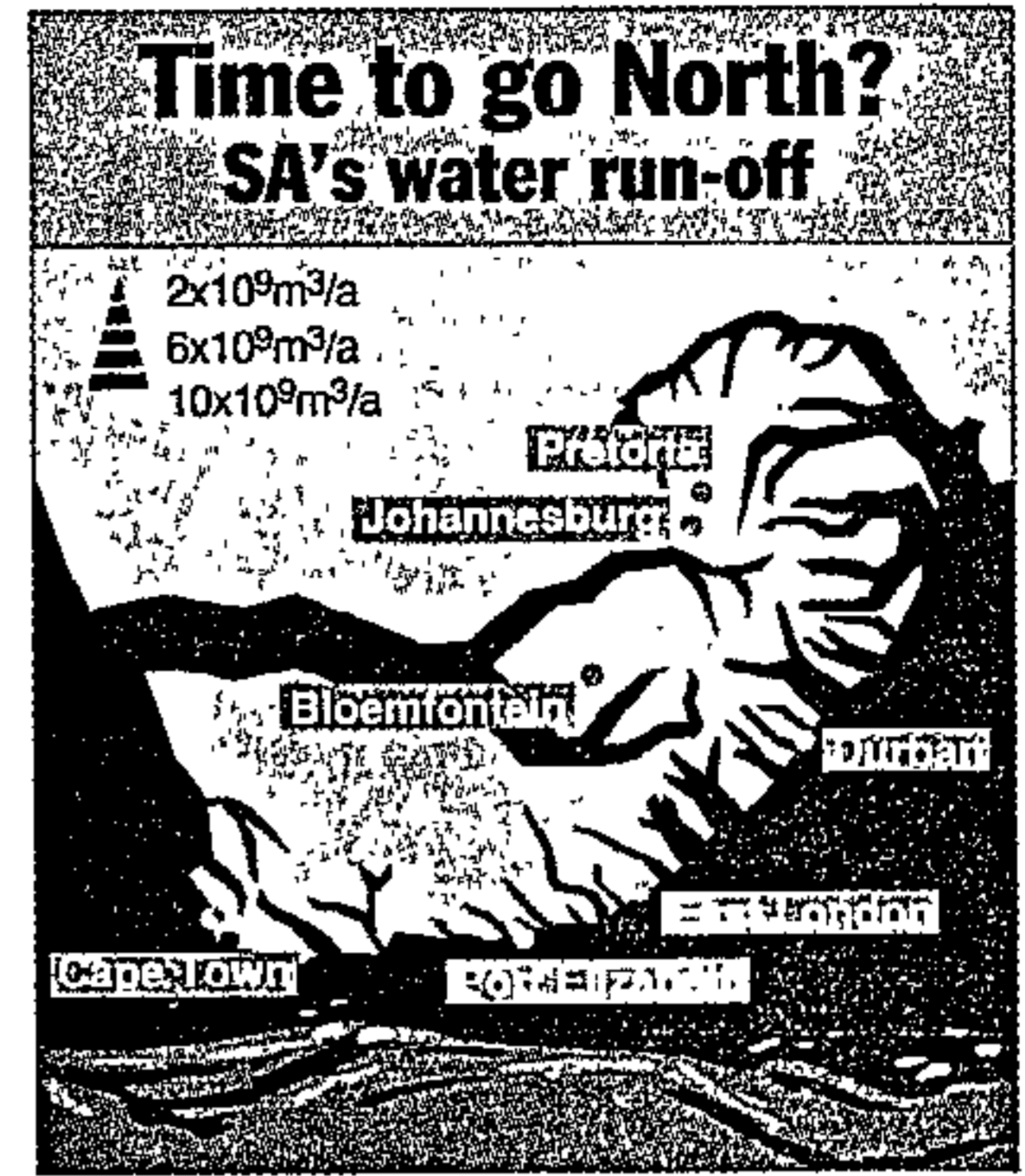
Olivier, involved in forward planning of the Owen Falls scheme at Lake Victoria, recalls that diverting the Nile proved impossible. When he was in charge of the Indus Basin project for the World Bank in 1960-1969 (diverting rivers between India and Pakistan) he had first-hand experience of the acrimony that arises between nations over water use.

Olivier says Lund's Caledon pump scheme was studied when he was involved with initiating the Lesotho project; and it was found to be "more expensive" than the Lesotho scheme. Two other schemes would have his support: building a huge dam on the Umzimvubu River upstream from Port St Johns in Transkei; and pumping desalinated sea water (using Inga power) from the coast to the interior.

Olivier adds: "The 700 ft high Transkei dam (the first of a possible five, which could yield a further 20 cumecs) could also generate 2 000 MW of power and provide not only the thirsty eastern Cape with water but could augment the Orange River system and, from there, the Vaal system feeding the PWV. This is a more feasible proposition than trying to negotiate the use of Zambezi water."

Pumping desalinated sea water with cheap Inga power would also make sense. Midgley says the Zambezi water could be provided at a current cost rate of R2/m³, compared with the cost of about R6/m³ to desalinate sea water — even before you start pumping it to the PWV. But, says Olivier, using off-peak power for desalination would reduce costs.

Midgley agrees that desalination — using



Source DEPT OF WATER AFFAIRS

sophisticated modern techniques which involve lowering water's boiling point at reduced air pressures — should be considered. This could be done as a spin-off from the construction of the next coastal nuclear power station, which could then dedicate half its output to a desalination plant. But using Zambezi water would probably be much cheaper. Lund comments: "If it would take years to negotiate the use of Zambezi water, all the more reason why we should start talking now."

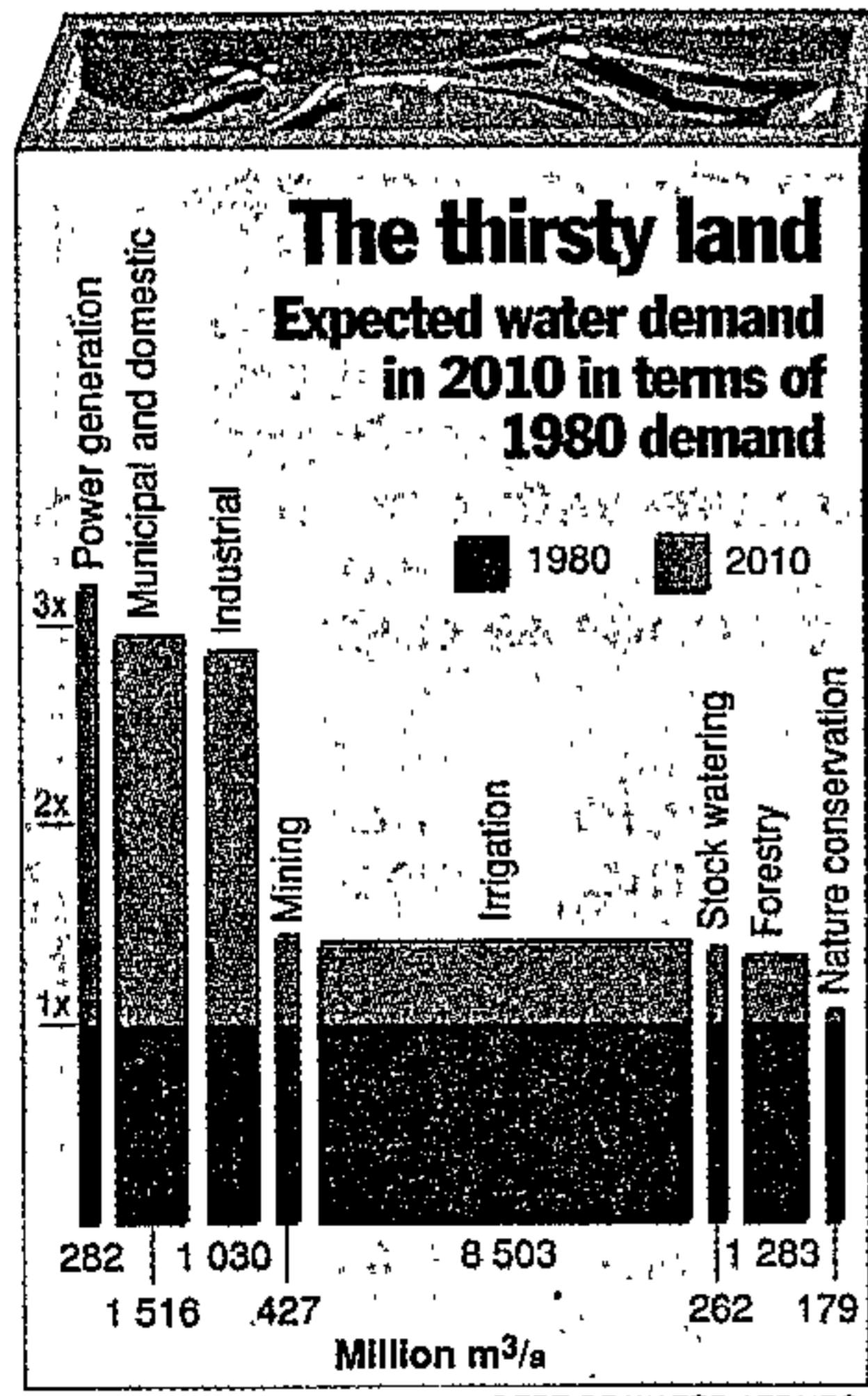
In the PWV, where water shortages would have the most disastrous economic impact, Lund reckons another and cheaper option has not yet been thoroughly investigated. This is what he terms flood harvesting. He explains: "SA is subject to recurrent floods when massive volumes of water rush down to the oceans. By building a huge, 28 m-deep dam with a 12 km wall near Vanderbijlpark, a volume of water four times that stored in the Vaal Dam (about 8bn m³ compared to Vaal Dam's 2bn m³) could be trapped when the next flood hits.

"This would provide fairly cheap water reserves far in excess of the Vaal Dam's capacity and be less subject to evaporation than the 6 m-7 m deep Vaal Dam. But part of such a scheme would be to keep the Vaal Dam at minimum volume so that it could catch and retain stormwater for the lower dam."

Lund's proposed flood dam would yield more than half (12-13 cumecs) the Lesotho Project's first stage at a cost of only about R1bn-R2bn — against Lesotho's R10bn. He adds that the Caledon scheme could yield the same volume as Lesotho's final stage (proposed yield of about 70 cumecs at current cost of about R20bn) for R3bn.

Both the Caledon pump scheme and Vanderbijlpark flood dam proposition have been submitted to the Department of Water Affairs (as well as Olivier's plans for the Umzimvubu dams).

"The longer we wait to make a decision, the higher the end costs to the economy," he says. The assessment seems accurate. ■



Source DEPT OF WATER AFFAIRS

'Holistic plan needed to tackle pollution'

GOVERNMENT should stop concentrating on making regulations limiting pollution from industries and start addressing other, equally important sources of pollution, a top scientist said yesterday. (56)

Prof Harold Annegarn of Wits University's Schonland Nuclear Research Institute also criticised proposals to combat pollution documented in the Presi-

DARIUS SANAI

dent's Council's report on environmental management as inadequate and outdated.

SA needed to adopt a regional approach to environmental management.

Air pollution control measures proposed by the report, many of which have been endorsed by the National Health Department, were too limited to

have a long-term effect on combating increasingly serious air pollution, he said.

The report proposes regulations on emissions by industries suspected of pollution. Such regulations were necessary, but only as part of a more holistic plan to counter pollution, he said.

Sources like township fires, mine dumps, parking lots, and vehicle movement on dirt roads also needed to be controlled.

2/13/79

Fire 'under control'

Staff Reporter

(56)

ECT 27/3/92

THE fire that razed forests and vegetation on the Simonsberg mountain this week is virtually under control — but firemen are keeping a close watch on volatile patches of smouldering debris.

A spokesman for the Stellenbosch Fire Department said there were still plenty of "hot spots", and teams of fire-fighters would be damping down and patrolling the area for the next 36 hours.

He also said the strong winds which had picked up yesterday were a cause of concern as they could cause smoul-

dering patches to flare up again, especially as the wind had reached gale force higher up the mountain.

Parts of the Wiesenhof game reserve, Delheim wine estate, and the La Motte pine plantation are considered danger spots.

Mr Angus Wilson, the Regional Director of the Department of Forestry, said: "We are not out of the woods yet. It all depends on the weather."

Mr Wilson said it had been a "very expensive fire" and that he had not yet dared to calculate the cost of employing a team of 250 fire-fighters at overtime rates, plus hiring a Puma helicopter.

Demolition: Charge to be laid

56 APR 28 1992

THE National Monuments Council is to lay a charge with the police after one of the oldest buildings in George, provisionally declared a national monument, was allegedly unlawfully demolished, the NMC said in a statement in Cape Town.

The owner declined to comment, as a charge was pending, and his attorney said the matter was "sensitive."

A notice provisionally proclaiming the building — Bamboo Lodge in York Street — a national monument appeared in the Government Gazette on February 15, 1991, the NMC said.

Following discussions with the owner the NMC was notified on June 11 last year by the owner's architects of the intention to redevelop the area in phases.

The proposed redevelopment, including the restoration of Bamboo Lodge, was welcomed and the NMC issued a permit to the owners to go ahead with develop-

ment and restoration work of the property provided the final signing of the plans was first submitted to the NMC.

However, Bamboo Lodge was demolished contrary to discussions held with the owner, and despite the legal protection the building enjoyed, the NMC said.

No application for the demolition of Bamboo Lodge from the owner or their attorneys had been received by the NMC, the council claimed.

"This action by the owner is viewed in such a serious light that the NMC has decided to lay a charge with the police," the council said.

The Town Clerk of George, Mr Tom Lotter, told Sapa they had received many complaints from people living in the vicinity.

Mr Lotter said the building was partly demolished when he took office early in 1990.

The curator of the George museum, Mr Johan van Wvk. said

they understood the owner was going to renovate and add to the complex.

"We are very distressed by the whole event," said Mr Van Wyk who is also a member of the executive committee of the Simon van der Stel Foundation.

A leading restoration architect of George and a member of the Simon van der Stel Foundation, Mr Boets Smuts, said the demolition was very disappointing.

The building could have been incorporated into a modern prestige development with a very good address.

"We trust that this unfortunate demolition will result in urging local authority to proceed with the now long overdue conservation and development plan which will set the parameters for future development in older towns and cities of which George is one, having been declared a new drostdy east of Swellendam in 1811."

Government gave nod to toxic waste imports

SITW 29/3/92 (56) (S)

REPORTS by RYAN CRESSWELL

the Department of Water Affairs ordered Thor to suspend the part of its operation that produced mercury effluent.

This followed tests on water from the Umgeni River — used by residents of KwaZulu for bathing and drinking — which showed mercury levels of 1,000 parts per million — hundreds of times above the World Health Organisation's maximum drinking levels.

A month later, Thor denied an independent medical team access to its plant to carry out health

tests on workers. Managing director Steve van der Vyver said the decision had been taken by the parent company in Britain.

Secrecy

This prompted Earthlife Africa to issue a statement saying countries such as Britain, the US, Italy, Germany, France and Australia were taking advantage of South Africa's "poor" environmental legislation and exporting massive amounts of toxic waste to South Africa.

South Africa is not a signatory to a December 1989 agreement by 68 countries banning trade in toxic waste, and as a non-member, is not bound by Organisation of African Unity resolutions in May 1988 and July 1989 which supported a ban on the import of toxic waste to Africa.

Last month, the Amsterdam Water Tribunal — which meets only once every four years — was told by members of Earthlife that the South African government had allowed Thor to cloak its operations in secrecy, and that all attempts to obtain and publish details of alleged

pollution and human contamination had been obstructed.

The company was acquitted, although the international jury of scientists found that the plant could well be polluting the Umgeni River. However, the environmentalists had failed to provide sufficient proof.

On March 11, representatives of the Department of Water Affairs and Thor met to discuss the company's progress in improving its mercury effluent disposal since 1988.

Ten days later, the mercury acetate plant was shut down pending a full

investigation into the mercury poisoning cases by the Department of Manpower.

It will be conducted by Professor Tony Davies, head of the National Centre for Occupational Health, and paid for by Thor.

Thor Chemicals is an international chemical manufacturing company with seven branches around the world. The parent body is Thor Holdings, based in Kent, England.

Last November, the company's Transvaal manager, Mr Alan Kidger, was murdered, dismembered and put in his car boot on the Reef. He was covered with a black substance which was thought to contain mercury. Police are still investigating his bizarre death.

MILLIONS OF TONS of toxic waste have been imported by Thor Chemicals to South Africa since 1986 — with the government's approval.

Thor's plant at Cato Ridge — which includes the world's largest mercury reclamation facility — was shut down last week pending an investigation into the cause of mercury poisoning among workers.

Thor, owned by a British company, has consistently denied that it could be a dumping ground for the world's toxic waste.

But in July 1989, the company was listed by the international environmental protest group Greenpeace as a major importer of toxic mercury waste.

Between 1986 and 1989, an estimated three-million tons of toxic waste were shipped to the plant from US Cyanamid, based in New Jersey. Most of the toxic waste was in sludge form.

Ordered

The waste is a by-product of catalysts made in Natal and exported to Thor's clients abroad. As a service to its clients, Thor repurchases materials containing mercury after the compounds have been used, and extracts the mercury by means of a condensation process.

Since 1989, the operation has been approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs, which says the products imported by Thor do not fall within the government's definition of toxic waste.

However, in April 1990,

Mining protesters plant booby traps

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

PROTESTERS fighting to save Champman's Peak claim they have booby-trapped trees earmarked for clearance by hammering long nails into them.

The nails, embedded so deep they cannot be seen, will snag the blades of high-speed chain saws and could wrench them out of operators' hands, causing serious injury or even death.

Mr Andre Viljoen, executive director of Serina Kaolin (Pty), slammed the tree-spiking as "incredibly stupid and dangerous".

"I hope that the irresponsible people who have done this are prepared to face the consequences of their vandalism — including the blame for possible injury and loss of life."

Cleared

Labourers from Serina are expected to start clearing scrub and trees to fence the 26-hectare site of the mine "any day now".

There is also a cluster of trees on the site where the open-cast mine is to be dug, which will have to be

cleared. Save Chapman's Peak Action Group spokesman Ian Browlie said the "spiking" of trees had been discussed at a recent public meeting.

"Some people who are not active members of the SCPAG said they would spike trees at random."

Mr Browlie said the unknown activists claimed some trees had already been spiked.

He said the SCPAG could not condone their actions, but understood

their motives. "It's an indication of how high emotions are running. People here are totally opposed to mining on Chapman's Peak."

Mr Browlie said the SCPAG had tried to conduct a responsible campaign, but could not stop people from taking individual action.

Upset

"We have never denied Serina's legitimate right to mine. But the people living here have not been consulted. I am not surprised that they are upset."

"We have constantly been fobbed off by officialdom. We believe we have a right to be heard."

He confirmed that the SCPAG has planned a coordinated campaign to halt mining.

It will include the formation of a "human-chain" to prevent mine vehicles moving on to the site as well as a possible Supreme Court action.

The technique of spiking trees was used by ecologists in their fight to save rain forests in the Amazon and Redwood forests in California.

Rotarians to step it out for planet

STAR 30/3/92
Own Correspondent

The biggest organised running or walking event yet will take place simultaneously in all the world's 24 time zones on May 9, Rotary International's Preserve Planet Earth Day.

The aim is to make the Earth a better place to live in.

The events will start at 8 am in New Zealand

and will proceed around the globe at 8 am in each time zone.

About 1,1 million Rotarians in 172 countries will take part, it is hoped.

The aims are to heighten public awareness and initiate actions to meet urgent environmental needs; to help initiate educational programmes leading to sustainable development; and to stop

the depletion of finite resources and become an annual fund-raising event for environmental programmes.

The organisers say 25 000 children die every day because of unclean water and the number will increase unless changes are made. Environmental abuses are as destructive as nuclear war and far harder to avert, they say.

Land to go to 'committed' citizens

STAR 30/3/92
GWANDA — (Zimbabwe) Vice-President Joshua Nkomo at the weekend told Zimbabweans to gear themselves for hard work when they are allocated land acquired under the recently passed Land Acquisition Bill.

Addressing a consultative meeting on the land issue and the drought, Dr Nkomo said under-utilisation of land bought by the government should

stop if people wanted the government to give them more land.

Dr Nkomo said only those who showed commitment would be given the land.

He urged Matabeleland residents to start thinking about how best to pursue a combination of cattle and game ranching rather than food crops.

"The time has come

for us to deliver the goods to the people who have been waiting patiently. It is up to us to prove to those who opposed the Bill that we can do as much, if not more, than they could," he said.

He urged Zimbabweans to be masters of their own future by engaging in self-help activities instead of waiting to be employed. — Sapa.

SPEED QUEEN SPECIALS

Charge laid after building demolished

ARC 30/3/92

(56)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE National Monuments Council has laid a criminal charge against a company allegedly responsible for demolishing one of the oldest buildings in George.

The historic Bamboo Lodge, dating from about 1818, was provisionally proclaimed a national monument in February last year. It was subsequently demolished, allegedly without a permit from the council.

A council spokeswoman said the lodge was built on an erf registered in February 1818 by Mr J H Voorman, the surveyor who laid out what was then called George Town.

"The building was later used as a boarding house and derived its name from the bamboo plants alongside," she said.

Bamboo Lodge was an example of Cape vernacular architectural style dating from the early historical period of George, and contained both Cape Georgian and Victorian elements, she said.

"It was one of the oldest buildings in George and was identified as such several years ago in a census of important and conservation-worthy buildings in the town."

When it became apparent that the owner, Urbans (Pty) Ltd, was removing the roof and floors without permission, the council decided to declare it a provisional monument.

In December 1990, the council's executive committee visited George to discuss its future maintenance and use with the owner.

In June last year, the owner's architect submitted a redevelopment proposal which included the restoration of the lodge, to the council's plans committee.

"This was welcomed and the council issued a permit to continue with the development and restoration, on condition that final works drawings were submitted to the council," the spokeswoman said.

"It was consequently completely against the run of the negotiations, as well as the legal protection which the building enjoyed, that it was demolished."

Defiant Zim to sell ivory

CT 30/6/92 (56)

HARARE. — Zimbabwe has decided to sell its ivory stocks in spite of the recent ruling by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) barring trade in ivory.

"We have about 25 000 tons of ivory in our stock and we will start selling this ivory with immediate effect, even if it means outside the Cites umbrella," Mr Willie Nduku, the director of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, told the Ziana news agency.

Southern African states that have elephant populations had assured the recent Cites meeting in Kyoto, Japan, that they had no intention of behaving irresponsibly.

Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and Namibia had therefore decided to form the Southern Afri-

can Centre for Ivory Marketing (Sacim).

The four-nation group would meet on April 14 in Namibia to discuss ways of marketing their ivory with countries outside Cites.

According to Environment and Tourism Minister Mr Herbert Murerwa, the countries in Sacim would remain members of Cites, and would continue fighting for the lifting of the ivory trade ban.

Withdrew

At the Cites conference in Kyoto Zimbabwe wanted African elephants to be downlisted to Appendix II, which allowed limited and controlled trade, from Appendix I, which prohibited all commercial trade.

Although Zimbabwe, along with Malawi, Botswana and Namibia, had the guarded support of the Cites secretariat, the World Con-

servation Union and the World Wildlife Fund, the southern Africans decided to withdraw their proposal after it became clear they would be badly defeated if the issue went to an open vote.

Mr Taparendava Mavheneke, chief executive of Campfire Association, said that most parties in Cites wrongly took Zimbabwe to be the base for illegal marketing in ivory.

Mr Murerwa argued in his speech at the conference that wildlife should secure its own survival by realising its full economic value through sustainable utilisation.

Zimbabwe was accused of being selfish in not giving up her successful conservation programmes based on sustainable use, and on a recognition of the rights of the rural people to manage and benefit from their own resources. — Sapa

RMP gives 20 000ha to Parks Board

^{61 Day}
 RAND Mines Properties (RMP) has handed over 20 000ha of pristine wilderness in the Langekloof Mountains to the National Parks Board, to be used for environmental education and the creation of hiking trails. A statement on Friday on behalf of Rand Mines Properties and the Parks Board said the area, near the Tsitsikamma National Park, was the country's biggest known remaining wilderness in private hands. The land will probably be incorporated into the Tsitsikamma National Park. RMP handed over the area at a function at the Storms River Mouth camp in the Tsitsikamma on Friday.

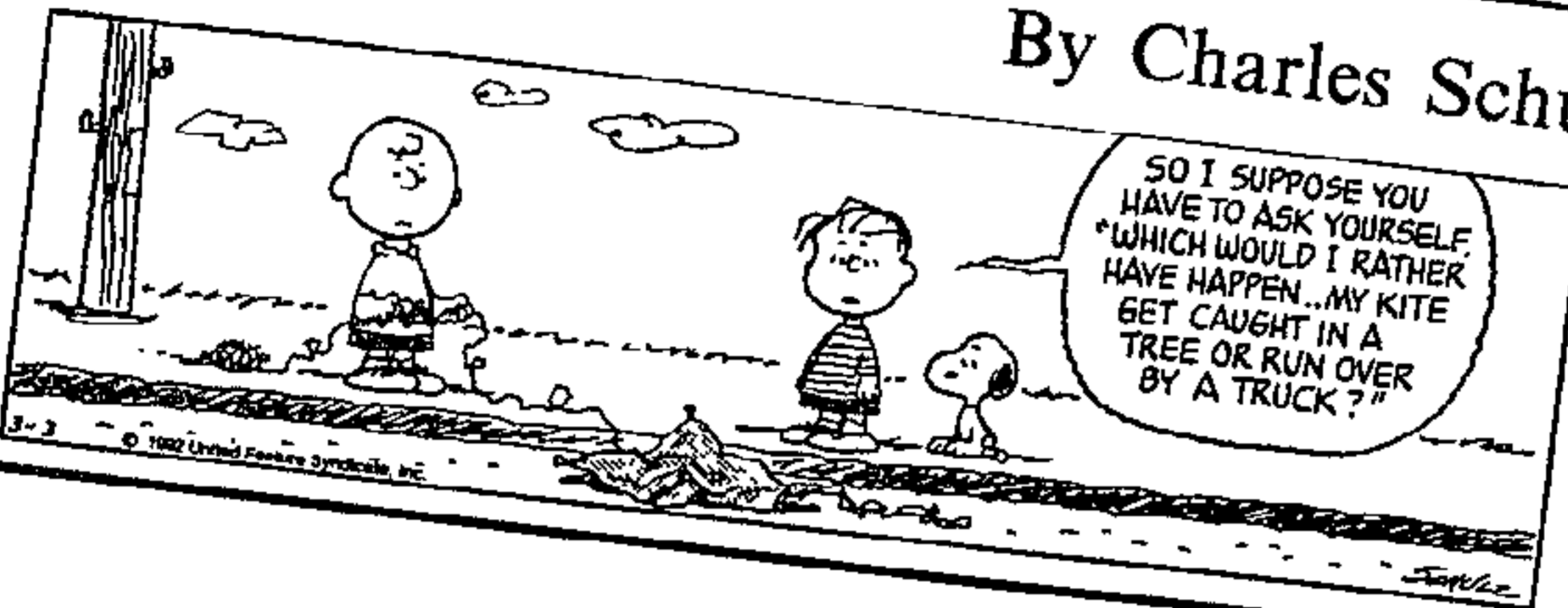
^{30/3/92}
 The land — which has been privately owned for almost 100 years and which has never been put to commercial use — is known as Zoetkraal. ~~56~~ It incorporates a 35km-long valley with water running all year round. Former RMP MD John Turner, who initiated the project, said it had been agreed with the Parks Board that the overall concept for the management of the land would be sharply focused on outdoor recreation and environmental education. "Therefore, walking-hiking trails and rustic accommodation will probably be the main feature of development." — Sapa.

Diamond firm petitions FW

^{30/3/92}
 MASERU — A diamond mining company has petitioned President F W de Klerk to hold an inquiry into the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme Treaty. Swissborough Diamond Mines MD Joe van Zyl said on Friday his company had petitioned De Klerk to inquire into who was responsible for action taken by the Lesotho government. On Tuesday Lesotho revoked the mining group's mining leases. Van Zyl said he had heard rumours that SA had pressured Lesotho into taking action against his group. All mining operations have been suspended pending legal proceedings to set aside Lesotho's decision to revoke the mining leases. Van Zyl said earlier this week the company would take the issue to the world court and the UN. — Sapa.

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz



M I

A I



Angry residents campaign to stop mine dumps dust

By Anna Louw
East Rand Bureau

Fine dust blowing off three mine dumps has angered residents in the suburbs of Boksburg and Germiston.

They say it is causing respiratory and other health problems.

Nearly 3 000 residents of Sunward Park, Freeway Park, Farrar Park, Reiger Park in Boksburg, and Els Park in Germiston, have signed a petition protesting against the problem, which is particularly bad in winter.

The residents held a meeting in the Freeway Park Primary School hall last week with officials from ERPM — which owns two of the mine dumps — to thrash out solutions.

The third mine dump is owned by Transvaal Sand Supply.

The problem has been going on for years.

Action committee

chairman Hannes Niemand said the meeting became so heated at times that an ERPM manager Billy Williams threatened to walk out.

"The point is that ERPM has done nothing to alleviate the problem and is refusing to acknowledge that the dust has become a serious pollution problem," said Mr Niemand.

Boksburg town councillor Chris Smith suggested that ERPM should make use of a R5 000 annual grant available from the council, to plant grass on the mine dumps.

He said ERPM has never made use of the grant in the past.

Another councillor, Andries du Toit, said he would take the matter up in council to see if its parks department would be willing to plant trees next to the M17, which he said became treacherous in rain.

"A film of dust on the

road surface is extremely dangerous in wet weather," said Mr du Toit.

Mr Niemand said he had gone as far as taking the matter up with the office of Environmental Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar but the response was very disappointing.

He said the situation was so bad at times that mechanics in a service station workshop in Sunward Park were unable to work on cars because the mine dust penetrated everything.

"Apart from aggravating respiratory conditions, the dust gets into furniture.

"It is hell on wash day and generally makes life miserable," said Mr Niemand.

He said his action committee would fight tooth and nail until the pollution problem was solved.

The only way to do it was to plant grass on the mine dumps.

56

