

ENVIRONMENT - 1994

The oily finger points

PORTNET has put the blame of the polluted Cape Town harbour squarely on the city of Cape Town itself, saying at least 85 percent of the surface pollution in the harbour comes from the city and not from ships.

This is the next chapter in the ongoing saga between the Royal Cape Yacht Club and Portnet on the state of pollution in the harbour.

Earlier, Captain Peter Moon of Royal Cape's general committee said until the handling of rubbish throughout the port, the dumping of infill in the Ben Schoeman dock and the high level of oil spills in the port were seriously tackled by port authorities, they would not be able to cope with pollution.

Referring to the level of pollution in the harbour Captain Moon said: "...you can't dip multimillion dollar yachts in that muck..."

In a letter to Weekend Argus, new port captain John Woodend said he found Captain Moon's comments severe in the extreme. "At the Royal Cape Yacht Club I could see many rusty cans and bottles on the seabed at the yacht moorings outside the club at at least a 2½-metre depth.

"There were schools of small

■ Just more than a month ago Cape Town Port officials proudly announced that anti-pollution measures had ensured Cape Town had one of the cleanest harbours in the country. But a couple of oil spills later and an increase in surface pollution now has the new port captain blaming the city itself for the polluted state of the harbour.

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Weekend Argus Reporter

fish swimming between the surface and the cans, which meant that the seawater column was clean. Thus the seawater itself is not muck."

Captain Woodend said Captain Moon must have been referring to surface pollution.

Captain Woodend said: "From personal observation I state categorically that at least 85 percent of the surface pollution in the harbour comes from the city of Cape Town and not from ships using the harbour."

(56) ARG 1/1/94
Ironically, Weekend Argus was taken on a guided tour by port officials about a month ago to see first-hand how clean Cape Town harbour was.

At the time Floris Coetzee, pollution and environmental control officer in the harbour, pointed out huge nets that had been placed over the stormwater outlets in the harbour.

Mr Coetzee said these nets had led to a great improvement, preventing most of the flotsam and jetsam of the city from entering the harbour through stormwater drains. Officials believed that new anti-pollution measures had ensured that Cape Town harbour was one of the cleanest in southern Africa. In regard to oilspills Captain Woodend admitted that there had been a number of recent minor spills which he hoped would be something of the past as soon as the replacement of bunker lines in the harbour was complete.

"I maintain, however, that more oil enters the harbour by way of stormwater drains from the drivers who change the oil in their cars and pour the oil down stormwater drains as the easiest place to get rid of it.

"The rains come and where does it end up? In the harbour — and fingers are immediately pointed at ships."

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■ Twin-hulled anti-pollution vessels, used with great success in various overseas harbours, may be the answer to Cape Town's harbour pollution problems, reports **WILLEM STEENKAMP** of Weekend Argus.

MUCK WAR

56 ARG 8/1/94



□ **POLLUTION BEATER:** An anti-pollution vessel similar to this German model could soon be operating in the Cape Town and Saldanha harbours to clear up pollution.

POLLUTION problems in Cape Town harbour may soon be a thing of the past if a tender for a state-of-the-art anti-pollution vessel is accepted by Saldanha authorities.

Captain John Woodend, formerly of Saldanha and now new Port Captain of Cape Town, said he recently went overseas to investigate anti-pollution vessels in use in European countries.

"I looked at the British, Finnish and Danish anti-pollution vessels. They are all very similar, using twin-hulled vessels to skim oil and rubbish from the water into a container in the stern. It works very effectively."

Saldanha is considering acquiring one of these vessels and various overseas companies have been asked to tender.

"Because the vessel is quite small, it can easily be shuttled on the back of a truck between Saldanha and Cape Town, to use the same vessel to clean both harbours," said Captain Woodend. "We feel sure it will solve pollution problems."

Ironically, as long ago as 1985 a German inventor, Dietrich Sobinger arrived from Germany to try to persuade harbour authorities to use his twin-hulled anti-pollution catamaran to clean up pollution in local harbours.

According to Mr Sobinger's South African representative, Daan Ribbens, Mr Sobinger never received replies from the various authorities.

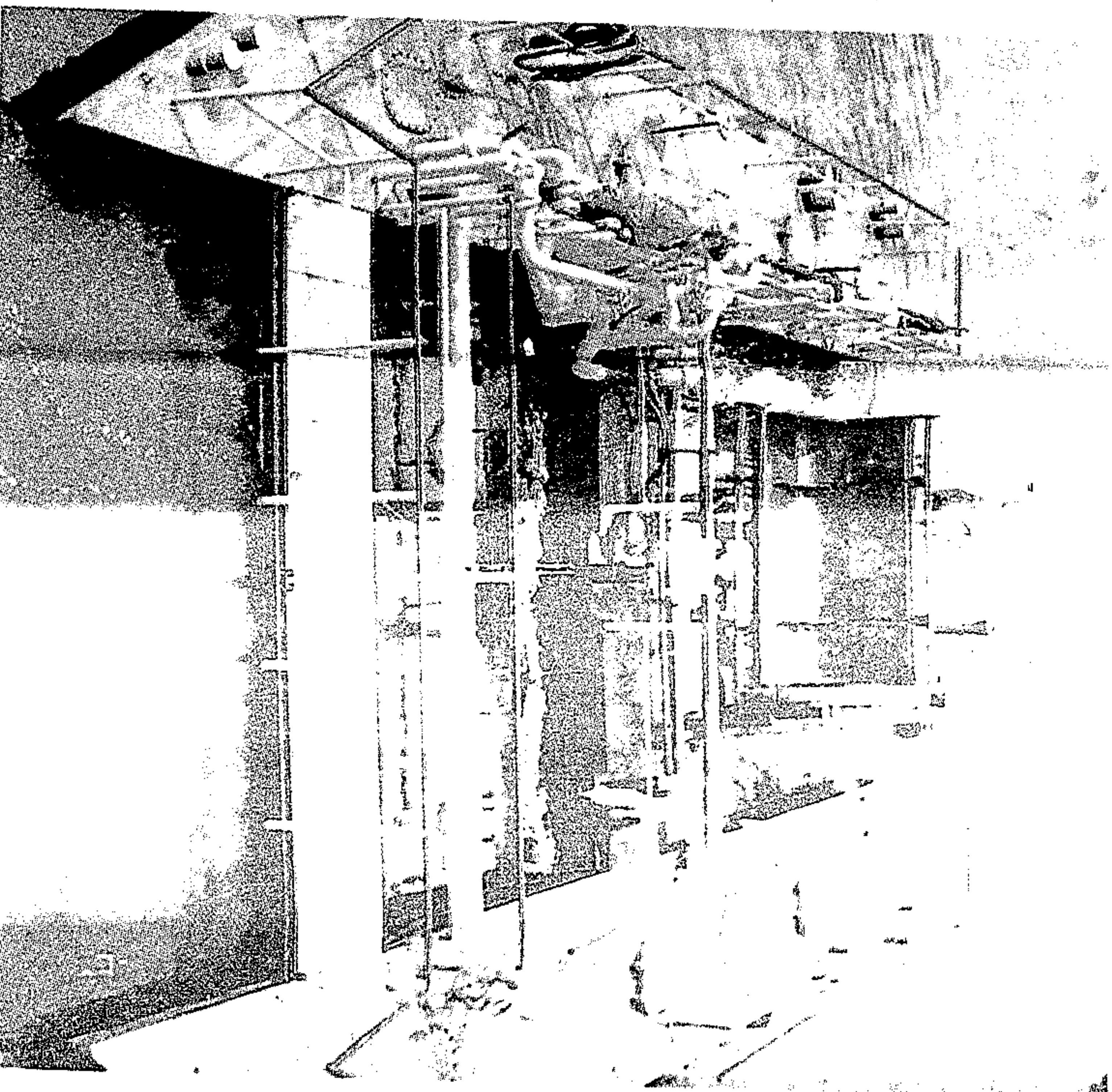
Originally, Eskom had called for tenders in 1985 in the hope of combating possible oil pollution at the Koebert Power Station. Mr Sobinger arrived in South Africa to hand in his tender.

He also approached the port authorities of Cape Town, the Department of Transport in Pretoria and a high-ranking railways and harbours official.

"After months Eskom advised that they were not proceeding with their tender, and no definite answer could be obtained from port authorities," said Mr Ribbens.

Mr Sobinger intends tendering again to supply the German-made anti-pollution vessel for Saldanha and Cape Town.

He operates anti-pollution vessels with great success in Europe and is currently negotiating with various other countries which are keen to obtain the vessels.



□ **SKIMMED OIL:** This is how the twin-hulled anti-pollution vessel skims oil from the surface. Oil and rubbish is dumped into the back of the vessel.

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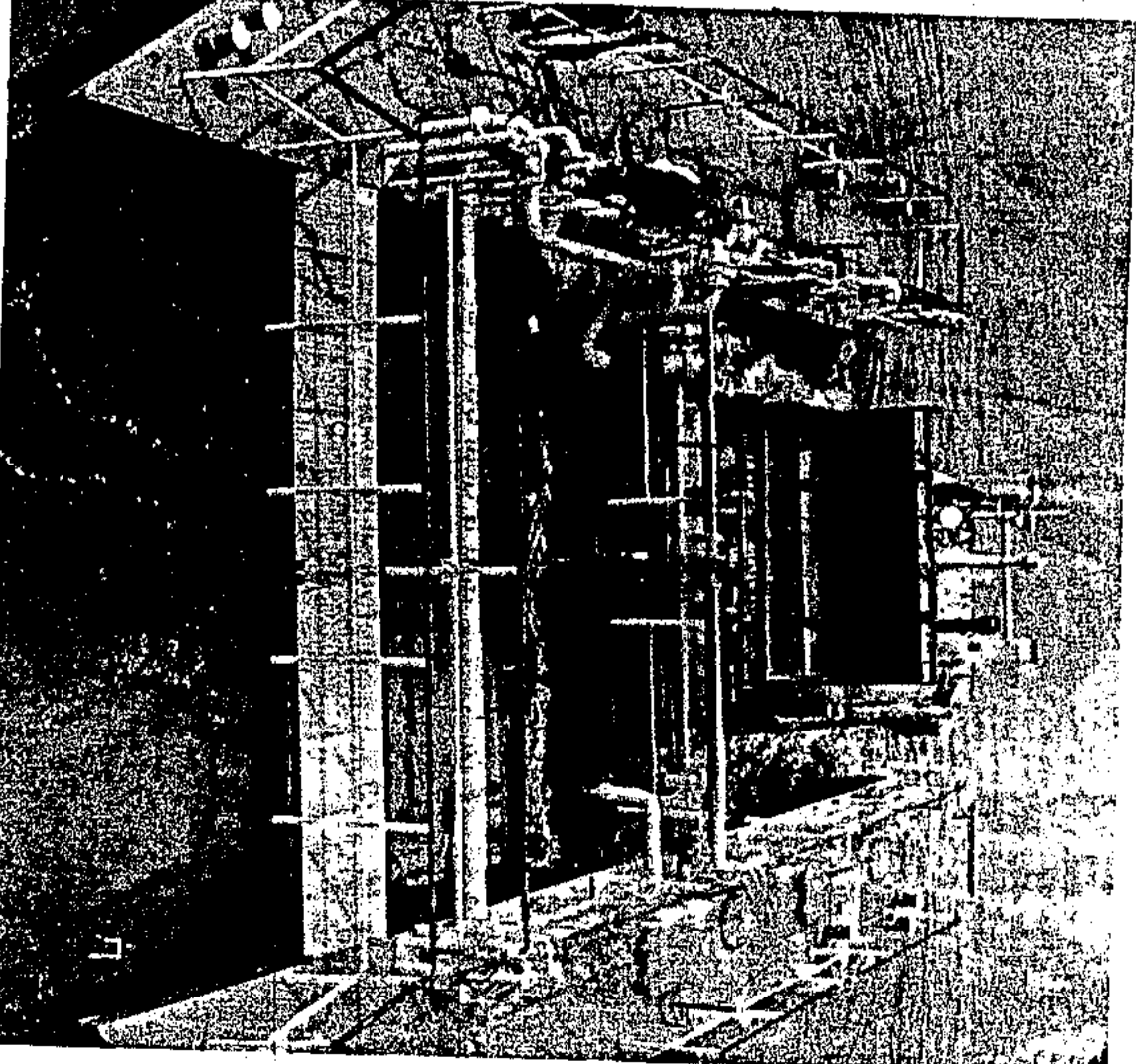
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Recycling: Bottles to be dumped

(56)

CF8/1/94

By MELANIE GOSLING

HUNDREDS of thousands of wine bottles previously returnable for re-use are now being dumped after Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery stopped using recycled bottles for their corked wines.

One national liquor store chain said there was considerable confusion and customers had become angry when bottle stores would accept only certain wine bottles, and not those of SFW.

It had therefore been decided not to accept any wine bottles at all.

Area manager of Liquor Town, Mr Pieter Naude, said yesterday: "There was chaos. The customers did not understand why some wine bottles were returnable and others not."

Mr Len Heydenrych, owner of Cape Bottle Wash, which buys empty bottles and washes and sells them to the liquor industry, said SFW's bottles had made up between 18% and 20% of all returnable bottles.

Market share

"We were told that SFW had lost 9% of the market share, which was blamed on the quality of re-used bottles.

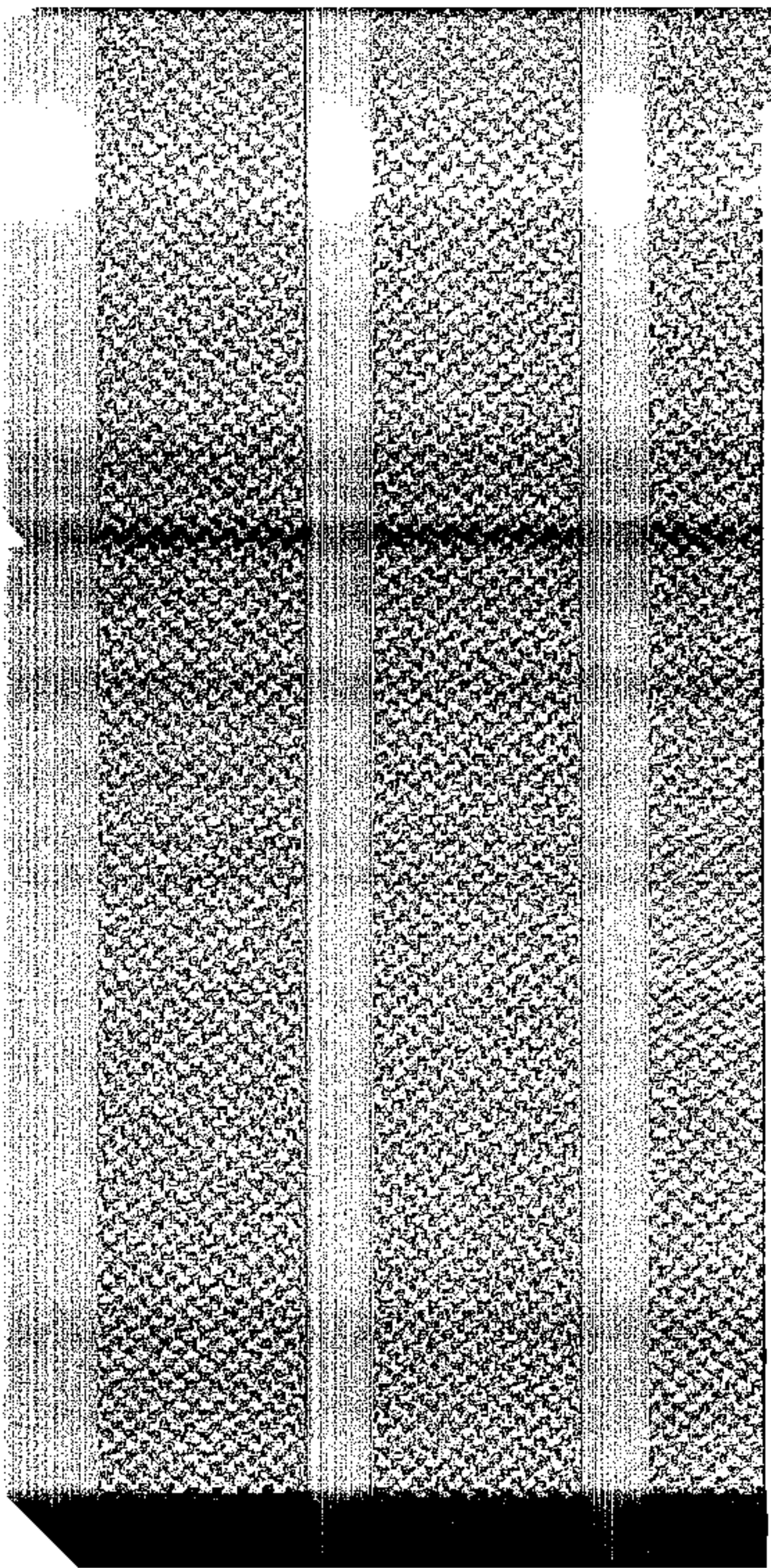
"So they decided to stop using second-hand bottles to try to recover their market share.

"In fact it is impossible to tell that a bottle has been re-used. Most of the big wine estates use second-hand bottles," he said.

He said Ecobott, a recycling company that was liquidated last year, washed and resold 1,2 million empties in one month last year. About 200 000 of these had been SFW bottles.

A spokeswoman for the Cape Recycling Network, Ms Barbara Jenman, expressed "disappointment" that SFW had decided to buy new bottles instead of using returnable bottles.

● The Cape Times was told yesterday that no one at SFW could comment as all those who were permitted to speak to the press were on leave.



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

WALLOWING IN MUCK: Trawlers float on a sea of filth after heavy rains flushed the stormwater system into Cape Town harbour. In the background the nets placed across the stormwater outlets groan under the weight of debris. **More pictures page 4.**

What a mess as rain flushes muck into (56) Cape Town harbour

ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

CAPE Town harbour is awash with a thick layer of muck washed from the city's stormwater system after the first heavy rains in months.

Port captain John Woodend has called for an urgent meeting to solve what has become a major headache for the city.

Backing Captain Woodend's call are the Royal Cape Yacht Club, the city council, the Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee and Captour.

Captour chief Gordon Oliver warned today a showdown was looming at the next city council works and utilities meeting January 20 unless the city came up with a "proper waste management plan".

The city's stormwater drains empty into the harbour and after yesterday's rain B-berth is a sea of oily plastic, polystyrene, tennis balls, pine-needles and other filth.

The nets across the stormwater outlets groaned under the weight of debris.

The City Council, port authority and yacht club have been at loggerheads over the filthy harbour.

The council said it was doing what it could; the yacht club blamed the council, port authorities and a bunker oil supply company; and, the port said the mess was largely windblown litter and emptying stormwater drains.

Mr Oliver said: "In fairness to the city, it is the citizens who are causing the litter. But the cleansing branch is not coping.

"The council needs a full investigation into and commitment to solving the problem."

Captain Woodend said the rain "confirmed my suspicions (about the origin of the dirt) ... the amount of stuff that came down is phenomenal".

City engineer Arthur Clayton said the city was conducting a major campaign to reduce litter.

Wine bottles have value says 'grapevine'

DAVID YUTAR Staff Reporter
IF you can cork it, you can re-cycle it.

That's the message from the Western Cape's burgeoning used bottle industry.

Rumours that recycling of wine-bottles has been discontinued are without foundation, say spokesmen for the industry.

One can still get between 15c and 20c for a used wine bottle, with some of the more unusual bottles fetching up to 35c.

Screw-top bottles tend to be less valuable than their cork counterparts.

South Africans still have a lot to learn from overseas when it comes to wine-bottle recycling, according to an industry spokesman.

Paul Rocha has been in the recycling business for a year.

Previously most bottle stores paid customers between 15c and 20c for cork wine bottles which they passed on to a company called Ecobott which washed

and sent them to winemakers for re-use.

But Ecobott went into liquidation in September.

Mr Rocha's company has stepped into the breach and has contracts with bottle stores, hotels, restaurants and individuals to collect bottles *en masse*, paying on average 15c to 20c a bottle.

According to Mr Rocha recycling saves wine producers "a lot of money" as new bottles are three times as expensive as

used ones.

Mr Rocha says wine-bottle recycling was a growing industry, although South Africa was still far behind the world.

"Recycling can save the country a lot of money and is bound to become more popular", he says.

To be re-used bottles must be in "100 percent condition" without scratches or blemishes.

"After the washing process they have to come out looking like new."

(56) ARG 14/1/94

EU urges global trade

BRUSSELS. — A top European Union official vowed yesterday that leaders will not create a "Fortress Europe" and he urged businesses to seize the new export opportunities opened by a world trade agreement.

Leon Brittan, who represented the EU as trade commissioner in the Uruguay Round negotiations, said the trade deal by itself would not guarantee prosperity, and he called on business leaders to take advantage of lower barriers to exports.

Speaking to the Centre for European Policy Studies, he said, "it is of no small importance that the first major strategic decision taken by the European Union should be in favour of lowering barriers and freeing trade, a step that should knock another nail into the coffin of the Fortress Europe myth."

Brittan called for further market-opening measures, but said those would only be acceptable if they are backed by a continued strong, sustainable social welfare system.

561 CT 18/1/94
He urged EU business leaders to follow the example of the US car parts industry, which has "actively cultivated potential customers in the Japanese market".

Brittan said, "similar recognition needs to be more widespread in other sectors, in Europe as well as in the US".

● Meanwhile GATT director-general Peter Sutherland met yesterday with top European Union trade negotiators to pave the way for the April signing of a global trade accord and the establishment of a world trade organisation.

The head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade said he was here to sew up the details of a 116-nation trade deal struck December 15.

"We are putting into shape the agreement that was reached in December," Sutherland said.

Arriving at EU headquarters, Sutherland said he would spend the day with the EU's trade chief, Sir Leon Brittan, and Agriculture Commissioner Rene Steichen. The

two commissioners represented the 12-nation trade bloc during world trade talks that ended December 15.

He and EU trade negotiator Hugo Paemen cited market access as the main topic for discussion.

Sutherland said while the major outlines were agreed to in December, bilateral meetings continue between GATT members on the finer points. Trading partners are also free to add to the agreement, but may not chisel away at promises already made.

Sutherland also said he wanted to work on plans for a future World Trade Organisation, also agreed to in the December 15 deal. The WTO would take over from GATT as the administrator of global trade dealings.

"There are enormous new areas of action" to be administered by the WTO, he said, noting intellectual property.

Sutherland said he hoped to have the WTO operational by the beginning of next year. — UPI, Sapa-AP

R2 million clean-up bill for Cape Town?

□ City engineer unveils 13-point programme

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

CITY engineer Arthur Clayton says he can clean up Cape Town — if the council agrees to a R2 million 13-point programme.

Cleansing problems were highlighted during the festive season when Captour chief Gordon Oliver added his voice to complaints and again last week when rain washed tons of garbage through the storm water system into the harbour.

In a report to the utilities and works committee, Mr Clayton said problems were caused partly by delays in projects, including a late start to the Clean CBD Campaign, union opposition to rationalising cleansing operations, delays in the containerisation programme, and workers being needed to cope with an "alarming" increase in garden refuse.

Solutions scheduled for this year included containerising refuse collection from Wynberg to Mowbray, a new garden re-

fuse removal system, and educating hawkers.

But widespread littering was still a problem.

Causes included:

● Vagrants, who littered during "informal recycling" or in search of food, usually after hours. There had been a significant increase in the number of unemployed and destitute people in the central city.

● Transient informal traders did not care about littering, while the total number of traders operating during the past festive season was double that of the previous year.

● "Belligerent" taxi operators who refused to co-operate.

● Rail commuters who tossed litter from trains.

Mr Clayton said it was council policy to containerise the waste and have it removed by the city council or a waste company.

But this policy could not be applied to street traders.

The strategy he proposed included:

● Deploying 20 extra supervisors to improve productivity.

● Increasing the number of street sweepers by 50, to 540.

● Increasing the number of law enforcement officers assigned to combat litter to 15.

● Limiting the time set aside for "dog problems" which at present took up most time for law enforcement officers.

● Improving legislation and by-laws.

● Improving enforcement of legislation.

● Increasing co-ordination of litter enforcement by all council law enforcement officers.

● Encouragement by the association of private organisations to take greater responsibility for their waste, for instance by recycling.

● Introduce a Tidy Town Programme, as had been done in other cities.

● The Businesses Amendment Act had been promulgated and by-laws should provide powers to enable the city council to manage informal trading.

ARG 20/1/94 (5)

Observatory's streets 'covered in rubbish'

WIND, dogs, vagrants and residents putting their refuse out on the wrong day all contribute to Observatory's litter problem.

"Plastics are by far the worst," said Karen Brooks, a member of the Observatory Civic Association's executive committee. She said she regularly received letters of complaint from residents and business owners about the state of the streets.

Weekends were particularly bad as some residents put out refuse on a Friday, so that by Monday it was liberally spread all over the street. Household refuse collections take place above Lower Main Road on Tuesdays and Fridays and below Lower Main Road on Mondays and Thursdays.

Builders' rubble

(5) CT 20/11/94

"Despite the regular refuse collections, littering remains a problem which will only be solved through educating the public," Ms Brooks said.

As Observatory's older homes lend themselves to renovation, there was a problem with the dumping of builders' rubble, she said. "Because it is illegal to dump rubble in a residential area people are putting it out at night and paying vagrants to remove it in trolleys." This is difficult to stop as law enforcement officers have to catch people in the act to lay a charge.

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Inkatha 'will take part in local govt'

BIDAY 21/11/94

GAVIN DU VENAGE

INKATHA will take part in all aspects of local government and wants other parties in third-tier government "to extend a hand of welcome", says Inkatha Freedom Party local government spokesman Peter Miller.

Miller told a summit on local government in Johannesburg yesterday that Inkatha would take part in local authorities in co-operation with other parties and organisations who made up transitional councils.

He said the announcement was not new policy but merely the reaffirmation of Inkatha's long-standing participation. Inkatha representatives already sat on various local negotiation forums such as the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

Miller said his statement had the full backing of Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi, with whom he had held discussions 10 days ago.

But Reuter reports Inkatha national spokesman Ziba Jiyane said the party would not take part in any elections at any level until its demands were met.

Miller was satisfied with the local government deal although Inkatha had not been party to its negotiation.

However, he said this did not necessarily mean Inkatha would take part in local

elections. It was possible that circumstances could change in the run-up to elections, which he predicted would not be held before late 1995. Negotiators have said elections will take place in October.

Miller denied there was any contradiction between Inkatha's position on national talks and its participation in third-tier government.

Inkatha was able to take part because the agreements were reasonable. It was therefore possible for Inkatha to rejoin the national talks if "given a fair hearing".

Inkatha's participation where its views were accommodated was proof that it was part of the solution, and not part of the problem, he said.

Miller's statement took the summit by surprise, and the 1 500 delegates broke into applause. Deputy Local Government Minister Yakoob Makda said it was unexpected but welcome news.

Initially Inkatha had not been invited but Miller had demanded an invitation earlier this week.

Jiyane said Miller's remarks could have reflected his personal opinion. Inkatha's position was unchanged: "The Inkatha position is that we are not going to contest elections unless our demands are taken into consideration."

Govt to ban import of toxic waste

BIDAY 21/11/94

SUSAN RUSSELL

DETAILS of a comprehensive environmental policy for SA, including a ban on the dumping of imported hazardous waste, were released by the Environment and Water Affairs Department yesterday.

Environment Affairs Minister Japie van Wyk said although any realistic policy had to take factors unique to SA into account, the document also reflected many international trends.

It recognised that environmental goals had to be pursued collectively through a partnership between the state and the community as a whole. This included developers, commerce and industry, agriculture, community organisations, non-

governmental organisations and the international community.

Environmental matters were primarily the responsibility of central government. However, executive responsibilities should be devolved to regional and provincial governments and local authorities as far as possible.

No hazardous waste would be imported into SA. Waste disposal into the environment would have to be limited to acceptable levels and standards.

According to the document, the increased use of solar energy would be encouraged.

Jacobs warns about future environment.

52
CT 28/1/74
PRETORIA. — The business sector is likely to have to operate in a less friendly and market orientated policy environment, Japie Jacobs, special adviser to the Minister of Finance, said at the Northern Transvaal Chamber of Industries agm yesterday.

"The policy framework within which business has been operating will no doubt change, although it is unlikely that these changes will be introduced abruptly.

Anti-trust

"Pronouncements on the need to break up conglomerates by using anti-trust legislation, to nationalise certain industries, to democratise the management and ownership of corporations and to intervene in the financial sector in order to channel finance towards the proposed socio-economic programmes, certainly do not help to create a climate in which the private sector can play a leading role to improve SA's growth performance over the longer term."

The policies proposed for the reconstruction and development of SA tended to over-emphasise the role that government-driven socio-economic and job creation programmes could play in improving long term growth.

The economy, despite the under-utilisation of production capacity, did not have the capacity to absorb the ambitious programmes being proposed. — Sapa

'Poisons of rich for the poor'

Own Correspondent

(56)

LOS ANGELES. — At least seven industrialised nations support "environmental racism", according to leading international expert Dr Robert Bullard of the University of California here.

"Unequal interests and power arrangements have allowed poisons of the rich to be offered as the short-term remedies for the poverty of the poor," Dr Bullard told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science yesterday.

He said that about 115 nations have appealed for a complete ban on toxic waste exports.

"Nevertheless, a small but powerful minority of heavily industrialised nations, the 'sinister seven' (Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan, Britain and the US) still oppose a ban.

Waste traders

ct 21/2/94
"Shipping hazardous wastes from rich communities to poor communities is not a solution to the growing global waste problem. Not only is it immoral, but it should be illegal."

Dr Bullard said that between 1986 and 1990, waste traders tried to ship more than 163 million tons of waste around the world.

What will the GNU protect? The cattle or the wildebeest?

LM 4-10/2/94 (56)

An ANC policy document makes some controversial proposals for the future of game parks under a new Government of National Unity. **Eddie Koch** reports

THE granite bust of Oom Paul that watches over the main entrance to the Kruger National Park is likely to shudder when the African National Congress releases its latest document to encourage debate about South Africa's future conservation policy.

A new government should let cattle graze in some sections of the reserve and replace its current guardian, the National Parks Board (NPB), with a smaller but more representative body, says a research paper prepared by two researchers for the ANC.

Mindful that similar proposals provoked a furore in parliament and the press last year, the authors stress their report is not official policy. "There are many options and we are not married to any. We want to explore possibilities and promote reasoned debate," says researcher Louis Liebenberg.

The paper notes that rural black communities had little say over the creation of conservation areas and many were removed by force to make way for game reserves. But it does not argue for existing conservation land to be redistributed.

"On the contrary, the survival of conservation areas will be best guaranteed by ensuring that local communities understand the reasons for their existence and receive appropriate benefits which could include some share of revenue, compensation or appropriate alternative land," say Liebenberg and his co-author, David Grossman.

"We need to reconsider the concept of 'multi-use' parks, in which land uses such as grazing and farming are allowed ... These benefits could include grazing rights, access to water for cattle (especially in drought years), hunting, utilisation of medicinal plants, wood for the production of curios, firewood and thatching grass."

As Kruger is the biggest reserve in the country, it is likely to be the main focus of such policy changes, says Liebenberg. He notes that it contains remote areas where it would be possible for cattle to mingle with game without disturbing the tourist trade.

Simple measures, like moving the game fence a few hundred metres in some areas, would provide people with access to water and promote good

relations between the park and its neighbours. Poaching could be contained by allowing hunters from surrounding settlements to participate in controlled culling ventures.

Future administration of nature conservation should be an open and democratic process: "Each of the country's nine regions should have their own conservation bodies and, where appropriate, these local agencies could administer national parks in accordance with international principles and a policy framework established by an environmental ministry."

The paper suggests the NPB be disbanded and replaced by a "representative and fairly constituted" board located in the Ministry of Environmental Affairs. A public process, whereby the body is elected along the lines of the SABC board, is proposed.

"The purpose of this body ... is to formulate national conservation policy; recommend legislation; act on behalf of South Africa as a representative on international bodies, treaties and conventions; and monitor attainment of national conservation goals."

The authors say their suggestions are open-ended and that the ANC should consider dissenting views before formulating policy.

Comments Anthony Hall-Martin, executive director of the NPB's southern parks: "The national parks system must be kept out of regional politics and above regional concerns. This will only be possible if the NPB retains its status of reporting directly to the highest authority of the people, which is the central parliament."

Hall-Martin adds that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature stipulates that national parks must be controlled by a nationally recognised authority to ensure their legal protection.

• We need to reconsider the concept of multi-use parks, in which land uses such as grazing and farming are allowed •

Allowing cattle into the parks makes no economic sense and would simply allow a small rural elite to grow rich while disturbing the functioning of an intact ecosystem, says Hall-Martin.

"The ANC should concentrate on the alternative, which is to use the Kruger as a reserve from which neighbouring communities can harvest excess game and use these on adjoining land for ecotourism projects that can benefit the communities."

And what about the statue at the entrance to the reserve that bears the name of the famous Boer leader?

A recent paper by historian Jane Carruthers shows that a sophisticated myth was constructed by white nationalists — particularly during the years of the pact government in the 1920s, when the park was proclaimed — suggesting that Paul Kruger laid the foundations of the park while he was president of the Transvaal Republic in the late 1900s.

Records show that Kruger was better known among his colleagues as a man who could determine from a single bite of biltong which species it came from than as an ardent conservationist.

"No contemporary applauds president Kruger for his protectionist proclivities; on the contrary, biographies of that time and indeed his own memoirs stress his physical courage in confronting dangerous wild animals, his prowess at hunting and the national service rendered in taming the landscape in this way," says Carruthers.

But then there is another side to Kruger's ideas about wildlife preservation. During the rinderpest epidemic of 1896 which killed thousands of head of livestock, he abolished controls on hunting so that destitute farmers could obtain food — a policy not dissimilar to those suggested by the ANC's researchers.

So should the statue and the name be abolished?

Hall-Martin says the NPB is sensitive to the idea that game reserves should have appropriate names, which is why the country's newest national park in the western Transvaal will be called Marakele, but so far there are no plans to change the Kruger Park's name.

Liebenberg says he would prefer the debate to focus on progressive conservation principles, rather than the emotional issues that are conjured up by name changes.



STUNNED ... The shocked son of Mrs Filomena de Jesus, Mr Antonio de Jesus (left), is comforted by a friend after his mother was killed when scaffolding from a building in Darling Street blew on to the car in which she was a passenger. **RIGHT:** More of the damaged scaffolding threatens to tear free in the wind.

Pictures: ANNE LAING



City woman dies in freak accident

By EUNICE RIDER

A WOODSTOCK woman died in a freak accident when strong winds ripped scaffolding from a city building and blew it on to the roof of the car in which she was sitting.

Mrs Filomena de Jesus, 52, of Balfour Street, had severe head injuries.

Her son, Mr Manuel de Jesus, and his wife, Mrs Sandra de Jesus, had parked their car beside the Old Mutual Building at the corner of Plein and Darling streets and were about to pull into the traffic when the scaffolding tore loose.

Mrs De Jesus was in the back of the car.

Her other son, Mr Antonio de Jesus, who works at Texies fish and chips shop across the road on Grand Parade, heard the bang and ran out to find that the scaffolding had smashed into the

roof of the car and rear windscreen.

A civil engineer, who got to know the family on his frequent visits to the fish shop and was in the store, said he said he had noticed the "dangerous" scaffolding two days before. He said not enough consideration had been given to the powerful winds that roared down Darling Street.

Another car was also damaged.

As police and rescue workers cordoned off Darling Street and tried to hold back curious onlookers, further pieces of scaffolding that had been swinging precariously in the strong wind tore loose and landed close to rescue vehicles.

Late last night safety workers were tying up parts of the scaffolding. They unclamped and removed pieces that could not be secured.

A spokesman for the restoration company could not be reached for comment.

Outfall pipe repairs ensure 'clean sea'

SB ARG 7/2/94

Municipal Reporter

REPAIRS to Green Point sewerage outfall have worked and sea water near the pipe complies with European Union safety guidelines, says a city engineer's report.

Bacteriological data for the water soared past acceptable limits for the faecal coliform count in the past three years after the outfall pipe broke in a storm. Repairs were completed last November.

Stormwater was blamed for EU safety guidelines being violated at Graaff's Pool, Kalk Bay, and Mitchell's Plain.

Most False Bay beaches between Kalk Bay and Mitchell's Plain complied with safety standards, said city engineer Arthur Clayton.

Concern over lack of black researchers

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

36
ARLT 9/2/94

THE low proportion of black researchers and students among South Africa's environmental experts is cause for great concern, according to the Foundation for Research Development.

The foundation, a parastatal body which supports and channels government funding for research in science, engineering and technology, has published a document on the country's environmental science research infrastructure.

It notes that the government provided almost 80 percent of the R550 million to R770 million spent on environmental research in 1991/92.

The private sector provided 11,5 percent and foreign sources 8,9 percent.

Of the total, about R344 million was allocated to agricultural research, followed by energy (R111 million), exploration of the sea, earth and atmosphere (R44 million), and water resources (R36 million).

The smallest amount (R9 million) was allocated to urban and rural development.

Danny Walmsley, manager of the foundation's environmental programmes and co-author of the document, said South Africa's environmental research expertise base consisted of about 12 000 professionals in 1991/92.

"The low proportion of black researchers and students is of great concern," he said.

Natal Parks Board takes over control

St Lucia shores and forests change hands

Star 16/2/94

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Formal control of the much debated Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia and the Dukuduku and Umfolozi State forests has been passed to the Natal Parks Board (NPB) after many years of negotiation.

The handover of these lands is well timed, following as it does the recommendations of the review panel appointed to advise the Government on mining and ecotourism proposals, according to an NPB statement.

The NPB, at its initial meeting this year, decided to form a liaison committee for the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. This committee will receive technical and scientific expertise from the

St Lucia Scientific Advisory Committee, which has guided research at St Lucia for 25 years.

The liaison committee will be chaired jointly by NPB chairman Pat Goss and Professor Paul Luthuli. They will be supported by two other NPB members and senior staff. (56) (3/4)

The NPB has also extended invitations to various groups to assist the new liaison committee. This includes tribal authorities, the Wildlife Society, Campaign for St Lucia, Wilderness Action Group, ZEAL, and the Tourism Association of Natal and KwaZulu.

In addition, the NPB is inviting the public in Natal to propose organisations or persons that would be willing to serve on the committee or that possess ex-

pertise which would help achieve the goals of the committee.

"The new committee accords fully with the spirit and intent of the recommendations of Judge Ramon Leon's review panel, and its success will depend upon the firm belief that the park is an asset to our province and the country," the NPB statement said.

■ The Campaign for St Lucia is hosting a congress titled "St Lucia: The Way Forward" on February 19 and 20 at St Lucia. The organisers point out that the St Lucia issue is not yet resolved as the application to mine has not been withdrawn and the Government has not yet acted on the review panel's recommendations. Contact Lylie Musgrave at (031) 304-8935 for further information.



Exporters told to 'go green'

MARIANNE MERTEN

EXPORTERS from Africa should not be complacent about European environmental laws but make every effort to understand them, Carnaud Metalbox environmental affairs manager Geoffrey Levy said yesterday.

He was speaking at a seminar in Pretoria on the effects of environmental protection on exporters from Africa, hosted by Safto and the CSIR.

Levy said although EC environmental directives set standards, it was up to individual members to formulate their own national policies in accordance.

For this reason, exporters sometimes saw these "hidden barriers to international trade" as market, rather than environmental, protection. Different standards and levels of enforcement had affected the packaging industry in particular, because of a perception that it was environmentally unfriendly.

Kohler Packaging holding company Holdans' group affairs manager Clive Glover said Kohler's case study of fruit exporter Unifruco showed manufacturers and packaging companies needed to find their own solutions. He cited as an example German packaging regulations placing the onus for recycling and waste management on pack-

aging companies.

AECI group consultant Bob Fogel said environmental pressures had not yet harmed chemical exports.

Glover predicted this could change, especially in relation to products containing chlorine. In some European countries, environmental pressures had raised costs and impeded competitiveness, but SA had an export advantage in the case of phosphoric acid.

SA's motor industry had been forced to comply with international environmental regulations when it looked for export markets in 1989. Catalytic converter manufacturer Degussa's MD Frank Kluge said this expansion proved to be a money spinner.

SA exported about 885 000 units or 1,5% of world requirement. There was no local market because unleaded fuel would not be available until 1995.

Canadian International Trade Department Deputy Director Ron Davidson told the seminar that the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafra) between the US, Canada and Mexico was an example of how an international trade agreement could include environmental protection.



Canadian international trade department deputy director Ron Davidson at the Safto/CSIR environmental seminar in Johannesburg yesterday.

Picture: GARTH LUMLEY

ANC slams toxic mercury shipment

2/17/2/94 (56)

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — A container of 160 barrels of mercury waste is due to arrive here on Monday, prompting the ANC and environment watchdog group Earthlife Africa to accuse the government of ignoring its own ban on the importation of toxic waste by sanctioning further shipments of mercury waste to the Thor chemicals company in Cato Ridge.

ANC environment spokesman Mr Stan Sangweni made the call yesterday to turn back the container which is being shipped here by the Safmarine vessel Agulhas from Borden Chemicals and Plastics in the United States.

Former environment minister Mr Gert Kotze announced in 1990 that his

government had banned the importation of hazardous wastes into South Africa.

However, the government subsequently sanctioned importation of "spent chemicals" by Thor for recycling on condition that the waste originated from Thor.

Three senior executives of the chemical company already face charges of culpable homicide following the death of former employee Mr Peter Cele through suspected mercury poisoning.

Reacting in a brief statement yesterday, Thor said next week's shipment was a "routine and unexceptional consignment".

A spokesman also challenged statements that the consignment be classified as "toxic" waste.



For South African companies to enter the global market, the country has to have environmental protection legislation that meets international standards, reports Science Writer Anita Allen

Greens' mission impossible

Star 17/12/94

(56)

Environmental protection may be an impossible task for the future government of South Africa, according to Naas Steenkamp, president of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, chairman designate of the National Parks Board, and a former president of the Chamber of Mines.

Speaking at a conference on "Environmental protection: threats and opportunities for exporters from Africa" at the CSIR conference centre in Pretoria, Steenkamp said that political leaders might have the will to protect the environment, but he questioned whether their supporters, who were by and large fighting for basic survival, held the environment as being paramount.

"Because of its political constituency and the way the environment is handled in the Interim Constitution, environmental protection for the future government may be impossible," Steenkamp said.

The main challenge facing exporters was not so much complying with legislation abroad, but the lack of internationally acceptable environmental protection in South Africa. The "green right" in the constitution stopped short of what many would have liked, but was a lot better than nothing, Steenkamp said. According to this, everybody has the right to an environment that is not detrimental to his or her health or wellbeing.

"In the body of the Constitution, the section 126 provision deals with concurrent jurisdiction at the national and provincial level. The provinces are given legislative powers with Parliament prevailing in a matter that, to be performed effectively, requires regulation or co-ordination by uniform or minimum norms and standards that apply generally throughout the Republic.

"Uniform and minimum norms and standards are clearly necessary for the protection of the environment. However, the provinces have jurisdiction over nature conservation (excluding national parks, national botanical gardens and marine resources) and the environment.

"This means that all environmental matters must sooner or later devolve to provincial level. The principle is sound, but the implications are manifold and daunting.

"Marked for devolution are soil conservation and agriculture, health services, housing, land use including planning, zoning and development, environmental management of roads, environmental impact assessments, regional, urban and rural development, en-

vironmental policy, policing, auditing and information systems, water usage and river catchment plans in a system where regions do not use catchments as boundaries as was suggested by the Council for the Environment, waste management including toxic waste, air pollution and sustainable economic growth. All of these often have profound environmental consequences.

"The new government," Steenkamp added, "may have an impossible task under a fragmented provincial system and the devolution of environmental protection to nine provinces that may in some cases be ill-prepared and short of staff with expertise."

The challenge facing the new Government was even more daunting given the past record. The present Government, with strong central control, could not put an environmental policy or an environmental management system in to effect.

"The outgoing government missed a decade of opportunity, despite a support base from its constituency and a good Department of Environment Affairs, bolstered by the Council for the Environment.

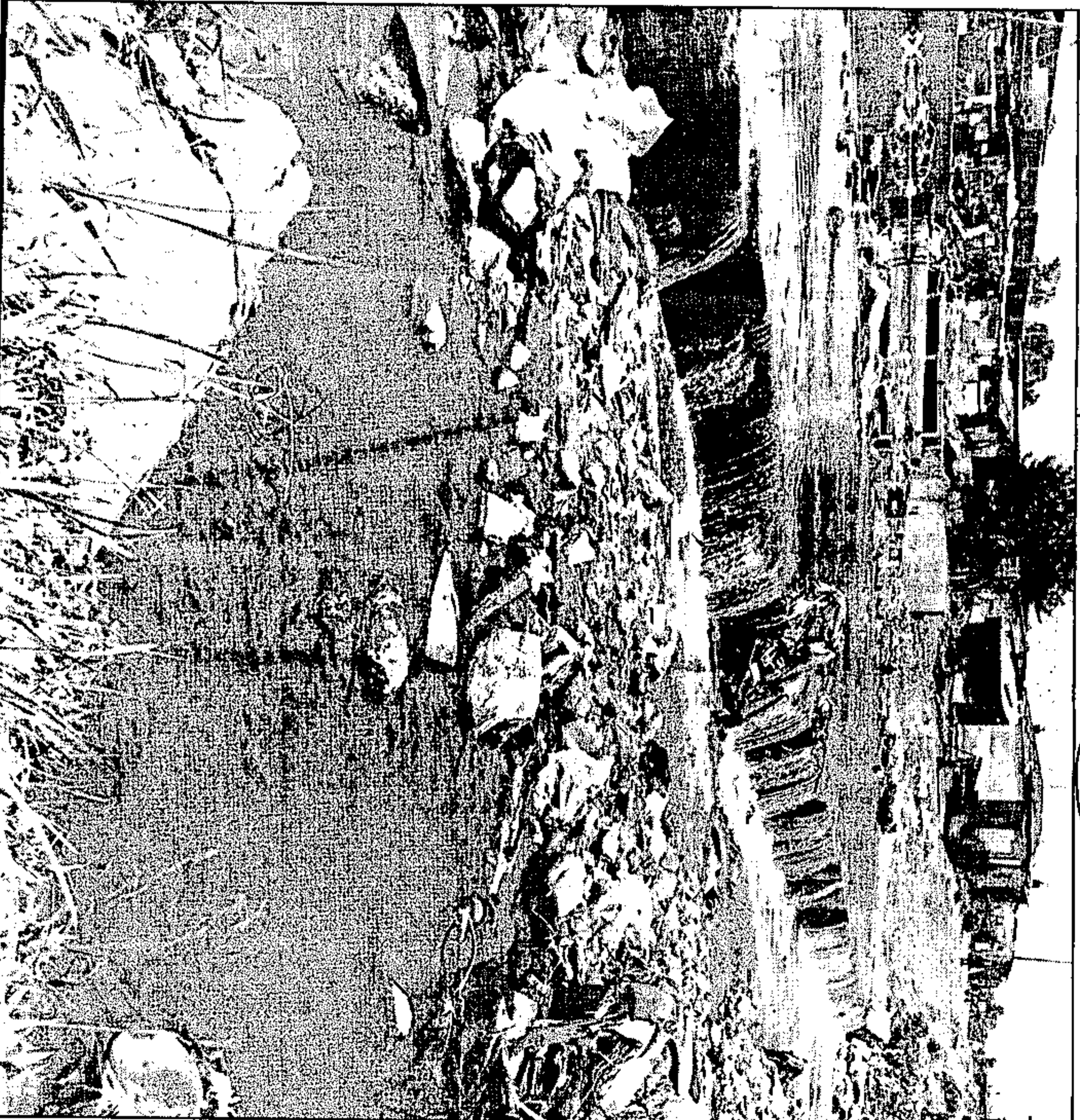
Hamstrung, powerless

"Both were hamstrung and powerless due to a lack of political will. If a government with all this couldn't do, what chance does its successor have?" asked Steenkamp.

The political constituency of the future government brings in dimensions previously missing, such as land claims and community involvement, he pointed out. "The will to provide environmental protection is fully evident in the positions adopted by the political leaders, but is it present in their constituencies?"

"The fact is that concern for the environment is not part of the primary values of people struggling for survival. To a person who does not have food to eat, mining the dunes means a job, so naturally he will vote for mining," he said, and quoted a journalist who had written that we need to solve socio-economic problems first before undertaking environmental protection.

"But how long will that take and what will happen to the environment in the process? All of this points to the urgent need for a national environmental protection agency, along the lines of the US agency with all its powers. This is the self-evident route to go if we are to cope with creeping degradation of land and the destructive impact on the environment."



A matter of priorities... a future government may want to protect the environment, but voters in townships such as Alexandra, who are struggling for basic survival, will have other primary values. PICTURE: SEAN WOODS

ANC gears to tackle environmental issues

(56)

ARC 18/2/94

□ International mission to advise on policy

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL considerations will feature prominently in the ANC's reconstruction and development programme during the next five years, following the arrival of an international environmental policy mission.

The Canadian-funded mission will develop policy options for the ANC, which is likely to dominate the new government after April 27.

The mission, led by Canadian environmentalist Lynne Whyte, includes experts from Zimbabwe, Kenya, India, Malaysia and Mozambique.

It is meeting community organisations, interest groups, non-government organisations and government officials — including representatives of the Department of Environment Affairs and the National Parks Board.

The mission has split into two groups, one each for the eastern and western sectors of the country.

The "western group" consists of Malaysian environmental lawyer Meenakshi Raman, Kenyan-based International Development Research Centre officer Hartmut Krugmann, and general manager of Zimbabwe's Forestry Commission Yemi Katerere.

They are accompanied by ANC environmental desk head Tami Sokutu and other officials from the ANC-Cosatu-SACP-Sanco alliance.

They arrived in Cape Town after meeting communities in the Richtersveld and on the West Coast. They also visited the Vaalputs nuclear waste disposal site in Bushmanland and Koeberg nuclear power station earlier this week.

At a press conference yesterday, Mr Sokutu said the environment had not featured prominently in ANC policy previously "for understandable historical reasons".

"But recently we've been giving increasing attention to environmental matters. This is not our first initiative and a lot of work has gone into different

aspects of the environment ...

"This mission is to make sure we're on the right track."

The environment featured as one of the basic needs in the ANC's reconstruction and development programme and would form "a very important part" of that programme, Mr Sokutu said.

"We have shouted, and I think effectively, to raise the whole issue of the environment and to ensure that we cannot talk about development without talking about the environment."

Ms Raman said the group had formed only "very preliminary impressions" and needed to study items such as the ANC's and government's environmental policy documents and the interim constitution closely before making a final report by the end of March.

But there appeared to be "serious problems" which included piecemeal legislation and fragmented administrative structures.

(News by J Yeld, 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town).

Workers in retrenchment row

last month for 12 workers retrenched after the closure of Wheelers restaurant.

The Long Street hotel had offered a week's pay for every year worked, with a ceiling of 10 years — not two weeks' pay, as previously reported. It had also offered to pay two weeks' notice.

Ms Gantsho said: "Mediation

on February 12 was unsuccessful in resolving the dispute because management was not prepared to consult on issues which led to the retrenchments, but only on severance pay."

Hotel operations manager F M Galland said Wheelers closed because it was not viable. The retrenched staff had all worked in the restaurant.

Farmer convicted

Supreme Court Reporter

A FARMER who shot at three trespassers, killing one, has been convicted of culpable homicide.

Gary Smith, 25, of Willemsrus farm, Brackenfell, was charged at Cape Town Supreme Court with murdering Lindsay Luyt and attempting to murder Willem Grootboom last April.

Mr Justice Cooper cleared him yesterday of murder and

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over Rietvlei

THE future of the Rietvlei reserve, one of the last remaining undeveloped wetlands in the Western Cape, is hanging in the balance because a major housing development planned for a portion of land owned by Transnet may soon get the green light.

The fate of the wetland is now in the hands of the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, who will decide soon whether to allow Milnerton municipality to expropriate the land owned by Transnet.

If he refuses, advanced plans for a 350-unit housing development by property giant

By EVE VOSLOO

Equikor could go ahead.

On January 31, Milnerton municipality sent comprehensive documentation to the administrator supporting its attempt to expropriate Transnet's land. It is understood that the administrator also received letters from environmental groups and other bodies supporting the expropriation.

Transnet lodged an objection with the administrator after Milnerton served the expropriation order on them in March 1993.

The dispute over the land, which began in 1989, was brought to a head by an investigation by property giant Equi-

kor into the possibility of developing the portion of land owned by Transnet. This was done at the invitation of Transnet.

The company has spent more than R80 000 on various investigations, including one by the Cape Town Environmental Evaluation Unit. According to a source in Milnerton, who asked not to be named, Equikor's plans for the development are at an advanced stage.

"The plan is to build 350 housing units on the north shore of Rietvlei," the source said.

"As the land is below the 150-year flood level, part of the plan is to fill the area to raise it about one metre above that level. We believe this will have disastrous con-

sequences for the wetland as it will cut off waterways and seriously damage the eco-system."

In August 1992 oil giant Caltex donated a huge part of Rietvlei, for which it had paid R723 000, to Milnerton municipality for the wetlands reserve.

The portion owned by Transnet is almost completely surrounded by the area donated by Caltex.

Negotiations to buy it began in 1989. Milnerton municipality had the land independently valued at R600 000 and offered to buy it from Transnet at this price.

However, Transnet has it on its books at a value of R32 million. Milnerton claims that this includes the cost of dredging earth from the bottom of the land for the Cape Town harbour development, which it believes should have been debited to the harbour, as it falsely inflates the price of the property.

At that time Dr Flip Coetzee of Propnet, a division of Transnet, said the corporation still used the area as a "borrow pit for reclamation material".

He said he had appointed Equikor to investigate the land's development potential as he was unfamiliar with the property market in Cape Town and could "not just write R32 million off the books".

Steps

At this stage negotiations between Transnet and Milnerton Municipality broke down and the municipality began steps to expropriate the property.

Dr Coetzee has since left Propnet. A spokesman for the company said yesterday that no one had yet been appointed in his place and there was no one who could comment on the latest development.

Attempts to contact Mr Ian Hirschson, the MD of Equikor, were unsuccessful.

Members of Milnerton municipality said they would not comment until Wednesday, when the municipality will hold a press conference to make public its views on the issue.

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 2012194

Environmental safety a priority

KATHRYN STRACHAN

SA MANUFACTURERS would have to ensure the environmental and occupational safety of their products if they were to compete successfully in the global market, environmental experts said on Friday.

With the international community and EC countries in particular setting stringent standards for the environmental safety of goods they produced and imported, the pressure was on for SA companies to raise their standards to meet the requirements of international legislation, said environmental health consultants Willem Lombaard and Roelie Cronje (56)

It was not enough to ensure the safety of the final product to the environment. EC guidelines required that the risks to the environment and to workers at every step of the manufacturing process be assessed and declared.

Manufacturers also had to make sure the product could be disposed of safely, the

consultants said.

The new Mercedes-Benz television advert which promised that the company would dispose of the car after 30 years was an indication of the new environmental thinking which South Africans would have to get used to. 2112194

While there were many guidelines in place, local legislation was too limited to ensure that standards were maintained.

However, the new Occupational Health and Safety Act was the first to lay down strict regulations for companies.

The Act, which was passed last month, was groundbreaking as it gave workers the right to know the potential hazards of the substances they were dealing with. Under the legislation workers could also refuse to work in a certain environment if they suspected that it could be hazardous.

Protest stops import of waste

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Thor Chemicals stopped a container of hazardous material from the US yesterday and said it would hold all future shipments after pressure from environmental organisations and the ANC.

A Thor Chemicals's spokesman confirmed the company would not take possession of the cargo which docked yesterday, even though it had legal ownership.

"Borden Chemicals has agreed to take it back and arrangements are being made to send it back straight away."

The decision to sent back the routine shipment of depleted catalysts was taken because the controversy had "lowered staff morale and taken up much management time". Thor was now waiting for clarification from authorities which had previously allowed the shipment, he said.

Demonstrators earlier picketed out-

CT22/2/94 (56)
side Thor's Cato Ridge factory yesterday to protest against the importation of the shipment.

An Environment Affairs department official said South Africa allowed the import of hazardous material as long as it was not for disposal in the country. The definition of hazardous material was problematic as some considered mercury a hazardous waste while Thor reused it, he said.

'Community' plan for environment

By BARRY STREEK

THE ANC has appointed a commission of experts to recommend a new approach to environmental policies, and plans a strong emphasis on community involvement.

"Environment is not about elephants. It is about people," Ms Meenakshi Raman, a member of the commission and an environmentalist lawyer from Malaysia, said at a press conference yesterday.

The Canadian-financed commission began a two-week fact-finding investigation on Monday, and its

draft report will be released at the end of March.

The head of the ANC's environment desk, Mr Thami Sokutu, said reconstruction and development could not be separate from environmental considerations.

The environment had suffered because of the policies of apartheid, but now that the ANC was about to become the government, international expertise was needed.

The commission was meeting with community organisations, environmental bodies and govern-

ment departments before it drew up its recommendations.

Ms Raman said the commission would comment on proposed constitutional arrangements, including the proposed creation of a national environmental department and nine provincial environmental departments.

The commission felt that up until now, environmental issues in South Africa had involved wildlife and nature conservation, but did not involve the people concerned.

56 CT 23/2/94

Meiring asked to save wetlands

By MELANIE GOSLING

CAPE Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring has been called on to support municipal attempts to incorporate the Rietvlei Wetland Reserve — earmarked for development — into one of the country's last unspoilt wetland estuaries.

At a press conference called by the Milnerton municipality yesterday, councillor Mr Willem van Staden said the fate of the land, which belongs to Transnet, was now in Mr Meiring's hands.

He said Milnerton municipality had tried to expropriate Transnet's 155ha of

56 CF 24/2/94
land, which forms part of the sensitive Rietvlei wetlands, but Transnet had objected. Mr Meiring will decide "soon" whether to allow the expropriation or not, Mr Van Staden said.

A draft report on Rietvlei, commissioned by the Milnerton municipality, the South African Nature Foundation and Caltex, described the land as of the "highest conservation importance" and "strongly recommends" it should be incorporated into the reserve.

Mr Van Staden said: "Council is of the opinion that the proposed development is

contrary to the statutory 1988 guidelines for the Cape Metropolitan Area and would have numerous negative effects."

He added that public access to Rietvlei would be severely restricted and traffic problems in Pentz Drive would be compounded.

Mr Van Staden said the council believed Transnet did not have a right to claim compensation for loss of development potential.

"Transnet used public money to acquire the land for dredging purposes. These purposes have now lapsed," he said.

Meiring delays decision on Rietvlei land

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(50) ART 25/2/94
NO decision will be taken on whether Milnerton municipality will be allowed to expropriate Transnet's two Rietvlei properties before a full environmental impact report is available, Administrator Kobus Meiring said today.

Milnerton mayor Danie Krynauw said earlier this week that he believed Mr Meiring's decision on the 166 hectares, which the council says are an essential part of the new Riet-

vlei nature reserve, was imminent.

Property developer Equikor, on behalf of Transnet, has proposed building about 350 houses on the northern edge of the property, with the rest of the land going to the reserve.

A spokesman for Mr Meiring said the opposing parties were being informed that no decision would be taken until the Provincial Administration had studied an environmental impact report.

Last year, Equikor commis-

sioned the University of Cape Town Environmental Evaluation Unit to do an impact report but cancelled the contract halfway through when Milnerton issued an expropriation notice.

The notice was subsequently successfully challenged in court by Transnet and Milnerton has now applied to Mr Meiring for permission to expropriate.

Equikor chief Iain Hirschon said today he would contact Mr Meiring for clarity.

Environmental issues 'key element' in ANC policy (56)

AR 4 10/3/94

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A POWERFUL commission to monitor and review all policies affecting the environment is a key element of African National Congress policy, University of Cape Town students have been told.

During a symposium called *Green politics — what happens after April 27?* organised by the UCT Geographical Society this week, ANC representative Merle Sowman said the commission would be located at the State President's office and would have a key review function to ensure sound environmental policies and practices.

The ANC would also establish a "very much strengthened" Department of the Environment and Sustainable Development that would have a planning and developmental

role, and an inter-departmental planning committee.

ANC policy also included the establishment of a national environmental inspectorate, Ms Sowman said.

"One of the fundamental weaknesses has been a lack of enforcement and control."

Democratic Party spokesman Keith Gurney said it was common cause among political parties that the quality of life of all South Africans had to be improved.

Environmental issues could not be viewed in isolation and affected other areas such as the need for housing.

The cost of implementing social upliftment programmes would require an economic growth rate of between five and 10 percent.

"We need to make sure the environment doesn't become a casualty," he said.

National Party candidate

Harry Dilley said the burgeoning population was "a major problem".

He was also deeply worried about the state of the Cape Peninsula and the spread of alien vegetation.

"What has happened over the last 30 years is frightening ... we really need to do something seriously."

Although the interim constitution was not perfect, it contained an important environmental clause which, Mr Dilley believed, would help the country "tremendously".

Symposium chairman John Raimondo said 12 political parties had been invited to take part in the debate but only five had replied.

One of the five — the Inkatha Freedom Party — later withdrew "but has sent supporters to watch", said Dr Raimondo.

(Report by J Yeld, 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town).

Hunting could 'help' new SA

CT 17/3/74 (56) (58)

IT could be argued from a conservation perspective that hunting should be promoted over tourism, Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring told a congress today.

Delivering the opening address at the World Congress of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation in Cape Town, Mr Meiring said that while he was not a hunter, he supported hunting as a conservation tool.

Tourists could do more damage than hunters because of their greater numbers and more importantly, sport hunting was more profitable than tourism.

"A lucrative hunting industry can exist with a limited capital investment, without large hotels and good roads," Mr Meiring said.

"A hunter also spends more money than the average tourist. Hunters have to purchase licences, employ a professional

'Brings in more than tourism'

guide, and are mostly environmentally concerned."

He said the introduction and enforcement of legislation in the professional hunting industry had effectively raised standards.

It was imperative that the game farming and hunting industries become as self-sufficient as possible, not only to continue supplying demand, but to also capitalise on the tourism boom that was in store for the country.

Mr Meiring said South Africa was experiencing serious growth

problems typical of a developing and changing society.

"The challenges presented by the new South Africa, especially in government institutions, is to not only develop our society politically, but also to utilise and realise the full potential of its human and economic resources," he said.

Ecotourism, including hunting, was one of the most important resources to generate work and income.

Meanwhile, the Rhino and Elephant Foundation called for the resumption of trade in white rhino horn.

Foundation president Mr Clive Walker told the congress the de-horning of rhino had not succeeded in stemming the decline of the animals, as poachers continued to shoot them for the small piece of horn that remained.

Delegates from all over the world are attending the congress.
— Sapa

Water Week launch in Alex

Star 17/3/94

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

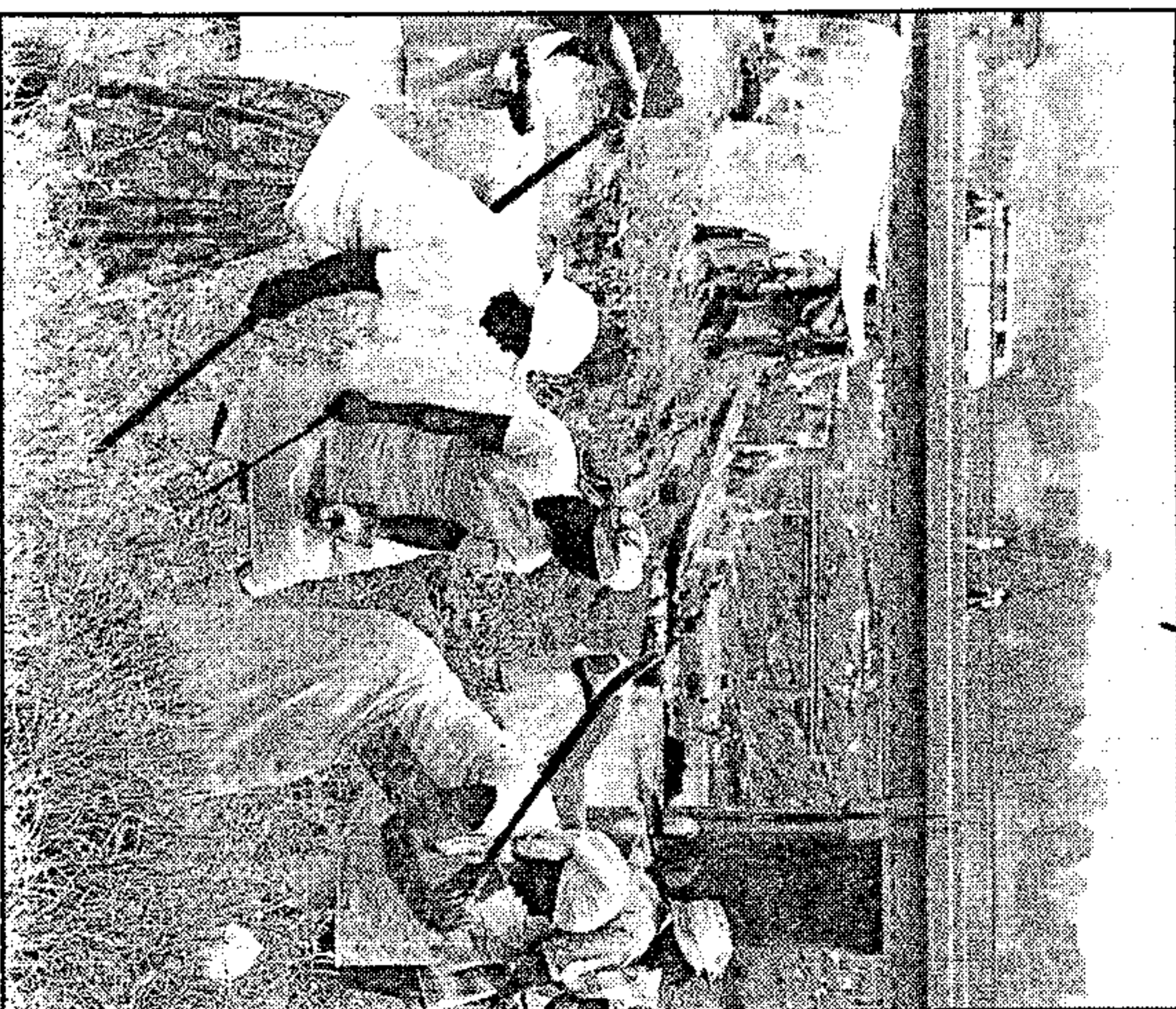
National Water Week, which includes World Water Day on March 22, will be launched officially in Alexandra this weekend, and numerous other activities will be taking place throughout the country.

The ceremony on Saturday in Alexandra marks the "excellent co-operation" between the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), Work to Win and the 11 municipalities involved in the clean-up of the Jukskei River, one of the most polluted rivers in the country, according to a DWAF statement.

Minister of Environment Affairs and Water Affairs Japie van Wyk will hand over 28 waste-collecting skips and newly erected ablution blocks to the community of Alexandra.

Other events have been planned, including an open invitation to residents of Bedfordview to a clean-up of the Jukskei where it runs through the town. Derek Day, head of the parks department, can be contacted at 455-1610 for details.

In addition, an open invitation has been extended to join the congregation of the New Apostolic Church in their clean-up operation. It will start at 9 am from the corner of Cook and Terrace avenues, Edenvale, and will end with a bring-meal-and-braai in the afternoon. Contact Thinus



Focus on water... a host of activities are planned for Alexandra, where the clean-up of the Jukskei River is under way.

56

PICTURE: SEAN WOODS

Coelzee at 622-9245.

On World Water Day an environmental competition for schools, Jukskei Eco-monitor '94, will be launched. Schools in the Jukskei catchment area can

take part in the clean-up action and will be provided with water quality-test kits and the competition brochure. For more information, contact Marie at the DWAF on (012) 299-2526.

AWB men deny firings at 'roadblock' victims

Star 17/3/94

BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS

Three AWB members charged with the murder of four blacks handed in their written plea explanations at the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Karel Meiring (28), Gerhardus Diedericks (34) and Andre Visser (39) are part of a gang of nine accused of the slaying of the four along the R29 on December 12.

They, together with their co-accused, Petrus Matthews (26), Frederick Badenhorst (20), Marius Visser (23) and Marinus van der Schyff (25), have pleaded not guilty to the four counts of murder and six of attempted murder.

The men have also pleaded not guilty to one count of robbery with aggravating circumstances, two of malicious damage to property, one of assault and one of the illegal possession of arms and ammunition.

Two other co-accused, Deon Marin (30) and Phillipus Kloppers (39), will be tried separately. Their trial was separated from that of the rest after they were sent to Sterkfontein for observation.

In the first full day of testimony, Meiring, Diedericks and Visser admitted being present at a "roadblock" after receiving instructions to attend an AWB

gathering.

They also admitted they were aware that they were to set up roadblocks to enable them to search the cars of black occupants for unlicensed weapons.

"Any unlicensed weapons we found would be handed over to the police for a reward... But I never foresaw the possibility that any of the occupants would be assaulted, injured or killed," the statements read.

Too scared

All three denied firing at the occupants of the two vehicles they had pulled over, claiming that when they heard the first shots they jumped into their cars.

All claimed that they were too scared for themselves and their families to report the incident to the police.

Meanwhile, Matthews and Van der Schyff identified Kloppers as the person who had cut off the right ear of one of the black men, and set fire to one of the vehicles, in confessions made to police which were handed in as evidence by the State.

Badenhorst also submitted a written plea explanation yesterday, and Visser pleaded guilty to the charges of illegally possessing arms and ammunition. The case continues today.

Fears in Natal over toxic waste decision

(53)
The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Potentially dangerous dioxins could soon be polluting the atmosphere in Natal if the Department of Health gives Thor Chemicals at Cato Ridge the written go-ahead to burn toxic waste on a permanent basis.

"We believe that the government is on the brink of issuing a written permit to Thor," said Earthlife representative Chris Albertyn. ARG 23/3/94

In health terms dioxins are the most dangerous and deadly cancer-causing synthetic chemical known to modern science.

At present no facilities exist in South Africa to measure dioxin levels. However, a Thor spokesman said that arrangements were being made to measure the outflow.

Mr Albertyn said the government was under enormous pressure to do something about the huge stockpile of about 10,000 barrels of toxic waste stored in three warehouses at Thor.

"For safety reasons they cannot lie there much longer," said Mr Albertyn. "We feel that they should be returned to the country of origin."

Thor was given verbal permission to incinerate mercury-containing waste for a two-year trial period. This ends on the March 31.

Mr Albertyn said: "They are burning 24 hours a day, obviously to try to reduce the stockpile as quickly as possible. I hate to think what poisons are being emitted. What we need now is a total ban on incineration until a full and independent inquiry has been conducted."

A month ago environmental watchdog groups were successful in forcing a cargo of spent chemical waste, containing mercury, to be returned to Borden. The container-load of about 150 barrels was bound for Thor.

At the time Thor gave an undertaking that no further shipments would be accepted.

Caltex studies findings on air pollution

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Weekend Argus Reporter

56

ARG 2/4/94

THE long-awaited Medical Research Council report on the effects of pollution from the Caltex refinery in Milnerton has been completed — but, results will be made known only once Caltex has had the opportunity to “finalise details contained in the report”.

Caltex asked the Medical Research Council (MRC) to compile the report after numerous complaints by residents and doctors living and practising in areas close to the refinery that pollution from the plant contributed to a higher incidence of chest and allergy conditions.

Earlier this week, Caltex admitted that production at the plant had been increased by about 70 percent in the last year.

But, the company maintained that an initial 21 percent increase in sulphur emissions, had been reduced since January this year, to the same level as before the start-up of the recommissioned plants which had led to the increase of production.

A spokesman for Caltex said the company was aware that offering on-going and longer-term solutions to air pollution emissions might not be considered satisfactory by the general public.

The spokesman said the air-pollution issue was being dealt with on several fronts.

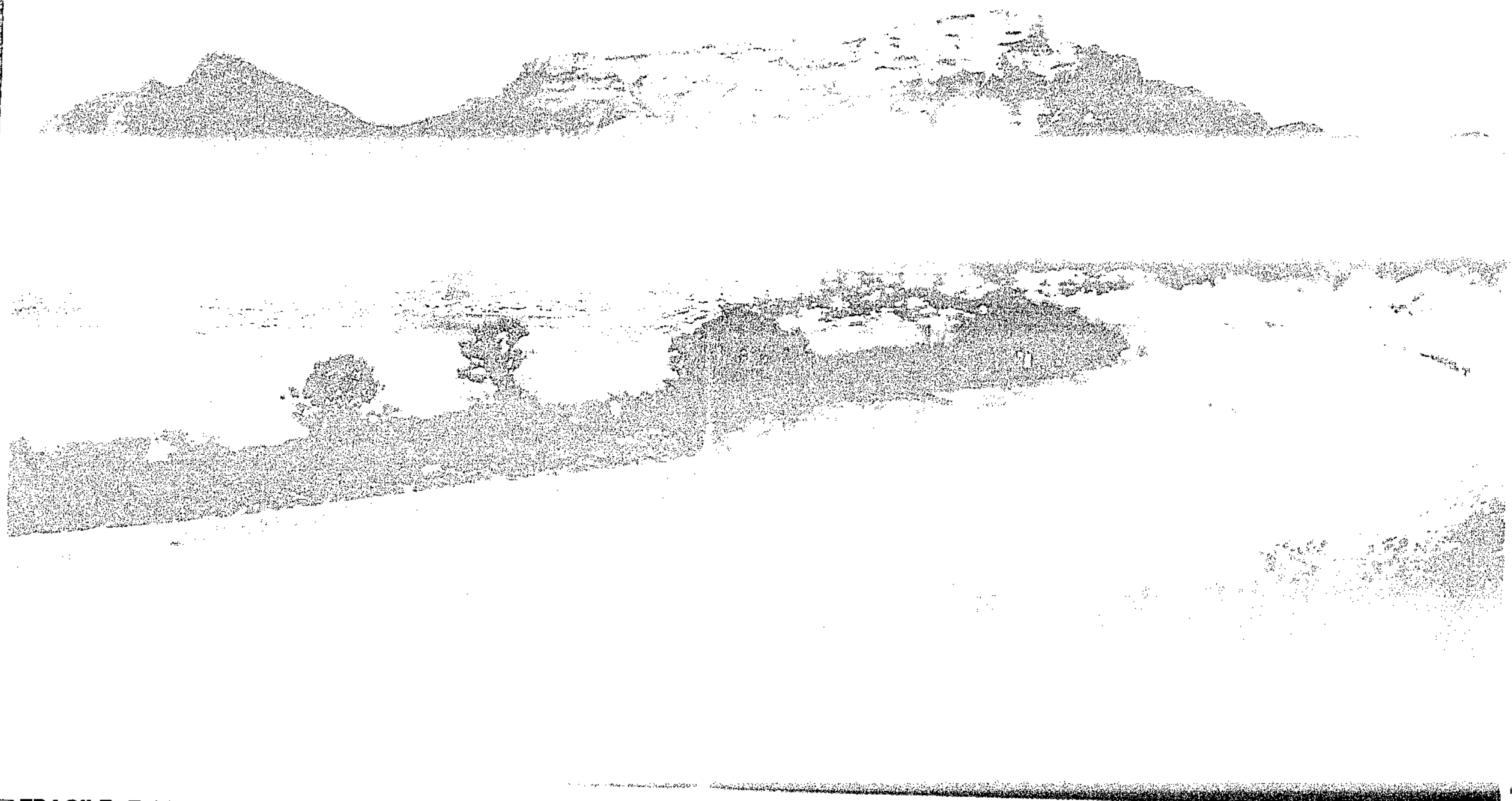
“It’s our objective to reach the situation where emissions from the refinery will be at an acceptable level within the context of a major industrial complex operating close to residential areas and light industry.”

A spokesman for the MRC said that, although the council was willing to release the details in the report, it was precluded from doing so because of a stipulation by Caltex preventing this.

The spokesman for Caltex said details of the report would be made public as soon as the company had assessed the report.

“The report commissioned to assess the need for a further review of possible health issues has been issued to Caltex for comment.”

“The findings of the report will be made known both by Caltex and the MRC as soon as both parties have had the opportunity to finalise details contained in the report. There is nothing sinister behind this decision,” said the spokesman.



FRAGILE: Table Mountain is a symbol of South Africa which must be protected and its benefit to society maximised. A UCT report has recommended that a single body be responsible for its management with funding for future plans for the mountain and environs coming from all levels of government and the private sector.

ARG 9/4/94

Expansive plans for Fairest Cape

cont



Argus

9/4/94

A University of Cape Town team has come up with interesting proposals for the management of the Peninsula. Environment Reporter **JOHN YELD** reports.

THE existing boundaries of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) — which includes most of Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain — should be expanded significantly to include the surrounding seas and the urban fringe.

Also, this enlarged area should be managed by a single, statutory authority with the powers of a non-profit company, created by national legislation.

The company should be funded by all levels of government and from the private sector, as well as being allowed to raise its own funds.

These are among the key proposals of the eagerly-awaited report on recommended policies and guidelines for the future management of the Peninsula, commissioned by the Administrator of the Cape and produced by the University of Cape Town.

The report, *Draft policy for the multipurpose use of the Cape Peninsula*, is being circulated widely for comment, and a final version will be put to the Administrator's successor — the new premier of the Western Cape regional government due to come into power in July.

The present CPPNE, established as a legal entity 10 years ago, should be expanded and become known as the Cape Peninsula Heritage Area, and divided into categories where different intensities of human use could be permitted, the draft report states.

Four categories have been provisionally identified: "remote", "quiet", "leisure" and "transitional":

"Remote" areas, identified by specialists as highly worthy of protection and which are relatively remote from the metropole and "wild" in character;

"Quiet" areas of scenic and ecological value but capable of withstanding more intensive use. They are generally within visible and audible range of the metropole;

"Leisure" areas are designated because of their limited ecological value, as well as their use as existing or proposed recreational nodes; and

"Transitional" areas of urban or agricultural use which are already developed or about to be developed.

A Cape Peninsula Heritage-Area Authority, comprising a board of trustees, an executive and a liaison committee, should be instituted and empowered by a special Act of Parliament with the powers and duties of a Section 21 company (an association not for gain), the report recommends.

"Its members must represent a partnership between different levels of government, as well as a partnership between private landowners and organisations with specific interests in the area."

This authority should be legally empowered to:

- Appoint its own staff;
- Carry out executive management actions to ensure the implementation and realisation of policy;
- Regulate the activities of landowners and management agencies in its area in accordance with accepted policy; and
- Provide services to users:

The Peninsula's biological diversity — all animal and floral life — is of international importance, the report states. Recommendations in this regard include:

Protecting the Peninsula's marine and coastal environments from land- or marine-based pollution and inappropriate development and exploitation;

Reducing the fire risk to people and property and managing the use of fires to maintain the diversity of fauna and flora;

Protecting all inland waters and water catchment areas;

Focusing management activities during the next 10 years particularly on providing recreational opportunities and eradicating alien vegetation; and

Permitting mining and prospecting only in designated "utility" sites.

A properly structured campaign to enhance public awareness of the value of the Cape Peninsula should be designed and instituted, the report states.

Motivating its recommendations, it says the entire Cape Peninsula requires special protection.

"This is because of (its) remarkable biophysical attributes, scenic landscapes and cultural diversity."

The Peninsula is endowed with some of the most magnificent natural scenery in the world, the report notes.

"A prosperous, healthy and scenically attractive Cape Peninsula will be a main feature attracting people to the Cape Metropolitan Area — both as residents and tourists ...

"The Cape Peninsula is one of the nation's and the world's premier areas in which both residents and visitors can experience an exceptionally pleasant quality of life, based on a harmony between natural and human-made beauty."

The Peninsula is cherished by many people and Table Mountain is a symbol of South Africa.

"These factors indicate that the Cape Peninsula could qualify for World Heritage Site status.

"Consequently, human use of the area should be managed so as to maximise societal benefits and minimise environmental losses on a sustained basis.

"Such management should be exercised by a highly efficient and respected authority which is acceptable to the public and is accountable to all interested and affected parties."

The report identifies fundamental threats to the Peninsula as including increasing human population, unregulated urban expansion, alien plant and animal invasions, and too frequent and widespread wild fires.

Also, the existing information base for the Cape Peninsula is inadequate for the formulation of a detailed and comprehensive management plan.

"Over the years, there have been repeated attempts to produce general policies for managing the protection and use of different parts of the Cape Peninsula."

The report states that its final recommendations, after being adjusted to take the public's response to the draft version into account, should be adopted immediately.

"This is to contribute to a prosperous, healthy and scenically attractive Cape Peninsula for the benefit of all residents and visitors, and the optimal use of the area's unique set of natural resources."

UCT's eco-report hits the streets next week

Environment Reporter

COPIES of the UCT report entitled *Draft Policy for the Multipurpose Use of the Cape Peninsula* will be available in 77 public libraries in the Cape metropolitan area from Wednesday, and appendices will be available a week later.

Four public meetings to discuss the report have been scheduled.

They are being held on Monday May 9 at the Hout Bay Museum; Wednesday May 19 at Ocean View Civic Centre; Monday May 23 at the Cape Technikon in District Six; and Tuesday May 24 at Claremont Civic Centre.

A series of meetings on the Cape Flats is being organised by Farieda Khan of UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit, ☎ 650-2870.

Additional workshops for key interested and affected parties — including mountain managers, private landowners, commerce and tourism, environmental organisations and professionals, recreational and sports organisations and political and civic groups — will be held during the same period.

Written comments are being requested by June 3.

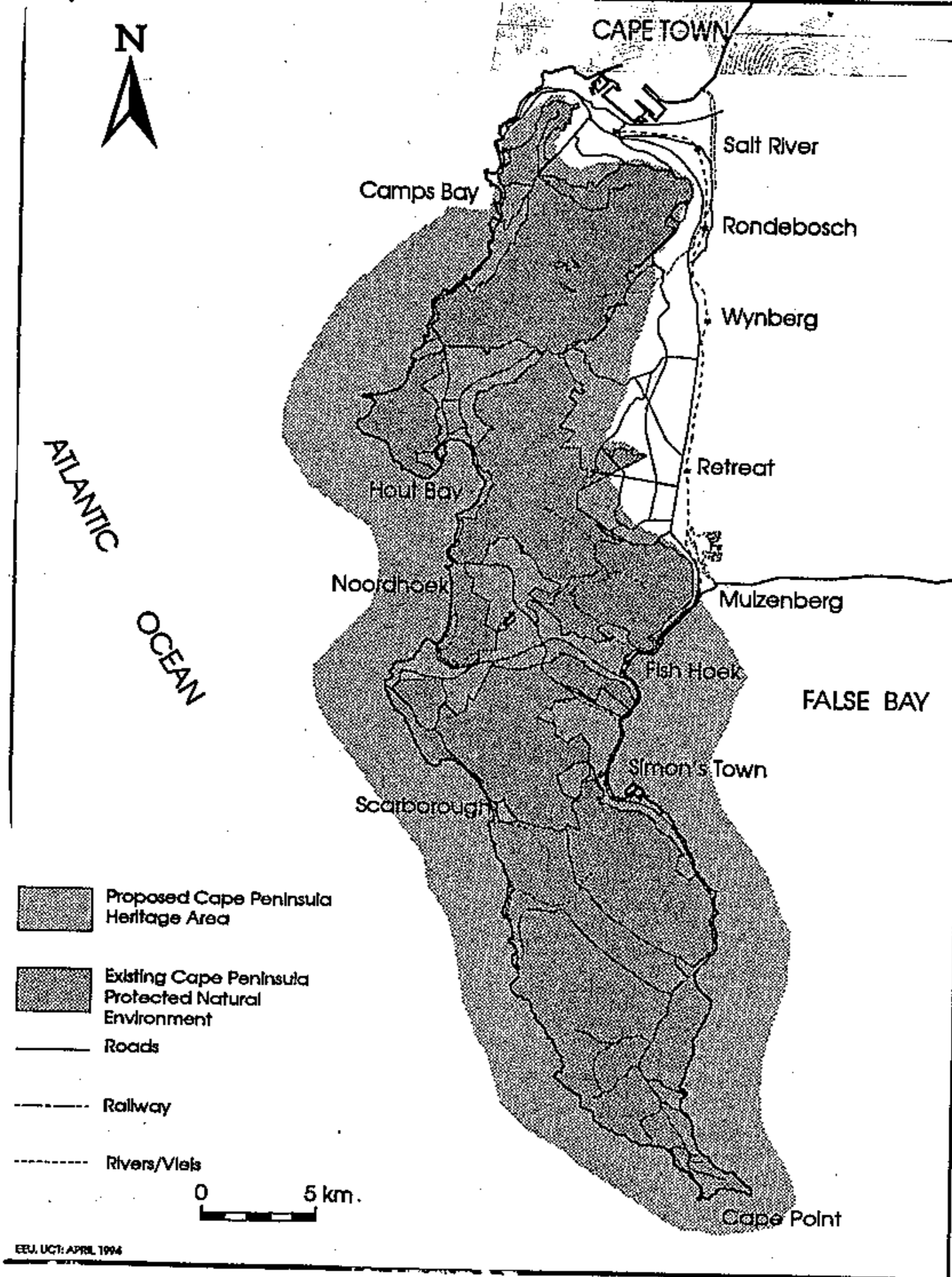
"After we've received and considered all responses the final document will be written," project leader Richard Fuggle said.

"It is intended that the final report be submitted to the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment management advisory committee in July, and made available to the public and government authorities at the same time."

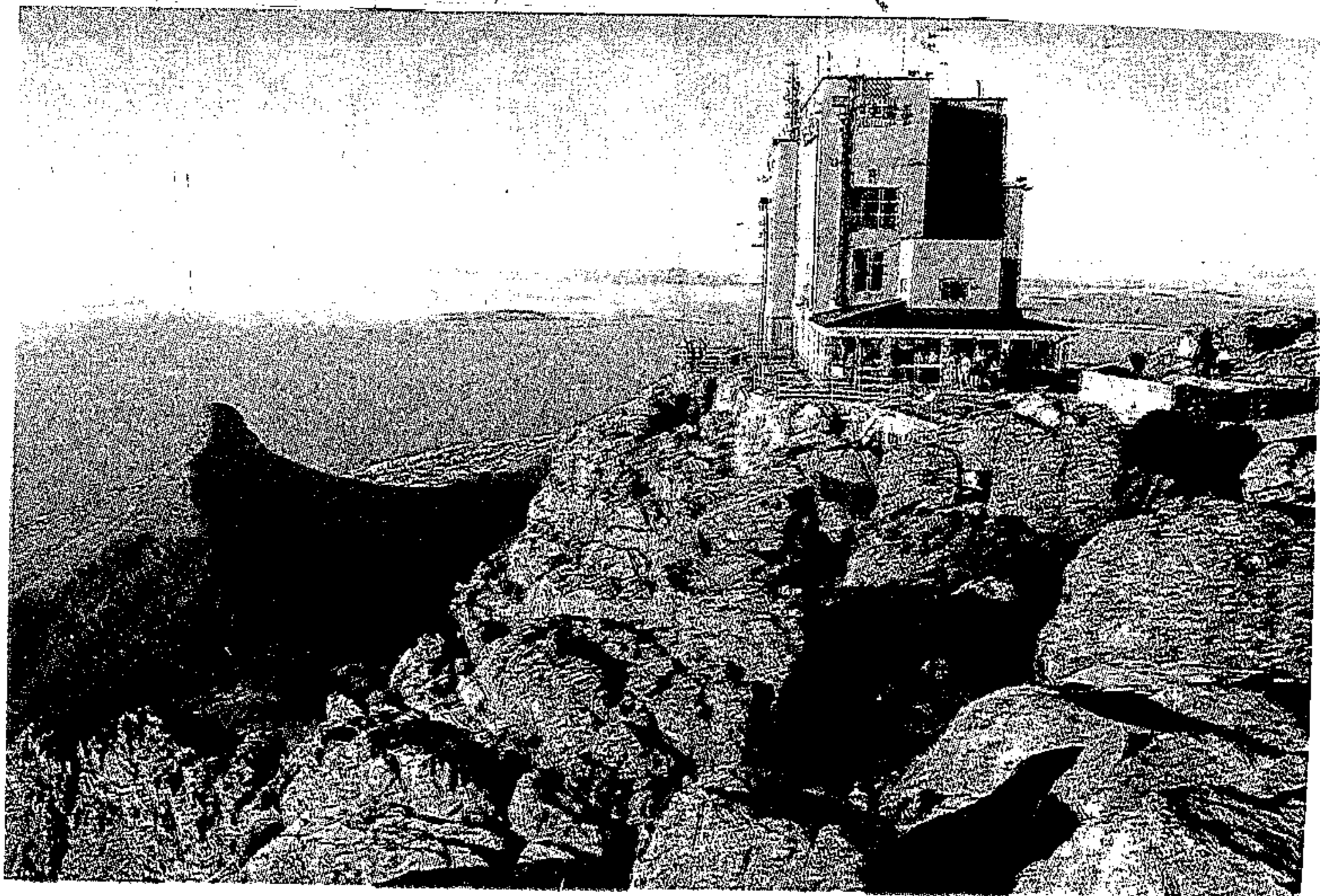
■ For further inquiries, call Sue Lane or Rachel Wynberg, ☎ 650 2868.

Cont ↓

Argus
9/4/94



PROPOSED HERITAGE AREA and existing protected environment.



NEW VIEW: The present custodians of the Peninsula are being hindered by the large number of controlling authorities and a new approach is needed, according to the UCT report on proposals for the area.

cont





9/4/94
Angus

CAPE TOWN

Camps Bay

Salt River

Rondebosch

Wynberg

Retreat

Hout Bay

Noordhoek

Muizenberg

Fish Hoek

FALSE BAY

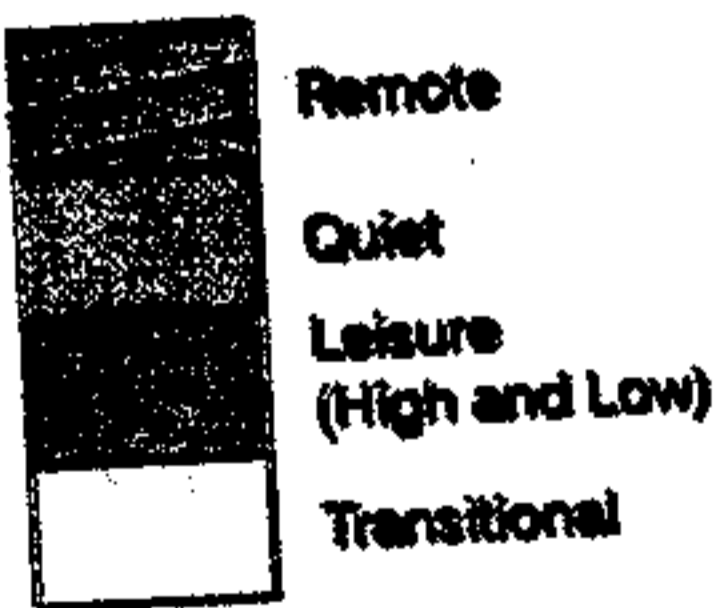
Simon's Town

Scarborough

Cape Point

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Functional areas



- Note:**
1. All boundaries are approximate.
 2. Public roads are transitional.
 3. Linking corridors between areas are not indicated.
 4. Distance of marine boundary below low water mark to be negotiated.



□ FUNCTIONAL AREAS within the Cape Peninsula heritage area.

St Lucia enters political fray

By RYAN CRESSWELL

THE Campaign for St Lucia has sent letters to 16 political parties asking about their official policy regarding the famous wetland area.

Last year the campaign won a major battle against Richards Bay Minerals when a review panel recommended that a decision on plans to dredge-mine part of the ecosystem be stalled until after a new government was in place.

Now the conservationists are confronting the major political parties on the

issue. 10/4/94
Campaign chairman Dr Nolly Zaloumis claimed that as a coalition of over 120 environmental groups, the campaign represented hundreds of thousands of voters.

(56)
"We also have the avowed support of over 300 000 people who have signed the largest petition ever mounted in this country. Voters have a right to know where the parties stand on the most important environmental issue in South Africa," he said.

Refinery ^{CF 20/4/94} monitoring ⁽⁵⁶⁾ inadequate

Staff Reporter

THE monitoring of air pollution from the Caltex refinery in Table View is inadequate — and assessments of risks to residents' health cannot be made.

This was the finding of a R30 000 Medical Research Council (MRC) project commissioned by Caltex.

The project was designed to assess the need for further research and investigation into the refinery's health impact on the community, by focusing on air quality monitoring procedures.

In the study period — September 1991 to August 1993 — Caltex exceeded minimum size guidelines for smoke and dust particles more than half the time.

Dr Charles Parry of the MRC said they believed "urgent action" was required by Caltex and other industries in the area.

During the study period 237 complaints were made to Caltex, mostly about odour.

Dr Parry said the range of substances now being monitored was not enough to assess health risks.

Dr Petro Terblanche, of the CSIR, said the pollution from the refinery was "a real public nuisance" but not necessarily a health hazard.

Dr Parry said Caltex acknowledged responsibility for two-thirds of the complaints but that residents' groups had questioned their sincerity.

Commitment

The MRC recommended that "substantial technical changes were needed in the way in which emissions are monitored" and extra monitors at a cost of R500 000 should possibly be bought.

Caltex general manager Mr Johann Lubbe said the findings confirmed many of the plans the refinery had to improve pollution control.

He said the commissioning of the study was evidence of Caltex's commitment to managing the problem.

Refinery air, noise pollution: 'Many charges justified'

183
56

□ 'Monitoring and control needs upgrading'

ARC 20/4/94

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

MANY of the complaints about smells, smoke, noise and soot from the Caltex refinery at Milnerton are justified, says a report on the refinery by the SA Medical Research Council.

The oil company should immediately review its technical plan to address problems like equipment failure, leaking seals and boilers malfunctioning, the report said.

This is among the major findings of a three-month "needs assessment" study, conducted for the refinery by the MRC and released at a media conference yesterday.

It was found that the range of substances monitored was not comprehensive enough to assess the effect of air pollution from the plant on the health of the local communities, and the routine monitoring of emissions at ground level should be improved urgently so this could be determined.

In response, Caltex said there was no doubt that air pollution monitoring and control needed to be upgraded and that the refinery management would analyse the study's findings as a matter of urgency.

"There is little doubt that recent research locally and internationally has shown the importance of improved monitoring and control of air pollution," said refinery gener-

al manager Johann Lubbe.

"Caltex remains committed to finding a long-term solution to air pollution problems in the area."

The MRC study confirmed many of the refinery's plans to improve pollution control measures, Mr Lubbe said.

Also, the study agreed with one of the refinery's most recent initiatives — plans to involve the community in helping to develop a strategy to address air pollution in the area.

Replying to a question, MRC research team spokesman Charles Parry said the study had been unable to make a definitive finding on whether air pollution from the refinery was affecting the health of the local community.

Earlier, during a presentation of the team's findings, Dr Parry said the effect of air pollution on public health in urban environments was a topic of increasing concern both locally and internationally.

During the past two decades residents of Milnerton, Edgemead, Table View, Welgelegen, Bothasig and Richwood had perceived a health hazard caused by air pollution from the refinery.

Following a health survey by the University of Cape Town's department of community health in 1986, the oil company had recognised the need for further research and had com-

missioned the MRC study.

Specific objectives had been to evaluate the refinery's air quality monitoring procedures and data in terms of acute and chronic health risks, and to determine the extent of the community's concern regarding air pollution, Dr Parry said.

Monitoring was currently performed by the Western Cape Regional Services Council, using a monitor bought by Caltex.

"The technical audit found the methods of operating the sulphur dioxide monitoring station to be of a high standard."

But weaknesses in the monitoring system had been noted. These included that the range of substances monitored was not wide enough to assess adequately the effects on health.

Also, because the monitor was moved around, the data did not represent the long-term position at any one site, and this made it difficult to judge the potential impact of emissions on the health of the community, Dr Parry said.

"It's therefore difficult to recommend a particular line of health research which should be embarked on in the short term, besides improving the system for routine monitoring of emissions at ground level."

Responding to questions, Mr Lubbe said an extra monitor — which cost about R500 000 — would be put in.

Oil company should act urgently, says report

Environment Reporter

URGENT action is needed by Caltex and other relevant organisations to deal with air pollution from the Milnerton refinery, says a report done for the oil company by the SA Medical Research Council.

There were six potential areas of action, said research team spokesman Charles Parry.

- A comprehensive and integrated approach to dealing with actual and perceived air pollution and its effects was needed, "going well beyond dealing with a single industry"

- Caltex should immediately review the existing technical plan to address problems associated with equipment failure, maintenance problems and operational errors, such as leaking seals and boiler malfunction.

- The company should take immediate steps to help set up a forum comprising representatives from local industries, regulatory bodies, health service providers and others such as community representatives.

- Substantial technical changes were needed in the way in which emissions were monitored.

- Improvements were needed in the system of logging and responding to complaints from the public.

- An improved programme of monitoring emissions at ground level would yield representative data and assist in determining the impact of emission levels on health.



GETTING TOGETHER: Key players in the construction of the new N1 freeway through Dutoitskloof include, from left, John Craig of the Department of Transport, freshwater ecologist Geordie Ractcliffe and resident engineer Murray Douglas.

Firm commissioned to protect Dutoitskloof

(S) ARG 2/14/94

Environment Reporter

A PROMINENT firm of consulting engineers has been commissioned by the Department of Transport to ensure protection of the Dutoitskloof environment during construction of the new N1.

The firm appointed a team of specialists in 1991 — including river ecologist Geordie Ractcliffe — and an environmental management plan was developed which included detailed controls for pollution levels in the Molenaars River, landscaping, revegetation and the general environment.

The plan also stipulated certain conditions designed to minimise physical interference with the riverine ecosystem and the general environment during construction.

Team leader Neal Carter said overall compliance with the plan had been “generally successful”, although it had not been completely effective in protecting the Molenaars River.

“This is mainly because of the conflict between the environmental criteria and the design and construction methods and the building programme

for some structures affecting the river.

“The quality of the water, however, is still of an acceptable standard.”

On the positive side, good results had been achieved for the general environmental aspects, landscaping and revegetation, Mr Carter said.

Pollution through litter and sewage from the works had been eliminated, and the protection of specific visual features, archaeological sites and special or rare vegetation had been achieved by fencing and the control of site staff and equipment.

Indigenous plant material had been removed ahead of construction work and stored and/or propagated at an on-site nursery where more than 60 000 plants were being grown for revegetation.

Landscaping of cuts and fills had reached the desired standards.

“The experience gained in the protection of the environment by the implementation of the environmental management plan on this contract will be of major significance for future works, especially where they are associated with rivers,” said Mr Carter.



PROBLEM AREA:
Construction of a bridge over the Klip River as part of the new N1 freeway through Dutoitskloof has environmentalists up in arms. The Klip, a tributary of the Molenaars River (at the right of the picture) has been diverted at right angles to run through a pipe while the bridge is being built, leading to fears that flooding during the rainy season will cause major silting — which might kill the river's important animal life — and severe erosion problems.

Pictures: LEON MÜLLER
The Argus

N1 damage to river: Ecology monitor quits

56

ARLT 2/4/94

□ Silting of 'living museum' tributary

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CONSTRUCTION of the N1 freeway through the sensitive Du-toitskloof pass has caused major environmental problems, and one of the ecologists monitoring the work has resigned in protest after conflict with engineers.

But those involved say a recent meeting between the contractor, the environmental management team and the client — the Department of Transport — cleared the air, and that a "mending phase" with improved communication is in process.

Geordie Ractcliffe, a freshwater ecologist and one of three environmental control officers on site, resigned recently in frustration after major differences of opinion over the interpretation of specifications for protection of the Molenaars River — "a living museum" — and its tributaries.

The new N1 crosses the river at three points and runs close to its banks for much of the route through the valley.

During an on-site media briefing yesterday, Ms Ractcliffe agreed with an assessment by John Ness of the Piscatorial Society that "environmental considerations were subordinated to engineering expedience" during construction of a bridge over the Klip River, close to its junction with the Molenaars.

Ms Ractcliffe, who will continue to monitor the rivers on a monthly basis in spite of her resignation, said a major area of concern had been the contractor's failure to stabilise haul roads, leading to increased silt loads in the river.

The constant input of silt could cause "quite severe degradation" over long stretches.

Another concern had been the method of construction of the Klip River bridge where the river bed had been diverted at right angles.

"There is a very real threat of uncontrolled erosion in the work area and downstream," Ms Ractcliffe said.

"But I'm very pleased that the Department of Transport has been prepared to get more involved in resolv-

ing these conflicts and I hope we can start to address some of these problems."

In response, resident engineer Murray Douglas said they were also not happy with the silt problem and the contractor would attempt "a much more elaborate procedure" to prevent silt entering the river.

The issue of the Klip River bridge was a "misunderstanding" rather than a "conflict" and every effort would be made to reinstate the original river bed.

"We have had disagreements and different interpretations of the (environmental specifications) document," Mr Douglas said.

"I think there's been a communication problem and I think that's being addressed."

Work on the bridge had been speeded up significantly and all fill material should be out of the river within three weeks.

"There's considerable concern about the Klip River ... Come back in three months' time and judge us," he said.

University of Cape Town freshwater ecologist Jackie King, also a member of the environmental monitoring team, said she had no doubt the Department of Transport was completely committed to the environmental protection of the sensitive valley.

New attitudes, construction methods and approaches were being developed which would be used in future construction projects involving rivers.

"It's just a pity we have to practise on a real valley and a real river — particularly such a beautiful one — but we're trying," Dr King said.

● The Molenaars River, classified as a special standards river by the Department of Water Affairs, is referred to as "a living museum" by freshwater scientists because of the diversity of animal life it supports.

Ferdy de Moor, curator of freshwater invertebrates at the Albany Museum, told Dr King everything possible had to be done to protect the rare rivers of the Western Cape, including the Molenaars.

"Any development in the area must be undertaken with the greatest of caution, ensuring that valuable sites are not destroyed."

Green Party dagga call: Candidates quit

ARG 22/4/94
56 (5/12)
MICHAEL MORRIS, Political Correspondent

TWO of the Green Party's candidates in the Western Cape have left the party in outrage over a manifesto which calls for the legalisation and mass production of dagga as a purportedly ecologically sound alternative resource.

The GP's manifesto — with the words "Freedom of Choice" printed in an arc over a dagga leaf — also calls for "freedom of choice for private consumption of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana etc".

Candidates Ian Williams and Zarin Thomson had no idea these were central tenets of Green policy and were horrified when this came to light.

Mr Thomson said: "The initial constitution which I agreed with when I accepted candidature differs significantly from the manifesto upon which the Green Party is contesting the election"

"This is not what I expected," Mr Williams said.

(News by M Morris, 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town).

NEWS FEATURE Worlds apart but sharing a common ideal for South Africa



Oh, not this eyesore ...



The environmentalists are fighting for this "green life".

Two lives dedicated to a better world

Sowetan 25/4/94

By Joe Mdhlela

■ **GREEN LIFE** Christiana and Robert have a common devotion to trees: (56)

A FRAGILE OLD MAN insists that his life-long mission is to teach African people to raise the fertility of their land, however small it may be.

At 87, Mr Robert Mazibuko is still fired up with zeal to impart his wide knowledge about how the nation should conserve nature, "because if the nation fails to recognise that, it will perish".

He says that man cannot live without trees, hence his emphasis on the need to conserve nature.

The idea harboured by many people that to raise fertility one needs a massive amount of land, is a lot of nonsense, says Mazibuko.

"I have proved time and time again that a small piece of land can be used in such a manner that its fertility is enhanced.

"And that misconception has really been crippling African people in doing what they ought to do to feed themselves effectively," he says.

For all his efforts, which were not recognised for years, Mazibuko has at long last achieved recognition as "Innovator for the Environment" by the German car manufacturer, Audi.

The monetary award of R50 000 has helped him establish the Africa Tree Centre in Pietermaritzburg, near his hometown of Edendale.

There Mazibuko plies his trade by teaching some of the most disadvantaged people how to make ends meet.

The knowledge they acquire in his

school enables them to go back to their rural settings and begin to practise what they have learnt. Thus they can manage to "keep body and soul together".

Overseas companies, including Plant a Tree In Africa which is based in the United Kingdom, has donated R10 000 towards the planting of 5 000 trees.

The International Rotary Club has donated R80 000 which Mazibuko used to employ 80 rural workers to plant trees.

The project not only enhanced the environment, it also gave people a chance to earn a living for 15 months.

In the philosophical way consistent with a man of his stature, Mazibuko once told a journalist that "trees are the best insurance this side of heaven".

Twinkle in his eyes

With a twinkle in his eyes, he says: "You pay the deposit, God pays the premium."

"I will not cease to preach this gospel...I will be on the pulpit of this world to preach this to all the people of the world."

Another stalwart in the field of helping the community to plant trees and cultivate their vegetable gardens, is Mrs Christiana Kaba of Khayelitsha, near Cape Town.

Her objective in life is to stop the world from looking like a desert, and especially her hometown of

Khayelitsha.

In a squatter camp like Khayelitsha, she asserts, it is necessary to plant trees, arguing that trees break the force of rough gales which could uproot shacks.

Her organisation, Abelimi Basekhaya, has spent 10 years trying to beautify the dismal conditions of the Khayelitsha squatter camp.

At the same time, she says, the idea has been to break the spiralling violence.

"When people don't see the beauty of nature, their hearts get hardened. But gardens and trees change that mentality, allowing people to enjoy the beauty of nature," she says.

Kaba discourages her community from using chemical fertilisers.

"We strongly suggest that they use organic manure which is a natural way of growing vegetables," she says.

Kaba and Mazibuko are examples of black people who have dedicated their lives to ensuring the sustenance of life.

For them, the beauty of nature has to be preserved at all costs.

If necessary, it should be promoted at the expense of other things. For without the resources of nature, life may just come to a stop.

People's Programme on NNTV at 9pm tonight will give another version on the issue of environment.

Councillor ⁽⁵⁶⁾ says PWD is arrogant over study

CT 28/4/94

THE Public Works Department was last week accused of being arrogant for not commissioning an environmental impact study on the effect of a 400-unit housing development proposed for the Silvermine maritime complex.

When — and if — the development begins the former naval township site will become one of the prime parcels of land anywhere on the Cape Peninsula, with all plots on the steeply-sloping Steenberg mountainside enjoying magnificent views over the Constantia Valley to Table Mountain in the north, and Faslé Bay in the east.

According to a statement from the Local Council of Constantia Valley, sporting facilities and two golf courses (Steenberg and Westlake) will be within walking distance and the Silvermine Nature Reserve is nearby.

'Master plan'

Councillor Joan Heming, who heads the environment committee on the council, made the charge of arrogance in a debate which ended in a motion stating that the local council "does not support" the rezoning as proposed. This was the second time that proposals for the area have been debated by the LCCV.

In addition to asking the PWD to conduct an "integrated environment management plan", the local council asked them to conduct a "well-advertised"

campaign to ascertain public opinion before proceeding with any development.

Cape Town City Council, the current owner, is in the process of transferring ownership to the Department of Public Works, who plan to develop the site as a township and sell the land to a single developer. In theory, the PWD could build on the land right now, but the "residential" rezoning they are seeking is needed to enable them to sell the "master plan" which would include:

● Building 80 to 100 double-storeyed houses on the lower part of the township at a density of 12-15 units a hectare. The development would be close to Steenberg Road, where services for what was planned in the 1960s as a naval township have al-

ready been laid out.

● A 4 ha levelled area, originally intended extend the existing sports complex, would be developed with about 20 houses a hectare.

● Three other sites higher up, two of medium and one of low density housing.

The local council objects to the first on the grounds of its visual impact. They point out that the area forms the "gateway" to the Silvermine Nature Reserve, and should therefore be screened by planting. Because (as the developers themselves also point out) the only effective trees would be low, indigenous shrubs which can withstand the wind and thrive in the poor, shallow soils, the houses should be single-storeyed, and at a maximum density of four to

a hectare.

The second proposal is rejected on the grounds that the local council feels this area should be merged with the existing sportsfields and clubhouse as a major, sub-regional sporting facility.

The LCCV had no objections to the development proposals on the other three sites.

Planner

Approached for comment, planner Mr Nigel Burles pointed out the entire site was serviced for 800 houses and that the proposed master plan only exploited half the potential capacity and was therefore "far more sensitive, visually, hydrologically and topographically" than originally proposed.

He conceded that an environmental impact study had not been done "but our studies have covered many of the components". Mr Burles suggested that the hillside site for additional sporting facilities was absurd. "There are far better sites nearby, on level land. Besides, regional facilities should be built on the Cape Flats, where the demand is," he said.

"Ironically, the proposals were rejected because they were considered by Constantia's planners to be in conflict with the area's growth management plan. Mr Nigel Burles was one of the planners chiefly responsible, the LCCV statement said.

APRIL 28 1994

Workshop to debate Cape Point development

Environment Reporter

THE controversial development proposal at Cape Point, which includes a new restaurant complex and funicular railway to the summit, is to be discussed at a public workshop organised by the Peninsula Mountain Forum next weekend.

(56) ARG 29/4/94
This follows the Western Cape Regional Services Coun-

cil's announcement at a meeting on April 18 that the public's participation in the development proposal had ended and that it would take a final decision at its May meeting.

"Many interested and affected parties were still deeply concerned about the process that had been followed and the difficulty they had been experiencing in having their concerns

addressed," the mountain forum said in a statement.

"Clearly the process cannot end here. The divisive comments that were voiced at that April 18 meeting — where some were unconditionally in favour of the proposals, some unconditionally against, some people talking detail and others still trying to get principles sorted out — showed the process is indeed clearly flawed."

The forum would host the workshop, assisted by an outside facilitator, and proceedings would be submitted to the RSC chairman and to a "higher authority".

● The workshop will be held at the Kommetjie Community Environmental Centre, opposite Ocean View, at 2pm on Saturday May 7.

For further details contact Di Wilson at 701 1397.

Environment must be high on decision makers' list

Star 13/5/94

56

DAVID HATTON talks to Science Writer Anita Allen about a neglected subject, the environment

One omission in South Africa's first democratic election campaign was that not one politician spoke out on environmental issues.

This fact was highlighted in an interview with David Hatton, the newly elected president of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, the country's oldest and largest non-governmental conservation organisation.

Asked about the changing role of the society in the new South Africa, Hatton says his first step is to appeal to the 21 000 society members countrywide to lobby to get the environment on to the political agenda at the most senior level in national, regional and local government.

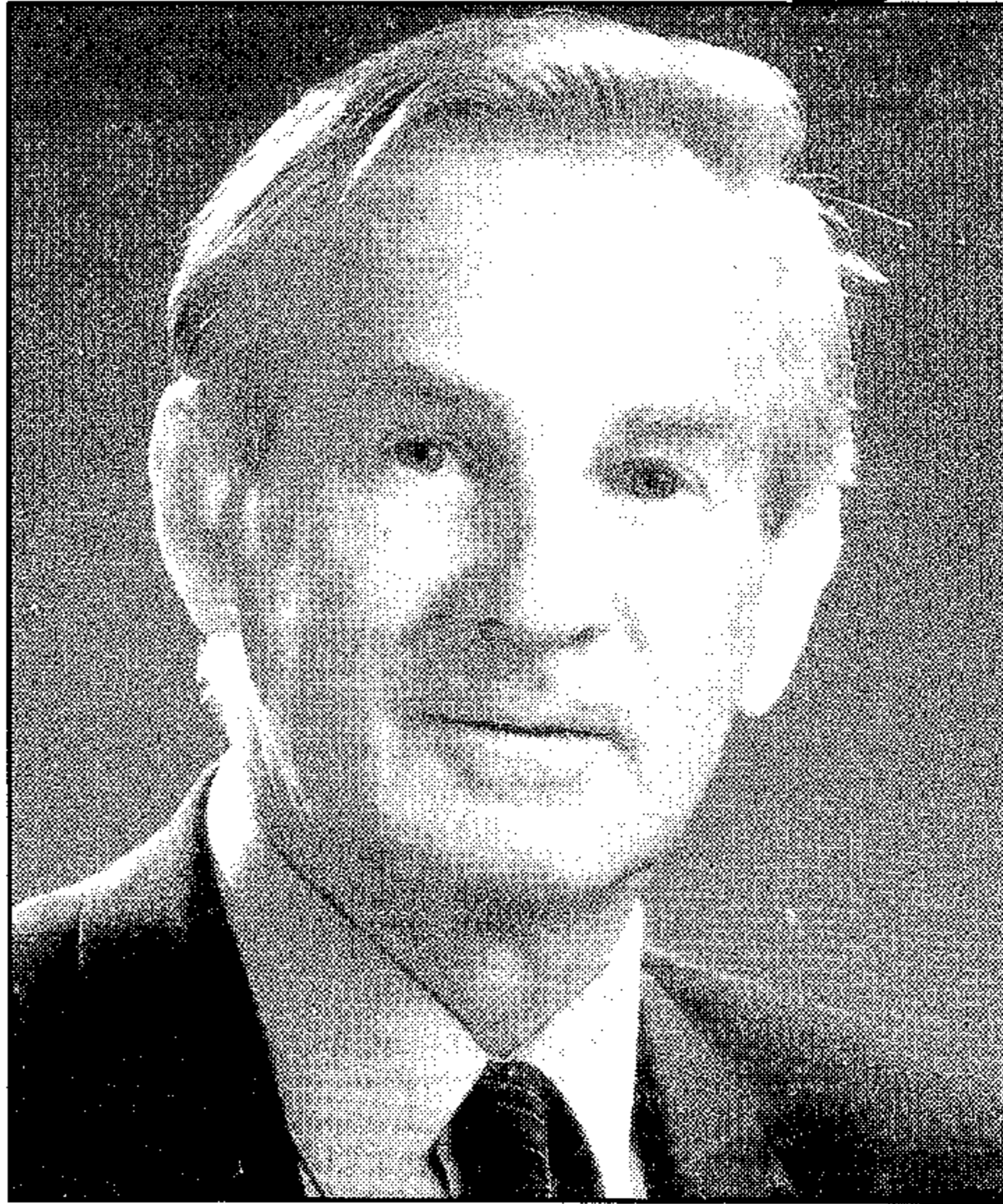
"Decision-making, be it on education, agriculture, housing or land issues, must include the environment in the equation," he says. "The environment must not be relegated down. It has been the Cinderella too long and we are not going to get many chances to get it right."

The immediate problem is that environmental issues are in limbo during the transition period, says Hatton. "We know that Dawie de Villiers is Minister of Environment, which includes fisheries, at least for the moment. These details of governance are crucial to those of us who know the environment. We would like to participate in the debate that must follow before decisions are taken.

"The society's role is — has always been — to be supportive in formulating policy and position papers on issues. In our ranks we have the expertise and access to expertise to do this. We want to be part of the consultation — and eventually implementation — process."

The health of the environment lies in the total involvement of everyone, and not just the Government, Hatton points out. When people are brought in to the equation, there's a back-to-basics problem, he says.

"It is a question of the definition of the word 'environment' and developing a common un-



Another new leader . . . recently elected Wildlife Society of Southern Africa president David Hatton.

derstanding of what is meant by the term."

For him, the environment is not land, housing, jobs or agriculture, nor, on the other hand, is it merely conservation and wildlife. It is the total sphere in which human activities take place, rural as well as urban.

"In South Africa we must identify the priorities that haven't been attended to and focus very clearly.

"Education and communication are our priorities. The rest

will flow if we get these two things right. But in South Africa environmental education is not yet in the school syllabus.

"In that communication process, listening is going to be the key. The people at grassroots face real environmental problems daily.

"It's a two-way education process — informing ourselves on what the problems are, communicating what can be done and then moving into the implementation phase."

Hatton believes the Wildlife Society is ideally placed to play a pivotal role in this process.

"The Wildlife Society is the ear and eye of the community. It is not linked to government or parastatals. It belongs to the people. If anyone has an environmental issue or project then the society will take it up or work collaboratively with other organisations to get it right."

A challenge the society has taken up is developing environmental awareness in urban areas. At the moment there is much more activity in rural centres, but the urban environment is the new frontier, says Hatton.

MOSS — Metropolitan Open Space System — is the society's major urban conservation initiative. The programme is detailed in a brochure available from the society and can be implemented with or without the help of the society.

The idea is to harness skills within the community and take an active interest in town planning, land use, zonings, and the protection of important conservation features. Urban land will increasingly be subjected to competing interests and without concerted effort, urban open spaces will be fragmented in areas of little value to conservation or man.

"We depend on the public, but they must give us their support," says Hatton. "We've got the structures, networks, centres, friends and projects. We just need the people to join, even if they just pay their subscriptions and get the magazines and support us in that way.

"It's our job to service our members, but we can only do what our members do for us."

Human happiness is environment aim

By CHRIS BATEMAN

56
THE Department of Environmental Affairs will increasingly focus on the well-being of people by promoting sustainable development, the director-general of the department, Dr Colin Cameron, said yesterday.

He said this development

would aim to improve "human circumstances".

Dr Cameron said his staff was determined to promote the environment as "ultimately, we've all got to live off the land".

CF 14/5/14
He said the department would protect resources and establish a balance between

the needs of various communities.

Under the new constitution, environmental affairs is a regional issue. This will create a demand from provincial ministers for guidelines from Dr Cameron's office on pollution control, policy and pricing. He said a priority would be

to help regions fulfil their constitutional obligations.

"We'll have to extend our ability to deal with problems centrally and at regional government level," he said.

On affirmative action, Dr Cameron said this would be implemented within the framework being negotiated

between the Commission for Administration and "senior ANC cadres".

"There'll probably be a single policy for the public service.

"However, I would like to see a balance struck between a more representative public service and good personnel management."

New nature group for Natal

DURBAN. — A new provincial conservation body for KwaZulu/Natal is in the pipeline, combining the functions of the Natal Parks Board and the KwaZulu Nature Conservation Department.

(56) cr 14/5/94
The creation of a new body, or a merger of the two groups, is regarded as a foregone conclusion. Natal Parks Board chief execu-

tive Mr George Hughes could not say last night when a decision would be made.

"I would like a decision to be made as soon as possible — so long as it is considered rationally and everybody can contribute."

However, KwaZulu Department of Nature Conservation chief Mr Nick Steele said he was opposed to an "expanded" parks board.

"I don't know if there will be

one or two bodies, but if there has to be one, then it should be forged out of both groups.

"The solution lies in an entirely new dispensation rather than a perpetuation of existing conservation bodies."

Natal's foremost conservationist, Dr Ian Player, said the region needed a conservation board "which addresses the entire conservation scene".

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Peace studies centre planned to 'empower' students

Staff Reporter

THE government has been urged to form a council to investigate the future use of Robben Island.

This emerged from a symposium on the island at the weekend, attended by high-profile government officials and business and religious leaders.

Saturday's symposium was organised by Peace Visions, formed about a year ago by several non-government organisations and which is co-ordinating efforts to use the island for educational and conservation purposes.

Speaking at the symposium, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said Peace Visions should co-ordinate investigations into the use of the island until the govern-

ment council was established.

"Robben Island should receive priority treatment as it's important to have symbols which inspire people," said Professor Asmal, who earlier indicated that finance for developments on the island would be made available.

Amanda Gouws, of the University of Stellenbosch, said a feasibility study into the future use of the island had shown broad support for it to be used as a centre for education, environmental conservation and limited tourism.

Peace Visions hopes to open a peace institute there, part of which will be housed in an unused church — once the centre of the island's leper colony.

The proposed peace institute will accommodate between 100 and 150 students for three-

month courses in peace and conflict resolution studies.

Peace Visions, which will run the course, wants English as the language of instruction, with three-quarters of the students being South Africans and the rest drawn internationally.

Students will be expected to live on Robben Island and to take part in lectures, after-hour tutorial discussions and film and media studies, as well as related projects and research.

The four major academic sections of the course will be culture and peace, international development studies, militarisation and security, and conflict resolution.

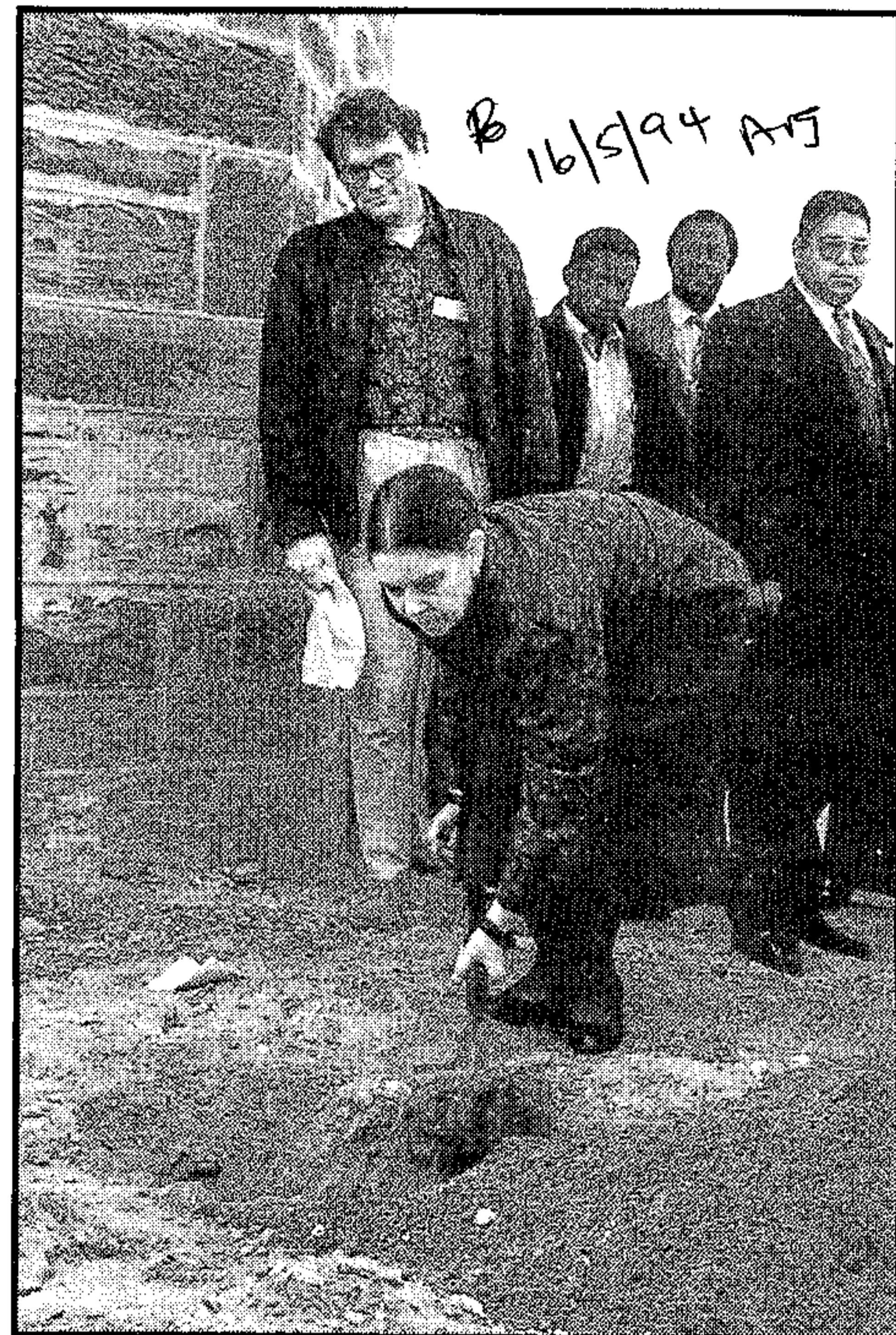
Peace Visions member Mark Behr said the programme was "clearly financially expensive

and academically taxing".

"It demands that great care be exercised in selecting students who not only illustrate either experience or a broad involvement in the field of justice and peace, but who furthermore have a proven scholarly capacity to successfully complete a course of this nature."

Candidates should have completed their secondary education and would ideally be undergoing tertiary education, or have a record of extensive work in relevant socio-political organisations, he said.

The aim of the peace studies curriculum would be to empower students to play a hands-on role in meeting the challenges of an emerging democracy in South Africa.



Pictures: DALE KNEEN, The Argus.

FUTURE PLANS: Princess Irene, above, of Greece plants a coconut seed outside the Church of the Good Shepherd on Robben Island. The church will house the Peace Institute.

er was demolished and the east-facing roof sheets became so deteriorated that the department had to replace them — unfortunately with corrugated asbestos sheets of an inappropriate scale," Mr Flint said.

For use as an administrative and conference centre, the first priority would be to install toilet facilities and a kitchenette.

The existing electrical installation would also have to be upgraded and the church re-decorated.

As the church was of significant architectural and cultural historical value, the National Monuments Council was taking a particular interest in the renovation proposals, Mr Flint said.

The departments of Correctional Services and Public Works support the renovation project and have offered to help convey materials and workers to the island.

Island's leper colony church to be renovated for institute

□ R200 000 needed to restore Sir Herbert Baker building

DALE KNEEN
Staff Reporter

A ROBBERN Island church designed by Sir Herbert Baker and used when the island was a leper colony earlier this century will house a proposed new Peace Institute.

But more than R200 000 is needed to renovate the run-down Church of the Good Shepherd before the institute can move in.

The church, which stands in a field close to the island's prison, is owned by the Anglican Church, which has granted permission for a Peace Institute to use it.

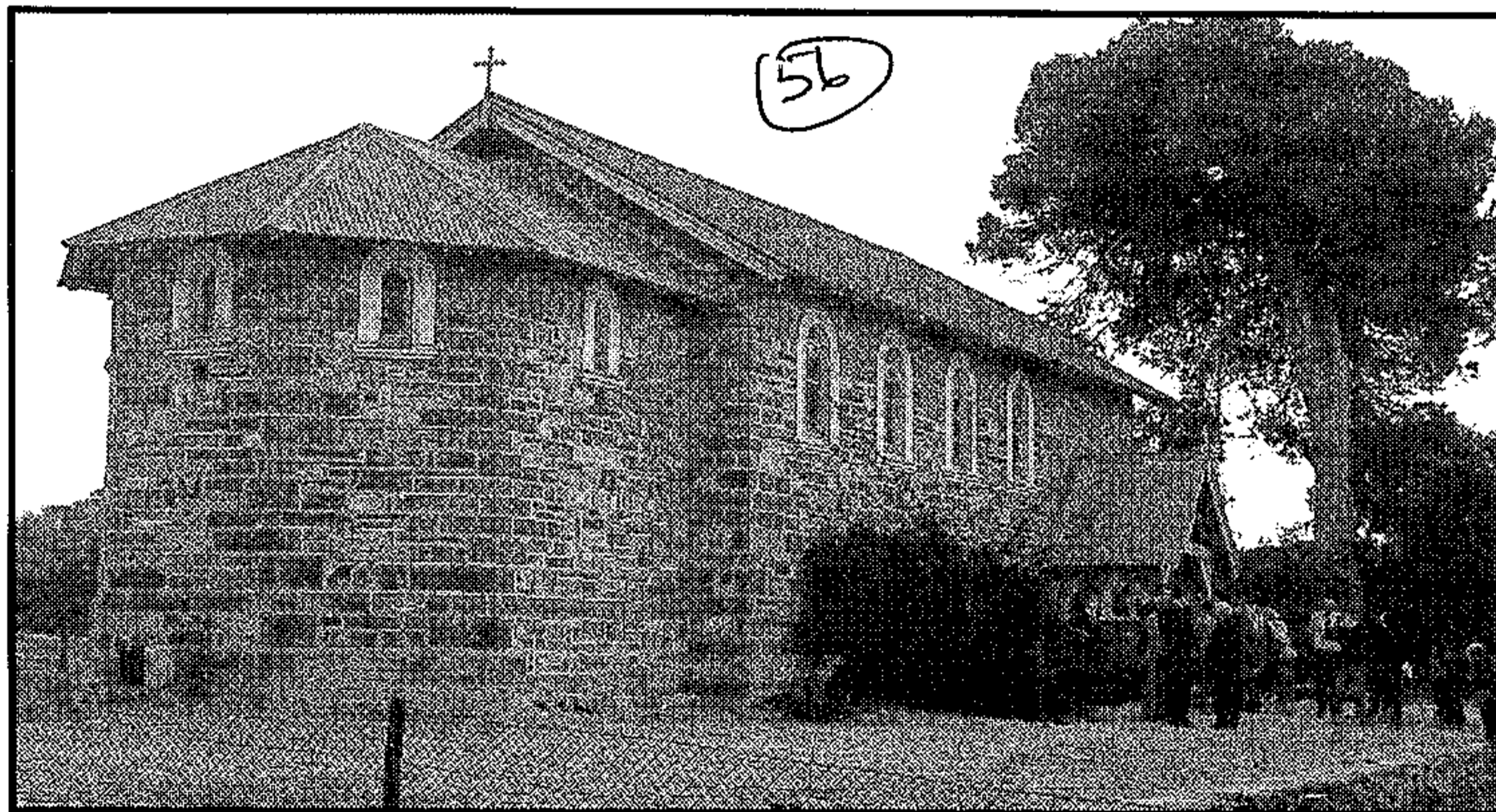
The institute is the idea of Peace Visions, formed about a year ago by several non-governmental organisations.

Architect Ivan Flint, commissioned to renovate the church, said it dated back to before 1894 when it was the centre of the leper colony.

Constructed of stone in the form of a simple Italian basilica, it has a tall nave with distinctive timbering.

"The altar was located in a pentagonal apse and the entrance is enclosed by a well-proportioned timber porch," said Mr Flint.

"The composition was completed by a small protruding vestry and a bell-tower mounted on the pitched roof over the foot of the nave. The



MINI-BASILICA: The Church of the Good Shepherd, designed by Sir Herbert Baker, which was once the centre of the leper colony on Robben Island.

doors are finely detailed teak."

The purchase of the land on which the church stands was personally funded by the then island chaplain, the Rev WV Watkins, who proceeded to furnish the church.

The altar, chairs and roof timbers were beautifully crafted by Herman Luden, one of the five generations of the island's Luden family.

Mr Flint said the church was lit by 10 elaborate pendant lamp fittings and the al-

tar embellished with fine candelabra, all of which were recorded in photographs of the period.

Father Watkins also obtained from Oberammergau an impressive carved statue of Christ as the Good Shepherd, which was installed in the pediment of the entrance porch.

In 1931 the leper colony was relocated to St Raphael's at Faure, near Stellenbosch, and the church was abandoned.

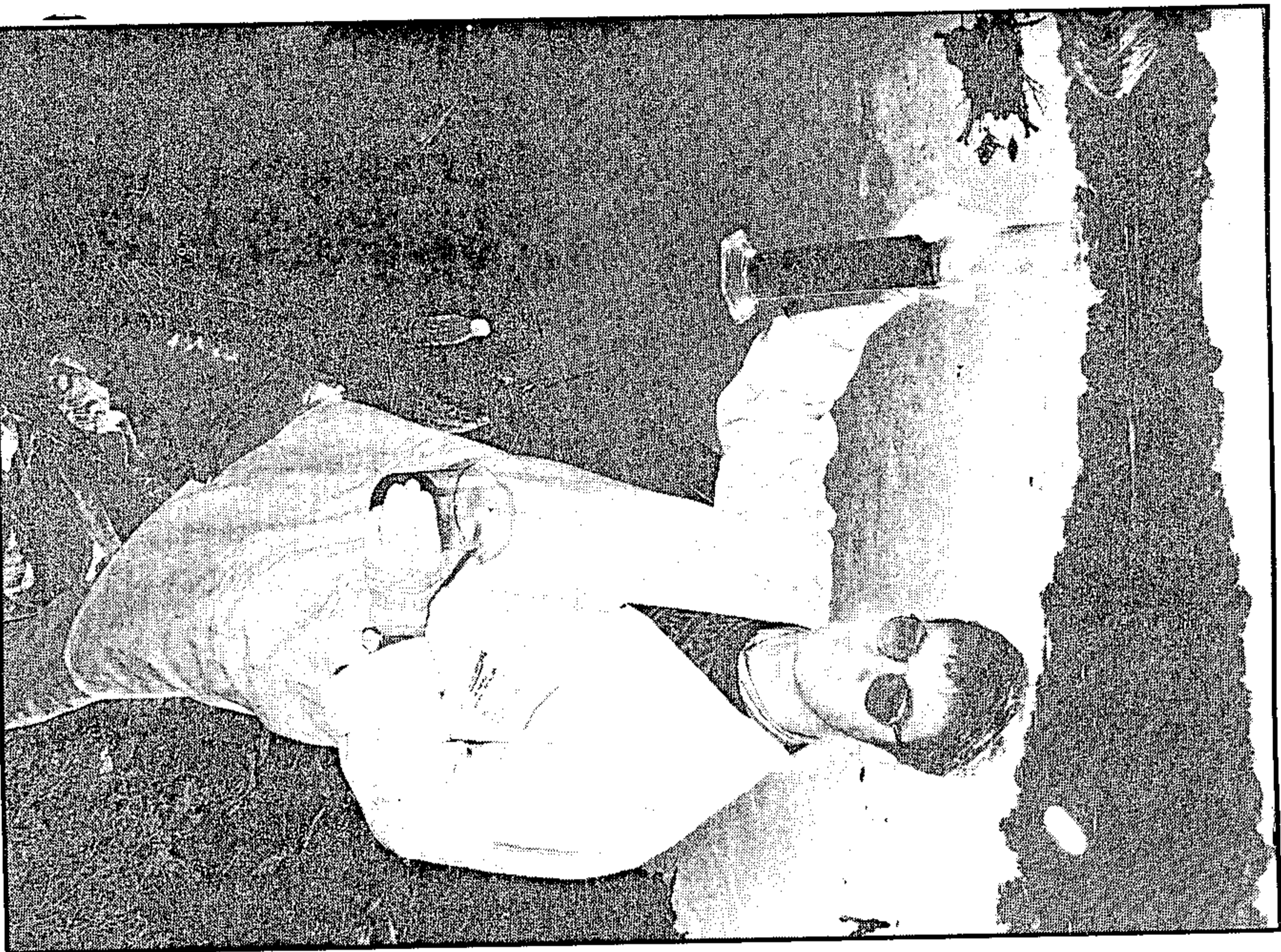
The hand-carved altar, chairs and rich interior fit-

tings disappeared, some reportedly to St Raphael's, although no items from Robben Island were found during recent surveys.

During World War 2, the building was refurbished and consecrated as the Naval Church in 1942, but at the conclusion of the war it was again abandoned.

Stripped of all interior fittings, the building was then used as a store for the Department of Correctional Services.

"At some stage the bell-tow-



RAISING A STINK: Technician Paul Craig tests the Vissershok liquid waste lagoon which Table View residents claim is causing a stench in the area.

Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

Clearing liquid waste lagoon raises a big stink

Waste-tech: 'It'll get worse before it gets better'

VENNESSA SCHOLTZ
Staff Reporter

THE clearing of a liquid waste lagoon at Vissershok near Table View has raised a stink in surrounding residential areas where, the site management says, odours will get worse before they disappear.

Di White, environment services manager for Waste-tech, said they were attempting to clear the lagoon by transferring the waste liquids into evaporation ponds.

"We are treating it and cleaning it up as part of our re-habilitation process. We are ox-

(S)
ARG 17/5/94
ygenating it by treating it with peroxide and we are using a knock-down spray to contain the stench," she said.

Ms White said "lagooning" was the normal way of disposing of liquid wastes in the 1970s.

"It was a horrible way of getting rid of waste. Today the hazardous waste comes into the treatment plant, where it is neutralised before being disposed on to the landfill."

Many complaints about the odour came from residents in Table View, she said.

"Health inspectors came around and it is possible the odour could be coming from

the lagoon.

"Usually the smell is very localised, but with the wind conditions we've had the smell travels farther."

Waste-tech hoped to clear the lagoon in two months and would use it as a landfill area.

"We hope to bring in an aerator soon which will kill off the anaerobic bacteria which are producing the odours."

"The smell will get worse initially because the aerator strips everything while it kills the bacteria. The smells will then disappear."

The company apologised to neighbouring communities whiffing the pong.

KARATE FUN: Former

British karate world champion Simon Kidd teaches Herman de Bruyn, 9, of Goodwood, and Janet Lambert, 7, of Durbanville, some tricks at Johnny van den Langenberg's Ishinyu Club in Parow. Simon, 32, from Essex, won the karate world championships in Cairo in 1988. He is in South Africa, based in Johannesburg, to help establish Ishinyu as a national style. He has been in Cape Town since Sunday, instructing in different clubs and will also be hosting a four-day course for instructors.

Picture: DOUG PITHELY, The Argus.



BRIEFING

Edited by Mike Siluma

Being a leader now is the greatest feeling, Kader Asmal, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, tells Science Writer Anita Allen

The right to clean water

Star 18/5/94

(56)

“We are not here to talk about me, we are here to talk about larger issues,” the new Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Kader Asmal, says at the start of his first media interview on his first working day in his new office in Pretoria.

First is important with this man who knows where he is going. His first steps will be the same as every other government department — the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). “It’s a Government of National Unity,” says Asmal, “but there is a fundamental commitment to the RDP programme.”

He was pleasantly surprised to find out that his department officials were familiar with the document, which according to President Mandela’s preface will now be the basis of discussion “to ensure that all considered views are available to the policy-making process”.

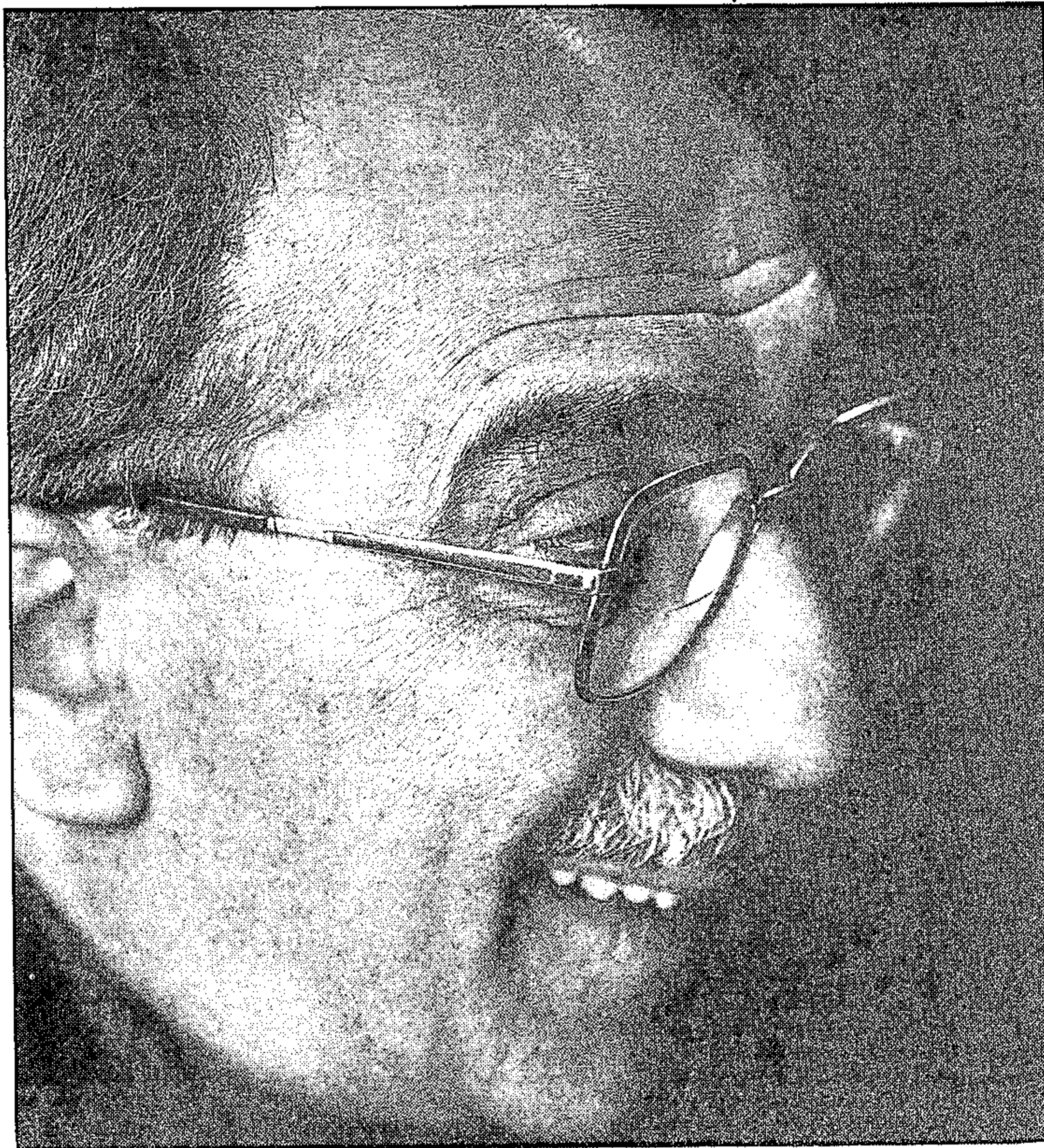
“We’ll discuss the RDP at length,” says Asmal. “Although there are only three pages on water and sanitation, virtually every page of the RDP has a reference to water.”

In a nutshell this programme seeks to mobilise all South Africans and resources towards eradicating poverty.

Asmal, of course, was involved in drawing up the RDP, which contains five programmes. The first of these, with the highest priority, is meeting basic needs and for Asmal’s portfolio this means providing access to clean water and sanitation for all. A present 12 million South Africans do not have access to clean water, and 21 million do not have adequate sanitation.

“The right to clean water is a fundamental human right, but it is meaningless if a woman has to walk 4½ km a day to get water. I believe that the whole point of the RDP is to undo the legacy of apartheid. We have people in cities who can draw thousands of litres of water a day while it is not possible for even 20 l of water to be drawn in townships and squatter camps.”

Asmal says his portfolio is central to the RDP, which accounts for it being accorded a



Kader Asmal . . . films of Nazi death camps seen as a child triggered his law career.

PICTURE: DUIF DU TOIT

Cabinet position. But at the end of the day there are no boundaries between departments.

The Minister had spent his first day being briefed by director-general Tinus Erasmus and the directors of the various divisions of Water Affairs and Forestry. He paid tribute to the work that had been done.

“It is very illuminating to see how much work has been done and the extent of our international contact. In some ways we lead the world. Now we must re-

late all this to the RDP.”

The new era will be fundamentally different because it involves a redefinition of community involvement, Asmal says.

“One of the great events of the past few weeks is the extraordinary outpouring of the community in wanting to be involved. That is why I will propose an Advisory Council on Water involving a very different version of the community consumer, commercial consumer, agricultural consumer, the ordinary Joe

Bloggs in townships.

“The point is a comprehensive solution to water, and every water-interested person must be involved.”

Asmal brings with him a lifetime of experience in administration. He was involved in setting up structures of government-in-exile and university administration. After graduating as a lawyer from the London School of Economics in 1963, he taught administrative law for 15 years at Trinity College, Dublin, where he

held the position of Dean of Arts.

Born in 1934 in Stanger, he is the sixth child in a family of six brothers and two sisters. He grew up in a lower middle class family of “genteel lace-curtain poverty”, he says, and pays tribute to his father who invested everything he could in his children’s education.

He has to be coaxed into admitting that he was a top student.

“My father had this rule: if you came first you got a half-crown, second two shillings, if you came third — a kick on the backside. He did not have to do the last!” Asmal says.

“I regret very much my father wasn’t alive to be at the inauguration because he would have shared a great deal of the joy, the elan, the sense of South Africaness.”

From the age of 12, Asmal knew he wanted to be a lawyer. It was then that he saw banned films of the Nazi concentration camps.

“I saw the films and I decided I was going to fight this kind of perversion and degradation. I only made the connection to my country when I was 16 or 17.”

He couldn’t go to the university of his choice, he says, so he went teaching, while doing his legal degree though Unisa — “the most painful way to study”, he says.

“My great teacher and mentor was a remarkable gentleman, Albert Luthuli. He was banished and restricted to the lower Tugela area and at the age of 12 he gave me a vision of South Africa.”

In 1959, he left South Africa to study law in London. There he married an English lass, Louise, adopted two children, Rafiq and Adam, and is the proud grandfather to six-months-old Oisim — “with whom I’ll spend more time than I ever did with my own children”.

How does it feel now being a leader?

“It’s the most exhilarating feeling of my life,” says Asmal. “I would have hoped that it happened 10 or 15 years ago when I was younger, but if I have five years of contribution to make I would die a happy person.”

Big chance for pupils

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa's return from the political wilderness coincides with new ties on the environmental front — Cape pupils are now able to plug into some 10 000 international computer information networks, thanks to a new resource centre.

The centre, developed by the Fairest Cape Association at its Cape Town City Hall headquarters, has been supplied with a computer and software, courtesy of Metal Box Liquid Packaging.

(S) ARG 19/5/94
Speaking at the official opening yesterday, Fairest Cape executive director Roger Hulley said his association had been inundated with requests for environmental information over the years — particularly regarding effective waste management.

The centre would be accessible to pupils working on environmental projects and to others requiring information about environmental issues.

The new computer would allow these visitors to plug into data banks both in South Africa and internationally.

Clean water promised for all

B/Day 2015/94

STEPHANE BOTHMA

PRETORIA — All South Africans would have access to clean drinking water and safe sanitation within the next three years, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday. (56)

The push to improve water provision was a response to genuine needs expressed during ANC people's forums prior to the election. Access to water had emerged as a most urgent demand in many areas — more so than housing and jobs, he said.

Asmal said more than 12-million people in the country did not have access to water and 21-million did not have adequate sanitation and refuse removal.

"It will henceforth be the policy of the department to treat water security as a basic human right," he said.

The immediate aim was to establish a

national water and sanitation programme which would assist households to secure a clean water supply of 20-30 litres a head a day within a 200m reach, as well as the provision of adequate sanitation facilities.

A "minimum programme" could be in place within the next three years.

He said the tariff structure for water supplies also required urgent attention to redress inequities. A "lifeline tariff" for low income consumers was required.

Other consumers would have to pay more to assist the less affluent, and grants from central government and provincial funds would have to be considered to assist local distributors of water to operate on a

To Page 2

Water

B/Day 2015/94 From Page 1

sustainable basis.

Large injections of funds would also be needed in the medium term to meet the water and sanitation objectives of government's reconstruction and development programme, he said. (56)

A National Water Council would be established soon to increase public involvement in water policy formulation, and resource and financial allocations.

There would be a shift in emphasis to small rural water supply projects from large water projects — and application of the "polluter pays" principle.

Asmal said he would discuss the Lesotho Highlands water project and the Komati-poort water project with the governments of Lesotho and Swaziland, respectively.

He also said certain unspecified state dams would be renamed.



Minister announces sweeping policy changes

New water-for-all scheme

Star 20/5/94

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Sweeping changes to the country's water policy include a countrywide tariff hike to make water affordable for everyone, forcing large consumers to pay more on a sliding scale for increased consumption, and placing the poor on a "lifeline" tariff.

This move was part of the ambitious revamp of the Water Affairs and Forestry Department announced by the

new Minister, Professor Kader Asmal, in Pretoria yesterday.

In line with the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Programme, Asmal's immediate aim is to create a national water and sanitation programme which would help all households to secure a clean and safe daily water supply of 20-30 litres within 200 m for each person.

For the first time, water security is to be regarded as a basic human right.

The emphasis falls heavily on community and grassroots involvement in policy planning, including the establishment of a National Water Council. (Sb)

Another priority is adequate and safe sanitation facilities.

Asmal said the new policy had been developed to combat an "appalling" apartheid-linked situation where more than 12 million did not have access to clean drinking

water, 21 million did not have proper sanitation and refuse removal, less than half the rural population had safe and accessible water supplies, and only one in two people had access to adequate sanitation.

He said resources would be allocated to empower medium and small contractors to engage in development.

Asmal is to press for a larger slice of the Budget to finance his plans.

Project aims to Keep Knysna green

(56) AR 20/5/94
□ Threats prompt initiative

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SERIOUS threats to the Knysna lagoon and its catchment area have prompted a new initiative to "Keep" these important natural assets safe.

A Knysna Environmental Education Project (Keep) has been launched by conservationists, teachers and other community leaders to protect the lagoon and its catchment — much of it a declared national park.

The project is the brainchild of Robyn Vincent, who started a recycling centre in the southern Cape tourist town three years ago, and schoolteachers who wanted an effective outlet for their pupils' willingness to protect their spectacular environment.

An interim project committee, elected at a recent meeting in the town, includes representatives of the Wildlife Society, National Parks Board and Outeniqua Trust, as well as teachers from Percy Mdlala High School and Sunridge Primary School.

Mrs Vincent said the huge increase in Knysna's tourist population, combined with a resident population which has more than doubled in the past five years, had placed a tremendous strain on the natural environment.

Pollution and siltation from agriculture, housing developments, industry and the illegal clearing of indigenous vegetation were having a major negative effect on the lagoon.

"If you could see the filth that kids pick up on 'clean-up'

days, it's quite disgusting," Mrs Vincent said.

Laws and regulations promulgated to protect the area's natural environment were not being observed.

Although the National Parks Board was responsible for managing much of the lagoon, it was "very understaffed".

The main objective of the new project would be to raise funds for the employment of a person to promote conservation and environmental and development programmes, Mrs Vincent said.

The project aimed to influence all opinion-makers, to assist schools with environmental education, and to embark on an upliftment programme for the town's informal community.

"Our first responsibility will be with the municipality and businesses — we want to create a network between the council, the business community, all environmental organisations and schools," Mrs Vincent said.

The parks board warden had been "very excited" by the project. He said "you get much greater success when you have the whole community involved."

One of the project's planned initiatives involved transporting women to and from the informal settlement on the hill to exotic plantations which were invading sensitive areas of natural vegetation.

The women would cut the exotic wood and sell it for an income, instead of damaging the indigenous forest close to their settlement, Mrs Vincent said.

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Settlement of the rival land claims at St Lucia has been delayed yet again because of a legal technicality that hinges on who is responsible for deciding the issue.

It now appears that Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom and Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha will be asked to appoint a new body to resolve claims by the Mbuyazi and Mkhwanazi clans, who were evicted

Legal hitch delays ruling on land claims

from the eastern shores of the lake between the 1950s and 1970s to make way for forestry plantations.

Former Mining Minister George Bartlett announced shortly before the election that a decision could not be made on Richards Bay Minerals' application to mine St Lucia until rival claims were settled by the Commission for Land Allo-

cation (CLA).

St Lucia review panel chairman Judge Ramon Leon — who recommended that St Lucia should not be mined — also asked the CLA to investigate the matter.

However, CLA secretary Jan Barnard said yesterday that the St Lucia claims fell outside the mandate of the commis-

sion, which is empowered to deal with claims arising from forced removals under apartheid.

The CLA had asked former Land Affairs Minister Tobie Meyer (now Deputy Land Minister) to place the St Lucia claims within the commission's mandate — but Meyer had "elected not to do so" (Sib) (Sib)

Barnard said the matter had now been referred to the offices of Hanekom and Botha. Neither Minister was available for comment yesterday.

Minister calls for Thor *STimes* inquiry

By FRED KOCKOTT

MINISTER of Environmental Affairs Dawie de Villiers has asked an ANC environment task group to submit formal proposals for a commission of inquiry into the Thor Chemicals operation in South Africa and the monitoring of its activities by former governing agencies. (56)

Thor Chemicals, particularly its importation of thousands of tons of mercury waste, featured high on the agenda of the first meeting between the ANC's environment desk, Dr de Villiers and his deputy, Major-General Bantu Holomisa. 29/5/94

Dr de Villiers asked for a briefing document to be compiled along with the proposal for a commission of inquiry.

The document is being compiled by Earthlife spokesman, Chris Albertyn, and will be submitted to the minister tomorrow.

"Of particular concern is that Thor has imported vast quantities of waste on the understanding that it will be recycled, and they have not been able to do so," said Mr Albertyn.

"Most of the waste remains unprocessed, and neither Thor nor the authorities know what to do about it."

He said most of the problems at Thor were the result of an ineffective regulatory system.

"The purpose of an inquiry will be to examine ways of preventing a recurrence of similar problems," he said.

Greening of the townships

A NEW resources centre aimed at promoting environmental awareness in black townships has been opened in Langa: (56)

The Tsoga Environmental Centre is the first environmental resource centre in the Western Cape black townships and the first effort by black people to tackle such problems.

It is aimed at fighting ignorance, particularly among black people, about environmental issues and also plans to involve township residents in dealing with these issues. 2915194
Tsoga plans to run training and edu-

By NOMSA WILLIAMS

cational programmes on litter removal, recycling, and greening of townships. The programme is being funded largely by big business.

They also plan to run workshops on a variety of subjects including video and photography.

The centre is the brainchild of Thobeka Thamage, an environmental lawyer, Nomathemba Hlatshwayo, a community worker, and Zolile Nqose, a film-producer and director.

'Urgent' review of forestry policy

SABIE — SA's forestry policy is to be reviewed as a matter of urgency by the Forestry Council, according to Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kadar Asmal.

In a speech prepared for delivery at the opening of the Sabie Forest Fair in the Eastern Transvaal on Saturday, Asmal pleaded with the forestry industry for an "honest and wholehearted commitment to change" in SA. 30/5/94

The Minister said industry objectives should be the provision of decent housing for workers and their families as well as the advancement of workers through literacy programmes and the inclusion of workers in management structures.

A further goal would be to cut timber wastage, possibly by providing communities with the opportunity to utilise waste timber.

The urgent establishment of short-rotation fuel-wood plantations in the rural

area, was needed to stem the destruction of natural vegetation for fuel, Asmal said.

These wood lots should be planted close to settlements to facilitate watering and care, Asmal said. (56)

Greater efforts would have to be made to export less raw material and to use more waste paper and cardboard at pulp and paper mills.

Since these mills used wood as a source of fibre, other sources such as fast-growing shrubs and agricultural waste needed to be investigated, said the Minister.

However, he made specific moves to quell fears in the forestry community.

"It would be unwise, and it is certainly not my intention, to introduce uncertainty and instability by hastily introducing new policy which has not been well considered.

"There must be full consultation," Asmal said. — Sapa.

Dawie aims at hearts, minds

Star 30/3/94

ENVIRONMENT Minister Dawie de Villiers spells out his philosophy — which precludes a big stick — to Science Writer Anita Allen

Winning the hearts and minds of people is how the new Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers intends to promote his portfolio.

Powerful legislation, in the form of the Environmental Conservation Act 1989, makes it possible for De Villiers to wield the big stick. But he says this is not the way to go.

"I am aware of quite extensive powers that exist and I will not hesitate to use them reasonably and in the correct manner," he says. "But with many things, and with the environment particularly, one would like to win the hearts and minds of people, so you don't need to use a heavy hand to get it right."

The 1989 Act makes it mandatory for government departments whose functions impact on the environment to apply the policies of the Act. It also empowers the environment minister to identify any activity which is detrimental to the environment, and to prohibit the activity except by written authorisation from him after an environmental impact assessment.

"Some people may not be aware of how powerful the Act is," De Villiers concedes. "Some people may not be aware that every human activity impacts on the environment. But there is a growing awareness of the importance of what we do for the environment."

"If you believe the environment can be promoted only by

the big stick, you've lost. Even in the Cabinet I can forget about it unless I've convinced them.

"So it is a challenge that I must approach in a different way. At the end of the day all right-minded people must realise that unless we care for our environment, unless we really build a sustainable world we'll end up with a wasteland."

De Villiers has the advantage of experience in the workings of many of the departments.

Golden mean

As a Cabinet member of the National Party and leader in the Cape, he has held the portfolios of trade and industry, mineral and energy affairs, post and telecommunications, welfare, public enterprises and tourism.

With this background, he does not see the environment as a brake on development and talks about the golden mean.

"What we should strive for is to find the balance. The buzz word is sustainable development, but I prefer balance — balance developments with conservation in such a way that you do not deplete resources."

"We have tremendous development challenges and we must utilise all the means we

have, mobilise the people at grassroots and every level.

"Create an awareness — that's the way I think we can make a success of it. In this approach we need reasonableness, we need moderation in all things. We can't achieve everything to the satisfaction of everyone — the task is just too big even if we utilise all our resources. We must seek the golden mean."

He dismisses the suggestion that environmental protection might be better served if a duty to care for the environment had been included along with the right to a healthy environment in the Bill of Rights.

"Rights must be exercised within the reality of a world and I don't think one should look to the Bill of Rights to judge the challenges we have, or to measure whether we are going to succeed or not. We can end up with endless court cases if you try to determine State policy only according to a Bill of Rights. If we are going to treat our environment in that way then we are going to reduce it to law courts and we are not going to make progress."

He is frankly delighted with his portfolio — it's a tremendous

challenge and he likes challenges.

"Rather give me a challenge than an easy job. I work hard and I expect those with me to do the same. I don't think I'm unreasonable, but I'm a person who likes to get things done. Not tomorrow, but today, if possible." (Sb)

He says he is optimistic about the future, but South Africa has tremendous problems and everything depends on how they are tackled.

Time is of the essence, he adds, and he is confident his two departments will quickly reap benefits from solidly laid ground work — in the case of tourism he is reaping the seeds he sowed himself in 1980 when he first held the portfolio.

"Regardless of the past years — sanctions, the violence — my departments have done a lot of good ground work and we must now pick up on that."

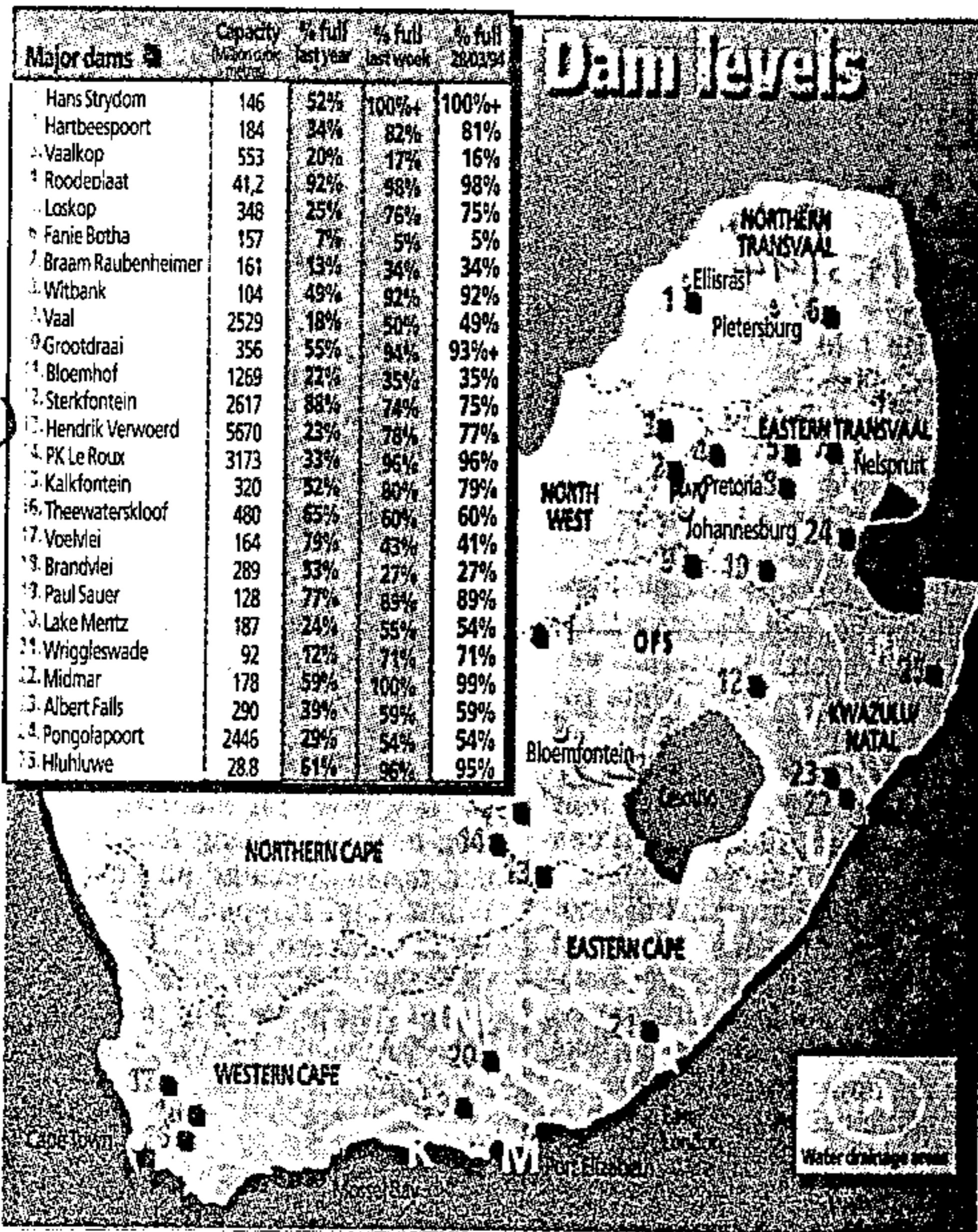
Plus side

Ensuring an environmental focus in development won't always be easy, De Villiers acknowledges, but on the plus side "we are fortunate because now more than ever before there is a realisation that if you break the rules you will pay later".

Asked if there wasn't a danger of him being the "fall guy" for unpopular decisions where environmental needs have to take precedence over purely human needs, De Villiers says he is resolute. "I've never been afraid to make difficult decisions and to fight for them. But unpopular decisions need not go against the interests of the people, that is the point."

"Proper planning with environmental concerns worked in will in the longer term work in favour of the community. And this is what I must convince people of."

"I have an open door. I will take as many inputs as I can from stakeholders and interest groups, but one must also take the responsibility of government. After you have listened — do!"



Dams 25% higher than a year ago

Star 30/3/94

The average level of dams countrywide is higher than at the same time last year, with the exception of some reservoirs in parts of Eastern and Northern Transvaal and northern KwaZulu/Natal, according to Water Affairs Department director of hydrology Stefan van Biljon. Despite the generally improved situation, with the 139 major dams countrywide averaging 66 percent full (up 25 percent from May 1993), strict water restrictions are still in force in areas which include the Fanie Botha, Braam Raubenheimer, Ebenezer and Blyderivierspoort dams, he said. At the end of the summer rainfall season, the average water level in the Vaal River System, which serves the PWV, stands at 58 percent. This is compared with 45 percent in May last year, according to Rand Water.

GRAPHIC LIZ WARDER

Smoke and asbestos targeted

Environment priorities get shake-up

Star 2/6/94

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The PWV government is about to do some radical reshuffling of environmental priorities. Pollution from wood and coal fires, and the domestic use of asbestos, rank high on the list of Provincial Minister for the Environment Sicelo Shiceka. (Sp)

The Minister announced yesterday that the entire provincial Cabinet would be tree-planting on Sunday, World Environment Day. Members would concentrate on some of the region's most barren townships, from Orange Farm to Soshanguve and from KwaThema to Bekkersdal.

"Of course the development of a beautiful neighbourhood includes parks and trees and clean sidewalks, but it goes beyond that to the development of healthy communities, free of crime, where people can relax."

The provincial government's longer-term goals, therefore, included tackling the issues of inadequate housing and poor ser-

vices, pollution from coal and wood fires, industrial pollution and the widespread use of asbestos roofs in township homes.

Shiceka pointed out that respiratory illnesses among black children were about seven times higher than among white children, largely due to indoor pollution from coal and wood smoke. "As a result, the death rate from respiratory illness is also considerably higher in black children. The introduction of electricity is essential for improving the life expectancy of black children."

Shiceka made it plain that he regarded environmental control essentially as an aspect of sound development. Many problems identified by his office could be solved only in the context of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, he said.

To counter the dangers of asbestos — which increases the incidence of fatal forms of cancer — Shiceka said he was committed to changing building codes and rectifying past mistakes.

'Save Cape Point' plea to Minister

□ RSC agrees to develop after on-site meeting

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

CONSERVATIONISTS opposed to a new restaurant complex and funicular railway at Cape Point will meet Western Cape environmental minister Lerumo Kalako next week in a bid to stop the R4 million development.

This follows a decision yesterday by the executive committee of the Western Cape Regional Services Council to approve the controversial proposal after an on-site meeting in the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve.

About 25 RSC councillors who visited the proposed site at the parking area below the summit of Cape Point gave a unanimous "thumbs-up" to their executive committee which had been given delegated powers at the last RSC meeting to take a final decision.

After a 40-minute site visit, during which they were briefed by senior RSC staff, the executive committee held a 15-minute meeting in their bus outside the nearby Homestead restaurant — the site originally proposed for the new development — before taking a unanimous decision.

RSC chairman Piet Loubser told journalists the developers, Concor, had been pressing them for a decision and he expected the 12-month contract to start almost immediately.

But the draft agreement between the RSC and the developers would be submitted to the council's insurance brokers and attorneys for further scrutiny and possible input.

There were "most important" clauses in the contract protecting the environment — "everything humanly possible has been provided for," Mr Loubser said.

The developers would be asked to make as little impact on tourists as possible, particularly during the season.

But the RSC's decision was slammed by the handful of environmentalists who held a placard protest during the councillors' site meeting.

Alida Croudice of the Red Hill Landowners' Conservation Group called the decision "the country's defeat" and said councillors had only been addressed at the site meeting by RSC staff in favour of the development at the Point.

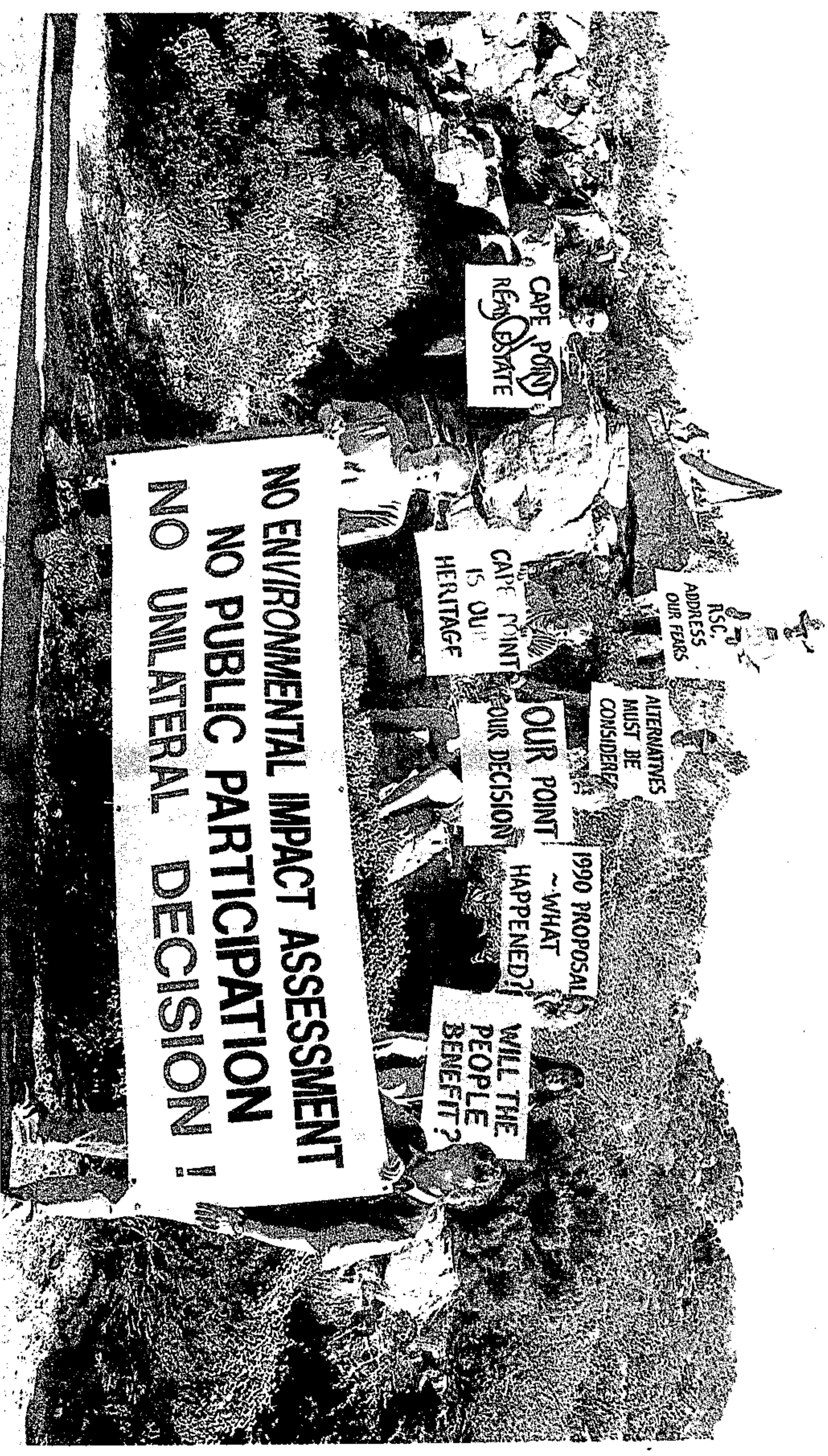
"If they had really wanted to do the proper thing they should have had environmentalists tell them our side," she said.

Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society said they were "deeply disappointed" and that the RSC's decision "smacked of political and economic expediency".

"It's not often, if ever, that a priceless jewel such as Cape Point has its fate decided in a mere few minutes by a local authority council sitting in a tour bus.

"This reflects on the level of priority given to the matter," he said.

The lobby opposed to the development had secured a meeting with Mr Kalako next week and would ask him to place a moratorium on building work until a full environmental assessment — including other, possibly more appropriate sites — had been done, Mr Gubb said.



WE PROTEST! Environmentalists objecting to the proposed restaurant get their message across to councillors during their visit.

Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.



"AND WE'LL BUILD HERE ... " Councillors and staff of the Western Cape Regional Services Council inspect the site of the proposed restaurant complex at Cape Point.

'SA can be No 1 in eco-tourism'

Star 7/16/94

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

A high-powered initiative aimed at ensuring that the southern African region becomes the focal point of the global eco-tourism industry was officially launched in the Addo Elephant National Park at the weekend.

The Open Africa Initiative (OAI) is the brain-child of director Noel de Villiers, who started the Avis motor hire company.

Respected

Its board of founding trustees boasts some of the country's most respected names in the environment field.

They are National Parks Board president Naas Steenkamp and chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson, Natal Parks Board chief executive Dr George Hughes, political figures Dr Van Zyl Slabbert and Dr Enos Mabuza, SA Tourism Board chief director Ernie Heath, Sowetan editor Aggrey Klaaste, Dennis Moss, Errol Martin and Geoffrey Lipman.

The OAI seeks to establish an independent,

non-profit voluntary association of individuals and organisations.

This will be made up of chapters of OAI membership, who will establish branches, elect a chairman, and participate in extending the OAI vision and objectives at the local level.

The network of members will be headed by the founding board of trustees, which upholds the integrity, stature and expertise of the association. Honorary trustees will be appointed from the ranks of the tourism industry and environment professionals.

Many other experts in related fields will be involved, to create a network of professionals, ranging from scientists, conservationists and environmentalists to architects, engineers, designers, writers and artists.

The OAI seeks to connect the minds and expertise of a great variety of people all linked by the same single-minded objective: to make southern Africa the world's major eco-destination.

"We have what the world wants," De Villiers



De Villiers ... ambitious plan.

(288) (56)
says. "We have the open spaces and the pristine areas. What we don't have is the finance, but tourists have the currency we need."

He would like all South Africans to think tourism and to direct their conduct towards ensuring that southern Africa increases its share of the global tourism market.

The OAI dream envisages a series of unparalleled wildlife, scenic and cultural attractions

stretching from Kenya, through Zimbabwe, to the Kruger Park, Natal, the Garden Route and Cape Town, and then up through Namibia.

"Today tourism is the world's leading industry, catering for some 400 million people annually. It is also the fastest growing.

Tailor-made

"In the technology-bound late 20th century, the desire to return to nature has become an international trend. Here is a business which might have been tailor-made for Africa, and the framework for development already exists."

The final result will be socio-economic upliftment through vastly enhanced opportunities for entrepreneurs and scope for the creation of millions of jobs.

"We can and must use our exceptional environmental heritage for the benefit if all our people and make it the unique mark of our place in global society."

Govt sets three-year target

'Water for all' project to cost up to R13bn

CAPE TOWN — Government estimates that it will cost R10bn-R13bn to provide clean drinking water and basic sanitation to the entire population within three years (5b)

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday that as the huge project was part of the reconstruction and development programme, it would be financed from a separate RDP budget, not by his department.

Asmal's adviser Len Abrams said that while the department's budget was expected to rise nominally this year, it would drop in real terms from last year's R409m.

Asmal said he and other Ministers would apply to Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo for a share of the R2,5bn set aside for the first year of the five-year RDP.

His department intended providing all South Africans with clean water and basic sanitation "within one to three years". He was unable to say when the scheme would get off the ground in practical terms, but he would soon embark on an extensive programme of travel around the country to familiarise himself with the job.

According to figures provided by Abrams, 16-million people were without access to "safe and secure" water, while the number of people without adequate sanitation was estimated at between 21,8-million and 25,5-million.

He said that because the figures includ-

ed the former TBVC states and self-governing territories — where there was only "very limited" information available — these were only estimates.

The "broad" cost of providing each member of every household with a clean water supply of 20l-30l a day, within a 200m reach, had been estimated at R200-R250 a head. Basic sanitation would cost about R300-R350 per capita.

Abrams said the shift in the department's policy towards a community-based perspective meant there would have to be several legislative changes. However the new policy would have to find a healthy balance between "the community and high-tech".

Providing clean water and basic sanitation to all South Africans, including the former homelands, where the need was the greatest, was new to the department.

More than 30 000 children had died last year from illnesses linked to poor sanitation. "That's more people than died from political violence," Abrams said.

Local government bodies such as water boards were expected to involve themselves in the project by, for instance, providing financial support. Local government involvement was necessary to make the programme sustainable. "The actual costs will therefore be distributed widely."

BIDewy 7/16/94
DAVID GREYBE

Park project resounding success

□ Township reaps the benefits of scheme

**JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter**

A JOINT development project between the managers of Addo Elephant National Park near Port Elizabeth and its neighbouring community has been hailed as the conservation model for the future.

"Mayibuye Ndluvo" — literally, the return of the elephants — was initiated as a project by a liaison committee established in September 1992 by National Parks Board managers, the local ANC and ANC Youth League branches and the civic association of Nomathamsanga township adjoining the Addo park.

The township, separated from the park by only a rough management road and the elephant-proof "Armstrong" fence, was established in 1949 as a "dumping ground" for unemployed farm workers and is severely economically depressed.

Details of Mayibuye Ndluvo were revealed publicly for the first time at the weekend during the official launch at Addo of the Open Africa Initiative — a networking movement aimed at maximising Africa's ecotourism potential and related development opportunities.

Mayibuye Ndluvo project initiatives include the subsidised sale to Nomathamsanga residents of construction material such as roofing sheets, doors and windows from disused farmhouses on property acquired by the Addo park and the free use of bricks

Zihindile Thambo, Mayibuye Ndluvo treasurer and Nomathamsanga civic association chairman, said the response from the township had been "overwhelming".

"People now know what the park is all about," he said.

Addo warden Lucius Moolman said establishing the committee and initiating the project had been hard work.

"But we're sitting with a relationship I'm proud of. We've developed trust in each other — that's the main thing," he said.

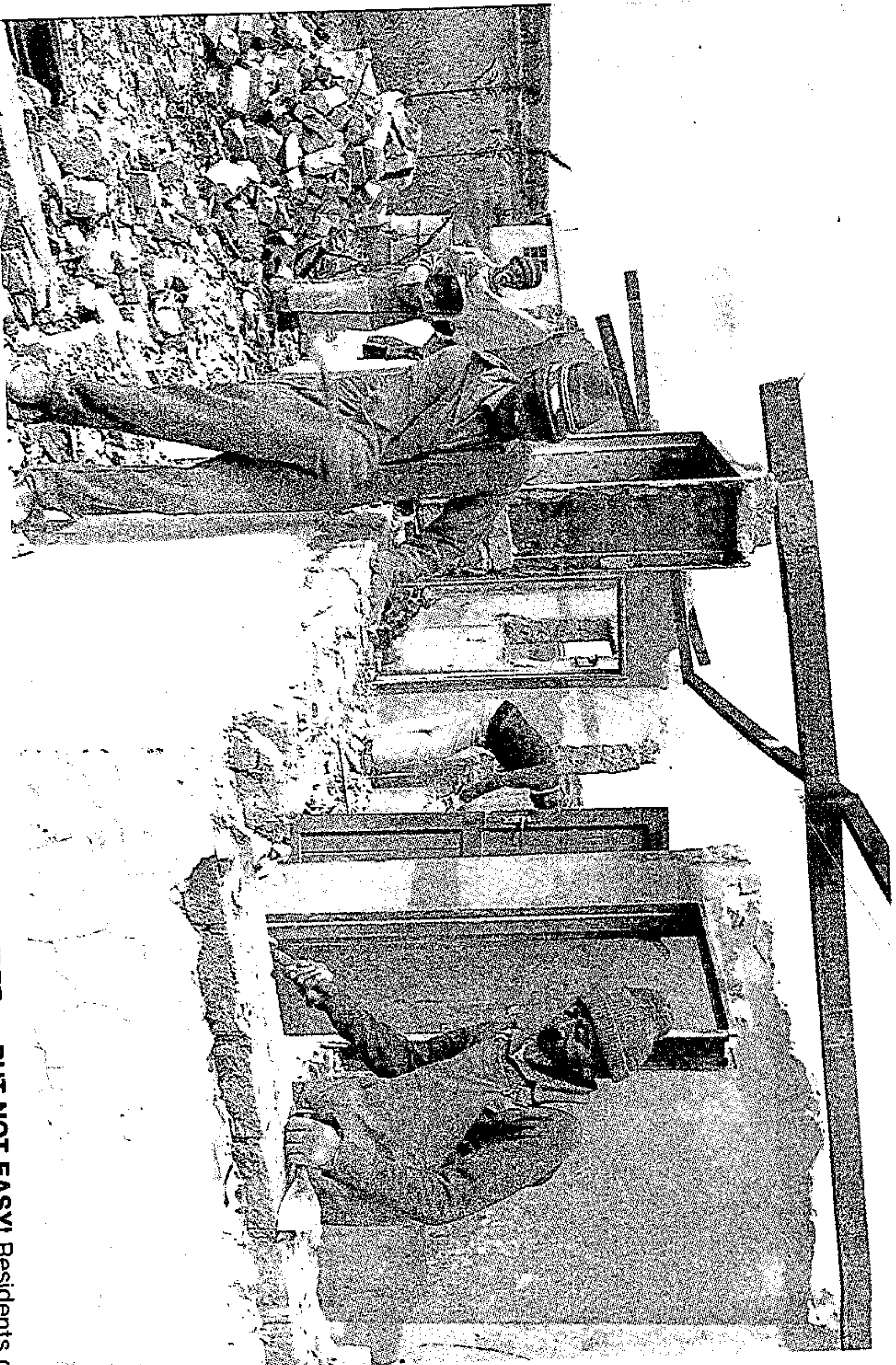
Anthony Hall-Martin, the National Parks Board's executive director of southern parks, said the project had stemmed from the realisation that it (the Addo park) was isolating itself from its neighbours.

These neighbours knew about the elephants' presence in the park but had no knowledge of the animals' ecological and economic significance.

"We realised that if we wanted to save elephants, the only way we could do it was if the people who lived next to them were convinced this was the right thing to do," Dr Hall-Martin said.

Addo liaison committee chairman Frikk Buys, a professor of human movement science at the University of Port Elizabeth and local farmer, said he was very happy with developments.

"Mayibuye Ndluvo is a project



FREE — BUT NOT EASY! Residents of Nomathamsanga township adjoining Addo Elephant National Park recycle bricks from an abandoned farmhouse

On property...
park. About 160 houses have already
been built from recycled material.



LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE: One of Addo Elephant National Park's 204 tusklers — a mature bull — enjoys a leisurely breakfast of "spekboom", the predominant plant in the park's lush valley bushveld vegetation.

Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

SYMBOL OF HOPE: Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee co-chairman Ngconde Balfour plants a wild plum tree at Nomathamsanqa township adjoining the Addo Elephant National Park on World Environment Day. The tree planting also marked the official launch of the Open Africa Initiative. With Mr Balfour are, from left, Open Africa founder Noel de Villiers, Port Elizabeth environmentalist Moki Cekisani and Nomathamsanqa civic organisation chairman Zilindile Thambo.

Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus.



Other initiatives include a 20 per cent share of the proceeds of meat from the park's annual cull of 100 kudu, the development of vegetable gardens, environmental education and videos for children visiting the park, the sponsorship of sports equipment and travel to Port Elizabeth for curio sellers and the development of a small curio market outside the park's gates.

The association's constitution is being finalised with the help of the Legal Resources Centre and its membership now includes farmers' representatives from the Addo and Paterson districts. It has built up reserves of R26 000.

of the lower valley, not only in terms of the material confines, but also in terms of our intellectual and emotional confines, to bring about a community that is capable of dealing with the concerns of all humanity.

"Things are happening and bringing people together is about the best thing that could happen.

"The community is involved — they're doing things and it really works," Professor Buys said.

Open Africa Initiative founder and director Noel de Villiers said Addo national park and the Mayibuye Ndlovo project illustrated almost all the elements it wanted to promote.

"It's one of the fine examples of South Africa's capacity to preserve its wildlife and of its (wildlife) managers who understand the 'people' element of conservation," Mr De Villiers said.

New group plans ⁵⁶ for a bright future

utilisation of our strengths, one of which is of incomparable value: the vastness of our cultural and environmental resources," Mr De Villiers said.

The initiative has major sponsorship from Engen and founding trustees include some of the country's most prominent names: National Parks Board chairman Naas Steenkamp and chief executive Robbie Robinson, Sowetan editor Aggrey Klaaste, SA Tourism Board chief director Ernie Heath, political leader Frederik van Zyl Slabbert and former Kangwane chief minister Enos Mabuza.

Open Africa's values and principles include:

- Upholding the authenticity and integrity of nature;
- Acknowledging the reality that to be successful, conservation must work primarily for people; and
- Emphasising in all its actions the need to empower people and achieve social justice.

Environment Reporter

PRESIDENT Mandela's dream of making South Africa a better place for all can be realised through the sustainable use of the country's incomparable natural environment and its rich cultural resources.

This is the message from the Open Africa Initiative, a movement launched at the Addo Elephant National Park at the weekend to forge links between people involved in sustainable development, tourism and the protection of the environment.

Founder and director Noel de Villiers, the entrepreneur and tourism industry consultant who started Avis rent-a-car, said Open Africa's vision was the elevation of African values, pride and prosperity, "based on respectful, restorative and profitable use of the unique qualities of this continent's environment".

"Our greatest challenge is the need to create jobs.

"To do this we need to optimise the

Sedgefield's council accused of slipperiness over slipway

Environment Reporter

A PROPOSED public slipway on Swartvlei has created a major controversy in the Garden Route town of Sedgefield, and the expropriation of property for the planned development has been referred to Cape provincial authorities on appeal.

Residents accuse the town council of taking "in committee" decisions about the proposed development, which they claim could cost up to R1,7 million and force up rates.

But councillors say the initial development will be modest and that their decision was based on the public's response to a 1988 investigation.

Chairman of the Sedgefield Ratepayers' Association Phil Marais said information about the proposal was "fairly sketchy and hard to come by" in spite of numerous attempts.

"A lot of people are concerned because they don't know what's going on.

"A need for a launching facility on Swartvlei has been identified on several occasions, but what the council intends doing has always been a secret," he said.

With the breakdown of apartheid, new residents had moved into Sedgefield which had become "a very different community", Mr Marais said.

"They certainly feel this is not their top priority and they have indicated they are against this project ...

"We're very concerned that what is being done is not what the public wants, and we want it put to the public to be discussed.

"But whenever we've asked for a public meeting, they've always said 'no', and this secrecy creates all sorts of questions."

Mayor Rudi Raath declined to comment, saying the matter had been referred to the provincial administration for a decision.

Fellow councillor Johan de Beer said the proposed development was based on a joint investigation by the municipality and the National Parks Board in 1988.

"That report was made public and the priorities were set from comments from the public," he said.

"Basically, we've been trying to get ground at the main lake for public access for motor boats and yachts — mainly motor boats to get them off the estuary.

"We're sitting with a 9 km lake and we can't use it because we can't get access. The only way now to get to the lake is through the private resorts and that's expensive — a year ago they were charging R50 a time."

The municipality's proposal was for an access road, parking area, small toilet block and slipway, Mr De Beer said.

"And we might have to do some dredging, which would be done by the National Parks Board.

"All this will only cost a fraction of R1,7 million — that would be the ultimate expense and would involve building a jetty, but that's not what we intend doing now."

Rift over Wildlife activism

JOHN YELD (56) ^{AMT 10/6/94}
Environment Reporter

A SHARP difference of opinion over "confrontational" environmental protest action emerged at the annual meeting of the Western Cape branch of the Wildlife Society this week.

Fish Hoek conservationist Vic Kabalin, who described himself as a long-standing member of the society, said many members were concerned that society employees had adopted "confrontational-type attitudes".

The employees had been highly visible during protests — a reference to last week's banner protest about the proposed restaurant complex at Cape Point and last year's "chain-in" anti-plutonium protest at the Japanese consulate, among others.

Also, they had made "rash statements that are not quite correct", Mr Kabalin said.

"Long-standing members don't see that as the way we should operate and I would like

the new committee to look into it."

Mr Kabalin, who is also chairman of the False Bay Marine Conservation Society, has previously clashed with society conservation ecologist Andy Gubb over trek fishing in False Bay.

Society chairman Jeff Hubbard said in response to Mr Kabalin that similar criticism — "well-founded on occasion" — had been expressed a number of times during the past year.

Graham Avery, chairman of the conservation committee, said the society had developed wide-ranging policies on a number of issues which included "activism".

"And the guideline is that the society is not against this (active protest) but will use it as a last resort ...

"Our primary concern is to negotiate and undertake dialogue from a sound scientific background, but as a last resort the society is prepared to

resort to activism," Dr Avery said.

● In his annual report, Mr Hubbard said the branch's conservation activities had been "varied and substantial".

Issues tackled had included the Namaqua Sands smelter project and dune mining on the West Coast, the proposed Cape Point restaurant complex, the Two Oceans aquarium at the Waterfront, the proposed Transnet-Equikor development at Rietvlei and the Fish Hoek "Zone C" sanddune housing application.

The society was also involved in studies into impoverished communities, Safcor's afforestation programme, water resource management in the Western Cape and environmental impact assessment evaluation.

"The demand for our precious resources in these areas constantly exceeds our available time and at times unfortunately we have to prioritise," Mr Hubbard said.

CSIR lab ⁽⁵⁶⁾
gets green
thumbs-up

Staff Reporter

DEVELOPMENT on the CSIR's new environmental laboratory at Cape Point is to begin this week — with the blessing of conservationists lobbying against the development of a restaurant complex and funicular railway.

The new laboratory will enable CSIR (Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research) scientists to continue monitoring background concentrations of key environmental pollutants, which will assist scientists around the world in studying environmental threats such as greenhouse warming and ozone depletion.

The new laboratory will be partially buried and natural vegetation will be planted on the roof to minimise the potential visual impact.

ANC calls for new environment laws

(56) CT 16/6/94

By BARRY STREEK

A COMMISSION on the environment should be appointed, the Council for the Environment scrapped, and the National Parks Board made more representative, the ANC's environment policy desk said yesterday.

It also said it was "disappointed" that no progress had been announced on these issues after a meeting between the Minister of the Environment, Dr Dawie de Villiers, and the Deputy Minister of the Environment, Mr Bantu Holomisa.

A statement by Mr Tami Sokutu said the desk hoped Dr De Villiers would soon announce a commission of inquiry into Thor Chemicals, as they had discussed.

The proposed Commission of Environment should be established as a matter of urgency.

"Such a commission will be an envi-

ronmental watchdog that champions the environmental cause.

"The Commission on Environment must be established with its own act so that it is independent of government, or be attached to the President's Office."

Mr Sokutu said the Council for Environment should give way to a legitimate structure, the National Environmental Advisory Forum represented by trade unions, civic organisations, experts and community-based organisations, to advise government on environmental management issues.

Mr Sokutu said one of the weaknesses of the old Department of Environment Affairs was that its environmental legislation was fragmented and scattered in a number of other government departments.

"Such legislation should be consolidated in one ministry."

Seal cull runs into rough seas

ARC 18/6/94

56

EXPERTS have slated the Namibian government for refusing to call off its controversial seal culling programme, in spite of the mass starvation of at least 120 000 Cape fur seals along its coastline in recent months.

The die-off, apparently caused by a sharp reduction in fish stocks, is continuing and biologists say it will probably take another two years before they are able to estimate accurately the full extent of the mortality.

But, South Africa's seal colonies have been unaffected, although these animals are part of the same overall seal population.

Last year, Namibia authorised a harvest of 48 000 seal pups and 2 800 bulls, with the killing taking place between August and November 15.

In 1992, the approved quota was 40 000 pups and 2 200 bulls — an increase of 62 percent over 1991.

But, sealers did not reach their full quotas in either of those seasons.

Responding to media reports that it would call off this season's seal harvest pending further research into the mass starvation, Namibia's Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources issued a statement saying "categorically" it had never considered stopping sealing operations.

"The ministry wishes to emphasise ... that it has not made any such decision.

"On the contrary, it is worried about the phenomenon that starvation of seals, noticed in 1988/89, has now repeated itself after five years.

"This may be an indication that the seal numbers outgrow the carrying capacity of the environment and that, to prevent mass starvation in future, the manage-

ment strategy will have to be adapted accordingly.

■ The mass slaughter of seals in Namibia continues to cater for the Far East demand for seal penises as aphrodisiacs. There is still a moratorium on seal culling in South Africa. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD investigates ...

ment strategy will have to be adapted accordingly.

"The ministry wishes to confirm that, in spite of the starvation tragedy, the sealing industry, as an industry, needs stability and continuity in providing products to their markets and to employ their workers.

"It will therefore not be in their interest, nor in the national interest, to pursue a policy whereby sealing is allowed on an on-off basis.

"It is therefore the intention to allocate quotas for sealing as usual."

The International Fund for Animal Welfare, which has attempted unsuccessfully for several years to persuade the Namibian government that it can earn significantly more from seal-based tourism than from seal harvesting, hit out strongly in response.

"This is the most devastating die-off in Namibian history, and because a large number of females have died, the die-off will continue to affect the seal population for years," the fund's southern African representative David Barritt said.

"Now that there's this unprecedented die-off, the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries says that shows more seals need to be killed. It makes no sense.

"The fact that so many seals have died is surely a very good reason not to kill seals this year."

The Namibian government's attitude merely emphasised its cynicism, Mr Barritt said.

"We have no doubt that the Namibians will continue the cruel

slaughter because they want the lucrative trade in seal penises to continue.

"Last year, when we proved beyond doubt that the Namibian government's own rules were being flouted and seals were being killed with horrific cruelty, they simply ignored the video evidence."

David Lavigne, executive director of the Canadian-based International Marine Mammal Association, said the seal colony size had nothing to do with the die-off.

"The seals died because of an oceanographic event which they neither created nor affected. The seals are innocent victims.

"The Namibian government has never produced any scientific evidence to justify a seal cull," Dr Lavigne said.

This view is supported by veteran South African conservationist Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action Group, who also said she was opposed to any seal culling/harvesting programme at present.

"There is no scientific evidence at all to substantiate any seal cull — certainly not to protect fisheries, at any rate.

"The marine food web is terribly complex and it's possible that some fish species are the biggest enemies of other fish stocks.

"A lot of these allegations against seals are anecdotal and people are maligning these animals simply because they don't like them.

"I'm against this (the killing)," she said.

Spotlight on air quality

LIBBY PEACOCK

Weekend Argus Reporter

CONSENSUS has been reached by various parties on a comprehensive proposal to study the air quality — and its impact on health — in Milnerton and surrounds.

At a meeting in Milnerton this week residents, representatives from various town councils and ratepayers' associations, environmentalist organisations, action groups and other parties unanimously agreed that an improved monitoring system to provide adequate data to determine the impact of emission levels on health should be instituted.

This followed recommendations by the Medical Research Council, which was commissioned by Caltex in 1993 to undertake an impartial needs-assessment of the possible implications of emissions from the refinery on the health of the people in the community.

The report, published in March, concluded that, due to lack of continuous, representative data on human exposure to pollutants it was difficult to judge the potential impact or to recommend a particular line of short-term health research.

But, it did recommend an improved monitoring system and it was suggested that an integrated

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approach, going well beyond dealing with emissions from a single industry, be followed.

The report was accepted by Caltex, which commissioned Petro Terblanche — manager of the Environmental Health and Safety Management Services division of the CSIR — to prepare detailed proposals.

Dr Terblanche submitted a situation-analysis and her proposals included the installation of two monitoring stations located in line with the prevailing winds that crossed the path of the main factory areas. She also recommended the use of the Goodwood monitoring station.

It was proposed that a wide variety of pollutants be monitored, including sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, respirable particulates and airborne-toxics such as lead and sulphates.

Former Cape Town City Council chief air pollution control officer Derek Oxley was elected as chairman of the project committee.

The project, estimated to cost more than R1 million in the first year, will be funded mainly by the industry.

A public meeting to present the proposals will be convened shortly.

Acting chairman Dave Brook said public involvement was an essential part of the project.

R1-m air pollution probe in Milnerton 56

APR 22 1994

□ Equipment to be ordered 'as soon as possible'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

EQUIPMENT costing more than R1 million to measure air pollution levels in Milnerton and surrounding areas will be ordered "as soon as possible", says the chairman of a newly established project committee, Derek Oxley.

Also, a meeting to tell the public about progress with the controversial air pollution issue would be held soon, said Mr Oxley, who retired recently as Cape Town City Council's chief air pollution control officer.

Mr Oxley's election followed a meeting last week to discuss proposals by CSIR air pollution expert Petra Terblanche for an effective monitoring system.

Present were representatives of Milnerton, Goodwood, Parow and Durbanville municipalities, ratepayers' associations, interest groups, medical practitioners' associations and

environmental organisations.

Dr Terblanche was commissioned by Caltex after a Medical Research Council investigation of the possible effect of refinery emissions on health in the area.

The investigation, also commissioned by Caltex, concluded that the potential impact was difficult to judge because of the lack of continuous data.

There was unanimous agreement at last week's meeting that Dr Terblanche's proposals be implemented as soon as possible.

These included the installation of two new sophisticated monitoring stations located in the prevailing wind directions from the main factory areas as well as the continued use of the Goodwood monitoring station operated by the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

A wide variety of pollutants, including sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, particulates which can be breathed in, hy-

drogen sulphide and air toxics such as lead, sulphates and other heavy metals will be monitored.

Funding for the project is estimated to cost more than R1 million in the first year and local authorities, the state Department of Health, RSC and local industries have been asked to contribute.

Mr Oxley said several industries had committed themselves to the principle of funding the project, although no amounts had yet been allocated.

"But I don't think there's any doubt they will raise the money ... We will be ordering the equipment as soon as possible."

Dr Terblanche had recently given birth and a public meeting to present her proposals would be held as soon as she was able to travel to Cape Town, Mr Oxley said.

"It is a priority to inform the public as to what's going on."

200 000 may be without drinking water within weeks

Drought disaster

looms in ETW

Star 22/6/94

BY CHRIS WHITFIELD and ANITA ALLEN

CONSTRUCTION of dam on Sabi tributary to start soon, says Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal (Sp)

The Government is fighting against time to come to the rescue of more than 200 000 people in the drought-stricken Eastern Transvaal who could be without drinking water in just weeks because the Komati River has dried up.

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal, who will visit the area tomorrow, said yesterday the situation in the region was critical.

This is the third successive year that the Onderberg area near Malelane on Kruger Park's southern boundary has been plagued by drought.

Many farmers are facing bankruptcy which will leave thousands of farm workers unemployed, and communities living down river are facing a life-threatening crisis, Asmal said in a statement released in Cape Town.

Releasing water in to the Komati River is possible from a number of dams upstream, one of which is owned by Eskom. The question of who would pay for the release has not been settled.

Asmal hinted that farmers in the region might have to contribute towards the cost of the provision of water.

"The issue is complicated by the fact that commercial farmers will automatically benefit from any releases from upstream dams, and should therefore contribute towards the costs," Asmal said.

He also announced that construction of a dam on a nearby tributary of the Sabie River would start as soon as possible.

The dam on the Injaka River is of utmost importance for the whole region, according to a recently completed study by the Sabie River Working Group, in conjunction with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the Development Bank of Southern Bank.

The study showed that if no effort was made to increase the supply of water, the area would suffer losses of almost R80 million at present value.

Dirk Nel reports that the

To Page 3

Drought disaster looms in ETW

Star 22/6/94

From Page 1

water of a third river in the Eastern Transvaal, the Olifants, is no longer fit for consumption by the time it reaches the Kruger Park.

Dr Andrew Deacon, senior official at the Kruger Park, told a conference in Phalaborwa yesterday that the filth in the water killed millions of fish annually.

The river entered the park as the most polluted

one in the lowveld, Deacon said.

This was due mainly to pollution in its main tributary, the Selati, which flowed through the Phalaborwa mining area.

Dewald Steyn, deputy director for water quality management of the Department of Water Affairs, assured delegates that Water Act regulations relating to pollution would be strictly enforced, as the department was empowered to pro-

Silt, erosion and other

pollution was caused by bad farming practices such as overgrazing and irresponsible mining methods, he said.

(Sp)

Consulting engineer Andre van Niekerk said the water quality of the upper river system, including the Steelpoort and Blyde rivers, was fairly good, but it deteriorated rapidly in the lower Olifants River.

Permits for township at lagoon set aside

(56)

AKG 23/6/94

PATRICK FARRELL
Supreme Court Reporter

THE Supreme Court has set aside permits granted by the former Administrator, the Langebaan municipality and the Minister of Education and Environment Affairs allowing a controversial township development on the West Coast.

Mr Justice Rose-Innes, with Mr Justice Foxcroft, today ordered that the Administrator had "failed to exercise his mind" in granting a permit in 1988 allowing Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd to develop an area at the Langebaan lagoon.

The judges also found that the granting of the permit by the Administrator as well as permits granted by the minister and the municipality were *ultra vires*.

Three companies — Corium (Pty) Ltd, Meeuklip Boerdery (Pty) Ltd and Oesterwal CC — had asked the court to review and set aside the permit, as well as permits granted by the Minister of Education and Environment Affairs in 1985 and

the Langebaan municipality.

The judge said: "No reasonable man would issue this permit."

He said affidavits had placed evidence before the court of the inevitable, adverse, destructive effect the proposed township would have on the beauty of the area.

"It would affect the eco-systems of neighbouring environment areas and have a ripple effect of destruction."

He also ordered that the decision taken by the Administrator and the Langebaan town clerk not to advertise to the public details of the granting of the permit so that anyone could lodge an objection to also, be declared *ultra vires*.

● The Supreme Court's landmark decision has been followed by an offer from the SA Nature Foundation to buy the land.

The SANF said today that their president, Anton Rupert, had instructed them to enter into negotiations with the developers of the Myburgh Park scheme, who still own the land.

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Oil slick 'contaminates' Dassen Island penguins

JOHN YELD and PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporters

(56) APR 23 / 6 / 94
AN UNIDENTIFIED oil slick is washing ashore on Dassen Island off the West Coast, posing an environmental disaster that has put the island's entire population of 20 000 endangered Jackass penguins at even greater risk.

According to initial reports, "100 per cent" of the colony has already been contaminated with oil and dead perlemoen are washing up.

There is speculation that the oil may have come from the fully laden, 271 000-ton Spanish supertanker Castillo de Bellver, which broke in two off Saldanha Bay after a fire in 1983.

The stern half sank, but the fully laden bow section was towed about 230km off the coast and sunk after a dramatic salvage operation.

Since then, there have been repeated warnings that some of the 40 000 tons of crude oil still trapped in the tanker's two sections would escape and wash ashore in heavy weather, as could have happened during the past week.

Cape Nature Conservation spokesman Dries Strydom said: "It's a major crisis."

The air force is flying baskets to the island to allow nature conservation staff to

catch the worst-affected birds and bring them back to the Sancob (SA National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) rehabilitation centre at Rietvlei for treatment.

The fisheries patrol vessel Jasus sailed from Saldanha Bay after first light in an attempt to fetch some of the 400 oil-soaked birds spotted yesterday before another wave of cold fronts struck the Cape.

But heavy seas forced the vessel to turn back before reaching the island.

The anti-pollution aircraft Kuswag 7 was scrambled from Cape Town airport about 9.30am to check on the size of the slick.

The 400 oiled birds were spotted yesterday by the Cape Nature Conservation foreman and his staff on the island, who alerted officials on the mainland.

Mr Strydom said it was preferable to clean the oiled birds on the island and he is trying to arrange to fly extra staff over to help for a few days.

Sancob spokesperson Lana Krige said they were fully prepared to deal with the expected crisis.

Anyone who can help clean and feed the penguins should contact Ms Krige at 557 6155/6.

Nature body ready to buy W Coast land

Supreme Court Reporter **SA** **ARK** 24/6/94

THE South African Nature Foundation is prepared to buy and restore the land at the centre of a controversial West Coast housing development.

The SANF was reacting to a landmark decision in the Supreme Court yesterday by Mr. Justice Rose-Innes and Mr Justice Foxcroft.

The two judges ruled that permits issued to Myburgh Park Langebaan Pty Ltd by the Administrator, the Minister of Education and Environment Affairs and the Langebaan Municipality giving the company permission to develop cluster housing near Langebaan Lagoon be declared null and void.

The judges were ruling on a review application brought by three companies, Corulm Pty Ltd, Meuklip Boerdery Pty Ltd and Oesterwal CC.

They wanted the court to set aside the permits which allowed development of the land, previously declared a nature area, as they claimed it would be an "ecological disaster".

The judges found that the Administrator had failed to apply his mind in granting the permit and that all the permits were ultra vires.

"Granting of the permits was a contradiction of the purpose of a nature area. The proposed development contradicts the tenets of nature conservation," said Judge Rose-Innes.

He said "no reasonable man" would have granted the permit given by the Administrator.

Frans Stroebel of the SANF said he had been instructed by the organisation's president, Anton Rupert, to start negotiations to buy the land from the developers.

Michael Schuurman-Stekhoven, the man behind the court action to stop the development, said it was a great victory for the "ordinary man".

Lubowski probe findings hailed

Best argument' for truth commission

SA **ARK** 24/6/94

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The finding of the Lubowski inquest more than four years after Namibia became independent is the best argument South Africa has for establishing a truth commission, says Lawyers for Human Rights executive director Brian Currin.

Referring to the inquest finding which yesterday named Irish mercenary Donald Acheson as the killer of Swapo advocate Anton Lubowski and Civil Co-operative Bureau (CCB) members as accomplices, Mr Currin said: "That is precisely why we need a truth commission here."

He said the commission could get information and record it so that it could be dealt with and the country could move on rather than have a host of skeletons dragged from the cupboard in five or six years' time.

Mr Currin also said the inquest finding vindicated all those who had accused the CCB. But he found it incredible that it had taken so long to make the finding that so many people

expected after CCB members were implicated in Mr Lubowski's killing by the Harms commission of inquiry into hit squad activities.

Wilfried Lubowski, the advocate's father, said at his home in Cape Town yesterday he "definitely" wanted those responsible for his son's death to be prosecuted.

"It is a relief to know that these people have been blamed at the inquest for my son's killing.

"Now we just need to make sure they are extradited to Windhoek to stand trial."

Michaela Clayton (now Figueira), who was Mr Lubowski's lover and worked as a lawyer in the early stages of the case, said it had been her desire throughout the court proceedings to ensure that the activities of the CCB were exposed.

"I am not a vindictive person and I never had a desire to see individuals prosecuted. But I did want to have the extent of the activities of the CCB exposed to reduce the chances of those activities being repeated in the future," she said.

Disaster Island

Argus

24/6/94
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□ Emergency talks today to decide on urgent action plan to clean up oil spill

Thousands of penguin chicks facing death

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

MOST of this season's jackass penguin chicks on Dassen Island — possibly as many as 10 000 — are likely to die.

This is the grim prediction of Cape Nature Conservation ornithologist Tony Williams, who spent the night on the island.

Speaking from the island today, Dr Williams said it appeared that more oiled penguins had arrived from the sea overnight.

Yesterday he walked the western shore for two hours to assess the situation and found that about two fifths of the birds — an endangered species — had already been oiled.

"So if you include the birds still at sea you're probably looking at half the island's population," he said.

"We could be looking at figures as high as 20 000 adults and 10 000 chicks. That would be the upper side, but it's still too early to say with any certainty."

There was nothing that could be done for the chicks, Dr Williams said. "They are going to die if one or both parents go."

Cape Nature Conservation spokesman Dries Strydom said they were trying to get 12 extra staff on to the island as soon as possible to help with the catching and carrying of birds.

"Then we'll try to get as many of them off as possible — I understand Sanccob can handle close on 4 000."



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

SAFETY: Colonel Chris Stroebel, officer commanding 22 Squadron, left, and co-pilot Lieutenant Brad Schmidt with some of the rescued birds at Ysterplaat air force base.

Staff Reporters

THE Department of Environment Affairs will have emergency talks with the Cape Provincial Administration today to decide on an urgent plan of action to clean up oil-covered Dassen Island.

About 30 000 endangered Jackass penguins on the island are threatened by a rogue oil slick of "catastrophic" proportions, and another 12 conservation staff are being flown out today to help with the rescue operation. Most of this year's chicks are likely to die.

The probable source of the oil has been identified by Sea Fisheries technicians, but because of possible prosecutions and damages claims, an independent analysis will be done to confirm the findings.

Oil samples were collected on the island yesterday.

Head of the pollution division of Sea Fisheries Anton Moldan said today that the Castillo de Bellver — the Spanish supertanker which broke in half after catching fire off Saldanha Bay in 1983 — could be ruled out as the source.

Environment affairs minister Dawie de Villiers said everything possible would be done to minimise the environmental impact of the slick. He was deeply concerned about the incident and today had been fully briefed on contingency plans.

The SA National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (Sanccob) has made an urgent appeal for volunteers to help clean and feed penguins brought to its Rietvlei rehabilitation centre.

The Democratic Party has called on the government to declare the island a disaster area.

Mr Moldan said it was impossible to curb the slick at sea and it would have to be dealt with when it reached the island.

"There is nothing you can do with the oil at sea at the moment. The sea is too rough to skim and the oil too highly emulsified to use dispersants ... it's like thick mayonnaise beaten up by the sea."

The slick — 200 metres by 800 metres when last sighted yesterday — will be monitored from the air today.

The first batch of 160 penguins was airlifted off the island yesterday by Air Force helicopter and taken to Sanccob's Rietvlei centre.

The oil-slick is Sanccob's worst nightmare come true, says honorary secretary Eva Vorster.

"This is the worst disaster we have ever had. We need all the help we can get.

"We must put up more holding pens where we can keep all the birds, we need portable swimming pools, we need fish to feed the birds — and hands that can do the work."

Sanccob needs donations of frozen pilchards (not tinned fish), towels, newspapers, crates, canvas and fencing, as well as volunteers to help clean and feed the oiled birds.

Anyone wanting to help can contact Lana Krige or Joyce O'Connor at Sanccob, 557 6155/6, fax 557 8804.

The rehabilitation centre is in Pentz Drive, Tableview, on the northern banks of Rietvlei.

Towels for the clean-up can be dropped at any Ster-Kinekor cinema, chief executive Mike Goodall said.

A Whale of a Row

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

STUPPORT by South Africa for a vast whale sanctuary in the Southern Ocean indicates a radical change in its wildlife utilisation policy which prostitutes the country's scientific integrity, a University of Cape Town academic has charged.

Doug Butterworth, associate professor in UCT's department of applied maths and an invited expert member of the International Whaling Commission's scientific committee, also suggested that the whaling decision meant South Africa had "negotiated in bad faith" and was guilty of "cultural imperialism" and "unprincipled opportunism".

In an open letter to Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers and Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa, Professor Butterworth called for the appointment of a commission of scientists urgently to draft a new policy on animal husbandry and wildlife utilisation.

Such a policy had to be "honest, principled, internally consistent,

not hypocritical, objective and scientifically based", he said.

South Africa's stance at the recent IWC in Mexico, where it had co-sponsored the proposal for an Antarctic whale sanctuary — adopted by an overwhelming majority — indicated that the Ministers recently had authorised a "radical" change in the country's wildlife utilisation policy, said Professor Butterworth.

Extensive scientific surveys after the IWC implemented its moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982 indicated that while some whale species, such as the Antarctic blue whale, were at dangerously low levels, many were recovering faster than expected. Some species were abundant.

"In particular, the Antarctic minke whale, numbering over 750 000 animals, is in a better condition than the vast majority of

the world's marine resources, including all of South Africa's major commercially exploited species."

The IWC's scientific committee had developed a Revised Management Scheme for the proper regulation of future commercial whaling, said Professor Butterworth.

"Seven years of scientific endeavour have developed an approach more thoroughly researched than any used for other of the world's renewable resources, which is also so extremely conservative as to lead to criticism for that reason from some of the world's leading fisheries scientists."

The scheme would guarantee total protection of heavily depleted whale species in the Antarctic for many years to come, while permitting an initial annual catch of only one third of one percent from the minke whales.

"In these circumstances of not

■ South Africa's support for a whale sanctuary in the Southern Ocean has been widely welcomed, but a prominent UCT scientist says this signals a change in policy which prostitutes the country's scientific integrity.

Professor says no to sanctuary

ARL 25/6/94

(5)

even a remote danger to any whale species, why was there any need for an Antarctic sanctuary?"

The primary explanation offered by South Africa's commissioner to the IWC, Sea Fisheries chief director Louis Botha, during a television interview was that an effective inspection system had to be developed first.

But, as South Africa voted against an amendment that would allow minke whaling to be harvested once such a system was in place, Dr Botha's explanation was "somewhat economical with the truth", said Professor Butterworth.

The balance of Dr Botha's rationale for his vote was also "specious".

"Obviously, the Antarctic sanctuary proposal had nothing to do with protecting endangered whale species.

"Rather, it was a thinly disguised goalpost-moving exercise, designed to preclude the sustainable utilisation of an abundant minke whale resource.

"So, why the subterfuge? If South Africa is against that, let the country so propose openly and honestly, rather than put forward surrogate and flawed motivations."

South Africa used to have a defensible wildlife utilisation policy, based on science, killing methods as humane as possible, and not according sacrosanct status for selected species.

But in its place, Professor Butterworth argued, the new policy appeared to involve:

● Prostituting the country's scientific integrity: The IWC Convention to which South Africa was a signatory stated that its regulations should be based on scientific findings, yet clearly, South Africa's sanctuary vote had not; and

● Negotiating in bad faith: South Africa was party to a previous IWC decision that the establishment of sanctuaries should not be used merely as a tool to invalidate catch limits, an agreement on which it had now reneged by its vote.

Cape storm now

Roofs blown off and hundreds homeless

By PETER DENNEHY, DENNIS CAVERNELIS, DALE GRANGER, CELEAN JACOBSON and ANDRE KOOPMAN

HUNDREDS of homes and businesses were flooded, roads were washed away and roofs blown off in the heavy storm that battered the Peninsula yesterday and turned city and suburban streets into raging torrents.

Cars were swamped in Adderley Street, which was transformed into a fast-flowing river during the flash flood and a man was injured on Chapman's Peak when boulders loosened by rain crashed onto his car.

Hundreds of squatters were left homeless on the Cape Flats after their homes were flooded. The Fire Brigade called for assistance as they were not able to handle the spate of calls.

An operations room and communications centre were set up last night at the Civic Centre to co-ordinate relief work to deal with storm damage and oil pollution in the Peninsula.

Another major storm — expected to be bigger than the first — hit the Peninsula early this morning. Winds of up to 90km/h were recorded at the harbour.

Lightning that accompanied the storm split a metal power pole in two in Tygerhof early this morning.

The roofs of a warehouse on Maynard Road and a factory in Wembley Street in Gardens blew off and in Welton Road the roofs of two homes were blown into the road, a civil defence spokesman said.

Several motorists had narrow escapes yesterday evening and three cars landed in a canal in Wynberg after being washed off the road. Police warned motorists against driving.

Trees were blown down in several areas, blocking roads and damaging powerlines.

In Victoria Street, Camps Bay, water rose to the level of car windows. Residents in Bothasig, Edgemead, Monte Vista and Montagu Gardens were without electricity.

The Liesbeeck River burst its banks and people took to boats and canoes in nearby submerged streets.

Chapman's Peak was closed to traffic last night after Mr Noel Graham of Rondebosch was seriously injured in a rockslide as a boulder crashed onto his combi. Two other cars were damaged in the rockslide.

The ferocity of last night's storm extinguished the huge flame billowing from a chimney at the Caltex refinery in Milnerton.

A Caltex spokesman said he had been with the company for seven years and it was the first time the flame, which burns gases, had gone out.

MORE STORIES, PICTURES

— PAGE 2

"The storm was so fierce that alarms also went off," he said, adding that the flame was quickly re-ignited. Several shops were flooded in the city centre during a flash flood. Cape Times photographer Clive Smith who was on the scene said: "I couldn't believe it. There was a river flowing down Adderley Street."

Mr Arthur McIver, of Turquoise Way, Noordhoek, described how he was lying in his bed early yesterday morning when he was jolted by a "splintering crash" and discovered two thirds of his roof had blown away.

A section of Victoria Drive before the Llandudno turn-off collapsed under the pressure of cascading water. Regional Services Council staff were working late yesterday evening to divert the water streaming off the Llandudno mountainside.

Late last night city council road crews were clearing Camps Bay roads of debris swept off Table Mountain in a flood that trapped cars and prevented residents from reaching their homes.

The South African Red Cross appealed urgently for blankets for flood victims. It said staff and volunteers were working in Fish Hoek and Simon's Town and were on full alert elsewhere.



DRIVING UPSTREAM... Heavy rains turned Adderley Street into a fast-flowing river after a cloudburst yesterday evening. Pedestrians battled to keep their foothold and held ontoamppos as the water rose to their chests. Several cars were swept away and motorists were forced to escape.

18 saved in sea drama

By JACKIE CAMERON
and LOREN KOLEVSOHN

EIGHTEEN crew members of a barge that ran aground at Oude Klip, near Sandy Bay, were airlifted to safety by a helicopter crew who braved driving rain and high winds late yesterday.

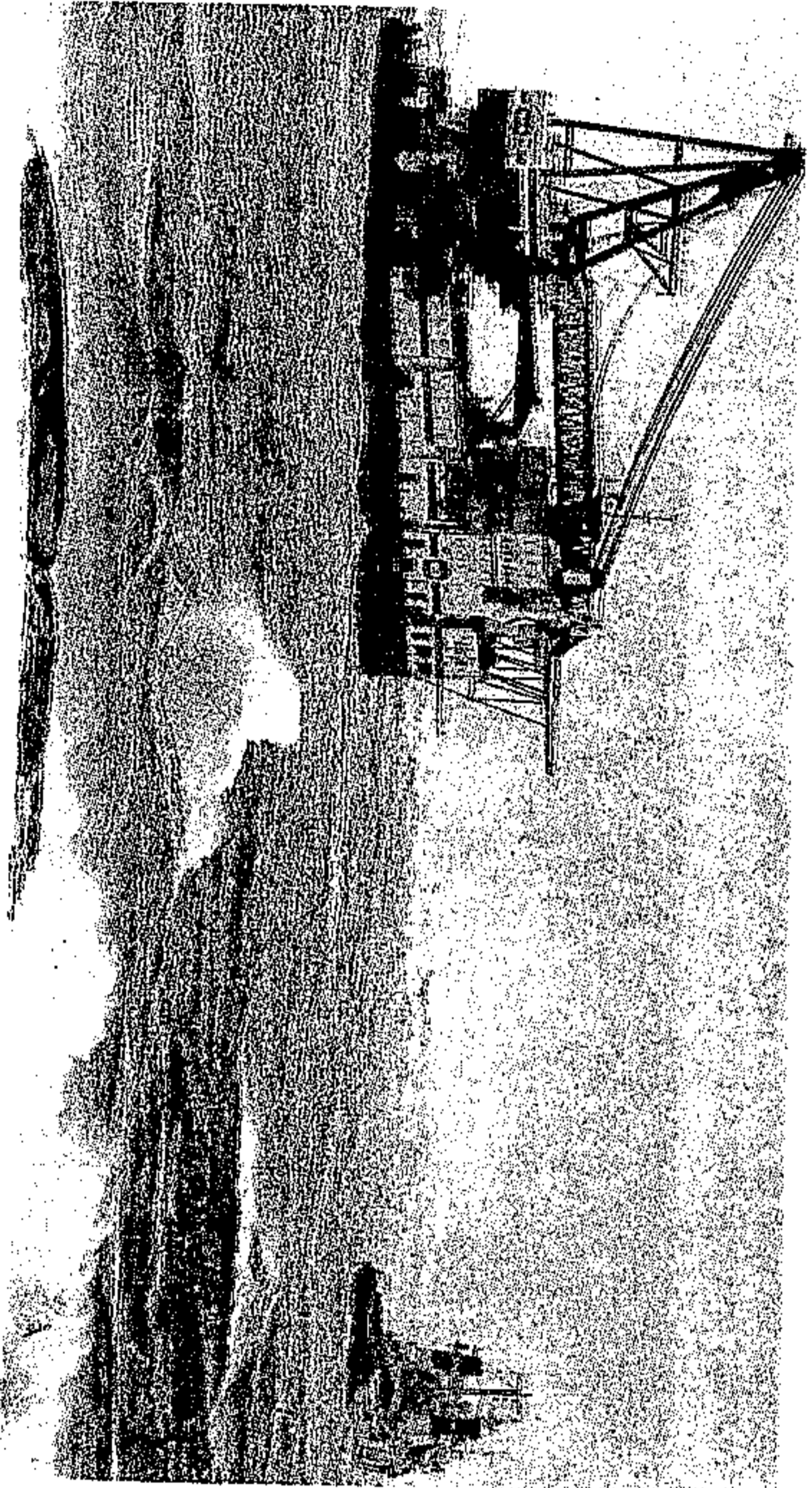
The massive Boss 400, a French derrick barge, was driven onto the rocks after the towline snapped. Its tug was not powerful enough to tow it to safety in the rough seas after the towline was reconnected, the vessel's Captain Jean-Claude Girard told the Cape Times.

He said conditions were too rough for the helicopter to land on the barge.

Flying to the rescue in howling winds, the crew of a Court helicopter had to winch NSRI volunteer Mr Philip Röss to the deck of the heaving barge as the first crew member to be winched up nearly fell when he was unable to connect the harness properly.

"The wind was pushing against the chopper and we couldn't see anything because of the pouring rain," Captain John Pocock, the helicopter pilot, said afterwards.

Mr Howard Godfrey, NSRI spokesman, said Capt Pocock kept his aircraft



ON THE ROCKS . . . This dredging barge ran aground in Sandy Bay yesterday after three Portnet tugs had fought stormy seas and gale-force winds in a futile bid to salvage it.

Picture: BENNY GOOLZ

low above the barge in spite of gale force winds and "extremely poor visibility".

An NSRI spokesman for Station 2 said of the pilot: "He was brilliant. He deserves a medal."

Mr Röss said: "The rescue operation was hair-raising. Waves were smashing onto the deck and the boat was rocking from side to side. The seamen crawled along the deck, two at a time, clutching onto a cargo net before being hoisted up."

Capt Girard said the trouble began around 10am when the towline snapped to the Russian tug, the Tigre, which was chartered to bring his vessel to Cape Town.

Two harbour tugs, the Lourens Muller and the W H Andrag, arrived to help reconnect the towline. The towline was later cut to stop the tug being dragged onto the rocks as well.

The barge was being towed to Cape Town harbour from Point-Noire, Zaire, for maintenance work.

Oil pollution

source still not traced

CT 27/6/92

By CLAIRE BISSEKER

CONFUSION continued yesterday over the source of the devastating oil slick coating city beaches.

Initially believed to have emanated from a tanker that sank more than 10 years ago, the oil could be from a Japanese iron ore carrier feared to have sunk off the West Coast last week.

Yesterday oil coated beaches from Melkbos to the Atlantic seaboard up to Sandy Bay.

As pollution experts failed to match the spill to the oil on board the Castillo de Bellver wrecked 64km off Saldanha in 1983, fears grew of a second oil source.

Attempts are being made to establish whether liferafts washed ashore at Sandy Bay are from the Japanese Apollo Sea, carrying heavy fuel oil, which has not been heard of since leaving Saldanha Bay on Monday last week.

The oil-laden stern of the Castillo de Bellver is believed to have been resting on the edge of the deepsea Cape Canyon since 1983, and geologists

warned it was just a matter of time before the wreck slipped and broke up.

Meanwhile, conservationists warned that the oil had ravaged Dassen Island and it could take up to 10 years for the island's ecosystem to recover.

All 20 000 penguins on the island could be affected by the spill.

The City Council said yesterday clean-up operations had been successful at Camps Bay, Clifton Fourth Beach and Rocklands.

A Department of Correctional Services official on Robben Island reported they had collected 1 500 oiled penguins.

Two Kuswag vessels, laden with almost 100 tons of oil dispersant, were forced to turn back on their way to the island early yesterday morning when gale-force winds and five-metre swells made it impossible to carry out the operation.

Weather forecasters predicted a severe cold front

To page 2

cont

would hit the Peninsula overnight. Winds of up to 60 knots are expected at sea with continuous rain today.

● **Peter Dennehy** reports that no money was deposited by the owners of the Castillo de Bellver to cover cleaning-up costs, the attorney who dealt with the case said yesterday.

Mr Simon Cooper, of the legal firm Fairbridge Arderne and Lawton, said the insurers had put up a guarantee, which was not in the form of cash, but this had had a time limit — which had now elapsed.

He said that normally such guarantees covered costs of cleaning up pollution that might arise within six years. In this case, however, the period of cover had been voluntarily extended for a further three years.

This had expired late in 1992, he said, and this meant that the clean-up

bill would in all probability be "Pretoria's problem".

Meanwhile Mr Anton Moldan of the Department of Environment Affairs said yesterday that the liability situation was being investigated.

Oil dispersant cost R5,40 a litre, Mr Moldan said. Each Kuswag vessel had 100 000 litres on it.

Twenty thousand more litres of dispersant have been ordered for Tuesday, and the same amount again on Wednesday.

The City Council said beaches were less affected yesterday, the sea was generally a lot cleaner and there were no fresh sightings of oil.

However, there was a large patch of mousse off Clifton and Three Anchor Bay looked "substantially worse" with emulsified oil up to 200 meters offshore.

Cape weekend havoc

Keegan starts disaster fund

CITY COUNCIL executive chairman Mr Clive Keegan launched a Cape Town disaster fund last night to help alleviate the effects of weekend oil pollution and storm damage.

Donations opened immediately with an oil company donating R30 000.

Engen communications general manager Mr Gareth Griffiths announced the company was donating R10 000 to the City Council to clean up the beaches, R10 000 to Sancob to clean pens and R10 000 to the Red Cross to supply the needy with blankets.

Mr Keegan said clearing up the oil and storm damage would strain the city's resources.

He made an "urgent appeal" for people to contribute whatever they could.

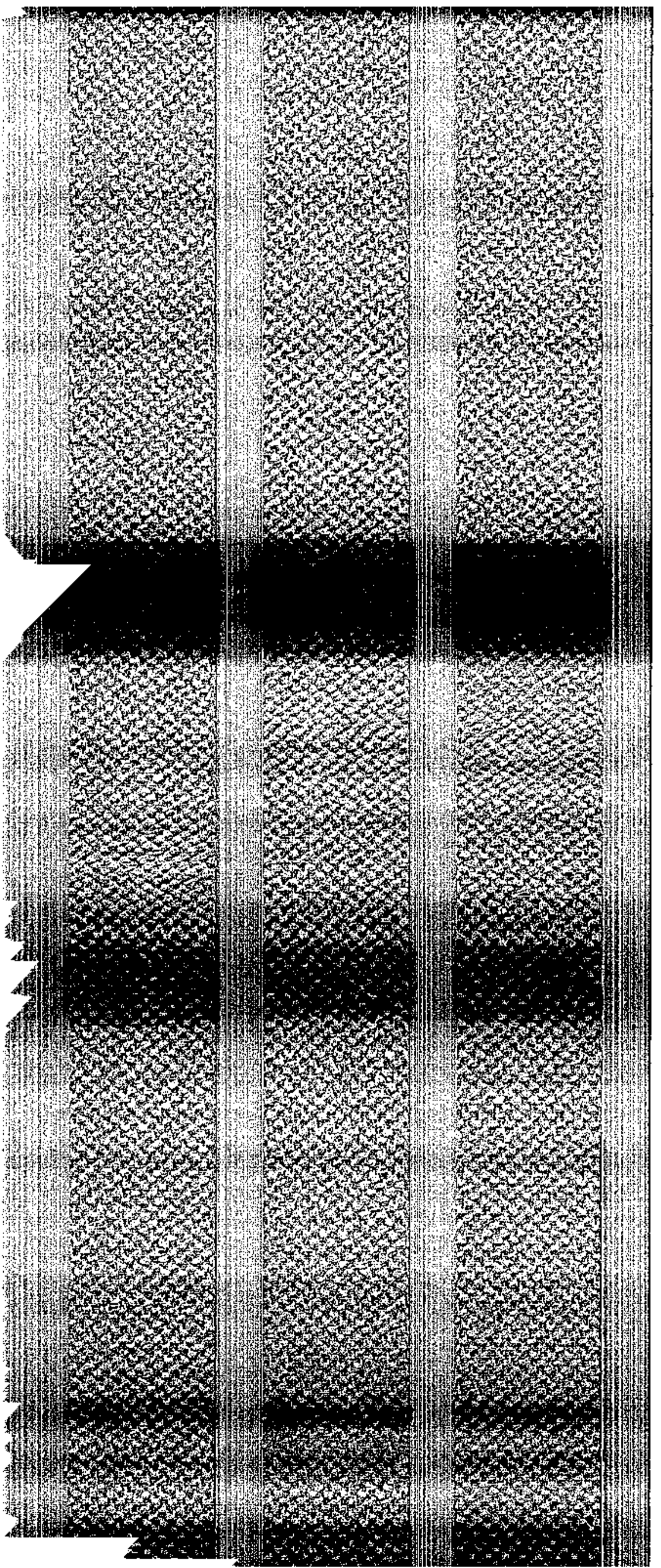
The Red Cross has appealed for food, blankets and money for residents of Peninsula squatter camps.

Red Cross spokeswoman Ms Elsa Green said there was a "desperate need" for tinned



DEVASTATION

... The thick black oil that has coated Peninsula beaches from Melkbos to as far south as Sandy Bay has ruined Bakoven's pristine beachfront and Sea Point a City Council worker makes a valiant attempt to clean up some of the oil — which may have come from a Japanese vessel thought to have sunk off the West Coast last week — that coated beaches on the Atlantic seaboard over the...



again said clearing up the oil and storm damage would strain the city's resources.

He made an "urgent appeal" for people to contribute whatever they could.

The Red Cross has appealed for food, blankets and money for residents of Peninsula squatter camps.

Red Cross spokeswoman Ms Elsa Green said there was a "desperate need" for tinned food, soup ingredients, blankets, men's and children's clothing and cash for people living in squatter camps in Nyanga, Langa, Guguletu and Noorhoek.

Donations can be taken to the Red Cross offices in Broad Road Wynberg. The Red Cross can be telephoned at 797 5360.

Sancob can be telephoned at 557 6155.

Police join in penguin clean-up

Staff Reporter

MEMBERS of the SANDF and police will be deployed today to replace weekend volunteers cleaning oil-clogged waterbirds at the SA National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds.

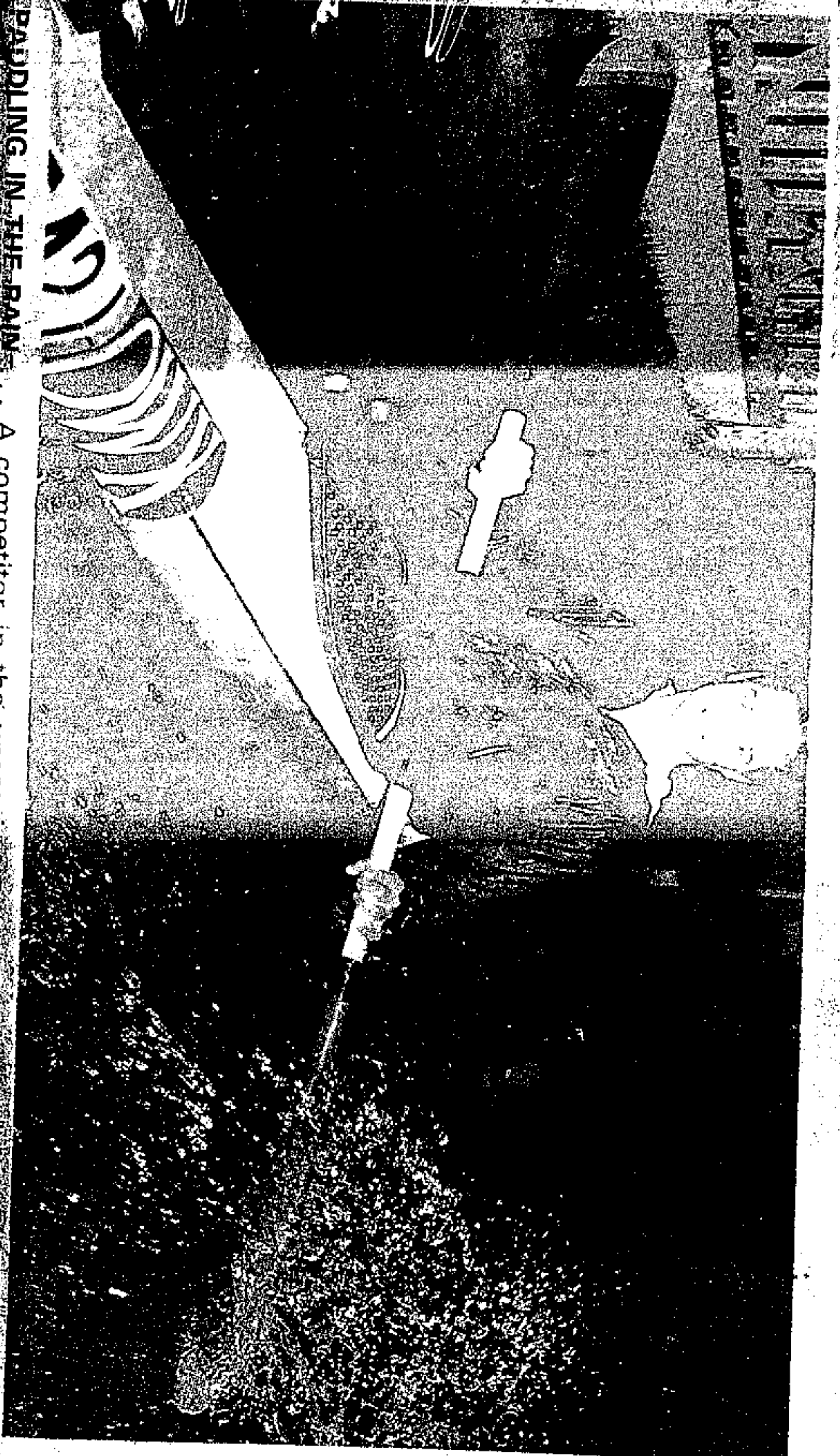
Sancob began building extra cages and pools yesterday to cope with a daily influx of about 1,000 penguins from Dassen and Robben islands.

Robben Island inmates also helped to feed thousands of birds. Commander of the prison island Colonel Heine de Beer said Sancob has appealed to the public not to put



DEVASTATION . . . The thick black oil that has coated Peninsula beaches from Melkbos to as far south as Sandy Bay has ruined Bakoven's pristine beachfront and killed hundreds of seabirds, one of which can be seen in the foreground. **ABOVE** . . . At Sea Point a City Council worker makes a valiant attempt to clean up some of the oil — which may have come from a Japanese vessel thought to have sunk off the West Coast last week — that coated beaches on the Atlantic seaboard over the weekend.

Pictures: BENNY GOODMAN



PAUING IN THE RAIN . . . A competitor in the upcoming Berg River Canoe Marathon, Ms Linley Zoutendyk, 24, had a practice run in Alpine Road, Claremont, after yesterday afternoon's torrential downpour, which had Beetles in the street standing in water up to their bumpers. Picture: ANNE LING

Rockslide traps hurt driver

Staff Reporter

CHAPMAN'S PEAK was closed to traffic last night after a Roubosch motorist was trapped and seriously hurt in a rockslide that also damaged two other cars.

Police said the road first closed

clear the road for an ambulance to reach Mr. Noel Graham.

Mr. Christopher Gordon, of Sea Point, said he was driving with two friends when the walls crumbled. Mr. Graham trapped in his vehicle.

falling rock. The occupants escaped injury.

A spokesman for Conraet Hospital said Mr. Graham had suffered neck injuries and was in shock.



High: Sun set
Low: Moon r
Pool
Muzent

M
C

Rockslide traps hurt driver

Staff Reporter

CHAPMAN'S PEAK was closed after a traffic jam last night after a Ronderbos motorist was trapped and seriously hurt in a rockslide that also damaged two other cars.

Police said the road, just after the summit on the way to Noordhoek, was strewn with rocks, boulders, rubble and trees which tumbled down the mountainside after yesterday's deluge. A bulldozer had to be called to

clear the road for an ambulance to reach Mr Noel Graham, 48.

Mr Christopher Godden, of Sea Point, said he was driving with two friends when they discovered Mr Graham trapped inside his vehicle.

Mr Godden went for help while the others tried to free Mr Graham and flagged down a passing forestry department worker who radioed the emergency services.

Two other cars were damaged by

falling rock. The occupants escaped injury.

A spokesman for Comradie Hospitaal said Mr Graham had suffered neck injuries and was in shock.

Part of the mountain on Victoria Road above Llandudno also gave way in the storm, blocking the road.

Police warned that coastal roads were "very dangerous" as further rockslides were possible.



FLOODED HOME . . . Mr Mohamed Shaik of Cricket's Gully, Zeekoewlei, had to hire a pump to keep water from pouring into his already flooded home.

Picture: CLIVE SMITH

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QUALIFICATION: Students are evaluated by means of assignments and formal examination. Successful students are awarded a DMS Diploma in Security Management which is recognised by SANS.



SAFELY ASHORE . . . Relieved crew members of the Barge 400 are seen here after a terrifying ordeal in which their vessel was smashed on to rocks at Oude Schip, near Sandy Bay, yesterday. They are (from left) Mr Marques de Andrade Eleveiro, Captain Jean-Claude Girard, Mr Jacky Robert and Mr Jean-Marc Guillou.

Picture: CLIVE SMITH

INVEST AT

From page 1

would hit the

27 June 1994

'Polluter must pay'

CLIVE SAWYER and JOHN YELD
Staff Reporters

WESTERN Cape Environment Minister Lerumo Kalako says those responsible for the oil slick which has devastated Western Cape marine and bird life and polluted Peninsula beaches could face prosecution.

His view was echoed by the Wildlife Society, which said the owners and/or insurers of whatever vessel was responsible for the pollution must pay for the cost of the clean-up — even if it is years after the initial accident.

Mr Kalako, accompanied by provincial environment affairs officials, will inspect the polluted West Coast today.

"There are laws governing marine operations and if someone is found to be responsible for breaking them something will have to be done," Mr Kalako said.

Although it could not be determined last night whether the oil was linked to the Spanish tanker Castillo de Bellver, which sank off Saldanha in 1983, Mr Kalako said he was "surprised" nothing had been done in the past 11 years.

"It implies quite a high level of negligence to allow that situation knowing full well it could be detrimental to sea life."

The Wildlife Society's Western Cape manager Andy Gubb said Cape Town and South Africa could ill-afford the ecological consequences of the disaster.

"At this stage it would appear the most serious is the effect on the bird-life, and in particular the jackass penguin — an endangered species."

There was no doubt that the "polluter must pay" principle had to apply, Mr Gubb said.

"Cape Town's environment and its people cannot be held victim to some legal technicality or artificially determined time period (for insurance claims)."

Also, South Africa had to take a firm stand against the "frighteningly common" practice of unseaworthy vessels rounding the Cape.

"These ships must be impounded or barred from our waters," Mr Gubb said.

Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action Group said there had been a substantial amount of "very inaccurate information" about the pollution crisis.

"Tankers are passing through our waters virtually every day and we cannot turn a stricken vessel away."

"The fact of the matter is that the Spanish supertanker (Castillo de Bellver) was only five years old."

"The fire was an accident at sea that nobody could have avoided, and I don't think anybody could have avoided what has happened now."

"People are very quick to start blaming others for not doing their jobs properly, but while we're all using petrol and driving around in cars and using oil for heating, we're all responsible for this and we must all help," she said.

□ Those responsible for ecological disaster could face prosecution



DEATH BY OIL: Rescue efforts have come too late for many seabirds — like this cormorant at Bakoven. Picture: ANDREW INGRAM

For devastation

Hundreds 'do their bit' for penguins

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

SANCCOB'S rehabilitation centre at Rietvlei is being swamped to breaking point by badly oiled birds — and well-meaning people.

Yesterday there was a traffic jam in Pentz Drive outside the centre as hundreds of people arrived to offer help or to gape at the spectacle, in spite of the atrocious weather.

Staff members were forced to put up barricades to keep people out.

Sanccob spokeswoman Eva Vorster said they were grateful for all the help, but that they were unable to use everyone who had pitched up.

"At this stage we don't want any inexperienced volunteers — unfortunately we simply don't have time to train them. I hope people will understand — we must put the birds first now."

By midday about 2 400 birds had arrived at Sanccob, and several hundred more were expected from Yzerfontein,

where they had been ferried by helicopter from Dassen Island.

"They're coming in so fast that we've lost track of the exact number," said Sea Fisheries researcher and Sanccob member Bruce Dyer.

"And now we've got cormorants and gulls coming in as well, although the penguins have taken the brunt of the slick."

"Birds have been coming to us from all over the place and we're expecting more than 10 000. We'll squeeze them in, no matter how!"

"This is absolutely the biggest crisis we've had, but we're coping."

The overloading of Sanccob's facilities would last several months, she said.

"Rehabilitation of the birds can take from one to three weeks — and even after that we can't release them back into the sea if it's still polluted."

"We've also got a very big problem with hot water. We have many gas heat-

ers but they can't cope for the quantity we need. We must find a way of heating as much water as quickly as possible. We need a water heater urgently."

Other items that could be donated included money, oilskins, gloves, plasters, towels and frozen pilchards.

There had been many complaints that the government did not appear to be doing anything to help.

But Sanccob had been asked to have a list of requirements ready by 9am today for the Department of Environment Affairs, Ms Vorster said.

Yesterday Brian Johnson of Three Anchor Bay and Dave Pickard of Sea Point again patrolled the beachfront between Three Anchor Bay and Mouille Point, searching for oiled birds.

Mr Johnson, after wading along the rocks through oily foam and clutching a rope to stop himself being swept away by the wild seas, said: "Well, we've given it our best shot, guys. I can't stand to see things suffering — it's just not on."



HEAP OF MISERY: This group of badly-oiled jackass penguins are among 2 500 being treated at Sannocob's rehabilitation centre at Rietvllei — and many more are expected.

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

Dassen Island could take 10 years to recover from pollution

Environment Reporter

THE devastated shores of Dassen Island could take up to 10 years to recover from the oil pollution of the past few days, according to an initial assessment by Cape Nature Conservation expert Tony Williams.

But the rocky coastline of the polluted Atlantic seaboard should recover more quickly, leading marine ecologist George Branch has suggested.

Dr Williams, who has been on the island since Thursday, had reported that its tidal ecosystem had been badly damaged and could take up to a decade to recover, Cape Nature Conservation chief director Johan Neethling told a media briefing yesterday. Apart from the penguins, there

was also concern about the island's pelican population. Although these birds had not been present during the pollution crisis, they could return within a few weeks.

"Flying birds have not been as badly affected as the penguins. There is no oil in the sea around the island at the moment," said Dr Neethling.

Dr Williams would survey Jutten, Malgas and Vondeling islands in Saldanha Bay for pollution as soon as the weather improved, Cape Nature Conservation deputy director Kobus Jooste said.

Professor Branch, of the University of Cape Town's zoology department and co-author of a

best-selling guide to the South African coast, inspected the Atlantic seaboard yesterday and said it would probably take several years before sealife on the rocky shoreline in this area recovered.

It was an "open question" whether deeper water species such as abalone (perlemoen) and rock lobster would be affected.

Dispersants often had a more negative effect on marine life than the oil itself, and using absorbent material like straw was much less detrimental.

The oil would probably break down relatively quickly, Professor Branch said.

"But life on the rocks will take some time to recover." Experience in Europe had shown that this could take up to seven years.

Penguin rescuers battle on in foul conditions

Staff Reporter

PIETER MALAN spent the weekend on Dassen Island

IN a howling north-westerly gale and stinging rain workers on Dassen Island spent the weekend struggling to catch oil-soaked penguins.

About 20 000 jackass penguins and 10 000 chicks face death because of the oil slick that has ravaged the island's rocky beaches and the birds' hunting grounds out at sea. But the weekend harvest was only about 1 250 birds.

The island is the second biggest breeding colony for jackass penguins in the southern hemisphere.

"We don't know how many penguins will die on Dassen Island," said Cape Nature Conservation ornithologist Tony Williams.

"This could wipe out the whole colony."

Every effort is being made to save as many birds as possible.

Lighthouse-keeper Peter Dennet said the most demoralising aspect of the rescue operation was that having cleared one area of polluted birds, an hour later there were just as many oil-covered birds in the area.

"We have only covered about 30 percent of the island — it is a no-win situation."

Even so Mr Dennet and his team of 10 — joined by about 30 volunteers yesterday afternoon — braved a gale and stinging rain to catch as many birds as possible.

All along the coast at every accessible spot, birds were herded into groups. The polluted birds were pulled out, packed into boxes and crates and flown to Yzerfontein in an air force helicopter.

Workers had to steel themselves to take soiled parents off their chicks.

The chances of the chicks surviving without their parents were slim — seagulls came in for the kill as soon as the parents were taken away.

Dr Williams said: "At the moment we are only interested in saving adult breeding pairs. These birds are experienced parents and we can't afford to lose them."

He said feeding the chicks was not an option at this stage.

Catching the birds is time-consuming and slowed by logistical problems.

Mr Dennet said: "A shortage of manpower is the least of our problems — we are struggling with a shortage of suitable containers to put the birds in, gloves to protect our hands from the vicious penguin beaks, and even rations for the workers."

At one stage during the weekend only one of the three bakkies on the island was running — the others had broken down and there was no one to fix them.

About 550 birds were flown from the island yesterday afternoon 750 had been sent on Saturday to the SA National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds.

Argus
27/10/1994

ESCAPE: These pigs escaped when the truck carrying them to the Maitland Abattoir crashed and overturned on the N1 near Monte Vista today. It is thought the driver had a fatal heart attack.

Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

Pigs hurt as driver dies, crashes truck

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

A TRUCK taking 50 pigs from Paarl to the Maitland Abattoir crashed and overturned near Monte Vista on the N1 when its driver died, possibly from a heart attack.

One pig was killed and several were slightly injured.

Sergeant Keith Steyn of the police's N1 Patrol said he suspected the accident was the re-

sult of the heart attack.

"There were no signs of life from the driver when we arrived. We took him out of the truck and he had no apparent injuries," Sergeant Steyn said.

The driver cannot be named until his next-of-kin have been told.

Traffic slowed to a crawl as passing motorists watched the pigs making a meal of the lush grass lining the N1.

Rescue workers-cum-swineherds had their hands full preventing the porkers from wandering on to the road.

They were awaiting another truck from Paarl which would return the pigs to their piggery.

A fireman from the northern suburbs shook his head, saying he thought he had already "seen it all".

"But now I've seen everything."

Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus

RIVER ROAD: Roads in the Peninsula were transformed into rivers after the deluge which left no area unscathed.

CAPE CATASTROPHE

Driver rescued after rockfall flattens combi

Staff Reporter

METRO and NSRI rescuers braved hazardous conditions when they went to the aid of a man whose combi was flattened by a rockfall on Chapman's Peak Drive.

Laundry worker Noel Graham was seriously injured when rocks crashed from the cliff above the road, flattening his minibus and plunging into the ocean.

A motorist who found the flattened vehicle sent for help and moved Mr Graham to his vehicle.

Metro paramedic Geoff Betterson — who was at the scene of the rescue where 18 crewmen were airlifted from their stricken barge near Oude Schip — was sent to Chapman's Peak.

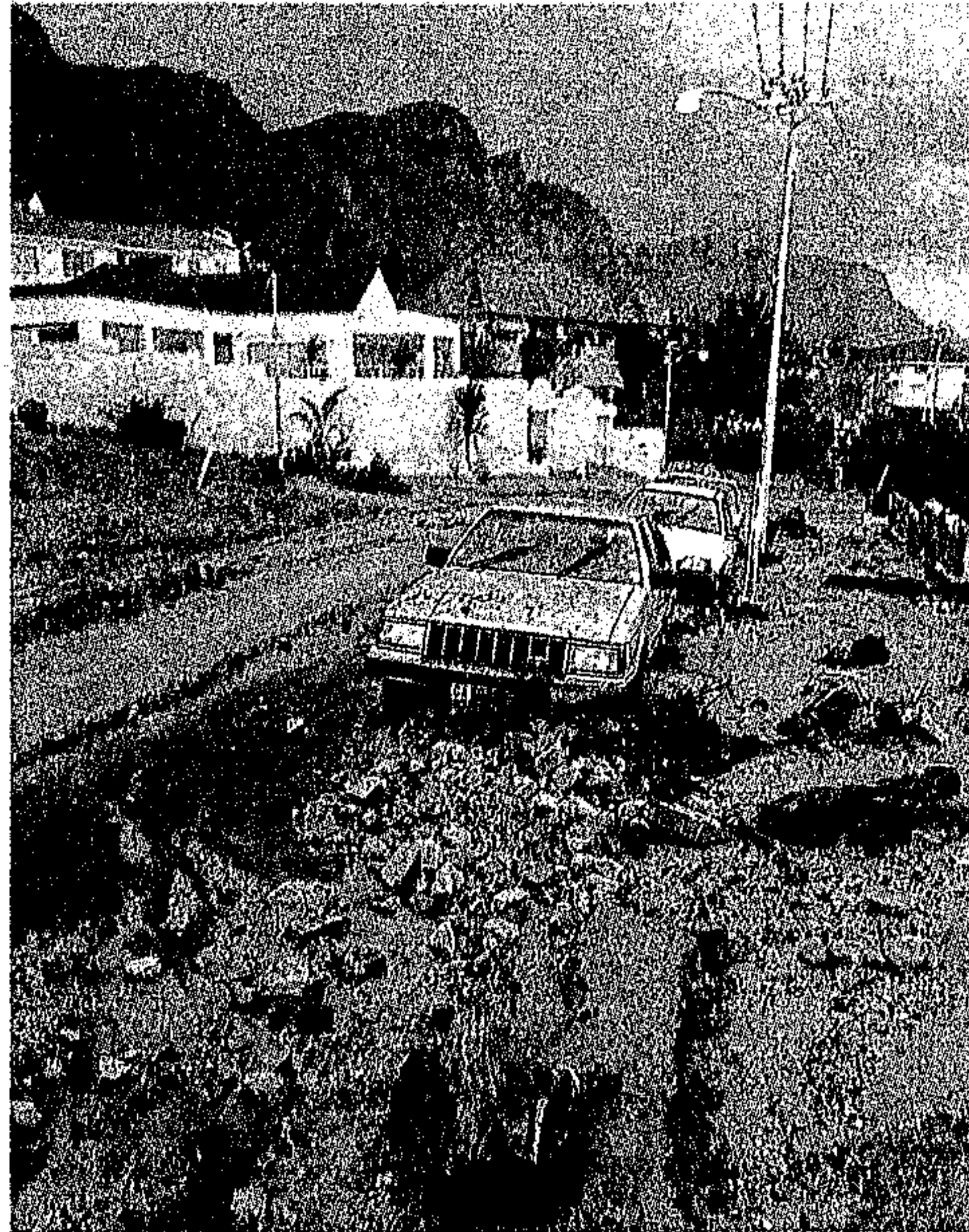
Approaching from the Hout Bay side of the pass, he found the road blocked a kilometre from the accident. He left his vehicle and ran the rest of the way.

He called for more help while he stabilised Mr Graham. The NSRI in Hout Bay responded by bringing a scoop stretcher.

"Conditions were extremely dangerous," Mr Betterson said.

"Because of the wind and the rain, rocks could have fallen on us any time. We had to move the rescue vehicles three times because of falls."

The rescuers carried Mr Graham off the mountain to two doctors waiting at the Hout Bay Hotel, from where he was taken to Conradie Hospital.



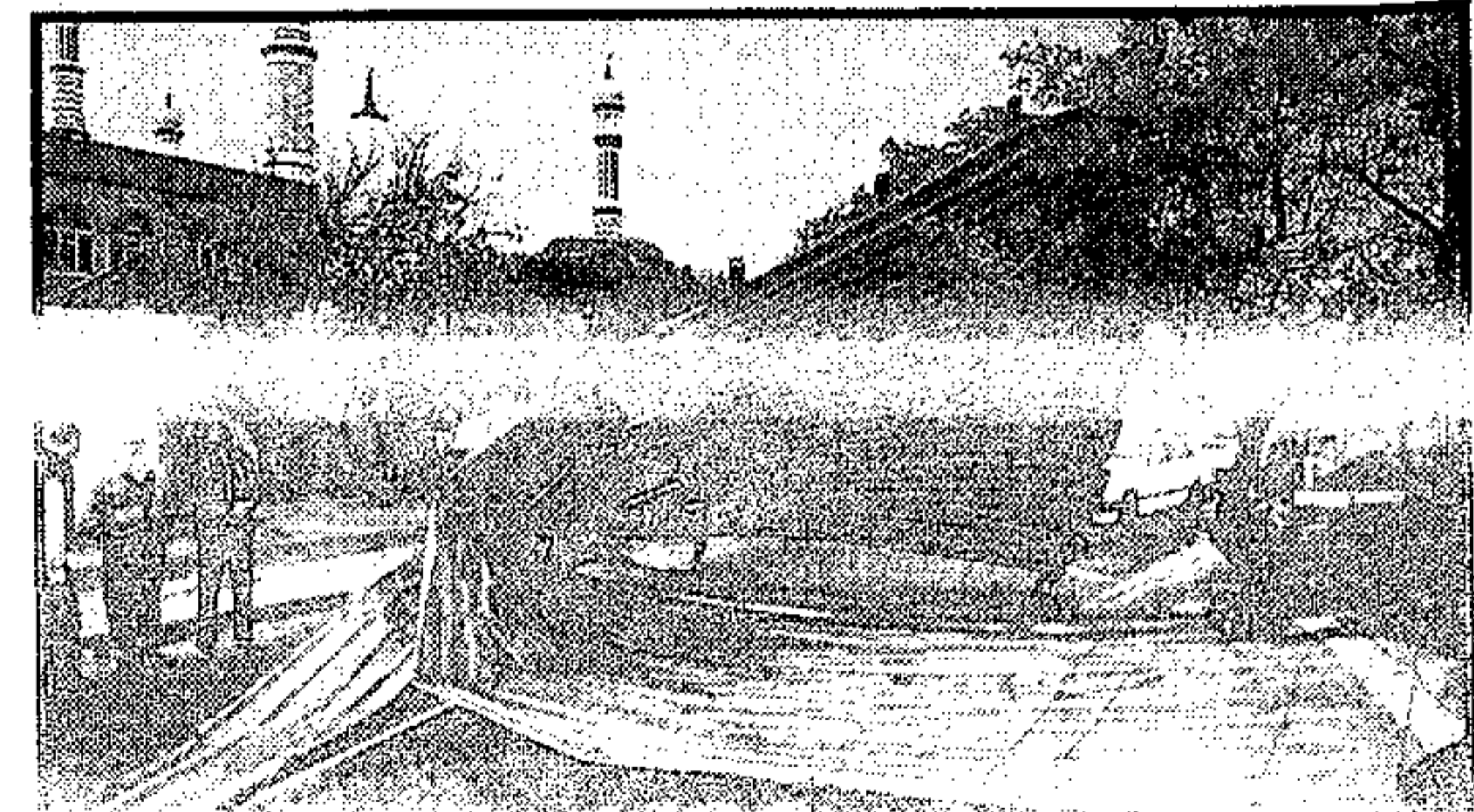
ABOVE: Stone and sand are churned by floods in Geneva Drive, Camps Bay.

RIGHT: Municipal workmen use a frontend loader to clear debris from Rontree Estate, Camps Bay, after a landslide.

BELOW LEFT: A forlorn resident wades ankle-deep through floods in a Nyanga squatter camp.

BELOW RIGHT: Ismail Salie and a friend inspect the damage after wind ripped off the roof of the Islamic Trust Mosque in Athlone Road, Athlone, and hurled it into Lascelles Road a block away.

■ Pictures by Argus photographers ANDREW INGRAM, ROY WIGLEY and BRENTON GEACH




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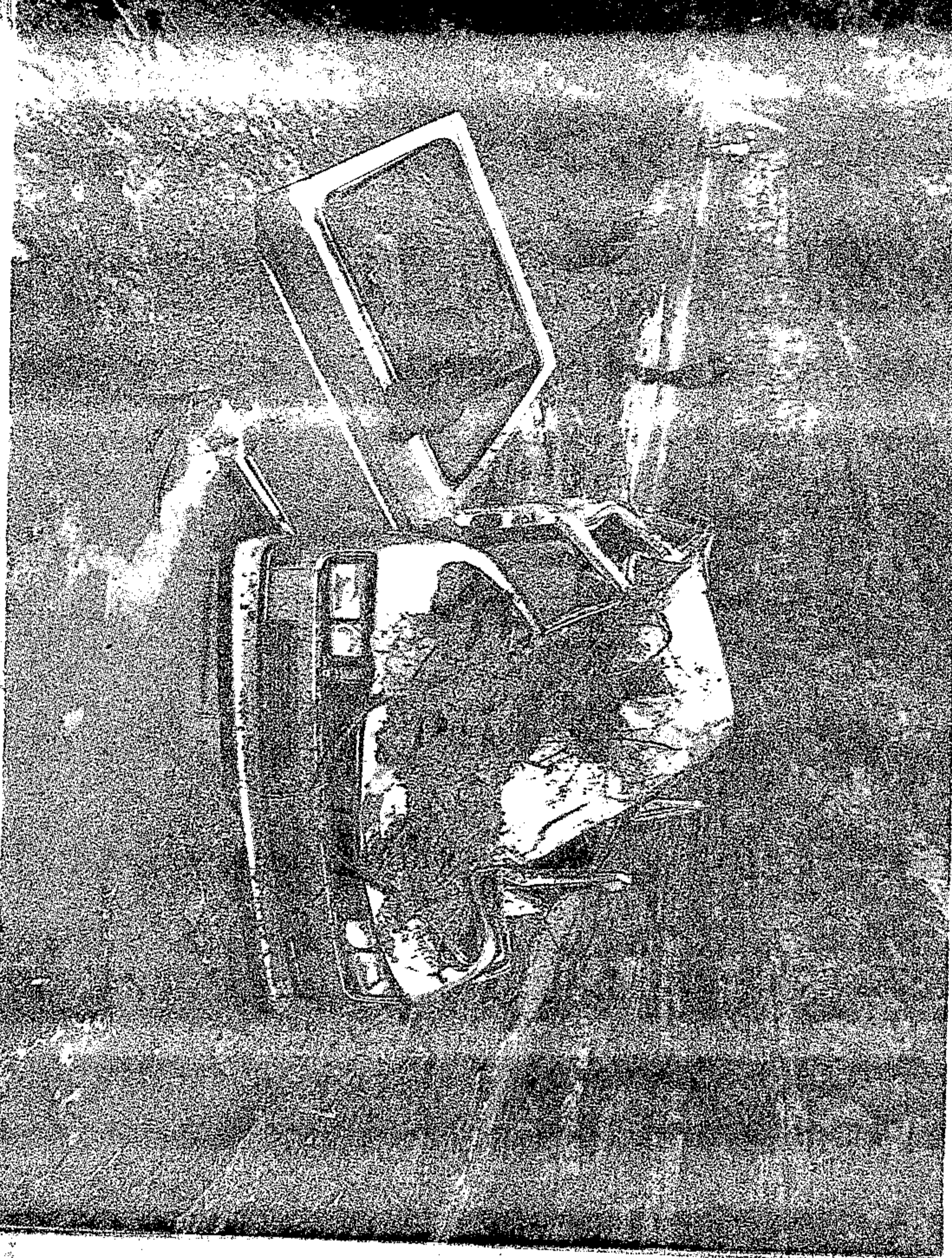
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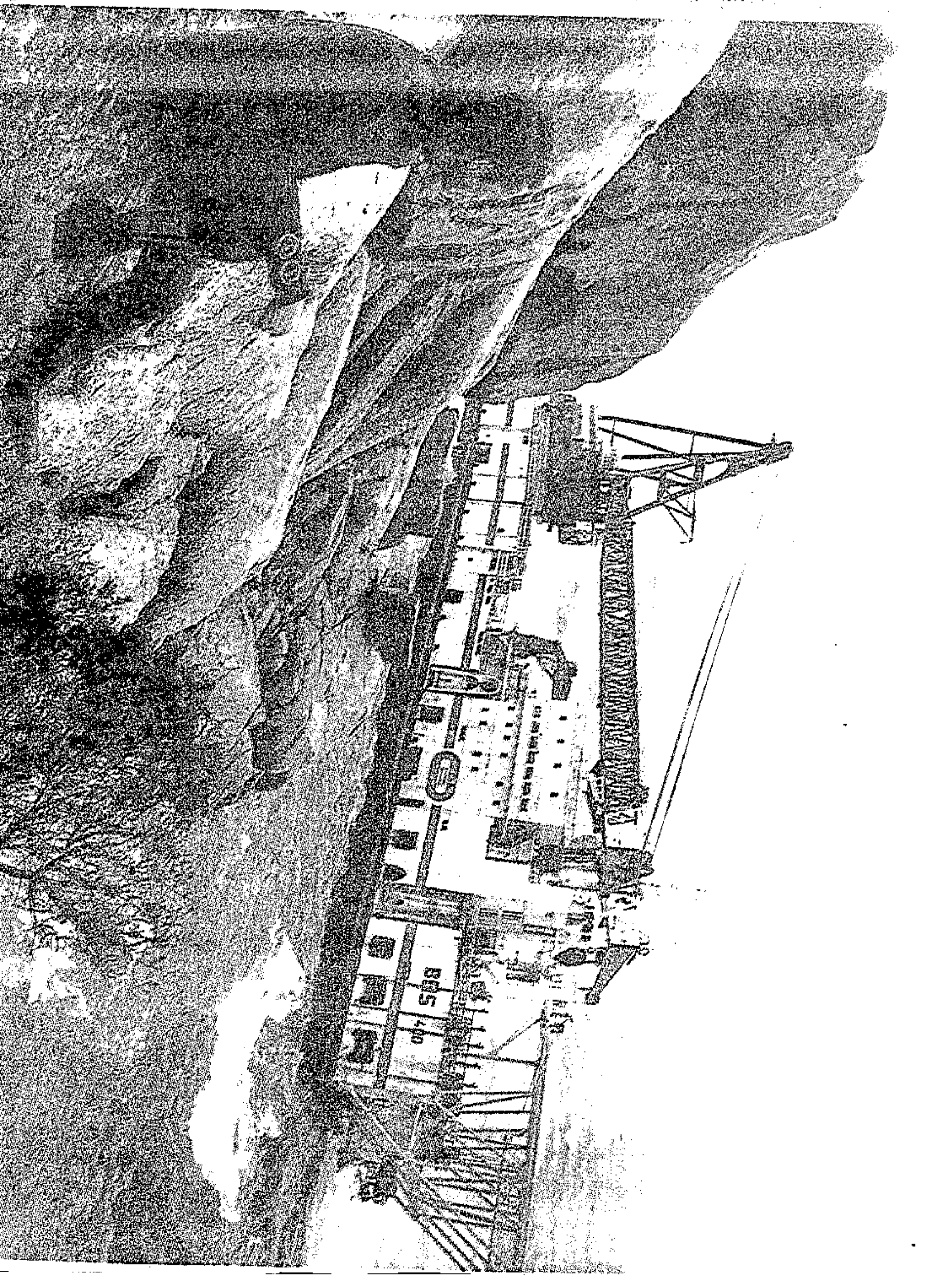
LATE FINAL

CAPTAINS STORM HERE!

Western Cape picks up the pieces after 24 hours of flooding, rockfalls, oil slicks and disaster at sea



CRUSHED: A city laundryman was seriously injured when a rock crushed his combi on Chapman's Peak drive after a cloudburst brought down a mountain of rocks.



ASHORE: The crane barne Bos 400 had been used to lift the rig.

Staff Reporters

AS storms continue to lash the Western Cape, people are today picking up the pieces and counting the cost of a catastrophe.

Cloudy and rainy weather is predicted for the next three days and will start clearing only on Thursday.

In 24 hours of high drama:

- A savage cloudburst deluged the city.
- Rockfalls blocked two of the three mountain passes leading out of the Western Cape.
- Mountainous seas flung a 120m crane barge on to the rocks near Sandy Bay.
- A bulk ore carrier, the Hong Kong-based Apollo Sea, which left Saldanha Bay with a crew of 36 last night, is still in the bay. The ship's agents were unable to make contact with the ship today.

• Oil, possibly from the Apollo Sea, threatened more than 100km of coastline.

• Almost R100 000 has been raised to help relieve the plight of those whose homes have been flooded.

In Eindhoven, Delft, at least 24 houses lost their roofs last night, and almost every house in the area was damaged in some way.

Residents said a baby had been crushed to death but this could not be confirmed. Police said five people were injured. Many of the residents of the area only moved in in the past few weeks.

Bain's Kloof, Du Toit's Kloof pass and the Du Toit's Kloof tunnel are closed, and motorists were warned that the only remaining major route out of

MORE REPORTS, PICTURES ON PAGES 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

the Peninsula, Sir Lowry's Pass, was hazardous — with gusting cross-winds and a slippery surface.

Chapman's Peak Drive and part of the Main Road in Fish Hoek are also closed. The coast road between Gordon's Bay and Rooi Els is reduced to a single lane.

Premier of the Western Cape Hennis Kriel said early today he had called on senior officials of the Western Cape Administration to report back to him on the disaster.

The full extent of the damage caused by the spill and storms is not yet known, but after yesterday's cloudburst about 5pm house roofs blew off, roads were flooded, manhole covers were swept away, cars were abandoned and hundreds of houses in all areas were flooded.

Laundryman Noel Graham was seriously injured on Chapman's Peak Drive yesterday when a rock crashed down the mountain and crushed his combi.

Buildings along Wetton Road were severely wind-damaged, and some had lost their roofs.

John Stone of the SA Red Cross said the situation was desperate.



INJURED: Mike Heyhurst, a doctor attached to the National Sea Rescue Institute, treats injured motorist Noel Graham after a tumbling rock crushed his combi near the top of Chapman's Peak Drive.

Squatter areas in Nyanga and Noordhoek had been worst hit, with homes being washed away. Settlements at Crossroads, Sunnyside, Fish Hoek and Simon's Town had also been affected.

"We distributed at least 400 blankets among the settlements but at one this morning we couldn't even get into Nyanga because vehicles could not get through the deep water and mud."

The Red Cross has issued an urgent call for people to donate blankets to aid flood victims. If you can help, telephone 797 5360. St John Ambulance office will act as a depot for the Red Cross appeal.

The National Party in the Western Cape has appealed to the government to do everything possible to save what is left of marine life devastated by oil pollution in the past few days.

The weather slowed down trains today in the Peninsula and resulted in thousands of peak hour suburban rail commuters arriving up to 30 minutes late for work.

At Rietvlei workers and volunteers at the South African National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (Sanccob) were hard at work today cleaning penguins which were still flooding in from Dassen Island and oil-polluted beaches on the Peninsula's Atlantic seaboard.

Despite yesterday's appalling weather, 550 penguins were rounded up on Dassen Island by 25 volunteers working for the Cape Nature Conservation department. Another 200 were rescued early today.

Prisoners on Robben Island also caught a further 1 000 penguins yesterday.



SMASHED: Adela Abduraouf and her family were in their Wetton Road, Wetton, home when the roof blew off and landed half across the road. No one was hurt, but damage was considerable.



LIFEBOAT: A man inspects an oil smeared lifeboat which washed ashore at Sandy Bay. The source of the raft is not known.

MON-FRI ARGUS



THE
WEATHER



RAIN

• See page 2



Cold fronts cause cloud, rain and storms.

Today: Showers, wind W/SW 10 to 15 knots. Tomorrow: Rain, wind W/SW 10 to 15 knots.

Today: Rain, wind NW/W 25 to 35 becoming SW later. Tomorrow: Rain, wind W/SW 15 to 25 knots.

Yesterday 2pm 16,1 deg C
Yesterday min... 13,5 deg C
Yesterday max... 16,5 deg C
Tomorrow min... 8 deg C
Tomorrow max... 12 deg C

Big business, private sector boost mayor's relief fund

SHARON SOROUR
Municipal Reporter

RELIEF organisations, big business and the private sector have swung into action to stem the tide of devastation brought on by flash floods and oil pollution.

Nearly R100 000 has been donated by big business and the private sector to the disaster fund set up by city council executive committee chairman Clive Keegan, which is being handled through the Mayor's Relief Fund.

Fuel giant Engen has donated

R30 000 to help the city recover from storm and pollution damage — R10 000 to the Red Cross for blankets, R10 000 to the city council to clean the beaches and R10 000 for Sancob to clean pelicans.

The company challenged other Cape businesses to help fund

clean-up and rescue efforts.

Pick'n Pay and the Ackerman family have donated R50 000 — R20 000 from the family and R30 000 from the chain store's supermarkets and hypermarkets.

Company spokesman Gareth Ackerman said Cape Town's private sector had to make a major contribution to "urgently repair not only our environmentally sensitive coastline but to help thousands of people who have suffered loss or damage to homes and property".

The Community Chest has also donated R10 000 to the fund, and blankets to the Red Cross relief effort.

David Whitesman of the mayor's office said cheques would be forwarded to the city council treasury to be banked.

The fund would probably be administered by the medical officer of health and the treasury.

Cheques can be made out to Mayor's Relief Fund — and sent to The Mayor's Relief Fund, PO Box 298, Cape Town 8000.

● The Red Cross and the Salvation Army have set up soup kitchens in the Peninsula. They have appealed for bread and large soup pots.

The Red Cross has also called on people to donate blankets, food and money.

Staff and volunteers were already at work across the Peninsula.

There was a desperate need for tinned food, soup ingredients, blankets, men's and children's clothing and cash for people living in areas like Langa, Guguletu, Nyanga and Noordhoek.

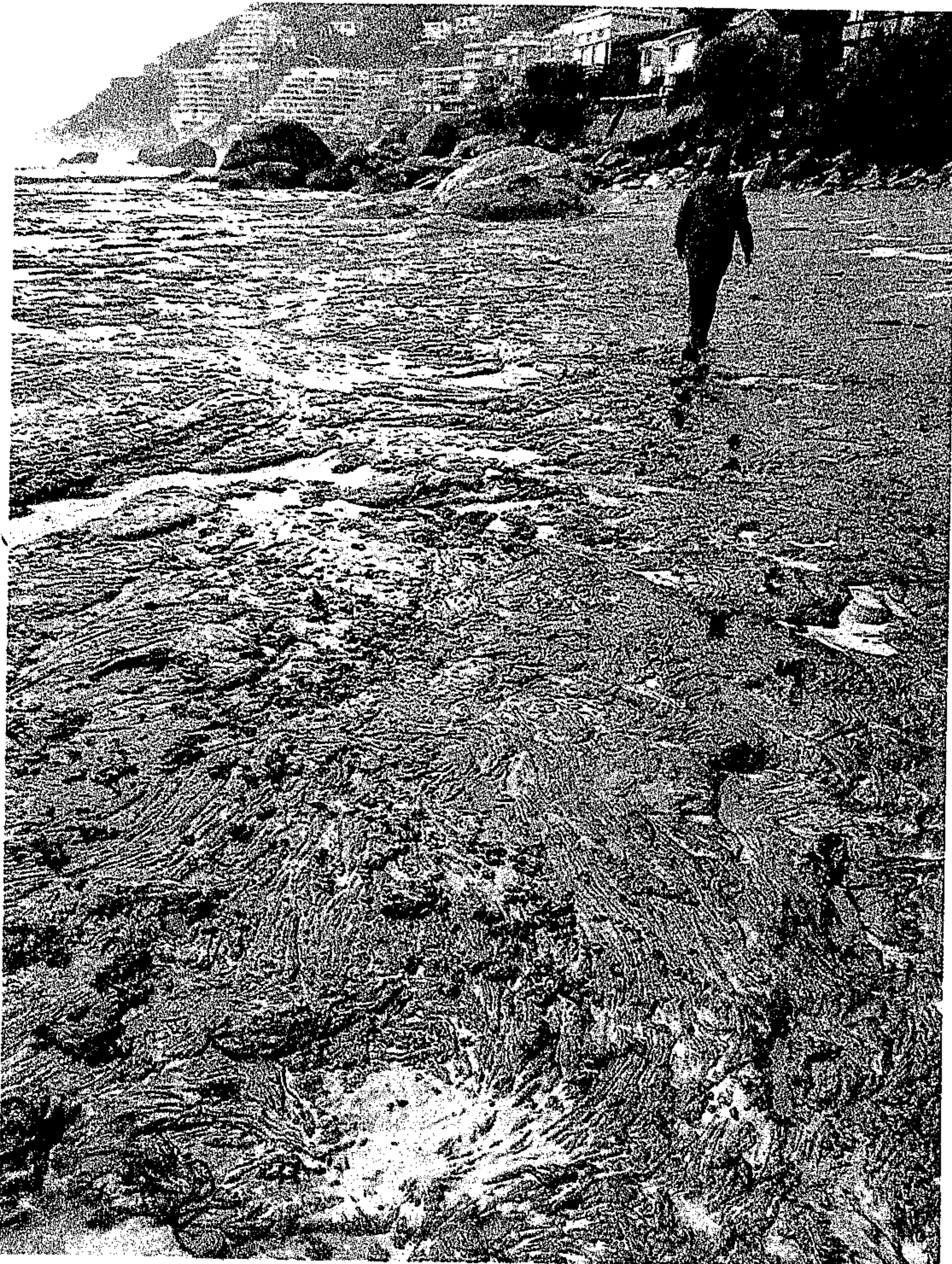
The Red Cross can be contacted at ☎ 797 5360.

● St John Ambulance has offered to act as a depot for the Red Cross.

While the organisation would not collect items, anything delivered to their offices at 80 Darling Street would be delivered to the Red Cross.

● Save The Children's Fund (No 0880 0191 0001) has appealed for blankets, children's clothing and tinned food for waterlogged squatter camps.

Donations should be sent to Highlands, De Villiers Road, Kenilworth, ☎ 761 6954, or 4 Marienda Avenue, Newlands.



ALL WASHED UP: Oil continued to pollute Fourth Beach at Clifton in spite of valiant clean-up attempts by the city council cleansing department

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

The misery continues

Staff Reporters

THE weather office predicts more cloudy and wet weather and expects conditions to start clearing only on Thursday.

"Friday should be a nice day, but in the meantime rain like yesterday would not be unusual at all," said a spokesman.

Some 112,5mm fell at Newlands yesterday.

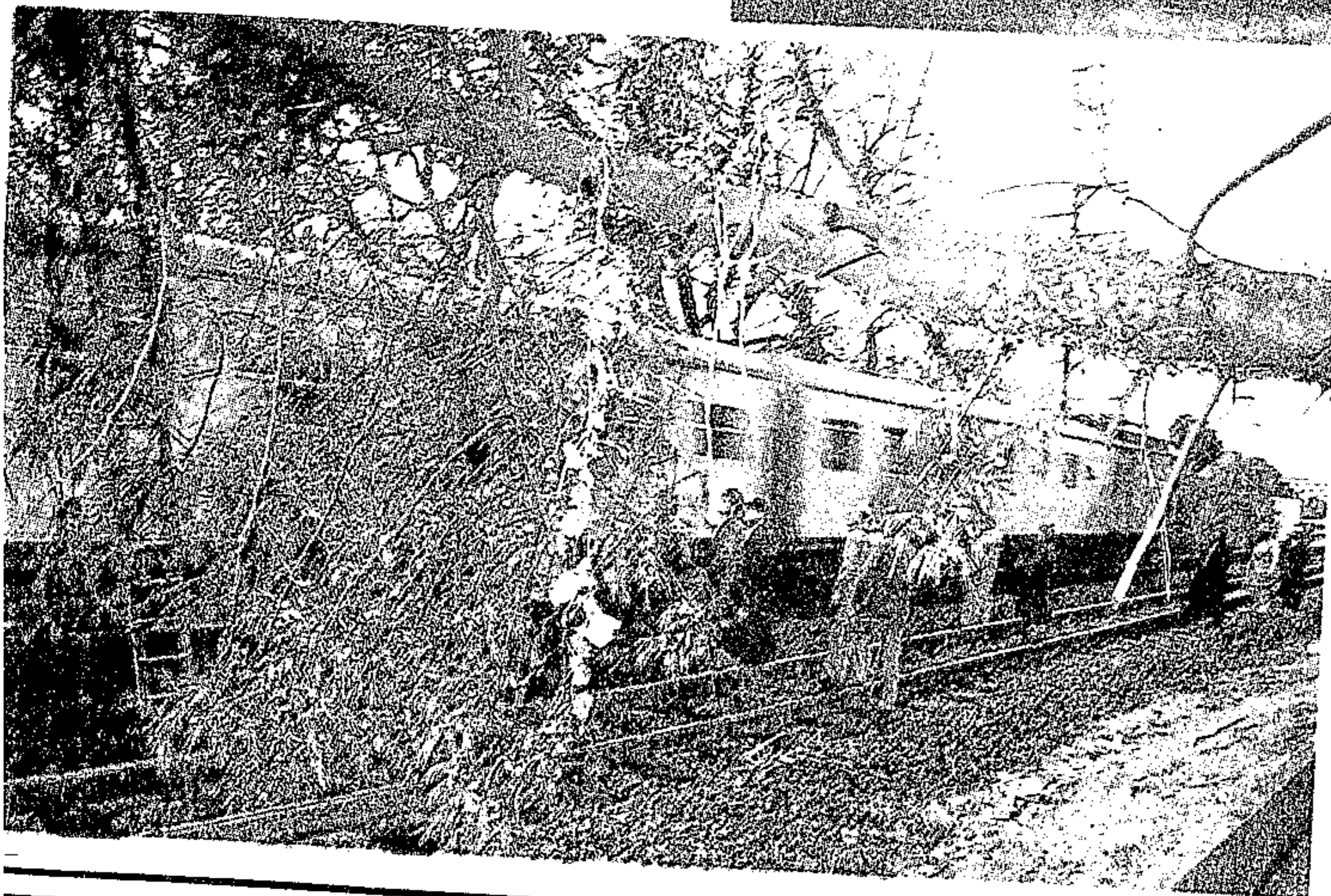
Other rainfall recorded in the Western Cape were Woodhead Reservoir 71mm, Wemmershoek Dam 78mm, Steenbras Dam 59,5mm, Kirstenbosch 42,5mm, Voelvlei Dam 24mm and Theewaterskloof 78,4.

Although yesterday's rainfall was high, dam levels were mostly slightly lower than last year according to a Cape Town City Council spokesman, with the exception of Theewaterskloof Dam near Villiersdorp which is 85,9 percent full compared to last year's 80,3 percent full.



ABOVE: Sven Thoresen, 18, left and Carl Burger, 18, rescue equipment from a garden shed in Diep River after the river burst its banks.

Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.



LEFT: Maintenance crews of Metro rail services today struggled to repair damage today after a huge tree toppled over and damaged railway overhead powerlines between Mowbray and Rondebosch, disrupting trains between Cape Town and Simon's Town.

Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

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Other courses offered: Introduction to Computers, Computerised Accounting (Accpac), Diploma in Personal Computers, WordPerfect, Dos, Lotus, etc.

ATASTROPHE

<p>The tides</p> <p>High water0550 1817 tomorrow0631 1900</p> <p>Low water 1157 - tomorrow0032 1235</p>	<p>The sun</p> <p>Sunset today 1746 Sunrise tomorrow0752</p>
<p>Water temps</p> <p>deg C Sea Point 12 deg C deg C Sea Point pool closed deg C Muizenberg 12,5 deg C deg C Muizenberg pool.. 13 deg C deg C Newlands pool closed deg C Long St pool25 deg C</p>	<p>The moon</p> <p>● Full moon Jul 22 ● Last quarter Jul 30 ● First quarter Jul 16 ○ New moon Jul 8</p>

Weather data

Sunshine yesterday
0,7 hours

Cloud yesterday
8am: four-eighths
2pm: seven-eighths
8pm: eight-eighths

Barometer
2pm yesterday: 1 000,7 mb
7am today: 999 mb

Humidity
2pm yesterday:
76 percent

Wind
2pm yesterday:
N 34 knots

Travellers' forecast

Johannesburg
Fine, warm, strong W winds
6 to 21 deg C

Pretoria
Fine, warm, strong W winds
4 to 23 deg C

Durban
Partly cloudy and hot
11 to 28 deg

Bloemfontein
Fine, mild, strong W winds
-1 to 19 deg C

Port Elizabeth
Partly cloudy, warm
8 to 25 deg C

Weather Bureau forecast
40881

Windspeed and direction

Blouberg
696 3171

Muizenberg
696 3172

Kommetjie
783 2442

Strand
024 853 6233

Wild weekend ... here's where it all happened

POSSIBLE CAUSE OF OIL SLICK:
1983 wreck of the Castillo del Bellver which lies 64km off the Saldanha coast.

Penguin colonies worst hit by oil slick are at Dassen Island, Robben Island and Bakoven.

ANOTHER POSSIBLE CAUSE OF OIL SLICK:
Apollo Sea leaves Saldanha June 20 and disappears.

Three unidentified liferafts, possibly from the Apollo Sea, washed up on beach at Sandy Bay.

Man seriously injured when rockfall crushes kombi on Chapman's Peak.

Tow between tug Tigr and crane barge breaks and barge hits rocks. Crew plucked to safety.

PASSES CLOSED:

- Bainskloof, Du Toit's Pass and Du Toit's Kloof tunnel.
- Chapman's Peak Drive and Ou Kaapse Weg over Silvermine.
- Coastal road between Gordon's Bay and Rooi Els reduced to single lane.

HAZARD WARNING:

- Sir Lowry's Pass surface slippery with gusting cross-winds.

TRAIN DELAYS:

- The Southern Cross train from Port Elizabeth could travel no further than Worcester. Passengers brought by bus to Cape Town.
- Part of the track between Goudini and Chavonnes washed away, and overhead power lines down.

Graphic: BOB GRIERSON The Argus

The misery continues

Staff Reporters
THE weather office predicts more cloudy and wet weather and expects conditions to start clearing only on Thursday.

"Friday should be a nice day, but in the meantime rain like yesterday would not be unusual at all," said a spokesman.

Some 112,5mm fell at Newlands yesterday. Other rainfall recorded in the Western Cape were Woodhead Reservoir 71mm, Wemmershoek Dam 78mm, Steenbras Dam 59,5mm, Kirstenbosch 42,5mm, Voelvlei Dam 24mm and Theewaterskloof 78,4.



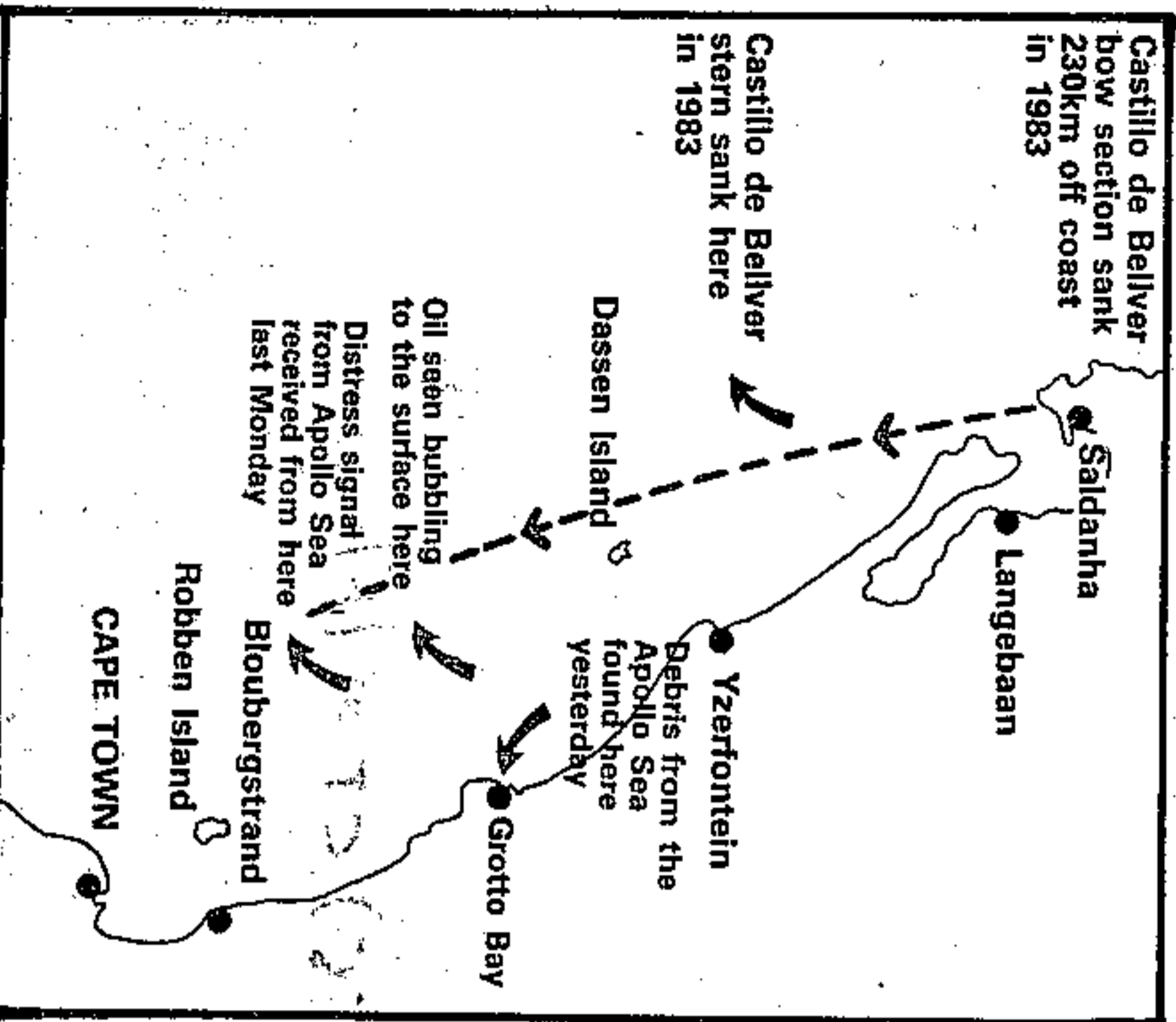
Oil Disasters terrorize townships

CT. 28/6/94

56

**By PETER DENNHY,
DALE GRANGER and DENNIS CAVERNELLS**

SOUTH AFRICAN authorities were only notified five days after a 160 000-ton vessel sank 30 nautical miles off Robben Island, giving rise to the biggest oil disaster in the history of the Cape.



CULPRIT? . . . Officials are now confident the oil spill emanates from the Apollo Sea, believed to have sunk with the loss of all hands. The red dotted line indicates the ore-carrier's passage from Saldanha. A south-westerly blew the oil onto Dassen Island and, swinging north-west, drove it onto beaches.

Graphic: LESLEY STACEY

Homemade bomb in bag kills boy, 17

JOHANNESBURG. — A 17-year-old boy was killed yesterday afternoon when a homemade bomb he was apparently carrying in a bag exploded as he walked near the Alberton Civic Centre, near here. Police could not confirm if the explosion was linked to right-wingers who used similar explosive devices in a pre-election bombing spree.

The blast happened at 1.30pm in Truida Street and the left side of the boy's body was blown off.

In a fiasco of bungled communications, the ore carrier Apollo Sea, blamed yesterday for the oil slicks that polluted beaches and ravaged the Dassen Island penguin colony, was apparently lost with all 36 hands on board — without any information reaching the authorities.

Officials were certain yesterday that the Apollo sank north-west of Robben Island on Monday, June 20, just before 7pm — less than four hours after leaving Saldanha Bay.

Sinking

It also emerged that the South African authorities were only told of the sinking on Friday — five days later.

But the sinking was only confirmed to Sea Fisheries yesterday. Officials said last night that if they had known earlier they would have attempted to disperse the oil at sea.

Department of Sea Fisheries head Dr Louis Botha said the department would have done everything possible to contain the oil spillage.

Up to late yesterday afternoon a spokesman for the agents, King and Sons, said the owners believed the vessel might have been hijacked.

"The owners are not admitting that it (the oil) could be from the Apollo Sea," said Mr Ronnie Naidoo.

The owners claim they sent a message to the ship on Friday and that it was received.

Technicians said a ship's telex would generate an automatic answerback if it was afloat.

The Apollo was registered in Panama, but is apparently owned by a company in China, and chartered by Chinese Ocean Shipping Company (Cosco).

A Sea Fisheries official said yesterday that an emergency EPIRB signal, activated when a ship sinks, was sent out via satellite from the Apollo to Immarset, in Falmouth, Britain, and relayed to the owners.

The last-resort signal, which came from less than 30 nautical miles north-west of Robben Island, is automatically triggered by depth. It normally pops up

and sits on the surface.

"I don't know why we only heard of it now," Mr Anton Moldan, director of Sea Fisheries oil pollution division, said.

Immarsat headquarters in London refused last night to comment on whether a signal had been received or relayed to the owners.

Air force personnel, who monitor all ship movements along the coast with the navy, say no emergency signal went out — but a voice mayday signal was sent out directly to China.

SA Air Force Colonel Stoney Steenkamp, said last night the joint Naval/Air Force command at Silvermine "only got to know about it (the vessel's fate) on Friday".

"As far as we can gather, her EPIRB never went off. I can assure you, if it had we would have been in that area within 30 minutes."

"There are big holes in this thing," said Navy spokesman Commander Yegan Moodley, when asked why the Navy did not know the ship had sunk.

Mr Moldan said yesterday they were confident the oil came from the Apollo, as oil was first seen bubbling up 10 to 12 miles away from where the emergency signal was sent out.

The wind had been blowing from the south-west, towards Dassen Island, on Monday and Tuesday, and the first reports of oiled penguins had come from there on Wednesday.

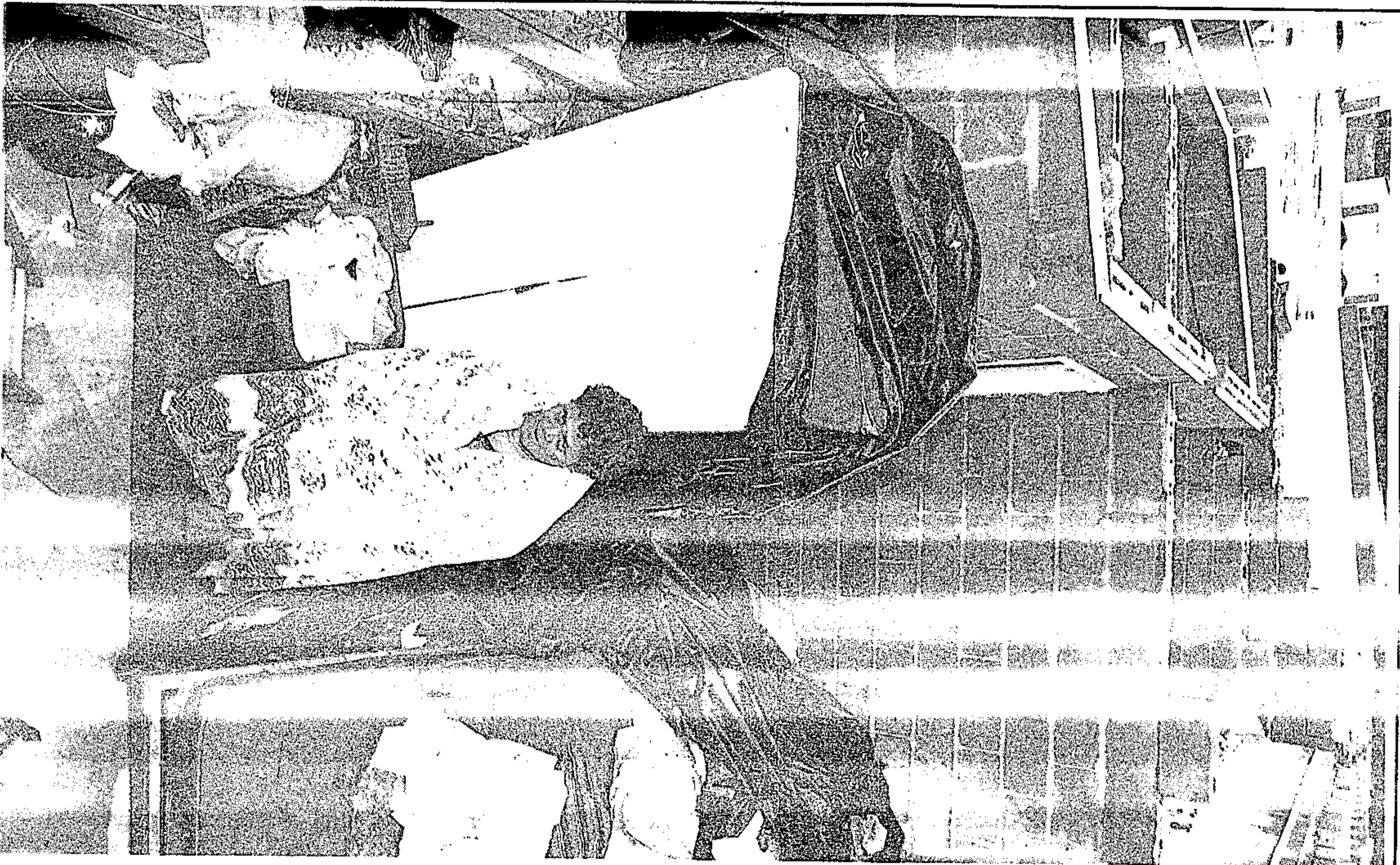
Debris

Mr Moldan confirmed that three life rafts found washed up at Sandy Bay on the weekend were from the Apollo Sea.

Last night officials were also on their way to inspect debris including hard hats — which may be from the Apollo — that has washed up at Grooto Bay on the West Coast.

Mr Moldan said the vessel had been carrying 2 400 tons of heavy fuel oil and 670 tons of gas oil and was believed to be at a depth of 180m.

The Bos 400, the French derrick barge which ran aground at Orde Schip yesterday, has discharged 50 tons of oil, Sea Fisheries said.



RUINED . . . Mrs Lorraine Roberts of Eindhoven, Delft, says she lost her sudden possessions after her roof was ripped off in Sunday's storm. Her father was lucky to escape unscathed after some of the walls of her concrete-brick house came crashing down as they slept. The wind blew the roofs off nearly 20 houses in the area.

Children hurt, roofs blown off

**By CLAIRE BISSEKER
and GLYNWIS UNDERHILL**

TWO children were hit by falling debris and several people injured when wind whipped the roofs off nearly 20 houses and walls collapsed on sleeping families during the storm early yesterday in the Western Cape.

The maximum temperature today is expected to be a chilling 12°C with showers, but forecasters say the series of cold fronts has passed.

Franschhoek residents said last night that the snow on the surrounding mountains, which became visible when low-lying clouds lifted, was about knee deep and argued it was the most they had ever seen in the area.

However, Mr Jan Lotter, 100, the town's oldest resident, said he remembered a time when snow lay thick in Huguonot Avenue, the town's main road.

In squatter camps and townships on the Peninsula and Cape Flats there were scenes of misery yesterday.

However, Western Cape premier Mr Hennus Kriel said his administration would aid the victims.

Relief agencies set up soup kitchens and distributed blankets and clothing to hundreds of people left homeless by the flooding.

Parts of Diep River, Heathfield and Bergvliet were in darkness owing to a fault at a Retreat substation, and are likely to remain without power until tonight.

In Delft's newly built Eindhoven Estate, asbestos roofs collapsed under the force of Sunday's rain, injuring several people, including two children

To page 2



HOT COMFORT . . . The Salvation Army gave bowls of hot soup to freezing squatters in Crossroads yesterday. Relief organisations worked frantically in all the Peninsula's townships to help families flooded out of their homes. Picture: BENNY GOOL



FLOW AWAY . . . Township residents dug trenches yesterday to drain water from their homes as relief workers battled to aid Peninsula flood victims. Picture: BENNY GOOL

From page 1

asleep in their Seine Road home.

Gale-force winds ripped the roofs off several houses. Homes were flooded and walls were cracked or lying in ruins.

Outraged residents of Delft have demanded answers from the Regional Services Council, saying their homes are "totally unsafe".

The RSC could not be reached for comment.

Mr Andrew Clasens and his wife Ilona, of Eindhoven Road, are afraid to sleep at home after covering a collapsed corner of their ceiling with plastic.

Their neighbour, Mr Fahiem Jonkers, has a black eye from being hit by falling roof sheeting as he slept.

Mrs Lorrain Roberts said she woke at midnight to hear her three children screaming as the ceiling fell in.

The doors were jammed shut and she had to send her son André, 13, over the collapsed bedroom wall for help.

The SA Police Services yesterday provided soup and ferried homeless Eindhoven residents to unoccupied houses in the adjacent suburb, but apparently roofs had also lifted there.

The Red Cross, Salvation Army and community organisations worked frantically to assist thousands of squatters whose homes were destroyed on Sunday night.

As rain continued falling yesterday, relief efforts were hampered by flooding of township access roads. In places squatters dug trenches between their shacks to drain the water from their homes.

In Guguletu 10 000 items of clothing and 500 blankets donated by the Taiwan-based Compassionate Giving Association were distributed with the help of Health and Welfare Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool and Mr I-cheng Loh, ambassador of the Republic of China.

● A Tuncor spokeswoman said Bainskloof Pass had been closed since yesterday afternoon and Du Toitskloof since yesterday morning. Motorists could use Sir Lowry's and Nuwekloof passes as alternatives.

20 000 penguins polluted on island

CT 28/6/84 (56)

Staff Reporter

THE entire breeding population of Jackass Penguins on Dassen Island — all 20 000 — had been polluted by oil, Dr Johan Neethling, the chief director of Cape Nature Conservation said yesterday.

He added that all of them could be taken to the SA

National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds' (Sanccob's) rehabilitation centre for washing. The chicks were being left on the island.

After yesterday's helicopter ferries, when the weather lifted enough to get through, about 7 200 penguins had been rescued. This included about 1 200 birds brought in from Robben Island.

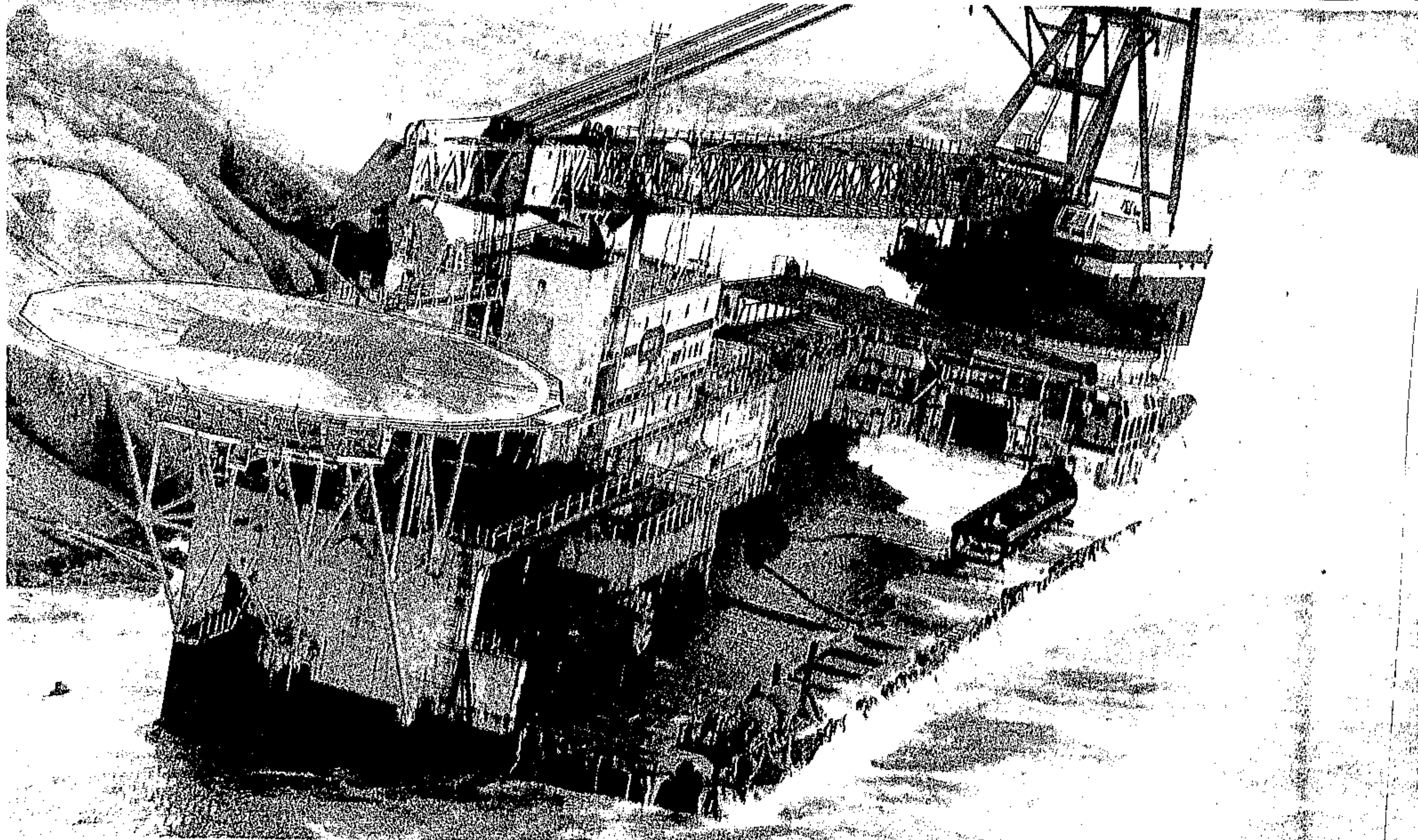
Dr Neethling was asked whether anything could be done to prevent further oil release disasters, for example from the Castillo de Bellver.

"I can't argue the case from a technical point of view," he replied, "and I may suggest a ridiculous course of action. We could wait for a nice day with the wind blowing the other way and put a

depth charge down, but that is very drastic.

"It may cause more damage than just leaving it there, particularly if conditions changed. It is something that must be studied."

● Sanccob spokeswoman Ms Eva Vorster said almost 7 000 penguins had been cleaned at Sanccob centre at Rietvlei by late last night.



DRIFTED AGROUND . . . The French derrick barge the Bos 400 is seen here hard aground at Oude Schip. The ship was driven onto rocks on Sunday after a towline to the Russian tug Tigre snapped in storm-tossed seas. The crew of 18 were airlifted to safety by a helicopter crew that battled dangerous wind and rain.

Picture: CHARL PAUW

Kriel pledges funds for storm, oil damage

By CHRIS BATEMAN

WESTERN CAPE premier Mr Pieter Kriel made an extra R200 000 available to Sanccob yesterday for its clean-up of thousands of oil-soaked sea birds. He also said his administration would implement a comprehensive programme for storm victims as soon as damage assessments were completed in cooperation with civil defence, health authorities and welfare organisations. Housing Minister Mr Gerald

Morkel and Health and Welfare Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool toured townships with National Housing Minister Mr Joe Slovo, Mr Kriel "confirmed" funds would be made available.

He said Mr Rasool's department was already donating to "recognised organisations" to help distribute food, blankets and clothes.

Mr Kriel also announced that Cape Nature Conservation (CNC), had opened a special account to help fund the continuing battle

against oil pollution, but said it might recover costs from the Oil Pollution Fund or insurers.

It was only through municipalities, management committees and welfare organisations that the province could render effective aid, he said.

The R20 000 Sanccob donation is in addition to the annual R5 000 provincial subsidy.

Mr Kriel singled out the CNC staff for "the competent way in which they executed the contingency plan" for a major oil spill.



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er 28/6/94 (5b)

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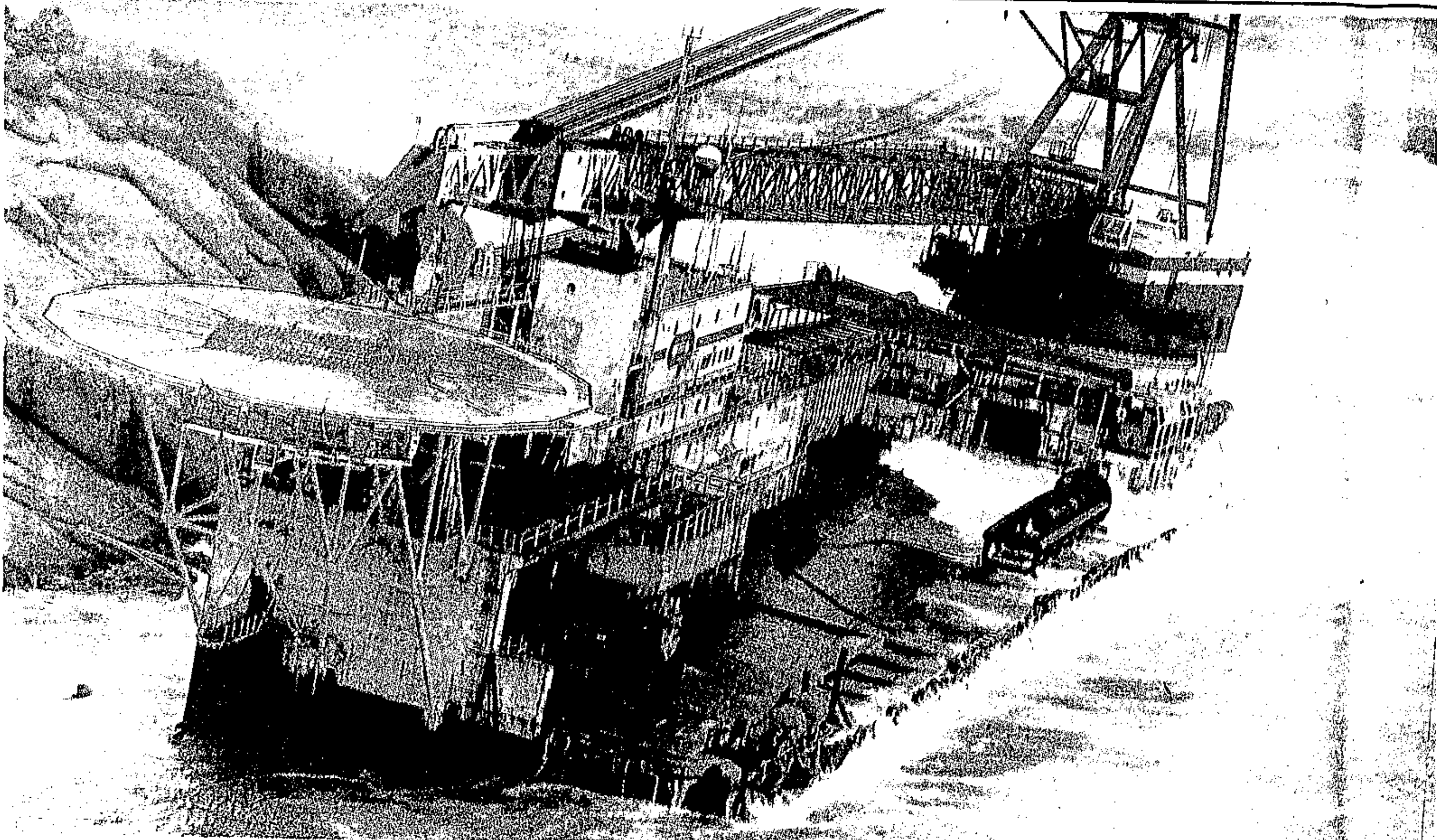
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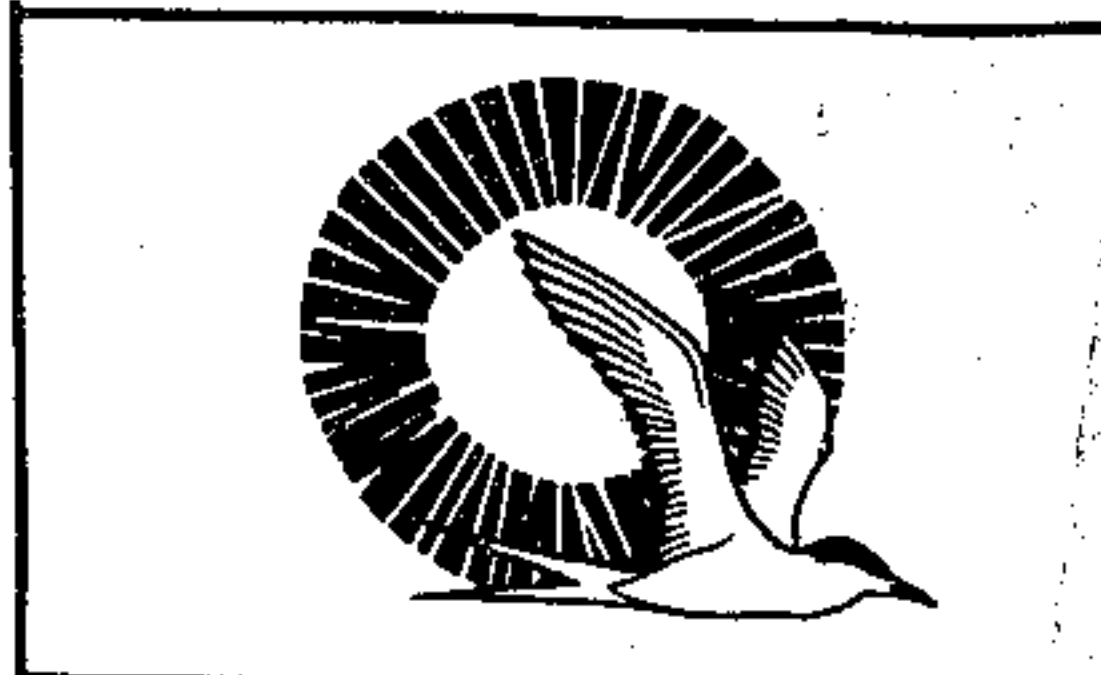
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Aug 28/1994

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Matchbox houses shredded by storm

□ Homeowners' dreams lie in tatters around them

ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

AN entire suburb of matchbox homes has been shredded in Delft.

Eindhoven — in the news earlier this year when squatters moved in to occupy incomplete houses — is in tatters today.

Western Cape Housing Minister Gerald Morkel said an infant was crushed to death by a falling wall, although this has not been confirmed by police, and several adults were injured when a storm caused havoc in the community between 11pm on Sunday and 3am yesterday.

Roofs were ripped off at least 24 houses while exterior walls collapsed around their sleeping occupants.

Every house The Argus entered yesterday was damp: water seeped through the unplastered walls, rose through the concrete floors, trickled through the roof and poured through rattling window frames.

Residents demonstrated how the "cement" holding their structures together could be scraped from between the concrete building blocks with a finger-nail. They complained that their children were sick.

As a devastated, cold and wet community pondered its collective future yesterday, national Housing Minister Joe Slovo visited the area and promised an assessment.

"We are not only looking at the badly damaged ones, but the whole lot," Mr Slovo said.

He was accompanied by Mr Morkel and Delft Development Board officials.

Eindhoven, a dream come true for many first-time home-buyers, has turned into a nightmare.

Some residents said the entire suburb should be knocked down and rebuilt. Others demanded their houses be built according to "proper" building standards.

Most were scared to continue living in their own homes, even those whose houses which had so far escaped relatively unscathed.

Yet, according to Mr Morkel, "these dwellings were constructed within strict standards as laid down by the building industry, while also satisfying the regulations of the local authority."

The standards do not satisfy the occupants, however. A pair of the local authorities' building inspectors were nearly lynched by angry residents yesterday.

Speaking at Delft Community Centre — where about 100 Eindhoven residents sought shelter yesterday — Eindhoven Property Owners' Association chairman Ernest Buys said: "It's terrible out there ... where must the people go?"

Later, touring the wrecked suburb, Mr Buys said: "I don't see how anybody could develop this type of housing, even if it is so-called 'low-cost' housing."

"The problem with these houses was the cement they used and the way they were built. It was all done too cheaply. If they were built properly this would not have happened."



LIVING IN FEAR: Baby Mishkah de Wet got such a fright when a neighbour's roof crashed into the side of her parents' Eindhoven home she jumped off the bed, injuring her eye. She is held by mother Nazareen, while father Ghaliel keeps a close eye on his family.

"There is such a shortage of housing, I really don't see a solution to this problem."

"I believe strongly that the next phase they build in Delft must be decent. The houses must be plastered, have electricity in each room, be fitted with ceilings and hot water."

Ghaliel and Nazareen de Wet moved in with baby Mishkah three weeks ago.

Today the front wall of their house looks as if it has been bashed in with a giant sledgehammer. A neighbour's flying roof did the damage.

"When we moved in the floor was already damp. Mishkah is sick with throat and ear infections," said Mr De Wet.

"We want a better place. We are human beings." Christelle and Henry Daniels, with two children, were on the city council housing waiting list for eight years before they moved into their Eindhoven home.

"We moved in three weeks ago from Ravensmead where we were staying in servants' quarters. We were very happy, but after just three weeks we have lost everything," Mr Daniels said.

Their roof was blown off on Sunday. Furniture, carpets and appliances were all wrecked.

David Hofmeister said his house in Seine Close "leaks all over".

"We came from Mitchell's Plain ... we were much happier there ... now I don't know where to go. These places are all condemned."

Henry Engelbrecht described how his house shook and the roof disappeared. "These houses are no good, we don't want to stay here any more, we are frightened."

"How can you sleep when you know that the house is unstable?"

● Mr Morkel said civil engineering company Liebenberg and Stander had been appointed "as an independent consultant with the brief of providing reasons as to why the roofs ... blew off during the storm".

All houses were insured by the State and would be repaired at no cost to the residents, even where the residents were in arrears, Mr Morkel said.

Slovo, Morkel should have made THIS tour, says Stott

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

IT was the tour national housing minister Joe Slovo and his Western Cape counterpart Gerald Morkel should have taken.

This was the view of Eulalie Stott, former city councillor and a veteran of 30 years of the Cape housing crisis, as she led journalists through informal settlements left drowning in squalor by torrential rainstorms.

Yesterday the housing ministers visited Delft, where roofs were blown off and anger was rising about low-cost housing construction methods which could not stand up to the fury of a Cape winter storm.

Those were houses made of brick. Elsewhere in the Peninsula, there are dwellings where the only bricks to be seen are those propping up braziers or in piles salvaged from illegal dumping of rubble.

Crossroads, Black City, Miller's Camp and Boy's Town were unfit for

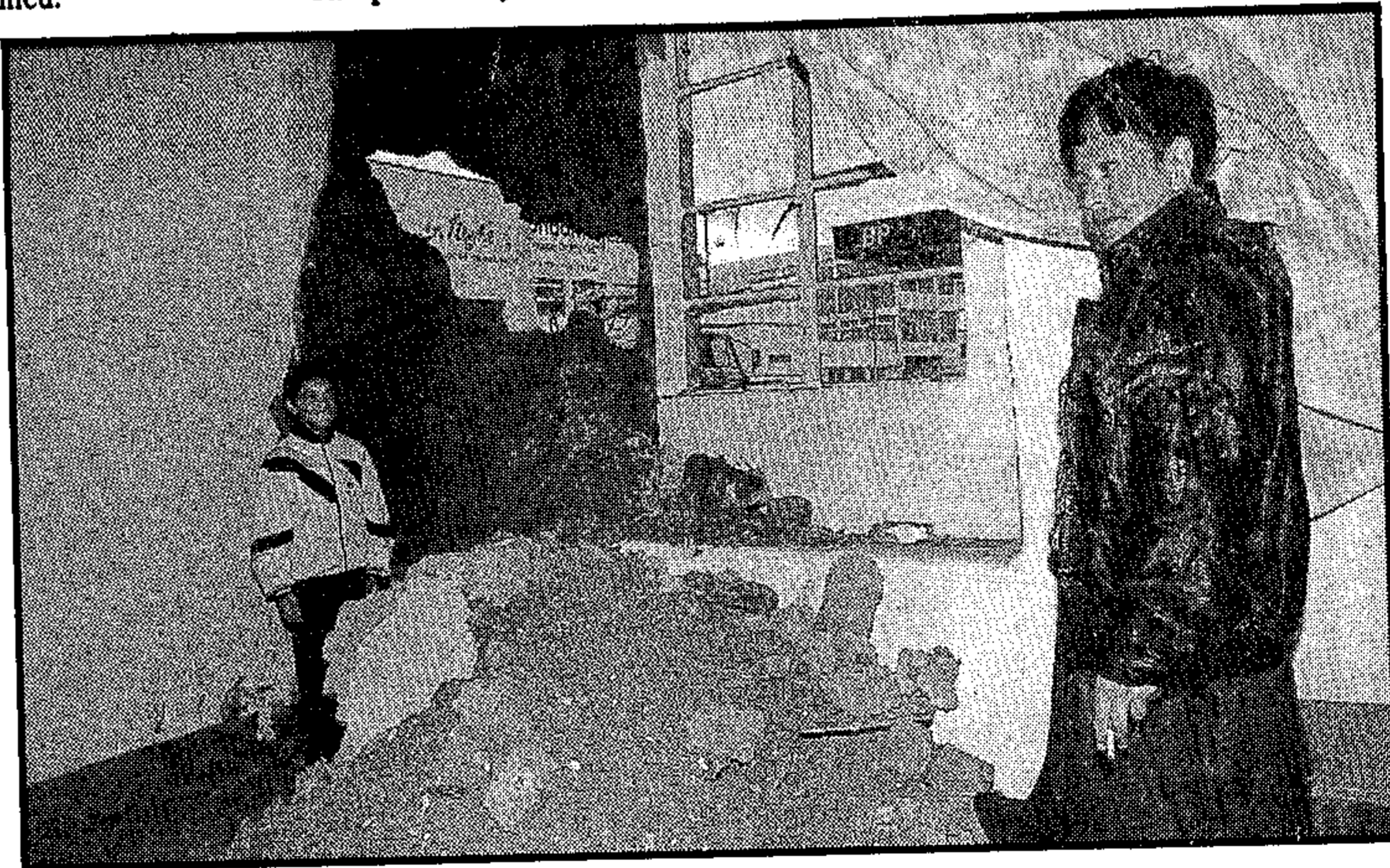
human habitation, awash in misery as even more rain came down and people who had migrated to the big city in hope stood forlornly hoping only for blankets, food, warmth.

Warnings of an imminent health crisis struck home in the narrow alleys between the shacks, where stormwater had nowhere to run.

It filled shacks to ankle depth, ran over the human faeces inevitable in the primitive conditions in a settlement served only by a bucket system, mingled with other waste now reduced to unrecognisable lumps by the deluge.

Mrs Stott's solutions? Houses on small plots, serviced, laid out in rows, the way they were built once upon a time before "site and service" was deemed the only suitable and affordable solution for the newly urbanised poor.

Communal ablution blocks for those who now have no clean water, no sanitation, nothing but the plentiful rain which could bring death.



STORM DAMAGE: Fatima Daniels of Woodstock and her son, Abduragam, 11, inside their flat. Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

Woodstock flats damaged

Staff Reporter

THE winter storms, continuing their path of destruction, severely damaged a block of flats in Woodstock and destroyed a farm labourer's cottage at La Motte, Franschhoek.

A Woodstock family were awakened by a thunderous crash at 4am today to find that the front wall of their flat had collapsed.

Fatima Daniels said: "I jumped up and screamed and thought a truck

that the wall had just collapsed because of the rain and wind.

"People in their pyjamas came running to help me because the rubble trapped me in the room."

"We used spades to clear the bricks and other mess before I finally got out of the room and received treatment for shock."

Mrs Daniels said there had been cracks in the building ever since a

11 trapped as snow bogs down vehicles

Continued from page 1.

Springfontein, Philippolis, Zastron, Kimberley and De Aar. Campbell in the Northern Cape had its first snow in 26 years.

A weather office spokesman said the cold and rainy conditions would continue until Thursday.

He said 12,4 mm of rain fell at Cape Town airport in the past 24 hours.

At Newlands reservoir 28,5 mm fell during the last 24 hours, 34,4 mm at Steenbras Dam near Somerset West, 36,5 mm at Woodhead Dam on Table Mountain, and 17,5 mm at Wemmershoek, near Paarl.

Yesterday, Cape Town city council executive committee chief Clive Keegan said the storms that had lashed the Cape could have been the worst this century.

He said parts of Newlands and Wynberg had been battered by storm conditions likely to occur only once every 50 to 100 years.

He said that in Mitchell's Plain the conditions were likely to occur once every five years, while those in the city bowl and Tokai were likely only once in 10 to 20 years.

Meanwhile, power failures, flooded roads, garages, basements and houses were listed in the city engineer's flood report yesterday.

The sewage system in the municipal area was "tremendously surcharged with stormwater", but treatment plants were coping, the report said.

Other incidents included:

- Floods in Camps Bay led to a mudslide on Hely Hutchinson Avenue at 8 pm. Geneva Drive and Quebec Road were also flooded.

- In Mitchell's Plain several roads were flooded because of blockages in the stormwater system.

- The basement of the Riverside Centre in Rondebosch was flooded.

There were no major problems at the city council's housing estates and no residents were evacuated, the report said.

- The Argus Bureau in Port Elizabeth reported that the first snow of the winter fell on mountains in the Eastern Cape last night bringing more bitterly cold weather to the area.

Floods bring more misery to areas on brink of collapse

□ Keegan asks for help

SHARON SOROUR and DAVID YUTAR
Staff Reporters

CAPE Town City Council chief Clive Keegan has appealed to residents, the private sector and big business for financial help to avoid "a massive human tragedy" in disadvantaged townships where services are close to collapse.

Launching the "rainbow fund" to help storm victims, Mr Keegan said heavy floods in the Peninsula had aggravated a potential health hazard in stricken areas.

In places like Guguletu, Langa, Crossroads and Nyanga, services — especially the removal of sewage — had either ceased to exist or were on the verge of collapse.

Mr Keegan said: "Many of us are simply unaware of the magnitude of the crisis facing the metropole's disadvantaged areas, where municipal services are dangerously close to complete collapse.

"The events of the past weekend have only served to aggravate an already desperate situation and every assistance is required if a massive human tragedy is to be avoided."

"To many suburban people in Cape Town there has been little more than inconvenience and some temporary discomfort, but the effect of flooding and wind damage on the poor and those in informal housing settlements has been catastrophic.

"Throughout the municipal area and beyond, communities have lost homes and possessions and now face the grave risk of disease, starvation and even loss of life."

Although the sewerage system servicing the Cape Town municipal area was "tremendously surcharged with stormwater", treatment plants were coping.

However, this was not the case in townships that fell under the jurisdiction of the Ikapa Town Council.

At a news conference yesterday, Mr Keegan said: "We anticipated and predicted this for several months and have known since the beginning of the year that services in parts of Ikapa are in an advanced state of collapse.

"This poses a health hazard, which has been aggravated by the flooding."

The Ikapa administrator had not asked the city council to help in areas that fell under its control.

The city council was approached by provincial authorities earlier this year to take over the rendering of services, which were collapsing, but because of "political uncertainties" the matter had not been taken further.

Bruce Black, the city council chief engineer for cleansing, said the city council was giving "technical advice" to Ikapa.

Mr Keegan said the city council had experienced no major problems on its housing estates and no residents had been evacuated.



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Ar

DRYING UP: Tambo Square residents Gladys Kratsha and her daughter No battle to dry their flooded house while Lindelwa Rhozani, of the Tambo Square residents' committee, looks on.

But flooding and wind damage had had a "catastrophic" effect on poor people living in informal settlements.

The exco chairman appealed to institutions and individuals to join the relief mission but he said regional premier Henus Kriel had not yet been formally approached to help the city financially.

The rainbow fund, which is being run by The Mayor's Relief Fund, already stands at R250 000. For details of how to contribute, see the box on the right.

● The Mayor's Relief Fund was set up several years ago to channel relief money from the public to people needing assistance.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

■ Make cheques payable to The Mayor's Relief Fund and post them to P Box 298, Cape Town, 8000. Inquire ☎ 400 2209 or ☎ 400 3409.

■ Western Province Round Table has set up a fund for birdlife and flood victims. Contributions can be deposited at the Standard Bank Thibault Square account number 071003142. Anybody with spare clothes, food or blankets contact Greg Spriggs at ☎ 685 27 (a/h) or ☎ 617 911 (w).

■ People who want to contribute to the cleaning of birds should contact Sanccob at ☎ 557 6155.

Money pours in for flood, storm victims



Staff Reporter

MONEY is pouring into a "rainbow fund" to help the Peninsula's storm and flood victims.

Big business and individuals have already given nearly R250 000 to the fund opened by city council executive committee chief Clive Keegan.

The biggest donation came from BP Southern Africa, which has given R150 000 to or-

ganisations dealing with the flood and oil disaster.

Chairman Tony Deakin said R100 000 would go to the Red Cross and Shawco to help ease the plight of people who had been devastated by the flooding. The city council would get R30 000 towards cleaning oil off the beaches, and Sanccob, which was co-ordinating the rescue of coastal birds, would get R20 000.

Engen, which gave R30 000

to help the city recover from the storm, donated a further R10 000 for repairs to the National Sea Rescue Institute base at Bakoven damaged by the oil spill.

Power tool companies in the Peninsula donated a total of R3 500 for the penguin relief effort.

Other donations have come from Pick 'n Pay, the Ackerman family, the Community Chest and the staff at Bayer.



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

SAILING THROUGH: A car crosses a flooded street in Brown's Farm which has almost turned into a river.

Shack knee-deep in water

VUYO BAVUMA
Staff Reporter

MILDRED Mqwathi forlornly describes her family's seven-hour battle to keep their shack dry "like using a finger to stop a dike from leaking".

On Sunday Mrs Mqwathi and her eight children desperately used buckets and spades in a vain bid to keep their three-roomed shack from being flooded after the torrential cloudburst about 5pm.

But they gave up at 1 am — with the water rising to knee-height.

At that stage Mrs Mqwathi, 50, said she and her children put tins under their beds before they slept and prayed that the water would not rise any further. It didn't.

Like their neighbours in Tambo Square, Guguletu,

scores of children, some bare-footed, used buckets and dishes to bail out the bedroom and kitchen.

The only cheerful notes in the house were colourful pictures of a smiling President Mandela. Everything was wet, and the curtains had been taken down in a bid to allow more air in.

In the kitchen a wooden table was virtually submerged in a pool of water. Under it dishes, some filled with mud, floated in the water.

Mrs Mqwathi, a diabetic, said: "When the rain fell heavily, it was water all over in my house. There were gushes of water coming through the floor as if taps were underneath.

"There were also many leaks from the roofs and corrugated walls; we just couldn't cope.

Our efforts were helpless.

"It was like trying to stop leaks from a dike with fingers. We don't know what to do; we are now pinning our hopes on the Red Cross."

Mrs Mqwathi said she asked a neighbour to accommodate her sickly husband because she did not want him to spend a night in a damp house.

Her neighbour Patrick Masoka told how a birthday party for his three-year old, Sonwabo, was disrupted by the torrential rain.

"Within minutes the water was ankle deep in the whole house.

"The music stopped playing because the music set became soaked. Even the beds became soaked. We had no alternative but to ask the guests to leave."

ORIENT SHIP LIVES

(56)
A9 28/6/94

ROGER FRIEDMAN and JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporters

THE 131 000 ton-Panamanian registered bulk carrier Apollo Sea sank with all hands on board hours after leaving-Saldanha Bay last Monday, the department of transport confirmed today.

Captain Qiao Li Gen and his 35 Chinese crew are presumed to have drowned, possibly trapped in the ship's accommodation section.

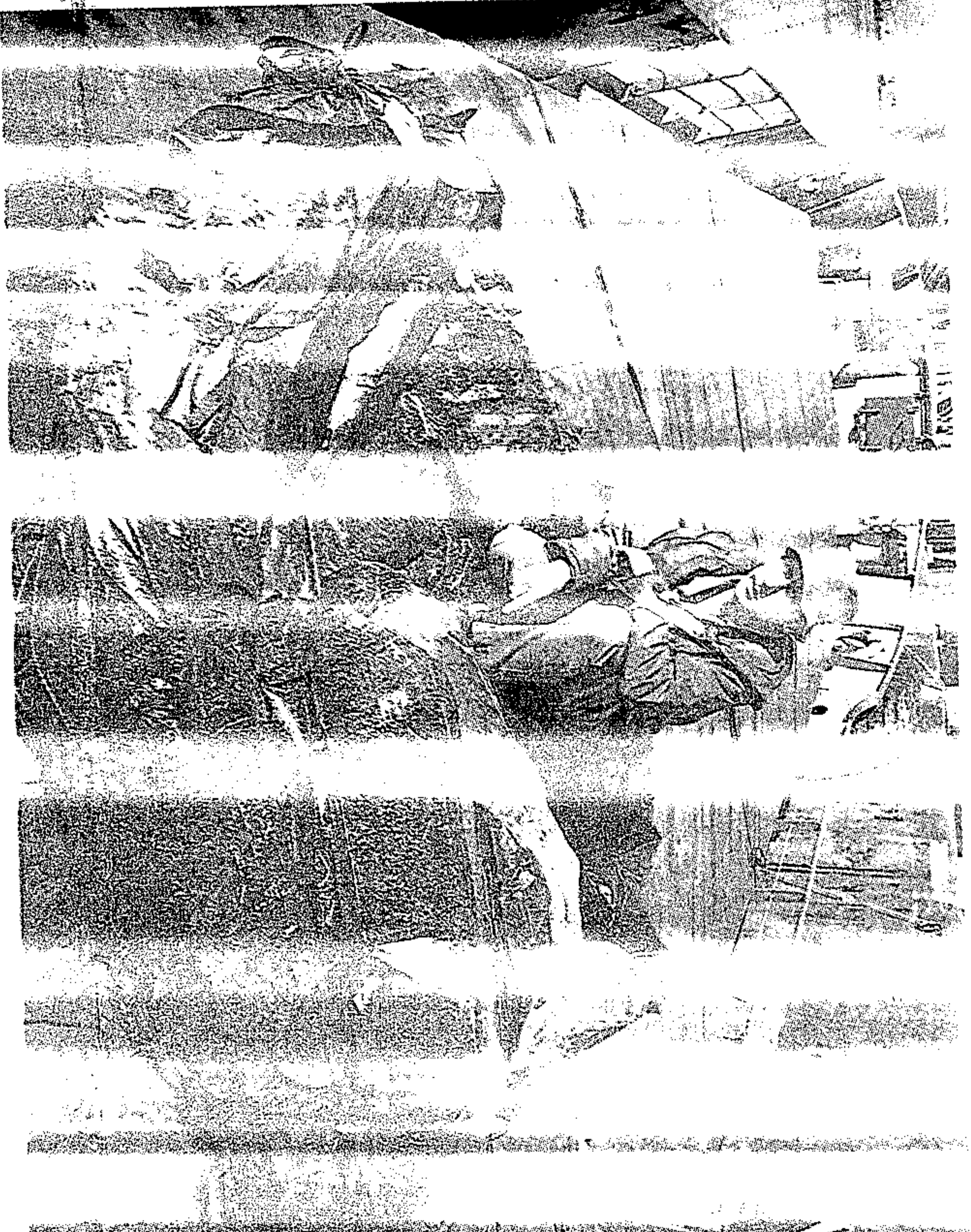
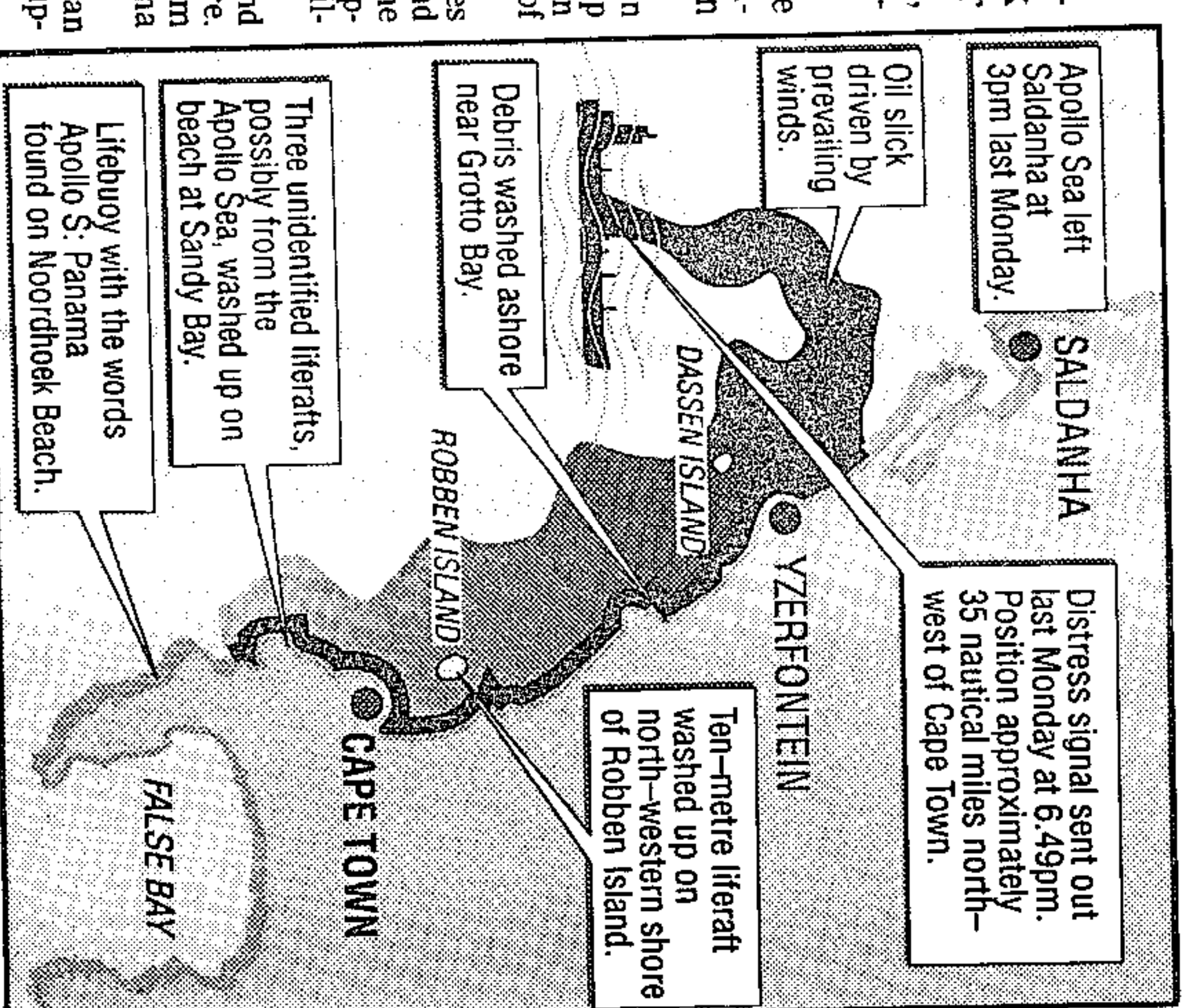
Its "black box" — the emergency location transmitter released automatically when a ship sinks to a certain depth — was recovered on Yzerfontein beach last night. The hi-tech piece of equipment failed to send its satellite signal.

The oil-slick that has devastated Cape beaches and threatened penguin colonies on Dassen and Robben islands is almost certainly fuel oil off the Hong Kong-based Apollo Sea, said the chief shipping surveyor of the Transport Department, William Derner, today.

She was carrying 2 470 tons of heavy fuel and 670 tons of light gas oil and a cargo of iron ore. She sank in about 180 metres of water at 7.40pm Monday, having sailed at 3pm, from Saldanha bound for China via Singapore.

"I speculate that the fuel leak will come to an end soon, it was obviously leaking through a ruptured tank," Captain Derner said.

Sea Fisheries officials were monitoring the oil situation from the air today. The depth at which she was lying would make pumping any remaining fuel from her tanks impossible.

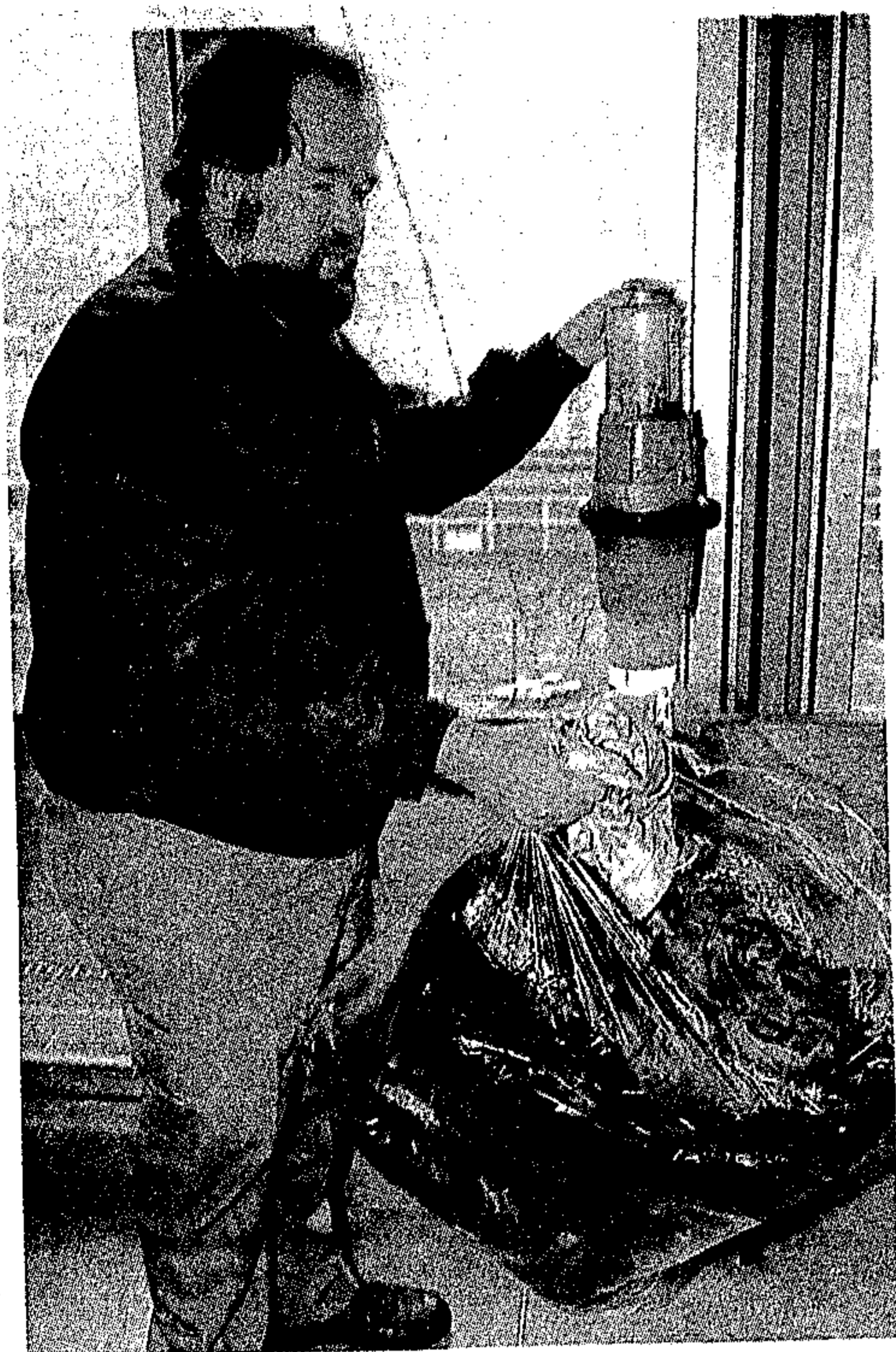


WASHED ASHORE: Warden G. Wester

3 Kriel with the core of Robben

ift that was found today.

F. BREI. Cl. 11



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

CLUES: Captain William Dernier of the Department of Transport with the "black box" from the Apollo Sea and an oil-covered lifejacket.

Witness stabbed in court: Murder accused shot dead

JACQUELYN SWARTZ
Crime Staff

A SUPREME Court murder accused was today shot dead in the Swellendam Circuit Court while repeatedly stabbing a witness who was testifying against him.

About 11.30am, Douglas Maart, 42, jumped out of the dock and began attacking Elaine Carelse.

During the attack, Mr Maart and Ms Carelse fell onto the

stenographer, and prosecutor Jasper Tredoux began hitting Mr Maart with a pickaxe handle — one of the exhibits in the trial.

When this failed to deter Mr Maart, the investigating officer in the case, a Sergeant Rooy, jumped over benches in the court and shot Mr Maart in the head.

Mr Maart died instantly.

In spite of a serious loss of blood, Ms Carelse was not fatally wounded.

11 trapped in Boland pass as snow bogs down vehicles

SHARON SOROUR and PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporters

ELEVEN people are trapped in the Theronsberg Pass between Ceres and Touws River after their lorries bogged down in a metre of snow.

Snow has also fallen on Table Mountain, and reports of other falls have been received from as far as Springbok, De Aar, Bloemfontein, Sutherland, Kimberley and even Windhoek in Namibia.

"This is very unusual. It's the first time in I don't know how long that snow has fallen in Windhoek," said a Weather Bureau spokesman in Pretoria.

Police constable Bennie van der Winter, who visited the Theronsberg Pass early today, said the four lorries were stuck high on the pass about 40km from Ceres.

Three policemen in a four-wheel-drive vehicle were also trapped after the vehicle's petrol froze in the tank.

"It is bitterly cold and snowing all the time. Plans have already been made to get to the people via a another road."

He said a bulldozer had been sent to help clear the road.

Warning signs went up last night on the pass, but the drivers apparently ignored them.

More reports, pictures on pages 2, 3 and 4

Oranjezicht resident Howard Portnoi said he heard a patter on his roof about mid-morning and on looking outside saw the road covered in hail.

The storms that hit the Peninsula at the weekend were the worst in a century, said Clive Keegan, Cape Town City Council chief executive.

Paarl residents said the snow on the Du Toitskloof mountains was lower than it had been in many years. The Jonkershoek mountains and Simonsberg near Stellenbosch are also heavily covered and snow is also visible on the mountains above Franschhoek and Hermanus.

All passes to Ceres, except Michell's Pass, have been closed to traffic.

Dutoitskloof Pass and a stretch of road on the N1 between Worcester and the Huguenot Tunnel have also been closed for two days because of rockfalls and landslides.

A roads department spokesman advised motorists to detour the N1 and travel from Wellington on the Hermon Road via Nuwekloof Pass at Wolsley to again reach the N1.

Dordrecht in the Eastern Cape had its first snow of the year which extinguished a veld fire.

Light snow also fell in parts of the Free State and Northern Cape, including Bloemfontein,

Turn to page 3, col 1.

An oil-covered buoy with the words "Apollo S: Panama", was found by two boys on Noordhoek beach yesterday.

The Apollo Sea's exact location has been fixed at 13,5 miles west-south-west of Dassen Island, or 30 miles from Saldanha.

Captain Dernier said the ship was inspected by officials of his department in Saldanha Bay on January 27 and had been passed seaworthy.

"There is no evidence she was sub-standard."

He said mystery surrounded the apparent lack of communication from the Apollo after she got into distress.

A single, verbal radio message was apparently picked up in Beijing but the ship's owners presumed she had been hijacked.

"They were adamant it was a hijack. We had difficulty believing that as one would have to be very smart to hijack a ship on our coast in these weather conditions," Captain Dernier said.

A radio search was launched from Silvermine on Saturday but drew no response.

"Then, on Sunday night, we had a call from the owners, via the agents, that led us to believe the ship had radio problems and led us to believe they had communicated with the ship.

"Yesterday morning we received a definite message from Beijing that they had received a distress message and that the distress point was near where the oil was coming from."

Debris picked up on beaches yesterday also pointed to the demise of the Apollo "but we were still not fully convinced as ships can lose equipment in heavy weather".

Then the "black box" was picked up at Yzerfontein — and it "does not just release in heavy weather, the vessel has to sink".

Captain Dernier said it "concerned" him that Beijing had failed to give the ship's position after the mayday call.

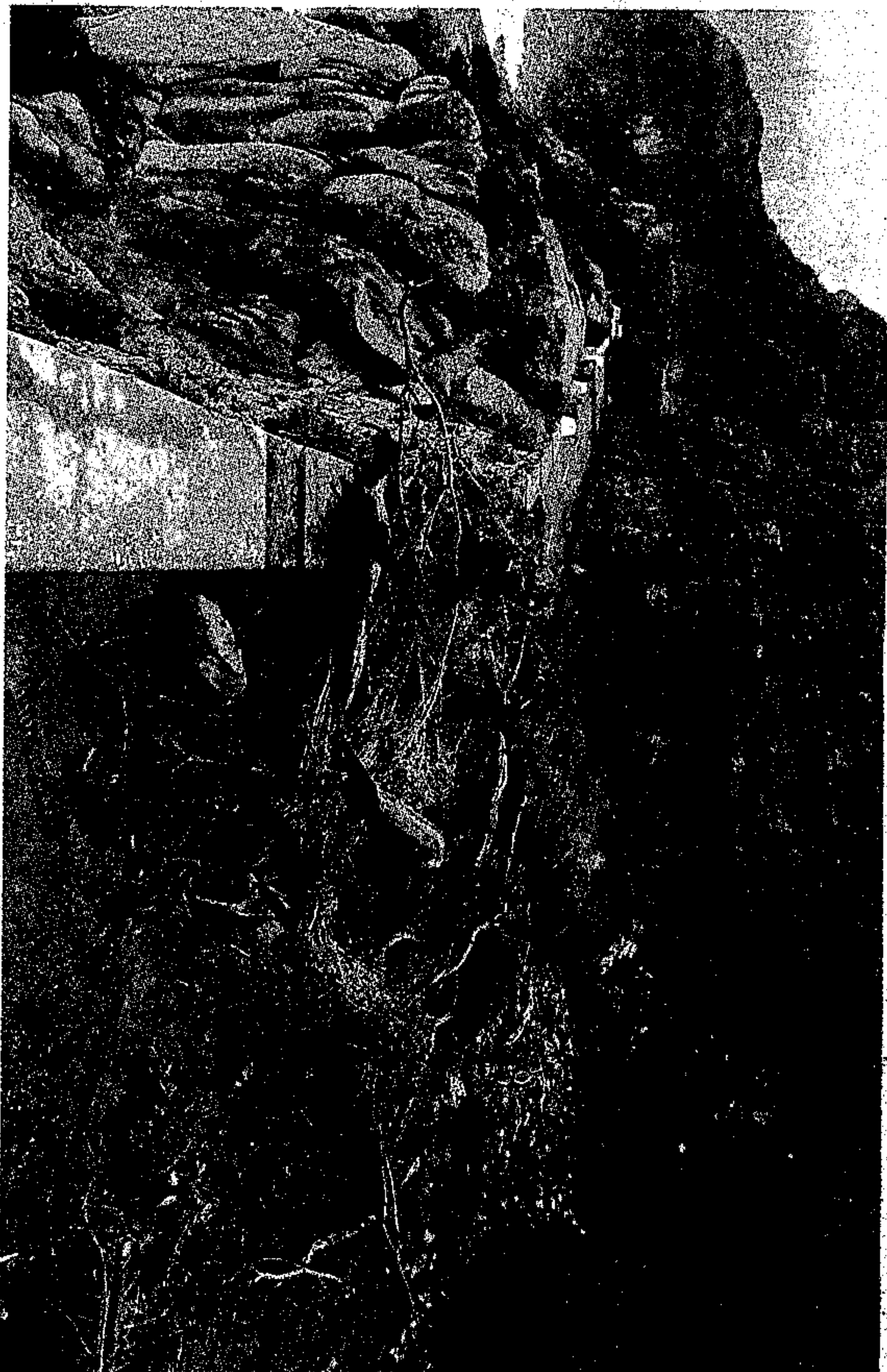
He speculated the reason the ship had not transmitted its message on an open frequency was because of its Chinese origin."

Turn to page 2.

NO THROUGH ROAD:

Chapman's Peak Drive is blocked by debris from rockfalls and landslides. A motorist was injured by a rockfall on Sunday and the road will be closed until further notice. A roads department spokesman said it would be re-opened when it was considered safe.

Picture: LEON MÜLLER
The Argus.



6 000 penguins and other oil-soaked island birds being treated by Sancecob

PIETER MALAN, Staff Reporter

ABOUT 6 000 birds have been brought from Dassen and Robben islands to the South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (Sancecob) near Milnerton.

Initially it was thought that Sancecob could treat about 5 000 polluted birds but they have enlarged their facilities

to cope with 12 000 birds.

Cape Nature Conservation chief director Johan Neethling said yesterday that the Western Cape government would increase its annual grant to Sancecob by R20 000 to R25 000.

"We will try to bring all polluted penguins off the island — no matter what the cost," he said.

There were an estimated 30 000 penguins on Dassen Island and 5 000 on Robben Island.

Mr Neethling said although the initial plans were to save only adult breeding pairs, the department had already accepted offers from a private individual and from Sea Fisheries to rear some of the chicks.

"We received numerous offers but only two were accepted because we believed they would be able to effectively care for the chicks."

He said about 300 chicks were taken from the islands.

A navy minesweeper is still on standby to evacuate birds from Dassen Island when the weather clears.

The crew of SAS Walvisbaai is helping to catch penguins on Robben Island.

Anton Moldan, head of the pollution division of Sea Fisheries, said the amount of oil offshore had lessened since Sunday.

He said wave action was breaking the oil into brown foam, causing it to disperse.

Beaches situated still 'very grim' □ Number of oil clean-up teams

**SHARON SOROUR
Municipal Reporter**

ATTEMPTS by the municipality to clean Cape Town's oil-covered beaches are having a favourable effect — but the situation remains "very grave".

Bruce Black, council chief engineer for cleansing, said the number of teams working on the beach clean-up had been increased from seven to 16.

Although the operation was far from finished, Mr Black vowed that his teams would keep going until the beaches were in an acceptable condition.

City council executive committee chairman Clive Keegan emphasised that there was "no monetary value" attached to the job.

He said the beaches were enjoyed not only by Cape Town's ratepayers, but also by people living in adjoining municipalities and other parts of the country.

"We shall be looking to the regional services council, the provincial administration and government departments to help us recover the costs," he said.

The resources of the city engineer's department were "stripped to the bone".

244-344

ENQUIRIES: (021) 244-344

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□ Number of oil clean-up teams increased to 16

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Mr Black said beaches on the Atlantic seaboard from Camps Bay to Mouille Point were being cleaned.

He said: "The effect of what we are doing is visible, but the situation is still very grave."

Workers were concentrating on Clifton, Camps Bay, Sunset, Sea Point, Milton and Rocklands beaches and a substantial amount of oil had been removed.

Anton Moldan, head of the Sea Fisheries' pollution division, said about 100 tons of oil had polluted the coastline.

He told a Press conference yesterday that a "significant" quantity of oil had already been removed.

Mr Black said the clean-up operation was slow and labour-intensive as the oil had to be scraped up by hand and put into bags.

Although the council had received several offers from volunteers to help clean the beaches, Mr Black said the task was highly specialised and the offers of help could not be taken up.

and other oil-soaked island birds being treated by Sannco

scope with 12 000 birds.

Cape Nature Conservation chief director Johan Neethling said yesterday that the Western Cape government would increase its annual grant to Sannco by R20 000 to R25 000.

We will try to bring all polluted gulls off the island — no matter at the cost," he said.

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Ore ship sinks off West Coast with 36 lives

support office was to:

- Reconcile the needs of Sannocob with resources donated.
 - Arrange refrigeration facilities for bulk fish.
 - Arrange transport and deliveries to Sannocob as required.
 - Accumulate donated materials and store them until needed.
 - Keep accurate records of donations and assistance.
- Those who wish to make contributions should contact the logistics office at 021 590 2279.

Heavy seas break up 25-ton barge

Staff Reporter

HEAVY seas are breaking up the stranded 25 ton diamond mining vessel the Shirley after she broke her moorings and was hurled on to a reef near Port Nolloth in a storm during the night.

The barge is being pounded by large waves and the submerged stern has broken off.

Harbourmaster Don Bridge said the vessel, which had no crew aboard, drifted ashore after an anchor chain shackle parted, making it vulnerable to the heavy seas at 8.15pm yesterday.

Continued from page 1.

The navy had already been asked to sonar scan the area to confirm the ship's exact whereabouts. And a preliminary inquiry into the disaster was under way.

It had been decided not to launch a search for crewmen as it was virtually impossible anyone could have survived.

Captain Dernier said department officials would today collect all evidence washed up on Cape beaches in an attempt to piece together the mystery of the Apollo.

Evidence picked up so far included an oil-covered life-jacket, with no name on it, the binnacle (housing) of a ship's compass and a hard hat.

Debris, that could be from the ship, washed ashore near Grotto Bay on the West Coast.

Weather permitting, a helicopter would scour beaches between Yzerfontein and Cape Nature Conservation official, Kobus Jooste said today the chief pollution officer of Sea Fisheries, Anton Mol-dan, was aboard the Kuswag 7 aircraft inspecting the area where the Apollo Sea went down to see if more oil was coming to the surface.

Mr Jooste said a further 2 000 oil-polluted penguins would be dropped off at Sannocob by lunch-time today bringing the number of birds in their care to well over 10 000.

"Our operation is going along very well and we have big teams working on Dassen Island around the clock.

"We are taking the penguins off the island at the maximum rate and should complete our main operation by tomorrow night. Tomorrow we will start a big clean-up of the island."

He said there were unconfirmed reports of more oil drifting towards the island.

"At the moment no new oil had reached the island and our work is going according to plan," Mr Jooste said.

A spokesman for the shipping insurance giant Loyds, Nicholas Doak, said last night their records showed the ship was 21 years old.

He said it left Saldanha with no certain destination.

"From the pictures I have seen of the pollution it is difficult to believe that it could be caused by the bunker oil that was carried by the Apollo Sea," Mr Doak said.

DIPLOMA IN SECURITY MANAGEMENT

Officially approved by the South African Institute of Security

In today's world, security is an integral part of day-to-day corporate life. Companies cannot therefore ignore it, and specialists who have formal training in all aspects of security can expect challenging and rewarding careers.

COURSE OUTLINE: Legal aspects of security; labour relations; security administration; liaison with Management on security measures and procedures; techniques to protect

CERTIFICATE IN TRAVEL AGENCY COMPETENCE

Part-Time

Tourism has been identified as one of the key industries of the future, with the potential to provide hundreds of thousands of jobs.

CERTIFICATION: At the end of the course, successful students will be awarded the Certificate of Travel Agency Competence (COTAC), externally examined by the Institute of Travel Management.

COURSE STRUCTURE: COTAC 1 comprises 5 modules, 3 of which must be written at the first examination sitting in terms of Institute rules.



SAFARI



Approaching front maintains cold, wet weather.

<p>Weather forecast</p>	<p>Peninsula</p> <p>RAIN </p>	<p>Rain</p> <p>Yesterday: 14,2mm Jun total: 209,3mm Jun average: 91,5mm</p>
<p>Cape Town Today: Cloudy with showers, wind W to SW 15 to 20 knots, but 30 to 40 knots south of Cape Point. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy to cloudy with showers, wind W to SW 15 to 20 knots.</p>	<p>Langebaan Today: Cloudy with showers, wind SW 15 to 20 knots. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy to cloudy, wind W to SW 15 to 20 knots.</p>	<p>Air temps</p> <p>Today 7am 6de Expected max..... 12 de Yesterday 2pm ... 9,2 de Yesterday min.... 7,4 de Yesterday max... 11,2 de Tomorrow min..... 6 de Tomorrow max.... 15 de</p>
<p>Paarl Today: Cloudy with showers, wind SW 10 knots. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy.</p>	<p>Hermanus Today: Cloudy with showers, wind W to SW 20 to 30 knots. Tomorrow: Cloudy with showers, wind W to SW 20 to 30 knots.</p>	

Navy to help with oil spill logistics

SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

THE Navy has established a logistic support office at Wingfield to help the huge rescue operation mounted by Sanccob to save thousands of oil-soaked birds.

Wingfield base commander Gerry de Vries said the mission of the office was to convert public sympathy and goodwill into resources.

Staff at Wingfield decided to offer what they did best — logistics, and were in the thick of things searching for the source of the pollution and helping in its dispersal, he said.

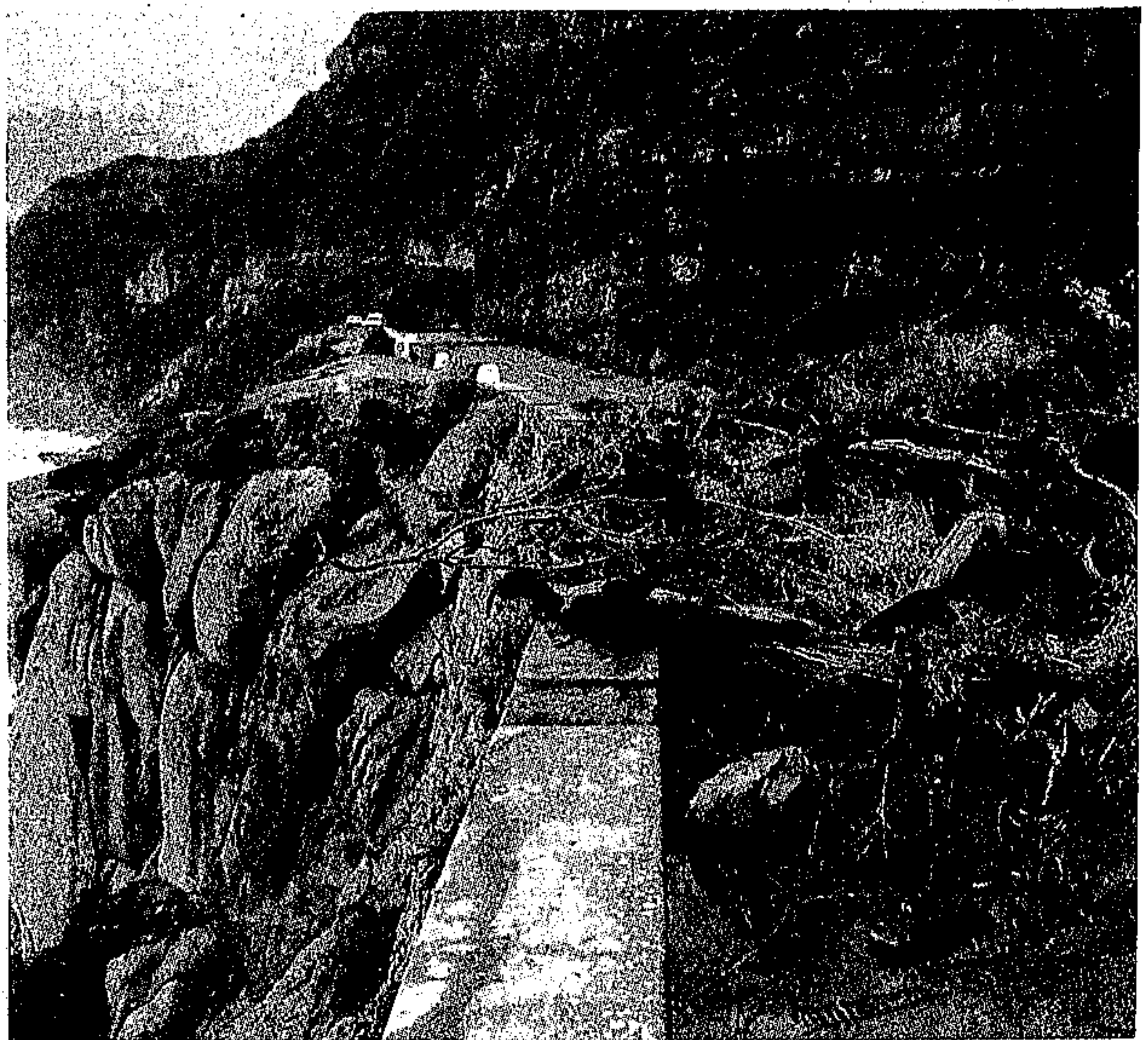
The sanctuary was too small for the number of birds needing attention and they were installing more cages and donating portable pools to cope with the an expected 10 000 birds, mainly penguins.

Commander De Vries said soiled birds would be found for quite a long time. The danger was that the present frenzy of sympathy for Sanccob would dry up long before its task was completed.

A medium or long-term commitment was needed and the

NO THROUGH ROAD: Chapman's Peak Drive is blocked by debris from rockfalls and landslides. A motorist was injured by a rockfall on Sunday and the road will be closed until further notice. A roads department spokesman said it would be re-opened when it was considered safe.

Picture: LEON MÜLLER
The Argus.



6 000 penguins and other oil-soaked

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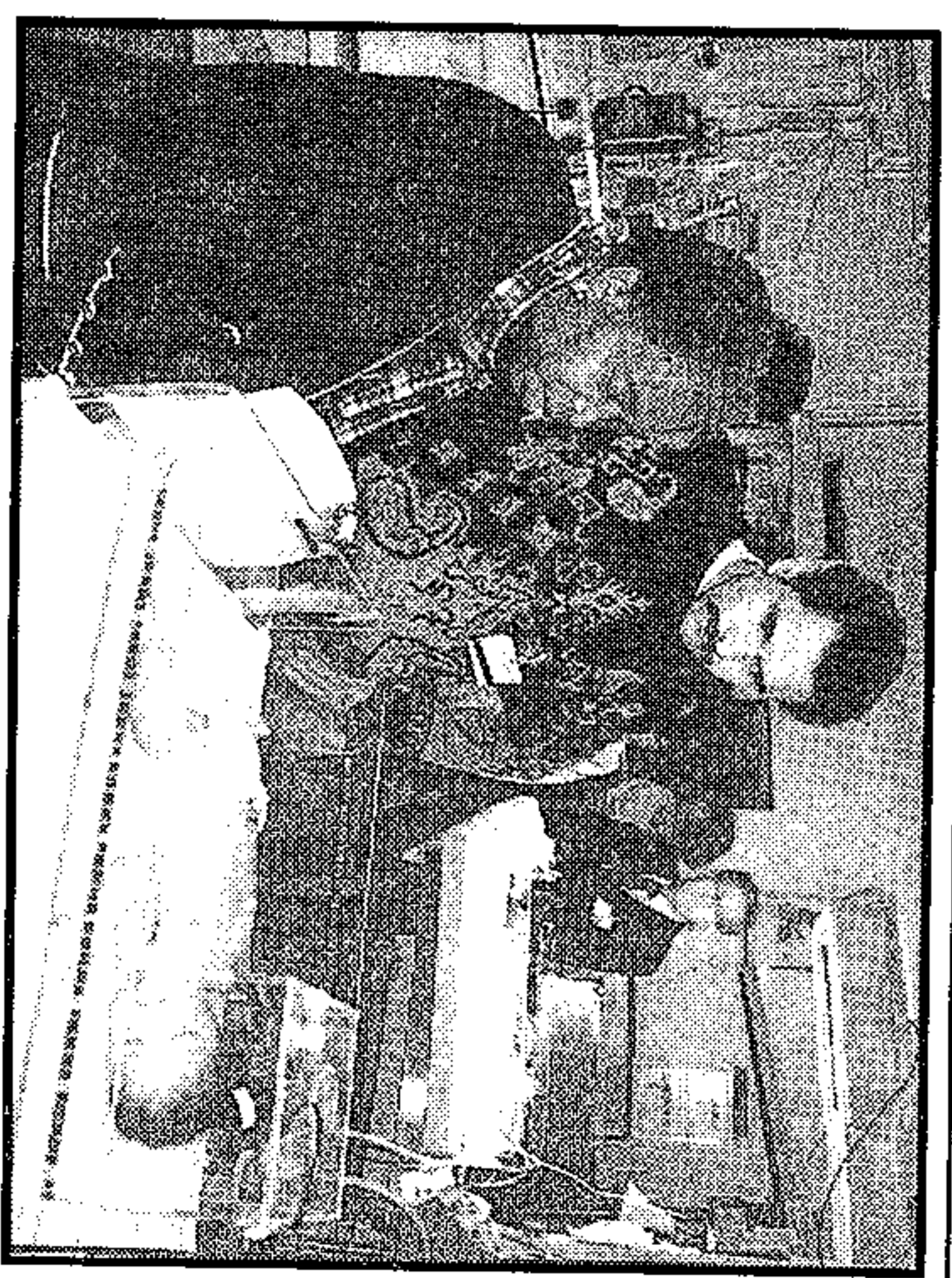
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Big army rescue operation in E Cape

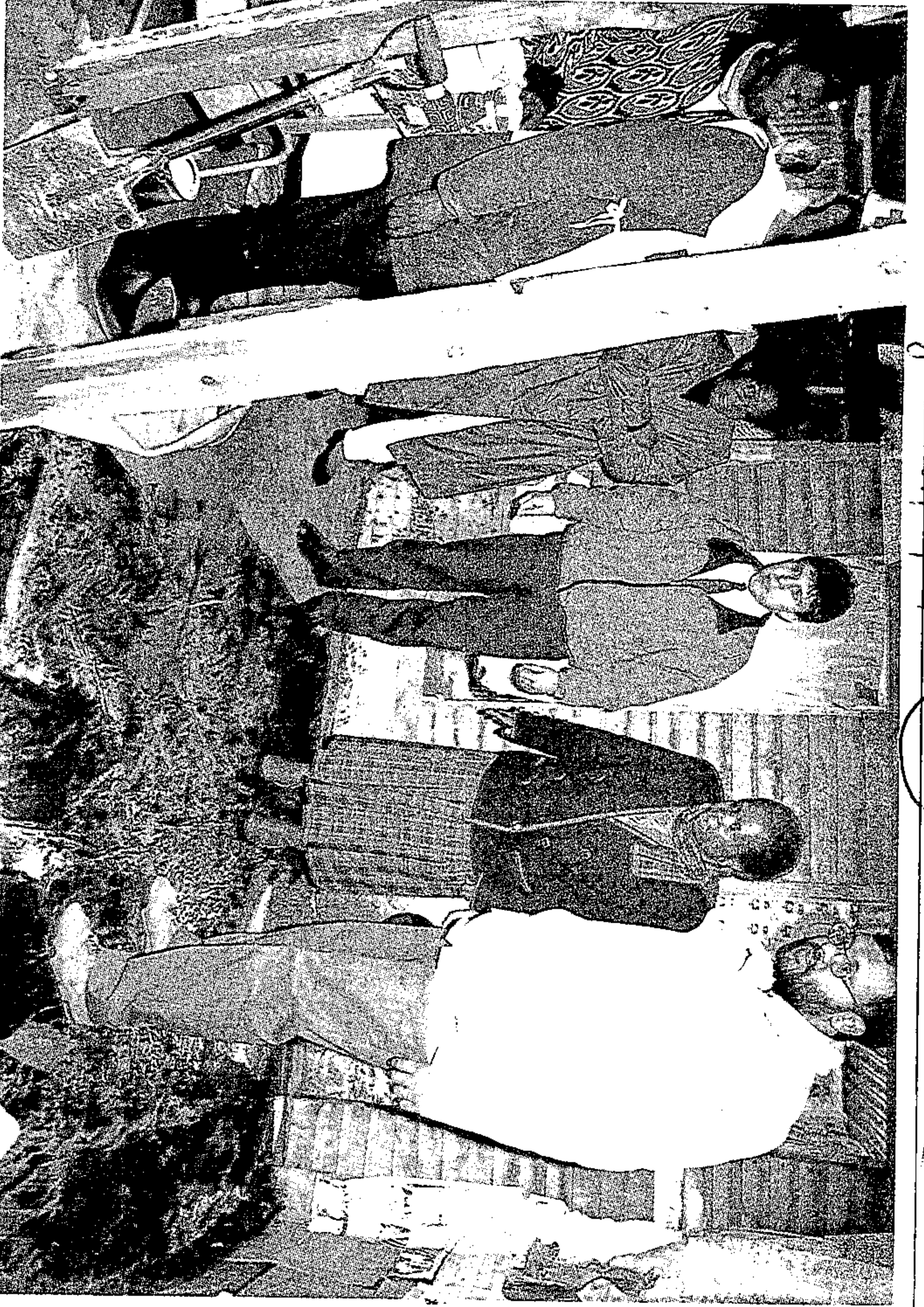
PAT CANDIDO
The Argus Bureau
PORT ELIZABETH — A huge army rescue operation has swung into action for the homeless — who are facing snow, high winds and extreme cold in the devastated areas of Maclear, Ugie and Elliot.
 Snow and sleet were reported from Murraysburg, Barkly East and Cathcart.
 Raymond Mhlaba, premier of the Eastern Cape, has declared Ugie and Maclear a disaster area. Damage is estimated at R50 million.
 Communication is still very difficult, with most telephone lines down.
 John Engelbrecht of the army's Eastern Cape Command said today it was still impossible for helicopters to leave from Port Elizabeth.
 Two Puma helicopters from Durban were on their way to Ugie with emergency supplies for those who had been left homeless after a tornado reaching 200 km/h devastated the small town in the mountains on Monday. More than 1 500 people were left homeless.



UNDER LIGHTS: Dr Zuma discusses premature babies with Dr Greg Sampson at Mowbray Maternity Hospital.

Floods: The state must act — Zuma

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter
THE flooding on the Cape Flats has highlighted the lack of decent housing in many communities and the need for the government to make the areas inhabitable.
 This was said by Health Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during a visit to the Khayelitsha Day Hospital and flooded homes yesterday.
 Dr Zuma added: "We need to move faster in implementing the Reconstruction and Development Programme because if people continue to live like this their health will be compromised."
 Dr Zuma and her regional counterpart Ebrahim Rasool also visited the Mowbray Maternity Hospital. Dr Zuma said she had made it her business to visit all the country's regions and get first-hand information on the problems.
 "I need to see what goes on in the regions to be able to understand the problems. Part of the visit was also to discuss the restructuring and integration of the health services on a national level.
 "But to do this we need to know where the problem areas are and what sort of service is offered in the different regions.
 "Once we know where the



UNDER WATER: Dr Zuma and regional health minister Ebrahim Rasool visit the flooded shack of Zonisele Dyabhaza in Harare, an informal settlement near the Khayelitsha Day Hospital.

gaps are and how the facilities operate, we can sit down and work out how to implement our plans."
 Dr Zuma said she chose the two hospitals because of their different areas of focus.
 "The maternity hospital's priority is caring for women and their babies, whereas the health centre in Khayelitsha cares for a very large community."
 "The health centre will form the backbone of the new health policy — it will be situated in the middle of the com-

munity, allowing everyone access to basic medical care that is within walking distance."
 "Khayelitsha Hospital is a good model because there is a good relationship between the staff and the community. But they are terribly understaffed and I hope the regional government will correct the situation."
 Dr Zuma also visited the flooded shack of Zonisele Dyabhaza in Harare, an informal settlement near the

2 000 to move to hall

Staff Reporter
MORE than 2 000 homeless people from the KTC squatter camp are to be moved to the local community hall.
 The community has urgently appealed to companies for old clothing, blankets and food for the homeless.
 "We urge people to visit KTC and see for themselves how old people and children have been left without shelter," said Gladstone Ntamo of the South African National Civics' Association (Sanco).
 There were presently 2 069 people without homes in the area. The figure was expected to rise.
 The community was meeting Ikapa town council to arrange for channels to be opened to relieve flooded areas.
 Mr Ntamo appealed to companies to match Engen, which had contributed R10 000 towards the community.
 The appeal is being coordinated through the Red Cross.

It's freezing and sewage is floating in the mud. This is our home

How INGBERG LICHTENBERG of Reuters is telling the world today about the plight of people living in the flooded Cape Flats
THE poorest of the poor in Cape Town's black townships are living in a fetid soup of mud, sewage and rainwater, and black clouds on the horizon promise only more rain.
 In the Crossroads shanty town, home to about 100 000 largely unemployed blacks and one of the areas worst hit by a week of storms, sewage leaked into pools of water beneath the flooded shacks yesterday.
 "When it rains so, I feel scared we're going to wash away and our hokkie will fall down on us. But we have nowhere else to go," Nophehle Kepelele said, standing in an ankle-deep pool of water in her shack.
 Her eight-year-old daughter Phumeza sat huddled in a blanket on a plastic crate in the corner of her warty home, with walls made of cardboard and a roof of sacking.
 Water has poured into many of the shacks, of which the best are made with wood and old tin.
 But the people say they can't leave their flooded homes because they have no other shelter. Instead they try desperately to sweep the water out or scoop it into buckets.
 Between the shacks debris and rubbish floats on the flood.
 Near Mrs Kepelele's home a makeshift toilet serving about 10 families consists only of a plank with a hole. There is no container underneath and the sewage is left to mingle with the pools of water around it.
 Women, children and mangy dogs wade through the mess as rain sheets down on them.
 Cape Town executive committee chairman Clive Keegan has said that the effect of the floods on the poor and the informally housed was "catastrophic".
 He said that apart from losing homes and possessions, they also faced disease and even death from the collapsing sewerage system in

ter.
 In the coloured township of Delft, many of the roofs of the new, sub-economic homes, which look more like wendy houses, had been swept off by gale-force winds.
 Mark Stone, who lives in one of the houses with his wife and two toddlers, said: "I'm very unhappy. It's just rubbish that they've given us here. These houses are only about two months old and they're leaking so badly we've got pools of water all over the floors."

Environment faces burn-out

Star 2/16/14

56

UNDER — ACHIEVING

At stake is the future economic well-being of the so-far under-achieving Southern African region. **LANA JACOBSON** reports.

Where will southern Africa's future energy come from? And what impact will it have on the region's ecosystem? These are just some of the burning questions energy strategists are addressing.

At stake is the future economic well-being of the so-far under-achieving southern Africa.

A book issued by the influential World Energy Council predicts that the next 30 years will see the world double its consumption of energy with more than 85 percent of the demand in developing countries.

With the world's population predicted to balloon from its current 5.5 billion to over 8 billion by 2020 — again, mainly in developing countries — the present state of energy development is wholly inadequate.

"Our planet is at great risk," warns Ian Israelsohn, one of a team of seven international experts on world energy who co-authored the book, "Energy for Tomorrow's World".

Israelsohn is head of Eskom's International Affairs division and was South Africa's representative on the WEC Commission.

"We cannot carry on using energy in the ways we currently do or the environmental impact will become overwhelming," he says.

The book lists priorities for individual regions. An entire chapter is devoted to sub-Saharan Africa.

A key element of the book is its call for the development of new technologies to meet tomorrow's global energy requirements while mitigating grave environmental concerns.

Industrialised countries bear a major responsibility for developing more efficient systems and transferring the technology on to

less developed nations.

South Africa, with its established nuclear capability and a surplus of energy, qualifies as a strategic player in the energy stakes. More than 90 percent of its energy needs are powered by coal generators.

Israelsohn believes that fossil fuels will continue to provide the bulk of world energy needs for the next few decades, although the contributions of renewable and nuclear energy are likely to increase slightly.

Still, the 29-year-old MBA graduate is aware that "another Chernobyl" could well irreparably harm the nuclear industry's future growth.

"The challenge is to ensure its safety," he says. "South Africa (with its Koeberg plant) is not a problem, but the standard at nuclear sites in the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe is cause for concern."

He dismisses as sensationalism recent media stories about the alleged danger of Koeberg, stressing the 10-year-old plant outside Cape Town meets the highest safety standards set by world atomic energy bodies.

Globally, ensuring adequate environment-friendly energy supplies presents a long-term problem. An aggravating factor is that countries typically are more concerned with meeting their energy needs and less so with whatever damage it may inflict on the ecology.

The question of how to finance mega energy development projects poses the largest concern.

Historically, energy has represented some 5 percent of world GDP, while investments in developing new energy resources have typically accounted for 15 percent. These figures are bound to rise in the coming decades in a bid to widen supply and cope with environmental



ILLUSTRATION: DAVIDA TANACHEL

concerns.

The WEF estimates that over the next 25 years, global investment in energy systems will amount to an incredible \$30 trillion (R108 trillion) at 1992 prices — 50 percent more than the world's entire GDP in 1989.

It is unclear how many developing nations will be able to obtain the financing and technology to develop efficient, environmentally-sound energy systems.

Competition for international funds will intensify, requiring more local capital to meet energy supply expansion.

It is here that South Africa is playing a strategic role.

Eskom, with its technology and surplus of power, has been spearheading the drive to integrate the vastly underdeveloped southern African region through a far-reaching electricity grid.

Lack of funds and regional bureaucratic inertia have made heavy weather of the initiative, but there are successes to report. Reconstruction of the line linking South Africa to Mozambique's powerful Cahora Bassa hydro-electric dam is underway and Eskom is linking up its electricity supply with Zimbabwe's.

Regional collaboration and energy development will be debated at a regional energy forum for southern and east Africa, hosted by the South Africa Committee of the WEC, in October in Cape Town. Its theme is "Mobilising Energy for Growth".

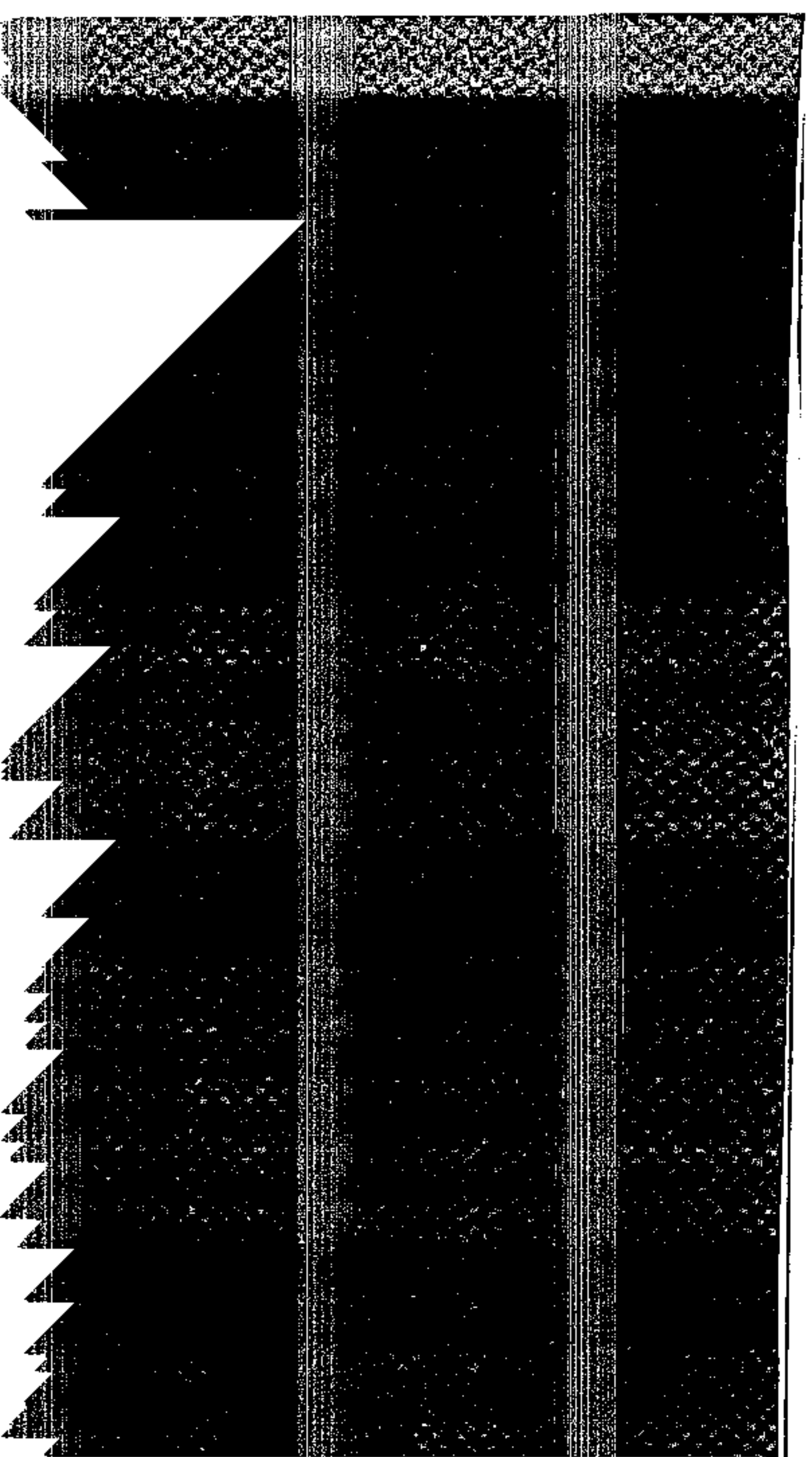
The same week, the WEC also holds its annual executive assembly, in South Africa for the first time.

More than 100 countries currently are WEC members, and many will be sending top level delegations to the event.

For more information on WEC events in October, and the book "Energy for Tomorrow", telephone Wendy Izgorsek on (011) 800-5319 or fax (011) 800-4228.

TOMORROW

The mere mention of the word has been enough to raise the hackles of even the most enlightened medical doctors. Times are definitely changing.



Taxpayers could foot bill

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

TAXPAYERS will have to foot the R5 million bill for cleaning oil off Peninsula beaches — unless the owners of the Apollo Sea can be made to pay.

This emerged in a snap senate debate on controlling shipping in South African waters.

The debate was prompted by the oil slick, which since last week has imperilled marine life and tourism on the Cape West Coast.

Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers was criticised by Freedom Front senator Carl Werth for taking an overseas holiday as the crisis broke.

Mr Werth said the crisis had been described as the Cape's worst ecological disaster.

Deputy environment minister Bantu Holomisa said an acting environment minister, who in terms of unity government rules will have to be appointed from among National Party cabinet

ministers, would be gazetted soon.

Opening the debate, Western Cape senator Mark Wiley (NP) said 44 percent of the world's shipping passed South Africa's coast.

But the Cape coast was the "Hospital Bend of sea-lane traffic" — a reference to a section of road on Devil's Peak notorious for accidents.

Mr Wiley said unscrupulous ship-owners used "run-down" vessels.

South Africa should use its enhanced international status to push for stricter marine laws.

Mr Wiley said a coastguard should be set up as part of the navy.

The coast should be a "red zone" where domestic maritime regulations took precedence over international law.

Errol Moorcroft (DP) said the oil-polluted coast should have been declared a disaster area.

It was unacceptable for non-government organisations to bear financial responsibilities for a disaster of this size.

Mr Moorcroft said a shipping inspectorate and a pollution fund — paid for by ship-owners and not taxpayers — should be set up.

Ruth Rabinowitz (IFP) said salvors were paid only if the ships they took in tow were recovered.

Private enterprise would make a greater commitment to providing vessels for salvage operations if there were financial rewards.

Mr Holomisa said the Department of Environment Affairs would take up constructive suggestions raised in the debate.

He said an oil spill contingency plan had been put into operation immediately after the problem was reported.

Claims would be served against the owners of the Apollo Sea as soon as it could be proved conclusively the oil came from the ship.

(5) ARU 30/6/94

Coming clean with a clear flow of profits

What's the best way to get clean water to millions of people? Umgeni Water, the largest supplier of bulk potable water in KwaZulu/Natal, believes it has the answer.

Though it monopolises water supply in the area and has a 14-member statutory board appointed by the Water Affairs Minister, Umgeni gets no government funds and the management committee runs on business lines. The utility last week reported net income up 46% to R17,2m for the year to February despite higher electricity costs for pumping, the slump and the continuing drought. Turnover from water sales rose from the year-ago R242,7m to R275m. Yet tariff increases have been below the inflation rate since 1989. *FM 117194*

Investment rating company Republic Ratings recently awarded Umgeni an AAA investment-grade debt rating for the second time in a row. Republic says "entrenched position as sole bulk supplier to the area, relative price inelasticity of demand and solid financial structure" justify the rating.

The utility serves 2,5m consumers in a 24 000 km² area from the Tugela River in the north to the Umzimkulu in the south and the Lesotho border in the west. Umgeni draws from eight large storage dams, puri-

fies at plants and sells the water to local and regional authorities — the Durban City Council takes nearly half — responsible for water reticulation. Umgeni's total assets stand at R1,5bn, which includes nine waterworks, four large storage dams and 60 km of tunnels, more than 500 km of pipes and aqueducts, a major pump station and two large waste water works.

Chairman Ken McDonald recently announced the early retirement of six white, male management committee members as part of Umgeni's affirmative action programme. The six, who will retain their positions on six-month renewable contracts until their successors are ready to take over, include CE Graham Atkinson and finance & administration director Avison Carlisle.

Umgeni doesn't get handouts or government subsidies so loans are raised on the open market. The numerous loan issues were recently consolidated into two megastocks, the UG50 and UG55, on the JSE gilts sector, making Umgeni and Rand Water the only two water utilities that have gone to the capital market. (Rand is the largest water supplier, with Umgeni second.) More than 450 investors, including some from Europe, Australia and Canada, hold Umgeni paper,

nearly double the number of a year ago. The utility will need R540m from the capital market in 1994-1995, including about R300m for the construction of waterworks at Midmar Dam.

FirstCorp vice-president Roland Richter says one of the stock's main strengths is the company's cash-flush position, with surplus cash being hedged in

the RSA 150s and Eskom 168s. Operations in Natal's turbulent Midlands are sometimes difficult but investors seem confident about Umgeni's future. "The violence in Natal has not affected the stock's performance."

By accumulating reserves (budgeting for a surplus), Umgeni has been able to finance capital development without running up crippling debt. But Carlisle acknowledges "the debt:equity ratio remains too high at 1,84 compared with the international standard of 1 for public utilities."

Umgeni plans to spend about R1bn to meet its goal of supplying everyone in its region with potable water by 2005, Carlisle says. In doing so, Umgeni is branching out from its core business of bulk supply and into distribution. It expects to spend about R350m on rural reticulation schemes in violence-racked Durban/Maritzburg over the next five years. "Water reticulation is not really part of our business; so this plan is unusual for us," says rural planning manager Isaac Ngwenya. *(56)*

For communities where residents lack private connections, the utility has erected hundreds of water kiosks. Run by community members elected by local committees, the kiosks are subsidised (by Umgeni) at R1 000 each. Of that cost, R120 goes to the committee and R800 to a local contractor who builds the kiosk around a water connection. The committee sells coupons to residents to exchange for water at the kiosk. Each 7c coupon buys 25 l. People carry the water in buckets and drums.

Water can also be collected from community standpipes installed by the utility. The standpipes are managed by householders who monitor usage and collect money.

Atkinson believes Umgeni's strength is its manageable size. He is wary of the utility becoming a regional water authority that follows political boundaries rather than catchment areas. "We don't want to end up as another government department or layer of bureaucracy."



Straight from the source ... collecting water at Mpumalanga

De Villiers wanted to return home

Political Correspondent

ACTING Environment Minister Roelf Meyer says Dawie de Villiers offered to return to South Africa from his overseas holiday because of the ecological disaster in the Western Cape.

Dr De Villiers, the Environment Minister, was slammed in a snap debate in the senate for his absence during the crisis.

Carl Werth (Freedom Front) asked what it would take to bring Dr De Villiers back.

Mr Meyer said Dr De Villiers was being kept abreast of developments.

"He offered to return to South Africa and was advised by deputy minister Bantu Holomisa and me that everything possible was being done to alleviate the pollution and that the situation is now under control.

"It is therefore not deemed necessary for Dr De Villiers to return to South Africa immediately (56)

"He has full confidence in the ability of Environmental Affairs officials to handle the situation." ARG 11/7/94.

Call for urgent review of pollution prevention policy

□ Council wants state to protect Cape's fragile ecosystem

SHARON SOROUR
Municipal Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council has called on the government to urgently review its policies regarding the transportation of oil around the coast.

At a city council meeting yesterday, councillor Gordon Oliver proposed a motion — which was not included on the council agenda — calling on all possible information on the oil pollution disaster which had struck the Cape's fragile ecosystem.

He said the city needed to ensure that central government policies were adequate to prevent a repeat of the disaster, and "gaps" in policies and procedures had to be filled.

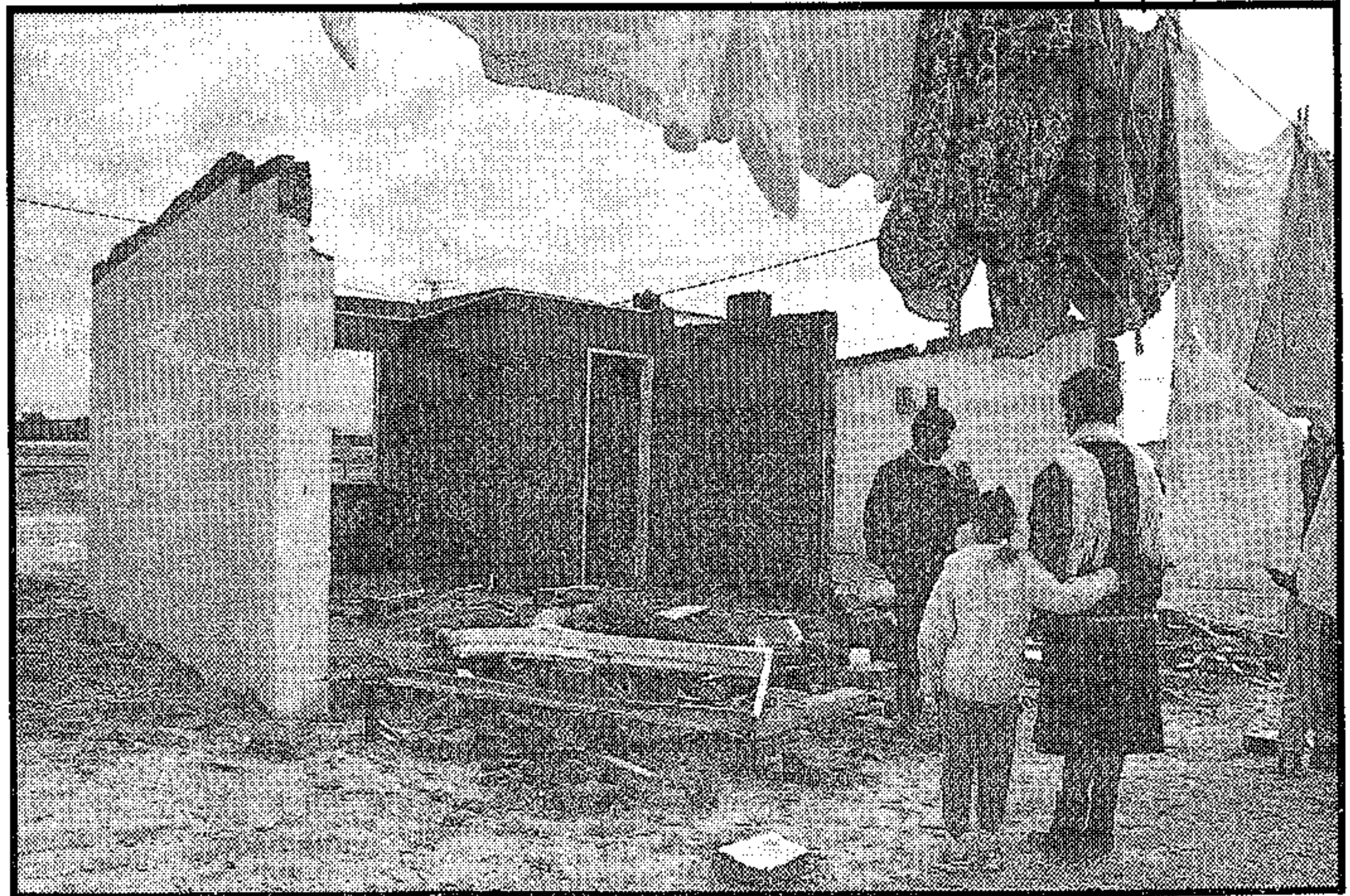
"We were caught unawares, both the council and the community. Our environment and fragile coastal marine life will take years to recover."

He said the Cape was extremely vulnerable as its tourism industry relied on the natural environment. Tourism contributed R1,6 billion per annum to the GDP.

Supporting the motion, executive committee chairman Clive Keegan said while he endorsed Mr Oliver's motion, "it would be remiss" if the council expressed concern only about one aspect of the disaster.

The combination of collapsed services and severe flooding had created a dangerous health hazard on the city's doorstep.

Mr Oliver's motion was unanimously adopted by the council.



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

DISASTROUS DESIGN: Washing lines in Delft survived this week's storms while houses were wrecked by wind and rain. Surveying damage in the neighbourhood are Mark Martin and Mariam Johaar, with her daughter Shaheema.

Mayor's plea to aid flood victims

Staff Reporter

MAYOR Patricia Kreiner has appealed to the residents of Cape Town to give canned food, blankets, old clothing and other help to flood-stricken, homeless people.

Although the worst-hit areas were outside the municipal area, those affected were still part of greater Cape Town.

Cash contributions may be sent to the Mayor's Relief

Fund, P O Box 298, Cape Town or to the Red Cross. The fund stood at R380 000 yesterday.

Contributions can also be delivered to the Red Cross or the civic centre. St John Ambulance Service spokesman Hazel Powell said contributions could also be delivered at their offices in Darling Street.

● All Shoprite Checkers stores in the Western Cape

have been made available for the collection of blankets, clothes and food. Radio Good Hope also established a disaster fund and the chain store has given the first R1 000 and challenged other companies to do better.

● The Golden Arrow Foundation, a community trust established by Golden Arrow Bus Services, has given R10 000 to the Red Cross fund.

Unions agree to non-stop clean-up in the Peninsula

Staff Reporter

(56) (200) (202)

THE clean-up after last week's floods is in full swing in Nyanga, Guguletu and Crossroads — and is likely to continue for the rest of the week.

This follows a meeting between Peter Marais, Western Cape Minister of Local Government and Development Planning, the Cape Metropolitan Negotiating Forum (CMNF), the South African Association of Municipal Employees (SAAME) and the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU).

ARC 5/7/94

The unions supported the clean-up and agreed to a moratorium on any action which might hamper relief work until the end of September.

Workers are draining floodwater by removing sand and rubbish blocking stormwater pipes and sewerage systems and are restoring essential services, plus providing electricity and access to roads.

Mr Marais, CMNF, Samwu and Saame said in a joint statement the flooding was the result of old and inadequate drainage systems which had not been maintained.

This situation, coupled with "the collapse of the financial viability of the administration of black townships", had led to a call for a Strategic Movement Plan (SMP), which was presented to a Cape Metropolitan Forum meeting earlier this year.

But, civic and other organisations at the meeting had asked for time to review the plan — which made provision for the secondment of staff, equipment and financial contributions from neighbouring councils to these areas — before allowing implementation.

Mr Marais intended to meet with community-based organisations soon to explain the SMP.

● The Bellville City Council has assisted Ikapa, the administrative body of Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga, with the repair of large cleansing vehicles and Cape Town City Council has assisted with the repair of 24 light vehicles and the acquisition of uniforms and protective clothing.

Relief to be co-ordinated

Staff Reporter

A JOINT Resources Centre is to be set up at Red Cross House to facilitate co-operation by different organisations in future relief operations.

This was decided at a meeting attended by non-governmental organisations and government representatives, including the Red Cross Society, St Johns, Shawco, Child Welfare and the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The Joint Resources Centre, at Red Cross House, will ensure that there is no over-lapping of services and facilitate co-operation and input on community needs.

The Red Cross has already supplied blankets and food to about 19 000 in disaster areas.

R700 000
CF. 1/17/94

donated for flood relief

By VETTE VAN BREDA

THE Red Cross has received almost R700 000 from the private and business sector for victims of the recent winter floods and has distributed more than 30 000 blankets and thousands of litres of soup.

Since the huge flood relief effort started last week donations from the business and private sector have reached about R682 000 which includes a R30 000 cheque received from the Canadian embassy yesterday, regional Red Cross head Mr John Stone said.

The government's R3 million Disaster Relief Fund for the Peninsula, Bolland and West Coast was not solely for the Red Cross, he said.

"Relief agencies will have to claim their expenses from the government after they've taken stock. We're still trying to take stock so I'm not sure what we've got and what we need."

With the help of the SA National Defence Force, who have been supplying transport for the clothing, blankets and food being sent to hard-hit

areas, Red Cross volunteers handed 1 500 blankets to pleased Mandela Park residents and another 400 to Ocean View residents yesterday.

A large hangar at Youngsfield military base has been converted into a flood relief depot from where the Red Cross was co-ordinating a joint operation for the distribution of items.

"We are trying to close down areas now that we have given initial relief, but the operation will go on for a while," Mr Stone said. "The urgency is to get plastic sheeting to the people in preparation for the next rains."

Teams were still running soup kitchens and handing out supplies in especially stricken areas such as Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Guguletu, Hout Bay, Manenberg, Harare, Phillippi, Cross Roads, Brown's Farm and Delft.

Mrs Elsa Green of the Red Cross said one kitchen makes about 300 litres of soup a day and there were scores of them.

Delft residents were still being housed in unsatisfactory conditions in the local community centre and school, Mr Stone said.



WINTER WARMTH . . . Mandela Park resident Ms Miriam Mkhombi was one of several flood victims to receive blankets and clothing from Red Cross volunteers at St Peter's Church in Hout Bay yesterday.

Picture: ALAN TAYLOR

Pollution threat to tourism — Oliver

52

BY PETER DENNEHY

233

CT 7/1/94

THE city's tourism industry faces a major threat since more oil washed on Cape Town's beaches yesterday.

New waves of pollution were expected for another three months as oil already on the shoreline was naturally redistributed onto other beaches.

And the source of the pollution has not yet stopped emitting oil. Mr Anton Mol-dan, the Department of Sea Fisheries' pollution officer, said that the Coast Guard aircraft had yesterday reported a "silvery sheen on the water surface."

Coming up from the source.

Caplour chief Mr Gordon Oliver last night described the development as "bad news for the tourism industry" and the mayor, Mrs Patricia Kreiner, said it was "distressing" but both thought it would not keep people away from the Cape.

Mr Moldan said the oil emitted yesterday "was half-a-mile long." The Kuswag vessel is dispersing it, not with chemicals but with breaker boards which it tows behind it," he said.

Mr Moldan said the "new oil" washed up on Saunders Beach in Sea Point

would not be a new lot directly from the wreck, but "oil which is coming off (the shoreline) and shifting around a bit".

Already, there had been three pollution incidents on the Clifton beaches.

Meanwhile, maritime lawyer Mr Dave McGregor confirmed yesterday that he was acting on behalf of the Apollo Sea's owner, and for its insurer.

He refused to confirm either that the vessel had sunk, or that it was the source of the oil pollution.

"I can tell you that we have opened up

communications with the Department of Transport (DoT)," he said, stressing that this did not mean negotiations were underway.

DoT public relations spokesman Mr Coenrad Pieterse said negotiations were at a very delicate stage and the department would not say a word about the Apollo Sea, until it issues an official press release.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that agents for the owners are insisting that independent bodies should tender for

the task of searching the sea-bed.

They also required proof, like video material, that the Apollo Sea had sunk and leaked oil.

Mr Oliver appealed to tourists not to be deterred from visiting the Cape since there were "many beaches that have not been polluted and miles of coastline not affected by disaster".

Mrs Kreiner said: "I'm particularly concerned about sea life. Human beings can find alternative beaches... but the sea life will take longer to regenerate."



OIL RESURFACES ... Cleansing department worker Mr Farrel Peters holds up oily mussels and other debris on Queen's Beach, Sea Point, yesterday. The mussels may not have been killed by the oil but washed up and then oiled.

Picture: BENNY GOOL

Driverboy shootings: 11 killed

CT 7/1/94

JOHANNESBURG. — At least 11 people were killed and eight seriously injured last night when gunmen in a bakkie opened fire on cars, taxis and commuters near the Waderville/Katlehong bridge on the East Rand.

But police said the toll could be higher because darkness had hampered the search for more victims.

Three other victims were slightly wounded, police said.

The incident came after days of simmering violence between the ANC-aligned "self-defence" units (SDUs) and Inkatha hostel inmates.

In some of the worst violence since the election at least 70 people have

Smith said damage of R150 000 was caused. The firemen were apparently shot at from deserted houses.

Thokoza and Katlehong were still tense yesterday afternoon.

Barricades, including broken tree trunks, shopping trolleys, dustbins and rocks still lined the northern entrance to Katlehong.

Renegade members of the ANC-aligned SDUs earlier this week denounced PTV Premier Mr Tokyo Sexwale's announcement that hostels on the East Rand would be upgraded, instead demanding the buildings be demolished.

Some members also warned Mr Sexwale's life would be in danger if he dared enter the East Rand townships.

But yesterday, the PTV government expressed concern about the threats by "self-styled SDU members".

a peace meeting in Port Shepstone yesterday.

Violence at Gellima near Margate was apparently sparked by the killing of local IFP leader Mr Mdaphuane Xolo on Tuesday afternoon.

The IFP chairman in nearby Izingo-veni, Mr James Zulu, said Mr Xolo and two others had been killed in an ambush outside Mr Xolo's house. He blamed the ANC.

A police spokesman described the area as "under control".

Local ANC leader Senator Siya-bonga Gole rejected the IFP charges: "I seriously doubt any elements in the ANC would have killed Xolo."

He blamed the violence on "third-force elements".

"There is no reason for the IFP and ANC to continue violence," he said. — Own Correspondent, Sapa

Managerial relief for Sanncob

CAPE NATURE CONSERVATION is to assist the SA National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds on the managerial side of the penguin rehabilitation project (56) CT 8/7/94

CNC chief director Dr Johan Neethling said yesterday Sanncob had appealed for help, as they have not dealt before with "so many birds at once".

Sanncob is now accommodating about 10 000 birds at the centre. About 1 200 had died, said the honorary secretary Ms Eva Vorster.

Most of the penguins were airlifted by 22 Squadron from Dassen Island last month.

The CNC's offer includes the full-time services of an administrative officer to co-ordinate the administration of stores and personnel, and a team of four middle-managers to co-ordinate the deployment of resources and volunteers.

It will also provide up to six foremen to direct the efforts of the various teams of volunteers, a senior manager to oversee these duties and a labour force to replace some volunteers who return to school.

Operation launched ⁽⁵⁶⁾ to clean up West Cape

Aug 8/7/94

VUYO BAVUMA
Political Staff

PLANS to make the Cape "fairer" have been given a boost after township-based groups endorsed a move to clean up the environment.

Lerumo Kalako, regional minister of environment affairs, has set up three task groups to clean up the Western Cape and to encourage tourism and environmental awareness.

The move follows meetings between Mr Kalako, who is provincial minister of nature and conservation and environmental affairs and tourism, and various interest groups to determine the best way of selling the region.

The groups include representatives of Fedhasa, the Tour Operators Association, the Small Business Development Corporation and Captour.

And last night the plans were given a boost when township-based groups, including African Environmental Movement, Work to Win and Ebony Youth endorsed the move.

The groups plan to finalise the region's programme before its launch on July 17.

Mr Kalako said his ministry proposed that the clean-up include the clearing of alien vegetation, greening of townships and cleaning rivers.

Churches and schools would be asked to help with clean-up campaigns in their areas.

Mr Kalako said that in the past it had been difficult for township organisations to put environmental issues at the top of the agenda because there were pressing social issues.

But this would have to change because a clean environment was needed to promote a culture of tourism.

Black businessmen, including taxi drivers, would be drawn in to assist with the process.

But these initiatives should be undertaken in tandem with other departments.

"For example, to clean the townships effectively, the department of roads must be involved to take care of poor roads and stormwater systems that cause muddy conditions.

"In some cases the health department will also be involved to co-ordinate action against any outbreak of diseases."

Oil dump near Smelly plant

Municipal Reporter

OIL from Cape Town's beaches is being dumped at a council-owned facility at Visser-shok, near the smelly, privately-leased waste plant featured on Agenda television programme on Thursday. A smell which Waste-Tech environmental services manager Ms Diane White described as "like fomcats' urine" was traced back from Milnerton more than 10km northwards to this waste plant a few weeks ago.

Waste-Tech concedes the smell comes "mostly" from its site. Ms White said the problem is not the conventional landfill site there, but a gently-bubbling lake of oil slops and chemicals, up to eight metres deep in parts.

It has not been used since 1989, but recent unusual weather conditions and new management

Company concedes it is source

measures have led to odours travelling to residential areas.

Milnerton and Table View ratepayers want internationally-accepted standards of waste management to be adhered to.

"The businesses must say what they are going to do about smells, in the interests of the whole community," said Mr Klaus Borgelt, an executive member of Milnerton Ratepayers' Association.

Ms White said her company regarded the "lagooning" approach to disposal of oily waste as out-

dated. She said the lagoon was already there when Waste-Tech took over the site in 1984.

The smell was not a health hazard, she stressed, but it was a nuisance.

Now Waste-Tech is replacing the anaerobic (non-oxygen-using) odour-producing bacteria at the bottom of the lake with aerobic ones. These will not produce methane that bubbles up, bringing up odours.

The lake is to be rehabilitated by "force-ventilation" and sludge-drying, and turned into a landfill site.

City engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said he did not believe the oil the council disposed of would add to the bad odours. It was left in bags, put into the landfill site, and covered up.

He said Visser-shok was managed on a scientific basis to comply with legal requirements.

57 CT9/7/94



WASTED WONDERLAND . . . Bags of oil collected off beaches are dumped on city council-owned near Milnerton. A spokesman said the oil would not add to the bad odours emanating from a v

RSC ignores minister — Point lease plans roll on

(SB) ARC 9/7/94

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council has come in for a tongue-lashing from the Wildlife Society over its "tiny, hidden away and almost illegible" notice to publicise its intention to lease land at Cape Point to Concor Holdings, developers of the proposed multi-million rand tourist facilities there.

The proposed facilities, which include a R4,6 million funicular railway and restaurant complex, were put on hold last month when regional environment minister Lerumo Kalako requested time to study the issue.

Wildlife Society Western Cape manager Andy Gubb yesterday described the advert as "so small as to be almost illegible and will certainly go unnoticed by a large number of interested and affected parties, and the public at large".

In response, the society placed a bigger advertisement in Weekend Argus today featuring the smaller one published in a daily newspaper this week.

The RSC advertisement states that it proposes to lease a "portion of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve to Concor Holdings (Pty) Ltd", that the lease could be studied at its head of-

■ The Cape Point controversy is back in the spotlight. The Wildlife Society says the Western Cape RSC is going ahead with plans to lease the land to Concor Holdings in spite of the regional environment minister's request that the issue be put on hold.

office, and that any objections must be lodged in writing by July 26.

"Given the controversy and the large amount of media attention the issue has attracted, one can only but ask why the official notice was reduced and hidden away from the public's eye.

"Once again the Wildlife Society must question the RSC's commitment to open, transparent decision-making and to involving the public in a process which has serious consequences in respect of public land, and at the tip of Africa as well as being a major tourist attraction at that," Mr Gubb said.

He said the RSC had "chosen to ignore" Mr Kalako's request that the matter be put on hold and was instead "pressing ahead regardless".

"The various non-government organisations have financially contributed towards readvertising a much-enlarged version of the RSC's official notice. Hopefully by doing so, many more concerned citizens will be given renewed opportunity to submit their points of view, for or against the proposed lease."

Reacting yesterday, RSC amenities director Bill Baldwin said the advertisement was published in terms of section 123 of the Divisional Council's Ordinance, No 18 of 1976.

On the question of Mr Kalako's request that the issue be put on hold, he said the accusation was "hollow" in the light of the fact that the lease would have to be approved by Mr Kalako's office.

Mariette Greyling of Tomar Communications, the company that conducted the Cape Point development public participation process, said that at a report-back meeting on April 18 this year the terms of the draft lease were discussed, and interested and affected parties were informed that a press notice of the final draft lease agreement would be published in due course.

"Therefore the notice was to be expected and it is reasonable to assume that interested people would scrutinise the legal columns regularly."

She said the document consisted of 37 pages which would be costly to distribute.

University in labour court

(56)

Staff Reporter

FIFTY-ONE workers from the research farm Bonterivier at Stellenbosch University took the university to the Agricultural Labour Court yesterday claiming unfair dismissal and gender and racial discrimination.

In terms of an agreement reached yesterday and made an order of court, the 51 workers will be reinstated and the issues of gender and racial dis-

crimination will be negotiated.

If agreement is not reached the court will be asked to decide the issues in October.

This was the first major case in this court.

The case was postponed until October 7.

CT 9/7/94
Mr C Kahanovitz, instructed by the Legal Resources Centre, appeared for the employees. Mr C De Villiers appeared for Stellenbosch University and the three presiding officers were Mr D Bosch, Ms S Christie and Ms F Steyn.

Disadvantaged challenged to shed culture of dependency

Political Correspondent

A SENIOR African National Congress Western Cape minister has challenged disadvantaged communities in the region to shake off the culture of dependency and "work hard" at helping themselves.

Lerumo Kalako, regional Minister of Nature Conservation, Environmental Affairs and Tourism — who is spearheading a major initiative to clean and green the townships, rivers, beaches and open spaces of the Cape — stressed the need for community involvement in these projects.

"People from disadvantaged communities must work hard for their own benefit and must shed this culture of dependency which they have been used to," he told community groups in Mitchell's Plain.

It was vital that all groups get involved and be prepared to "work with the gov-

ernment" in meeting community needs.

Earlier this month, Mr Kalako had talks with township-based groups.

In the next few days he is to have similar meetings in Elsie's River, Blue Downs, Belhar, Manenberg, Uitsig, Kuils River, Heideveld, Athlone, Silvertown, Kew Town, Khayelitsha, Crossroads, Parkwood, Lotus River, Ottery, Lavender Hill, Grassy Park, Steenberg, Ravensmead, Fairways, Retreat and communities along the West Coast and in the southern Cape.

He said his programme of discussions with communities were intended to involve people in drawing up and implementing proposals for Reconstruction and Development Programme projects.

He was keen for "bold campaigns ... to create an environmental awareness and a tourism culture, particularly in disadvantaged communities".

56 ARL 15/7/94

Live lightly in the land

Star 16/7/94

56



DIMMING THE FUTURE: Worldwide urban-based producers and households in cities like Johannesburg account for most of the natural resource consumption and greenhouse emissions.

PASSION for environmental issues in the international arena brings home the lesson that South Africans have a lot of catching up to do, especially in recognising that mankind's activities threaten the planet's life-support functions, reports ANITA ALLEN.

NEW perspectives are what a trip overseas offers, especially if it means attending a conference where world leaders have gathered to advance the debate on the future of planet Earth.

The passion around environmental issues in the international arena is comforting — there are people who care and are doing something about it.

It also brings home the lesson that

ANC, which had observer status at Rio, endorsed its principles, and the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) partly reflects this.

In addition, our national environmental policies have been framed with Agenda 21 in mind. South Africa has also signed two other agreements stemming from the Rio summit — the Framework Convention on Climatic Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

What has not materialised in South Africa is an acceptance that sustainable development also requires fundamental economic change.

It means moving from a society obsessed with economic growth to one which is aware of its limits, from a society orientated towards satisfying the wants of a few to one committed to satisfying the basic needs of all, from an externally dependent society to one which is self-sufficient.

In the UK, even primary school children know that sustainable development means meeting human needs without undermining future generations' ability to meet their requirements.

For them the environment is the total sphere in which human interaction takes place. It does not just mean wilderness and conservation areas. A 10-year-old in the UK will tell you that every world citizen must live lightly, leaving only footprints in the environment. They know that this entails thinking globally but acting locally.

All of this comes straight off Agenda 21, which states that each local authority around the world should produce a local Agenda 21 programme by 1996.

Many cities have responded: Manchester in the north-west UK is one. As the heart of the textile industry last century, it was the world's first truly industrial city.

Today Manchester has staked a claim as the sustainable city of the world. It hosted last month's Global Forum '94, which drew 700 delegates from 65 cities in 45 countries.

For six days they debated the question of cities and sustainable development. This was followed by a local authorities and Agenda 21 conference for UK cities, in preparation for an international conference next year.

It was common talk in Manchester that a South African city would be asked to host the event. Given that most South Africans would probably guess that Agenda 21 is Freek Robinson's television programme in the new century, we have a lot of learning to do to come up to speed.

Fortunately, much of Agenda 21 is echoed in the RDP. But Agenda 21 addresses precisely the questions being asked in South Africa about the environmental impact of implementing the RDP.

These misgivings centre on sustainability. But we don't have to re-invent the wheel. Agenda 21 is a blueprint for sustainable development.

It emphasises three constraints on growth: consumption, population, and



AT BEST: Cities have many advantages, untapped potential and benefits for the environment by concentrating populations.

capacity to assimilate waste; and no element of the ecosphere can be depleted beyond rejuvenation.

Conventional economic analysts have yet to acknowledge that there are biophysical limits to economic expansion. Economic policy is predicated on sustaining growth.

This is the duality of Agenda 21, which reflects the concerns of the countries of the North and the South. In South Africa these dualities are not hemispheres apart. They are realities in one country.

Local authorities have a key role in making sustainable development happen, given that most of the problems facing the country — and the planet — have their roots at local level.

MOST action to achieve sustainable development has to be formulated and implemented locally. The fact that each city and its place in the local and regional economic systems is unique implies the need for optimal use of local resources, knowledge and skills.

This demands much local self-determination, since centralised decision-making structures have great difficulty implementing decisions which respond appropriately to such diversity.

As the government closest to the people, local authorities should play a vital role in educating and mobilising the public around sustainable development.

Cities produce high levels of waste,

and other non-renewable resource consumption and most greenhouse emissions. The cause is simple: bad governance.

Yet most people live in cities, and cities have many advantages and untapped potential. They bring enormous benefits in terms of the environment, concentrating populations and saving valuable farmland. They have advantages in terms of cost per capita in development in meeting human needs and providing enjoyable, stimulating and valued places to live. Cities are also precious cultural artefacts.

A successful city in sustainable development terms is one where the many different goals of its inhabitants and enterprises are met without passing on costs to other people and regions, and which encourages people to live sustainably, penalising those who do not.

A city council cannot by itself make its city sustainable. This can be achieved only by a concerted effort from the broad spectrum of groups that make up a community.

A local Agenda 21 for Johannesburg would present a plan for sustainable development in the city, addressing action to be taken not only by the city council but by business, the academic world, trade unions, public sector bodies and community and voluntary groups. The plan would have to be drawn up in a consultative process involving all sectors of society in the city.

South African cities have two-sided problems: consumption patterns of the middle and upper-income groups and the

same time, most of the population's basic needs are not met — no safe water supply, sanitation, drainage, rubbish collection, housing, health care and jobs. This too results in unsustainable resource use.

The latter aspects are being addressed by the RDP, but the problem is that extending the level of resource consumption and waste generation currently enjoyed by the rich minority to an increasing proportion of the country's population will not be sustainable.

Meeting development goals sustainably means efficient resource use and minimum waste generation. At local level this means promoting re-use, recycling and reclamation of non-renewable and renewable resources and waste materials. Polluters must be penalised and incentives given to encourage innovative ways to reduce pollution.

Cities must conserve resources. This entails encouraging fuel-efficient buildings and land-use patterns which respond to citizens' priorities for easy access to employment and services within fuel-efficient transport systems.

It means identifying and supporting development of new economic activities which enhance both the urban centre's economic base and its environment.

Cities must sort out environmental threats by empowering communities to address the problems that affect them. Cities must promote urban food production and agriculture.

Most importantly, cities must look to create innovative opportunities for partnerships across the two-sided divide.

At a global and national level, cities cannot remain prosperous if the aggregate effect of their economies' production and inhabitants' consumption draws on global or national resources at unsustainable rates, or if city-based producers and households deposit wastes at levels which contribute to climatic change.

Here the national government has the central role of linking local and national or global sustainability.

Government should look to co-ordinating the Local Agenda 21 efforts of local authorities in South Africa by setting up a board that would provide advice, share information and experience locally and internationally.

IN THE UK the local government management board has produced a local government declaration on sustainable development which provides guidance to cities in considering approaches.

The bottom line of Agenda 21 amounts to socioeconomic reorganisation to counter the destruction of both nature and the fabric of human communities. It calls for a radical shift from what can be termed empty-world economics to full-world economics, which accepts constraints on material growth. It means that every person is responsible for putting the principles of



WORST: Cities are unhealthy and generate most of the waste of a region.

South Africans have a lot of catching up to do, especially when it comes to recognising that mankind's activities are threatening this planet's life-support functions.

It's two years since 103 heads of state met at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and despite serious differences between countries of the developed North and developing South, issued the Agenda 21 declaration.

This global action plan is based on the premise that all nations are responsible for the environment. Its 40 chapters and 115 programmes are intimately linked to South Africa because they aim to integrate environmental and development issues in the decision-making process.

WC govt may act on sensitive wetlands

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE

THE Western Cape government has warned Transnet to produce a copy of an environmental impact study on a controversial proposed housing development — failing which it will take a decision without further consultation.

The proposed development is within the environmentally sensitive Rietvlei Wetlands and there are fears that it could have dire consequences on the area's ecologically-sensitive plant and birdlife.

Transnet has been warned that unless this request is met within two months a decision on whether or not to expropriate the land without its participation will be taken.

Milnerton Municipality last year applied for 10 ha of wetlands, leased to it by Transnet, to be added to the existing nature area. Transnet however decided to develop the valuable nature area for housing.

The municipality then applied to the former Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, for permission to expropriate the land.

Now the protracted feud is set to come to a head following a letter which Mr Lerumo Kalako, regional Minister of Nature Conservation and Tourism, sent to Transnet last week.

In his letter Mr Kalako has given Transnet two months to produce a copy of the study by UCT's Environmental Assessment Unit.

Mr Kalako also warned Transnet that if it did not produce the study, his department could de-

diversity of fauna and flora in the Rietvlei reserve was averted.

"Yet Transnet is prepared to desecrate this vital wetland area by allowing a high-density housing development," said Milnerton Town Clerk Mr Peter Gerber.

He said the municipality was not interested in anything other than having the area preserved in its natural state.

"We believe we have a responsibility to the community and, indeed, future generations — so no development whatsoever is acceptable." (See)

He pointed out that the Rietvlei wetlands featured in the International Ramsar Convention (to which South Africa was a signatory) as a migratory waterfowl habitat.

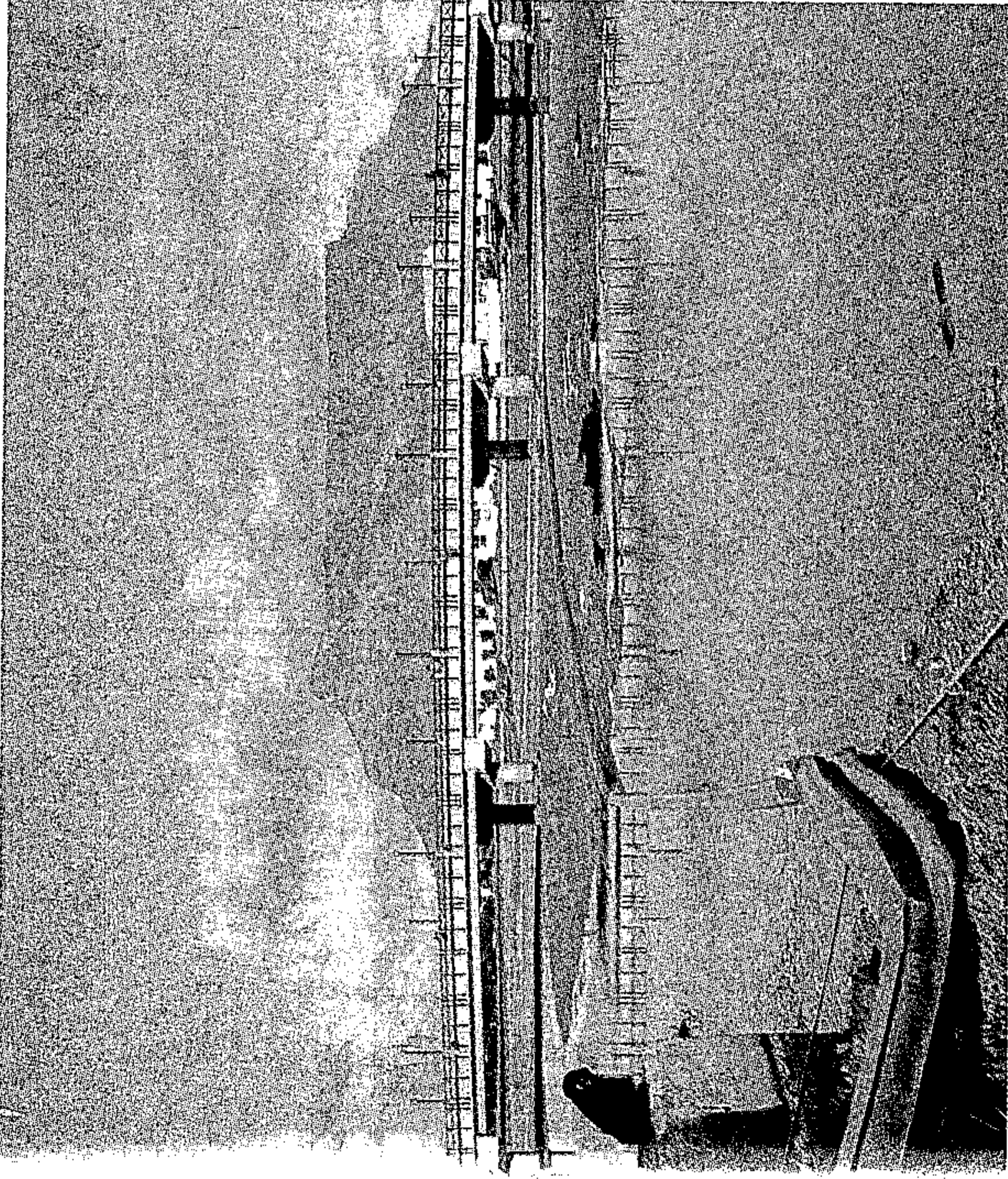
He said this further underlined Rietvlei's local and international significance.

side on the matter of expropriation without Transnet's participation.

The proposed development has been opposed by the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) and most conservation groups. The Town Clerk of Milnerton has warned that the threat of oil pollution to the Rietvlei reserve during the recent oil spill could be overshadowed by an even greater threat — development.

When oil, believed to be from the wrecked Apollo Sea, caused damage to beaches and bird life along the West Coast, Milnerton Municipality set up a boom to stop oil entering the Milnerton lagoon and posing a threat to the adjacent wetlands.

Fortunately no oil entered the lagoon and the threat to the rich



placed across Milnerton Lagoon, helped it survive the oil spill which wreaked havoc on the fragile wetlands

Picture: GRAHAM LIZAMORE

Officials mum on company's Du Noon contract

(56) 27/19/7/94

OFFICIALS of Milnerton municipality have known since March of the existence of a contract allowing a company to mine sand at Du Noon, but did not tell councillors about it.

This follows recent revelations that Malan's Transport concluded an agreement with the previous owners of the land, totalling R2,9-million, to mine 250 000 cubic metres of sand at Du Noon. The issue has led to a great deal of dissatisfaction among councillors and representatives of the steering committee for the development of Du Noon.

The former Cape Provincial Administration acquired the land on the council's behalf to house the Marconi Beam squatters.

The number of houses to be built in the area had subsequently been reduced from 2 100 to 1 000 because of the contract, which was concluded before negotiations started for the acquisition of the land.

At a closed meeting to inform councillors and representatives of the Du Noon development steering committee about the matter, Mayor Mr Danie Krýnauw said: "Should the true facts not be communicated publicly, it will further adversely impact on an al-

ready distressed community" in Marconi Beam.

A verbatim record of Mr Krýnauw's speech at this meeting was included in the minutes of the agenda for last week's council meeting.

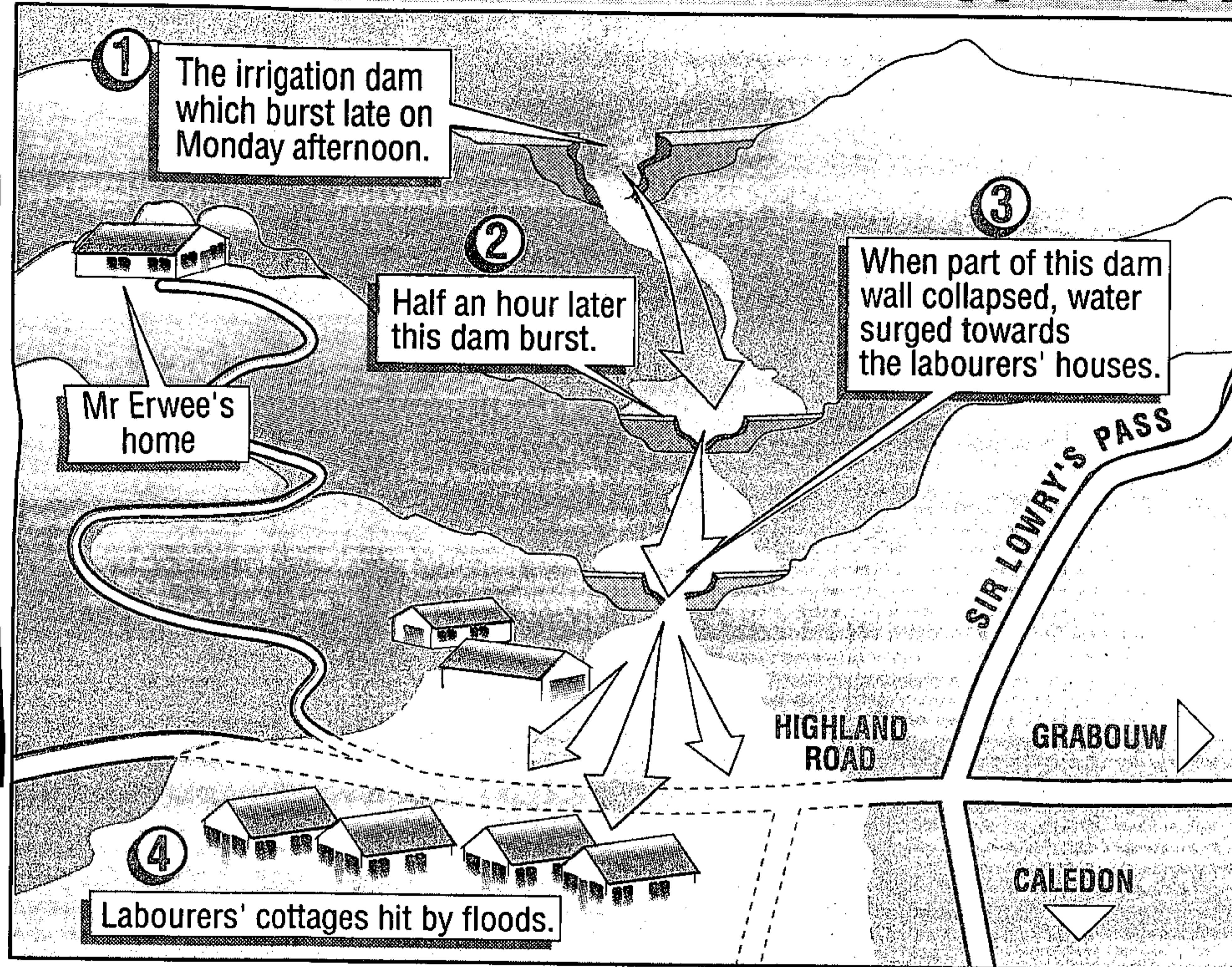
The town clerk, Mr Pieter Gerber, had accepted responsibility for not informing the council about the matter, Mr Krýnauw told the meeting.

Mr Krýnauw said he was satisfied that neither the officials nor the councillors was aware of the contract before March.

Municipal officials had first learnt about the existence of the contract on March 26 when a law enforcement official reported to the town secretary's department that somebody was removing sand from Du Noon.

According to Mr Krýnauw, the development had been encumbered by an agreement between the previous owners, J S Maisel, M T Aginsky and H Wingren, and Malan's Transport. He said the agreement was concluded on November 1 1992 and the deed of sale was signed on May 19, 1993. "The right was therefore in existence prior to negotiations having commenced. This right has not been notarially registered and the agreement constitutes the total contract."

DAM BURST — HOW IT HAPPENED



Labourers housed by neighbours

JOHN VILJOEN
Staff Reporter

GRABOUW labourers left homeless by Monday's triple dam burst are to spend a week on neighbouring farms while their houses are cleaned.

Petro Erwee of the farm Spioenkop — scene of Monday's disaster — said today damage caused by the dam burst was well over R1,5 million.

Damage to storage rooms alone ran to R1 million and repairing the dams would cost at least R500 000. A large amount of farm equipment was also destroyed.

Mrs Erwee denied a claim by the Grabouw advice office that her husband, farm owner Louis Erwee, had told labourers to move back to their cottages less than 48 hours after they were engulfed by a wall of water.

The accusation was "crazy", she said. It was impossible for them to move back at the moment.

Fifteen families on Spioenkop Farm were left homeless when a massive clay irrigation dam wall suddenly gave way, unleashing a torrent of water that coursed through two other dams before engulfing the houses.

Mrs Erwee said she and her husband had arranged for the labourers to spend a week on neighbouring farms.

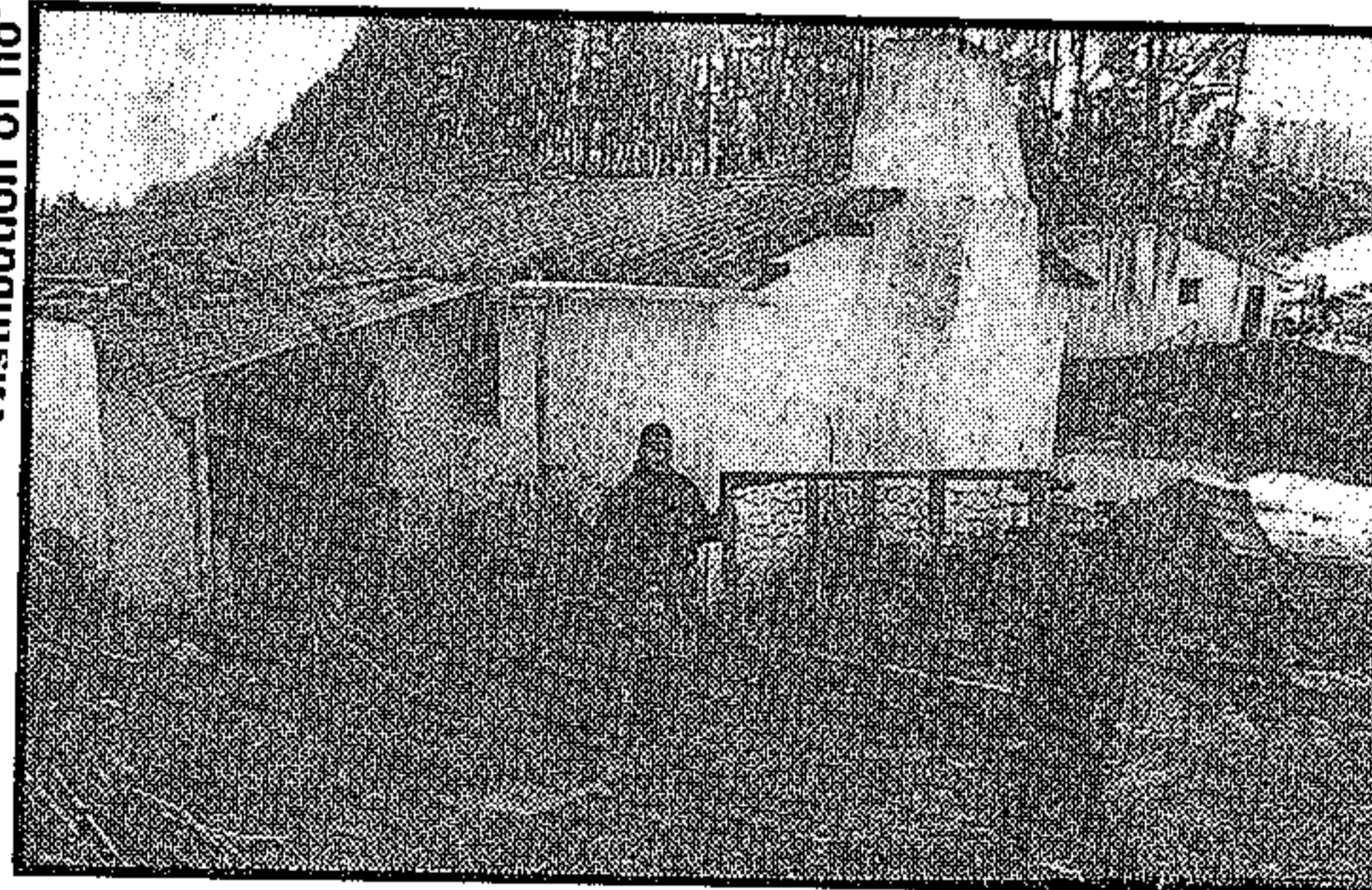
They did not know if their farming business would survive this week's disaster or whether it would be possible to repair the homes.

No cause for the dam burst had been established.

The Department of Water and Forestry Affairs' deputy chief engineer for dam safety, A G Shemaly, is expected at the farm on Saturday.

A police spokesman said today there was no sign of a further dam burst.

Table 1 1 • Distribution of ho



DAM DISASTER: Victor Stevens, left, and Jakob Sass carry a bed out of a damaged home on the farm Spioenkop.
Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

Langa plea to minister on clean-up

Political Staff

CONCERNED Langa residents have appealed to Environment Minister Lerumo Kalako to speed up plans to clean up their polluted township to prevent an outbreak of disease.

Mr Kalako has been urged to expedite the installation of proper drainage and to ensure regular refuse removals in the township, where 120 000 people live in a five square-kilometre area. (24) (56)

Residents say Langa is a breeding ground for health problems resulting from flooded and littered streets.

Mr Kalako visited the township yesterday for a tree-planting ceremony at the Tsoga Environment Resource Centre, after which he faced 700 residents at a scheduled meeting.

Mr Kalako has had similar meetings with communities in other townships during the past few weeks.

Mr Kalako assured Langa residents that he would convey their grievances to other ministries and said his own ministry would soon put the finishing touches to a clean-up campaign. ARU 22/7/94

He urged residents to set up committees to co-ordinate their campaign.

The city council has warned that serious diseases could break out in the township at any time because of the piles of rubbish strewn in the streets.

The dirt was subsequently removed but many sections of the township, especially near the hostels, are still badly littered.

Cape residents battle growing air pollution

(56)

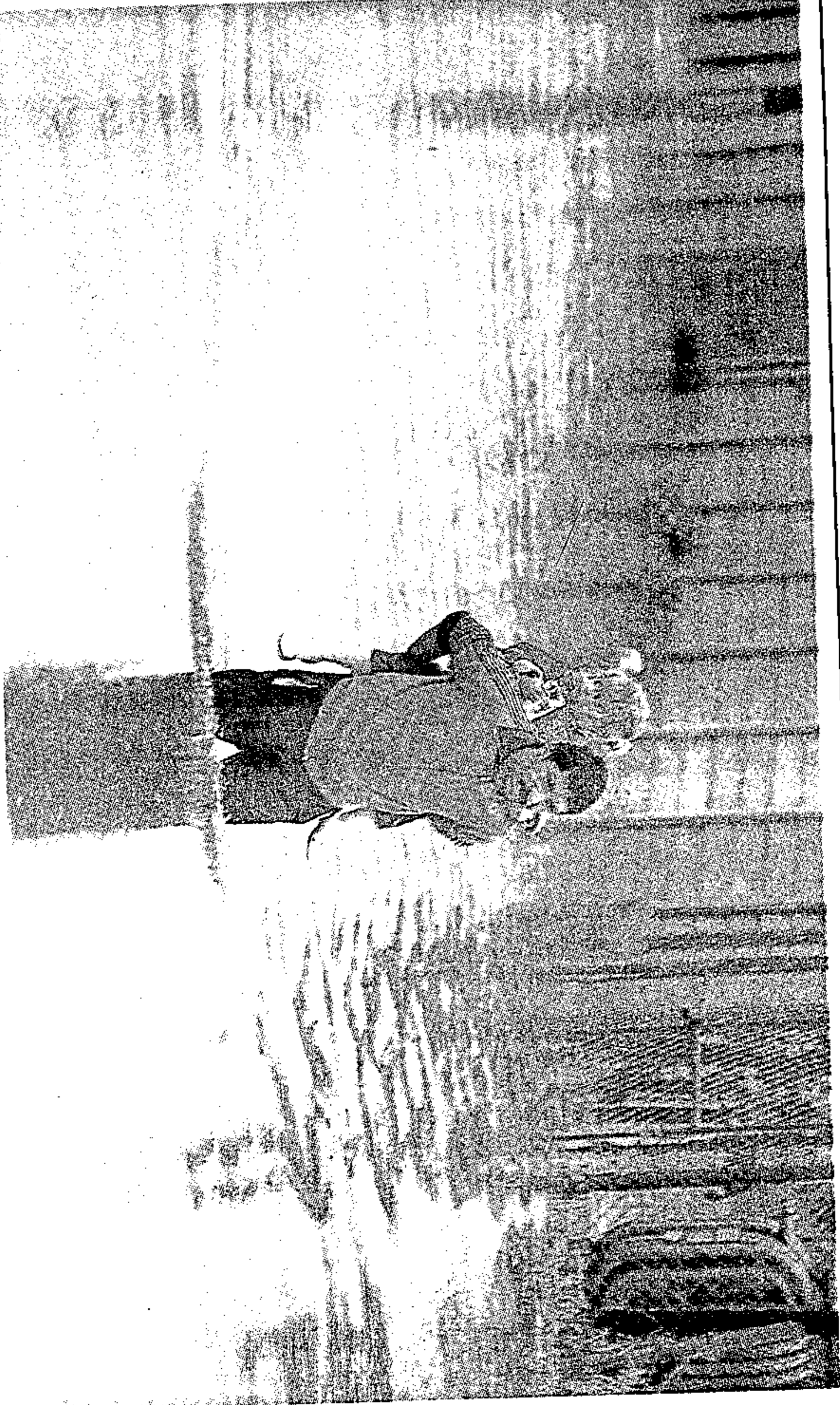
CT 23/1194
Municipal Reporter

AIR pollution was affecting communities in Bothasig, Edgemoor and Monte Vista, with children in particular suffering from health problems like asthma, said Goodwood mayor Mr Manus Gerber yesterday.

Milnerton residents are also protesting against air pollution in their areas and a public meeting is to be called early next month.

"We, like everybody else, are concerned about emissions from factories in our area," said Milnerton town engineer Mr Dave Brook.

The Department of National Health is running a series of tests on air pollution to help it decide whether the Milnerton refinery should be permitted to expand.



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

EVACUATION: Residents of Carol Road in Ottery left their houses to stay with friends as the water level rose on Saturday. Water damming up in the road was too deep for this youngster who was given a welcome lift.



Picture: HANNES THIAART, The Argus.

RESCUING POLICE: The tables were turned in Jan Smuts Drive when private motorists went to the aid of a police van stuck in a flooded ditch. Sergeant Louis Solomons of Phillippi is in the foreground.



Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus.

JACK-KNIFED: The guard's van, right, jack-knifed after the locomotive uncoupled during the derailment.

'Derailed' passengers have party after shock

JOHAN SCHRONEN and ESANN DE KOCK
Staff Reporters

EIGHTY people on a party train to Malmesbury escaped unscathed when floodwater washed away gravel ballast under the rails, causing the train to topple off the line.

Heavy rain on Saturday night in the Durbanville area swept away the gravel under the rails between Mellish Siding and Klipheuwel Station, leaving the rails unsupported.

The locomotive of the Union Limited steam train, a museum train used for excursions and which includes some old Blue Train rolling stock, crossed the gap safely, but the rails gave under the weight of the water tender immediately behind, which uncoupled from the locomotive and plunged into the gap.

The momentum of the rest of the train pushed it across the gap before it jack-knifed.

Damage of about R3 million was caused to the train.

Passengers were just sitting down for dinner about 8pm when the accident happened.

Passenger Chris Kiraman of Constantia said the coaches started rocking and it felt as if there was turbulence in the train.

Ralph Behm, one of a party of 12 on the train, said the trip was meant to be a leisurely one back to the 1930s and the train was travelling at a moderate speed — no more than 50 or 60km/h.

"Apart from the three coaches at the back, the rest derailed but came to a rest at a 45 degree angle.

"We all waited to see if we would roll over. When nothing happened, we slowly got out on the upper side.

"There were a few scratches and bruises, but no one was seriously injured."

Opera singer Tom Petersen, who is to play the part of the Mikado in the operetta at the Baxter Theater in October, was also on the train.

"I was sitting next to a win-

dow near the end of the train and had just ordered a bottle of Edelroodt when the train gave a terrific jerk," said Mr Petersen.

"It was frightening to see the front coaches of the train jackknife in slow motion.

"But when the good news spread that no one was injured, it was party time.

"After a few glasses of wine on the house the spirits were up again, even the 45 degree slant of the train was no problem," said Mr Petersen.

The passengers agreed that if their coaches had fallen over and continued rolling, they would have landed in a pool of water in the heavily flooded countryside.

All were full of praise for the crew.

Mr Behm said they were fantastic.

"They took us to the back three coaches and opened the bar. Drinks were on the house. The food had not yet been dished up and the even managed to serve us our meals."

Meanwhile four-by-four rescue vehicles arrived. They were the only vehicles that could reach the train, as the countryside along Klipheuwel Road was extensively flooded.

Three hours later, the passengers were taken back to Cape Town station in the remaining coaches pulled by a diesel engine.

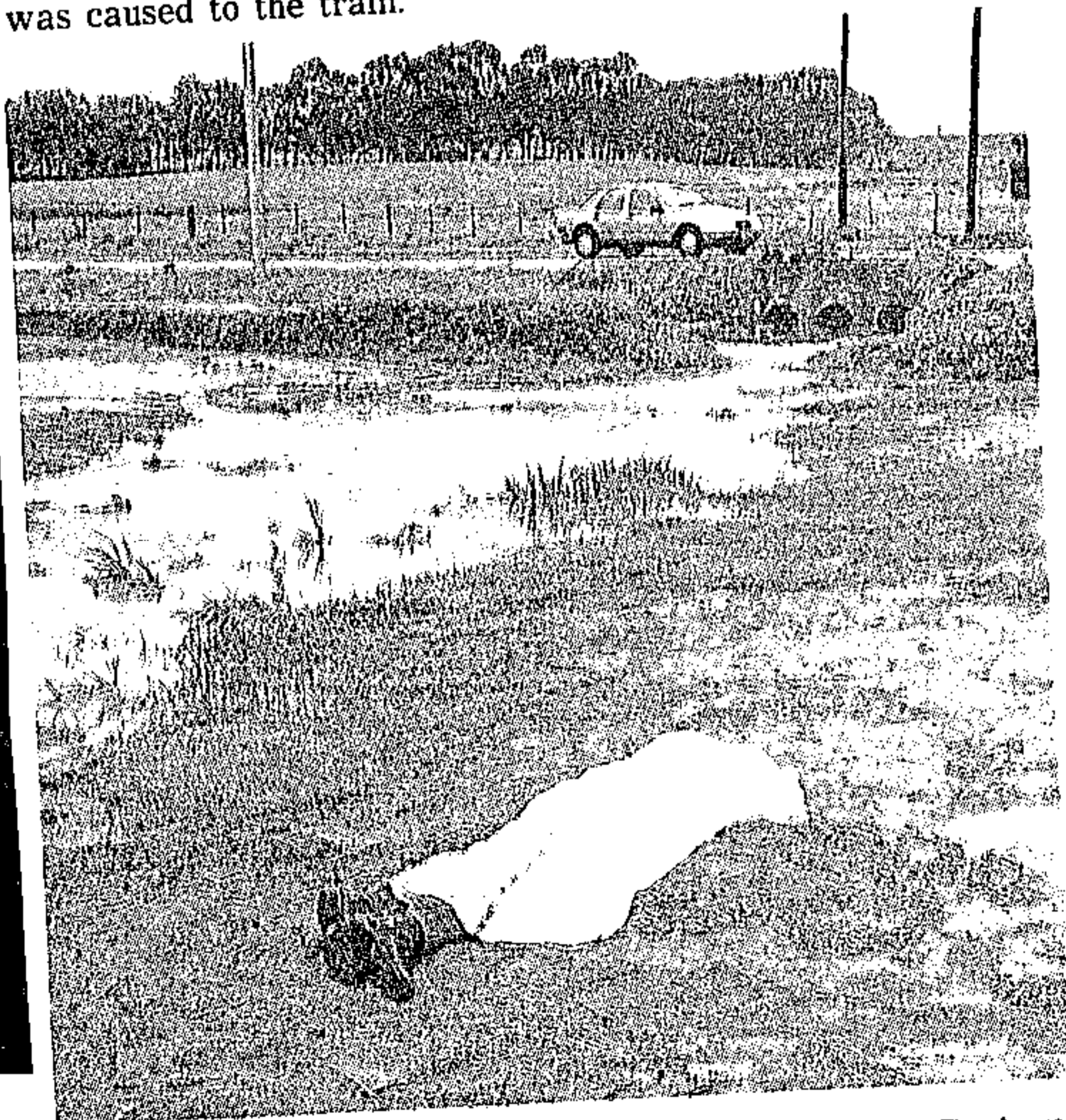
Some were slightly shaken, but their spirits were high as the train stopped briefly at Fisantekraal.

Comments ranged from "It's a great shame this happened, but it was nobody's fault" to "Don't rescue us, we're having a great time".

The Union Limited which ferried Union Castle mailship passengers between Johannesburg and Table Bay Harbour, was South Africa's most complete originally restored train.

Transnet runs the Union Limited to fund the preservation of rail heritage.

The Union Limited, which according to Transnet technical staff is repairable, was due to leave for the Victoria Falls next weekend with a host of overseas tourists.



Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus.

DROWNING: The body of an unidentified man lies next to Klipheuwel Road which was transformed into a river during Saturday night's flood.

Flood havoc leaves at least two people dead

The Argus 25 July 1994

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN and JOE ARANES Staff Reporters

FLOOD havoc left at least two people dead, derailed a historic museum train carrying more than 80 passengers and caused several road accidents during a storm which overflowed the Moddergat River near Klipheuvel.

Mary Jane Marshall, 50, of Parow drowned in the rising Moddergat River near Klipheuvel while trapped in the half-open door of a friend's car which was swept away by flood water on Saturday evening.

Yesterday a motorist found another apparently drowned person, a man as yet unidentified, next to a section of the Klipheuvel road. The road had been turned into a torrent by heavy rain late on Saturday.

Piet du Preez of Ridgeworth, Bellville, a salesman at Orbit Motors in Parow where Mrs Marshall worked, said he was on his way back from Malmesbury with Mrs Marshall when he carefully negotiated "ankle deep" water near the Philadelphia Road intersection.

"I was almost through when a massive tidal wave of water came from nowhere and bulldozed the car like a feather off the road," said a shocked Mr Du Preez.

"Within seconds the car was in a deep hole and water started to rise above window level.

"I could see Mary was starting to panic as she struggled to get the door open.

"The force of the water sealed the doors closed, the only way out was through the windows," said a sobbing Mr Du Preez.

The drifting car eventually wedged against a fence about 30 metres from the road where Mr Du Preez opened a window and escaped.

The panicking Mrs Marshall forced her door open slightly and tried to squeeze out, but the force of the fast-flowing water pushed the door back and trapped her with just her head and shoulders out of the vehicle.

As the water rose about a centimetre a minute, Mr Du Preez clung to the fence and tried to pull Mrs Marshall free but ended up with a chunk of her hair in his hand.

"I felt so helpless, the water rose steadily until the car and Mary were completely submerged."

When Mr Du Preez realised he could not free Mrs Marshall, he made his way to the road

where he flagged down a motorist who alerted the rescue services. Metro divers recovered Mrs Marshall's body.

Saturday's downpour left many roads flooded and local municipal workers put out warning signs.

Grassy Park, Lotus River and Ottery were the hardest hit. No new damage to houses in Delft — scene of flood damage three weeks ago — was visible and residents there said although water crept into their houses through cracks in the walls, none of their roofs had blown away.

In Langa and Nyanga some side streets were still covered in water yesterday when an Argus team drove through the townships. Most of the residents in the squatter communities managed with some success to keep the water from entering their homes.

But on a privately owned piece of land adjacent to the railway line near Philippi station residents fought a losing battle to keep their homes and few possessions dry.

Mthuthuzeli Malamba and his family pay their landlord R50 a month to live in a one-roomed shack.

"Everything we own was soaked by the rain. The wind ripped off part of our roof early on Saturday morning and the rain just poured in. Water started rising through the floor and although we wanted to put our beds outside, we could not because it continued to rain.

"Last month we suffered the same fate and asked the landlord to do something about it, but nothing ever gets done and we are expected to pay our rent every month.

"Our children are sick from living under these conditions. We don't even have toilets.

"Organisations like the Red Cross don't even know we exist and never come around here to hand out relief aid to us," Mr Malamba said.

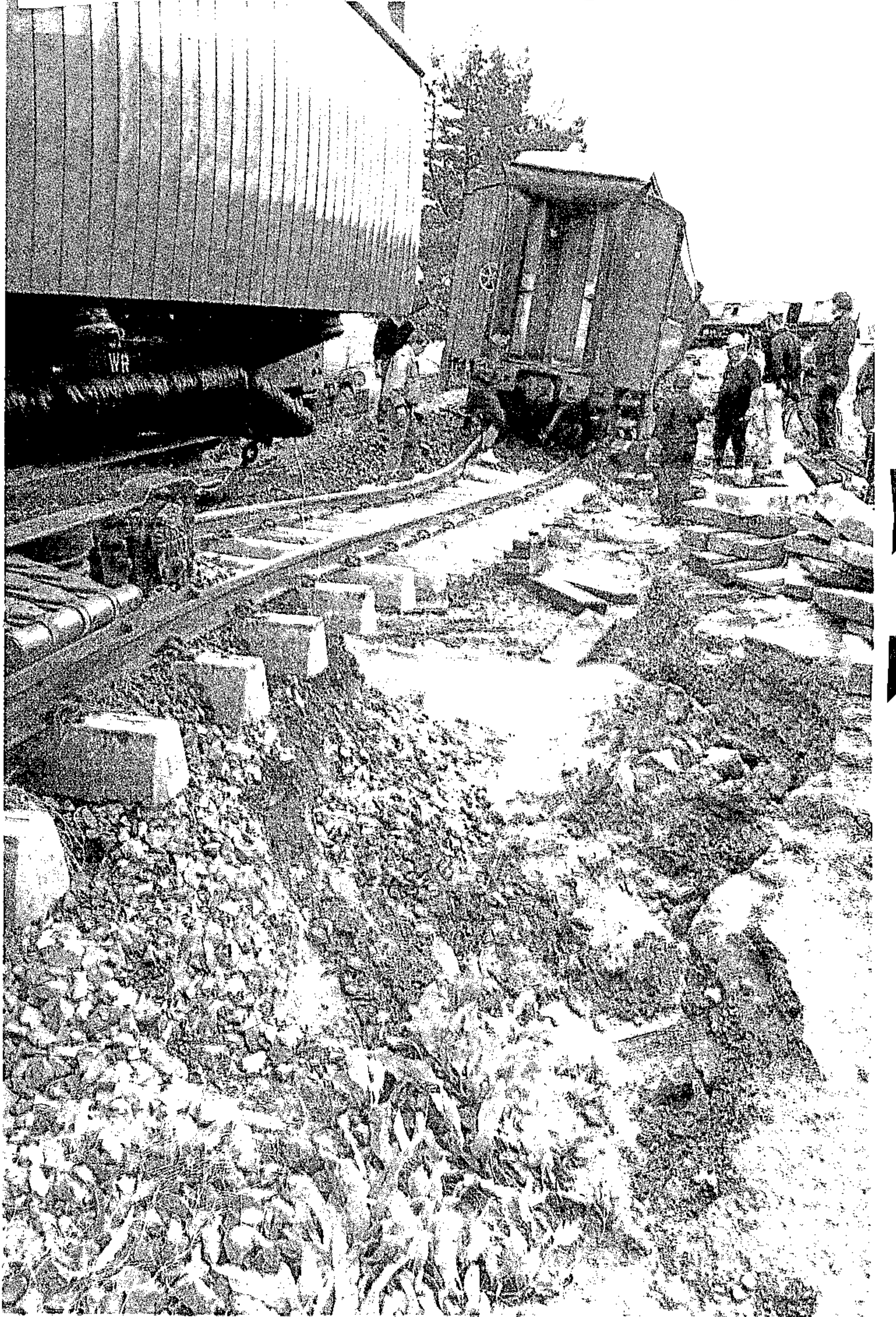
Neighbour Joey Hendricks agreed, saying: "Some of this water was still lying here since the last floods and when the rain started more water flowed into our homes and the whole area is like a big swamp with us living in the middle.

"When we get up in the morning the whole place stinks

"We tried digging trenches to lead the water away but water always seems to be flowing into where we live."

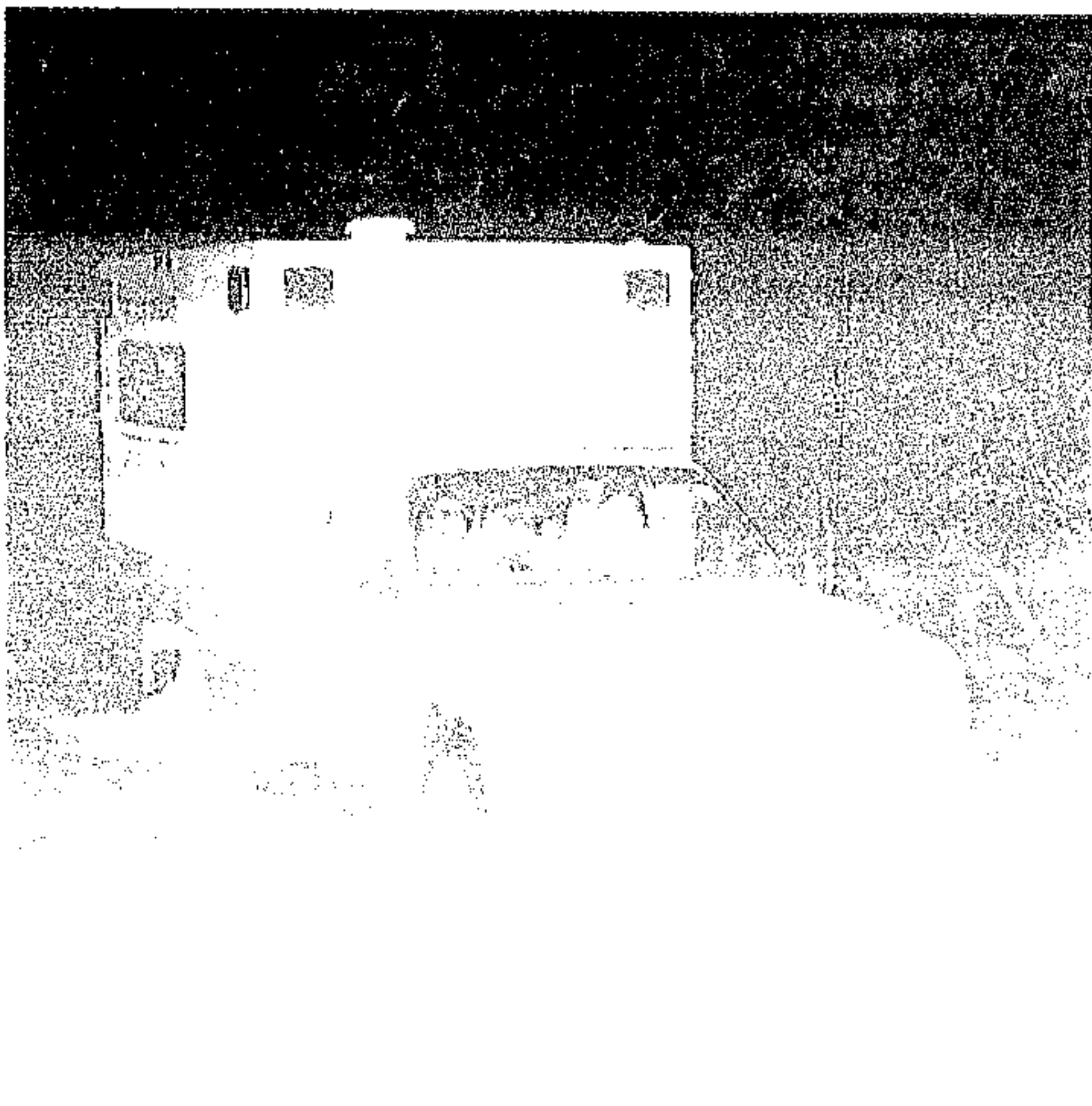
A spokesman for the Weather Bureau said the wet weather was expected to clear by Wednesday.

Parow woman drowns trapped in car as Moddergat River overflows



Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus.

RAIL SALVAGE: A diesel engine carefully eases away undamaged coaches from the derailed lounge car after technicians had uncoupled the coaches.



Picture: JOHAN SCHRÖNEN, The Argus.

RIVER ROAD: Rescue medics negotiate a flooded road near Klipheuvel in their ambulance.



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

UP TO DATE: Joey Hendricks takes a break from repairing his flooded house to catch up with the latest news.

New move to stop pollution by mines

MUNGO SOGGOT

WATER Affairs Department measures to counter water pollution by the mining industry had proved inadequate and a new strategy had been adopted, the Water Research Commission said yesterday. *Blaw*

The commission said a special committee had been set up to tackle the problem. This was made up of representatives from the Chamber of Mines, state departments, Eskom, Sasol and a panel of experts.

In its annual report the commission said more money was needed for research into the problem. *27/7/94*

It said a new approach was needed as the department's previous measures, which involved checking water from mines released at specific points into rivers, did not allow for the fact that mines were polluting rivers through "diffuse sources". These included runoff water which had come into contact with pollution sources such as mine dumps, rubbish dumps and unserviced informal residential settlements. *(S)*

The department, therefore, had adopted a new water quality management strategy for mines which stipulated that mines undertake widespread investigations on their impact on the environment, and in particular on river catchment areas.

The new committee had drawn up guidelines on future research on the problem.

Cry goes up for water

By Mathatha Tsedu
Political Editor

THE cry in the Northern Transvaal is not for housing — but water.

And the provincial government led by Mr Ngwako Ramathlodi is acutely aware of this. Not that they could somehow have missed the need.

For on any given day, parts of the semi-urban areas in which they operate go without water, crippling health facilities there. During the past week toilets in parts of Seshego, outside Pietersburg, and Sibasa in Venda could not be used due to lack of water. (56) (3/17/94)

But for rural areas, the need is not only for the sewerage, it is for drinking water, which has to be carried from afar or delivered by army trucks. Many people survive by buying the precious liquid, at between R2 and R3 for a 20 litre container.

Ramathlodi told *Sowetan* that providing drinking water to villages and townships was the region's priority and that plans to do so were at an advanced stage.

"We are going to get the army to take an even bigger role in taking water to people in the villages. Broken pumps must be repaired.

"This government will not spare any effort to get water to our people. If it means going outside the country that is what we are going to do.

"We intend building more dams and reservoirs. These projects link up with the RDP and local material and labour will be used to create jobs," Ramathlodi said.

Ramathlodi said while other regions may plan for the advent of drought, their area took it as a starting point in their plans, as many of the areas are permanently drought stricken.

Health problems

Over the past four years, dams in the province have hovered at a level of between 10 percent and zero. This has led to numerous health problems and innovative schemes have been designed to transport water over mountains into dams serving local towns.

The scheme proposed by Ramathlodi is part of a national programme that would cost R13 billion over five years to bring safe and secure water to the estimated 16 million people countrywide who do not have access to clean water.

The money is to come from the RDP budget over the years. The Department of Water Affairs has estimated that between 21,8 million and 25,5 million people are without adequate sanitation.

This would cost between R300 and R350 per family a year to provide. To bring drinking water of at least 20 litres per person per day in a family to within 200 metres would cost about R250.

Over 30 000 children are said to have died from diseases linked to poor sanitation in 1993 alone, a figure that the Water Affairs department says is conservative.

Ramathlodi said his administration was faced with creating infrastructures where none existed before due to the neglect of the previous regimes. But, he stressed, if this was the only thing his government could do in the next few years, they would do so, for to fail would mean a catastrophe for all the inhabitants.

Controversial Cape Point land leased

SHARON SOROUR
Municipal Reporter

56
AR 28/7/94
THE Regional Services Council has agreed to lease land at Cape Point to Concor Holdings, developers of the proposed R4,6 million tourist facilities, for R20 500 a year for the first six years — even though the controversial plans are on hold.

The RSC's finance committee overturned an earlier amenities committee decision that Concor pay R10 000 in annual rental, upping the rate to R20 500 plus VAT to recover insurance costs.

The development, which includes a funicular railway and restaurant complex, was put on hold last month by regional environment minister Lerumo Ka-

lako, who said he was investigating the issue.

The insurance premiums which the RSC will have to pay for the development of the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve cover the assets, valued at R5,5 million, and R10 million for public liability at the reserve.

The RSC is presently insured for R25 million, plus the additional R10 million at the reserve, for public liability, but insurers have recommended the council increase this to up to R200 million because of the funicular railway.

Councillor E Kramer remarked, however, that the funicular would be "safer than the bus we are running at the moment".

He pointed out the council was giving the go-ahead for an agree-

ment on a project which had not yet been formally approved.

The council also agreed to:

- Consider donating money to the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra; and

- Support the bid by the Cape Town city council and other bodies to keep parliament in Cape Town.

Chairman Piet Loubser said Cape Town and the Western Cape had developed an infrastructure to accommodate "the needs of parliamentarians", and the removal of parliament would "undoubtedly not only have a serious detrimental effect on the economy of this area, but will also not be in the interest of South Africa as a whole".

City smog levels way above world standards

Staff Reporter

NOXIOUS oxides of nitrogen levels over the city bowl yesterday exceeded international guidelines for the 12th time this year.

Mr Dries Muller, a pollution control inspector in the Medical Officer of Health's Air Pollution Control office, said oxides of nitrogen levels yesterday peaked at 2 321 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) — a full 817 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ above the international guideline.

Oxides of nitrogen levels had exceeded the international guidelines 12 times already this year, and it was

possible that levels could be exceeded three times in one day.

The highest reading taken so far this year was on June 15, when the level peaked at 2 408 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Mr Muller said the main cause of the gases and visible smog was the burning of high-temperature combustion fuels such as petrol, which was emitted from exhaust pipes.

He said the burning of coal, wood and oil for industrial and household uses also contributed strongly to the high gas levels and smog over the city on windless days.

Wildlifers furious over lease

(56)

ARG 30/7/94

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council is again under fire from the Wildlife Society over the Cape Point development plan — this time because it agreed to the land lease just a day after its call for objections closed, apparently allowing no time to consider the objections.

The RSC agreed on Wednesday to lease land at Cape Point to Concor Holdings, developers of the proposed R4,6-million tourist facilities there, for R20 500 a year for the first six years, although the plans are on hold.

Now the Wildlife Society has cried "Foul", questioning how the objections could have been considered, and apparently discarded, in less than 24 hours. Objections to the proposed lease had to be lodged in writing by last Tuesday, July 26.

The RSC's media spokesmen, Tomar Communications, could not be contacted for comment but Wildlife Society Western Cape manager Andy Gubb claims the move proves the RSC is "determined to proceed with its initiative and bureaucratic decision-making, brushing aside the concerns of many individuals and organisations".

Mr Gubb told Weekend Argus last night that "hours of investigation", including approaches to the City Council, the RSC and the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape, had failed to clarify the matter.

"The closing date for objections to the lease was July 26. The RSC ap-

■ Furious conservationists are crying "Foul" after the Western Cape RSC agreed to lease land at Cape Point, destined for major development, just a day after the deadline for a call for objections.

proved agreement to rent the land (to Concor Holdings) on July 27. Clearly those objections had not even been considered."

He warned that the "significance of this old guard, high-handed behaviour must not be underestimated; the RSC is stubbornly pressing on in spite of the fact that the regional minister of environment affairs and tourism, Lerumo Kalako, has requested that the whole issue be re-examined".

It was noted at the RSC meeting on Wednesday that the development had not been finally approved and although a councillor suggested the lease be made subject to the approval of the project, no amendment was made.

Mr Gubb pointed out that a workshop to consider the issue was scheduled for August 16, at which the actual siting of the planned restaurant would be considered.

"In essence, the RSC has agreed to lease the land at Cape Point about 24 hours after the deadline for objections to the lease. And at a time when the whole issue is about to be re-examined at the first decent workshop. At every stop I remain convinced that the RSC has its own agenda which completely ignores the public," Mr Gubb said.

SA to join in water body

WILSON ZWANE

SA WAS chosen at the weekend to facilitate the formation of a regional body of the International Water Supply Association for southern and eastern Africa. *Biday*

Botswana, Malawi, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Swaziland and SA will be represented in the new regional body. *118/94*

The International Water Supply Association is concerned with the public supply of water for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes as well as the control, provision and protection of water resources.

In another development, Kudiya Cassim has been appointed affirmative action manager of the Rand Water Board. *(56)*

11 dams, canal to be renamed

Star 2/8/94

■ BY ESTHER WAUGH

Cape Town — Eleven dams and a canal, named after apartheid leaders, are to be renamed.

A specially appointed National Advisory Committee on the Naming of State Water Schemes, which met yesterday, decided that the 12 schemes were the top priority of the more than 100 names they are to review. Its proposal is still to be approved by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal.

The 12 water schemes are the

Braam Raubenheimer Dam, Fanie Botha Dam, Charlie Malan Dam, Hans Strijdom Dam, Hendrik Verwoerd Dam, Hudson Ntsanwisi Dam, Jan Wassenaar Dam, Lake Mentz, Mkgoma Matlala Dam, Paul Sauer Dam, P K le Roux Dam and the Sarel Hayward Canal. (5b)

"The committee decided that the names associated with apartheid figures should be removed from the schemes because of the close relationship between water, land and apartheid, which resulted in massive land dispossession," it said.

Outlining proposed principles for the renaming, the committee said they should not be named after living persons and should redress the language, cultural and gender imbalances in the naming of water schemes. The proposals could form the basis for a renaming policy.

Members of the public can send suggestions on new names to The Secretary, National Advisory Committee on the Naming of State Water Schemes, Private Bag X313, Pretoria 0001 before August 22.



of violence and reconciliation, speaks crime awareness week, which is to be 3. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Groundwater control strategy in pipeline

Biday 218194

MICHAEL MOON

A STRATEGY to manage the quality of groundwater is being developed by the Water Affairs Department.

Utilisation of groundwater would play a major role in satisfying the demands of government's reconstruction and development programme, the department said this week.

"Increasing levels of development, urbanisation and industrialisation pose a threat to groundwater through over-abstraction and contamination," it said.

Numerous cases of severe groundwater contamination had been discovered and reported recently.

Groundwater represented the sole source of supply for many small urban and rural communities, and was becoming increasingly important in terms of community water supply, the department said.

Mining operations were the main source of contamination of groundwater, a spokesman for the consulting firm co-ordinating the project said yesterday.

The pollution came from both underground workings and seepage from surface materials, he said.

Coal mines posed the biggest problem, due to the sulphide minerals in coal and the fact that operations were conducted relatively close to the surface, assistant project co-ordinator Greg Wells said.

Sewage pollution from informal settlements, particularly in dolomitic areas, was

also a hazard, he said.

Over-abstraction, or excessive pumping, sometimes allowed inferior quality water from other areas to seep through into productive wells.

In coastal areas, salt water often spoiled over-used sources.

"Since groundwater represents a source of water supply to many people, the sources of pollution must be managed carefully to ensure that the groundwater supply is sustainable in the long term. This will involve the use of a wide range of both statutory and non-statutory regulatory measures," the department said.

A comprehensive management strategy was necessary to co-ordinate the implementation of such regulations.

"Future generations must have access to adequate supplies of acceptable water."

Government has called for all interested and affected parties to participate in developing the new strategy.

Wells said it was believed that there were at least 1 200 such parties throughout the country.

At present the level of interest and availability of these organisations and individuals to participate was being gauged.

Various types of input from numerous sources would be dealt with by the co-ordinators, Wells said.

'cripple magazines'

R233m total.

ban on tobacco advertising would not be serious adverse economic effects, would rather promote health", the said.

IC researcher Dr Derek Yach said "e-mongering" by the tobacco industry as intended "to put advertising jobs public health at loggerheads". — Sapa.

Focus on medicines pricing

Biday 218194

BEATRIX PAYNE

PHARMACEUTICAL wholesalers, manufacturers and medical aids would meet later this month to discuss restructuring the medicines pricing system, National Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers executive director Trevor Phillips announced yesterday.

"The association feels that the health care industry cannot afford to work much longer under the current opaque system," he said.

The introduction of a "cost-plus" pricing system would mean transparency and the end of mark-ups and discounts based on the "blue book", Phillips said.

But Pharmaceutical Society of SA president Cecil Abramson said he was waiting for the report of the cost-plus working group — due some time this week — before the society would convene another meeting of the cost-plus committee.

He said the report had been drawn up by representatives from the association, pharmaceutical multinationals and medical aids, and was intended as a discussion document.

Abramson added that the report was likely to recommend the use of a mark-up system.

The society supported the mark-up system and believed "the existing system of add-on and discounts has to stop," he said.

A change in the pricing structure would have a knock-on effect from manufacturer to end user and as a result several interest groups were involved in planning the changeover.

But not all members of the committee were happy about a cost-plus system. Some private hospital groups had expressed reservations.

Pharmacists working in private hospitals were paid a lower professional fee than their colleagues in private practice, Abramson noted, and their income would be further reduced if the base cost of medicines were to fall.

Cost-plus working group chairman David Boyce could not be reached for comment.

Union warning on farm interest rates

Biday 218194 LOUISE COOK

THE union representing SA's black farmers has warned that proposals for government's White Paper on agriculture concerning market-related interest rates for land purchases could thwart attempts to widen black land ownership.

The National African Farmers' Union, which sits on the Wit Committee appointed to draw up the new agriculture policy, said yesterday that moving to market-related interest rates was "totally unacceptable".

Union spokesman Thabo Mokane said border farmers had bought farms at a 4% interest rate. Yet the committee was proposing market-related rates just as SA was attempting to expand black empowerment.

Meanwhile Wit Committee chairman Chris Blignaut said marketing proposals in a report compiled under the previous government heralded some of the changes likely to be contained in the White Paper. These strongly favoured deregulation.

War on harmful pesticides

PRETORIA. — A countrywide clean-up operation to recover and destroy dangerous agricultural pesticides was launched here yesterday. (66)

The scheme was aimed at retrieving all redundant and banned agricultural and stock remedies from government depots, warehouses and farms.

Legislation was being prepared to make the possession of

banned remedies a criminal offence. This would probably come into effect early next year, a Department of Agriculture official said. CT 3/8/94

Hostile pesticides such as DDT had been overtaken by new, more environment-friendly products, but large stocks of old pesticides still existed.

Questionnaires would be distributed to gather information.

The department said legal action would not be taken against anyone volunteering information about harmful remedies in their possession.

The pesticides would probably be destroyed by incineration. Another option was to destroy them chemically.

"A similar project in the UK had a success rate of 60%," an official said. — Sapa

Edited by Marika Sboros

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

The Johannesburg City Council is the first SA local authority to launch a "healthy city" project. **DAVID ROBBINS** reports.

Joburg aims at 'healthy city' status

Star 14/8/94

Viewed from the perspective of where people live, humanity has reached an irreversible position.

Through our history, most of us have lived in the countryside. But from the turn of the new century, in a few years time, most of us will be living in or close to cities. That amounts to more than 3 billion of us.

The South African figures are as sobering. The PWV urban conurbation alone will be home to upwards of 10 million South Africans by 2000.

The hazards created by air pollution and industrial effluent, inadequate sanitation coupled with overcrowding, the whole cycle of poverty and crime which attends rapid urbanisation, are essentially city problems.

Our new environments are looking as awful sometimes as

those memorable but murky paintings of 19th century European towns overtaken by the industrial revolution.

The "healthy cities" concept developed out of these realities, and the need to make the principle of primary health care (PHC) more applicable to heavily urbanised environments.

Concentrated

Dr Yasmin von Schirnding, Johannesburg's director of environmental health, outlines the shifts in thinking which have led to the acceptance of the "healthy cities" idea in over 200 cities in Europe and the Third World in recent years.

"Until the mid-1980s, the practice of PHC concentrated mainly on the medical and clinical aspects of health," she explains.

"A major shift in thinking emerged at a conference held in Canada in 1986 which gave

rise to the Ottawa Charter," she adds.

The charter broke new ground by focusing attention on the broader issues surrounding health: especially the environmental and social aspects of health promotion.

It recognised that good health is dependent to a large extent on city government decisions on housing, transport, waste disposal, the reticulation of water and power supplies, as well as general town-planning considerations such as the protection of open space and the orderly development of expanding industrial areas.

"The main contribution of Ottawa and later conferences in Sweden and Nairobi last year," Von Schirnding says, "was that in man-made environments, the conditions that are conducive to good health can definitely be created."

The "healthy cities" concept, one of the most successful

World Health Organisation initiatives yet launched, recognises this potential of control and concentrates on the inter-relatedness of decisions which concern the quality of life in cities; in other words, just about every local government decision that can ever be made.

Recognition

In Johannesburg, where the city council gave its formal support to the concept last year, an informal activating committee has already been set up, with representation from the specialist functions of city planning, urbanisation, housing, environmental health and pollution control, and the community health department.

But it recognises that city government is only one player, along with business, community-based non-governmental organisations, trade unions, academic and research bodies, and

the community at large.

The project's aims are pursued through the "settings approach", targeting specific settings (environments) in which healthy living can take place.

An example of the settings approach is the targeting of schools.

Healthy schools develop their own clean air programmes; they look at such issues as waste disposal and recycling, and undertake clean-up campaigns in their neighbourhoods and act as community health/environment centres.

It's all about orderly and sustainable development of urban environments — development which actively promotes the health of current and future generations of city dwellers.

A public "healthy city office" will open in Johannesburg. Now the most urgent need is to get everyone around the table to implement action plans.



At the helm... Dr Yasmin von Schirnding, the city's director of environmental health. PICTURE: JODI BIBBER

SOME OF the key elements upon which the "healthy cities" movement attempts to focus are:

- Basic needs. Water, sanitation, housing and adequate nutrition must be available for all city dwellers. The reticulation of electricity is also important. Numerous studies have shown that poor indoor air quality (through the burning of wood or coal for cooking and heating) is coupled to the extraordinarily high incidence

of respiratory diseases among children in numerous townships.

- A clean and safe environment. This not only includes pollution-free air and clean pavements, but good working conditions, and also reduced crime and traffic accidents.
- High health status targets. International experience shows that specific targets with regard to infant mortality rates and life expectancy should be set and publicly monitored.

Future of krill on the line . . .

JOHN YELD (SB) ARG 8/8/94
Environment Reporter

NEW recommendations for the exploitation of krill — the most important food source in the vast Southern Ocean — will be put to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (C-CAMLR) later this year.

This follows a 10-day meeting of two working groups of the convention, attended by 42 scientists from 13 countries, which ended in the city this week.

The convention effectively covers the area south of 50° — about 38 million square kilometres and comprising about 40 percent of the world's oceans.

One working group re-examined precautionary catch limits for krill following new scientific information, chairman Denzil Miller of Sea Fisheries said.

A series of options had been formulated for consideration by the convention's scientific committee and its commission (the political arm), and this could result in increased catch limits.

With the demise of the Soviet Union, krill catches plummeted from a high of about 500 000 tons in the early 1980s to about 95 000 tons at present.

"So that gives the convention time to establish principles for conservation measures, so that when there is increasing pressure on the resource we will be in a much better position to manage it," chairman of the convention's scientific committee Karl-Herman Kock said.

The working groups had also started attempting to define scientifically the ecological relationship between krill, its major predators such as whales and seals, and the commercial fishing operation in the Southern Ocean.

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It's taken you all of two weeks to — and is liable to —

Insurers to pay for oil cleanup

(56) AR 9/18/94
Municipal Reporter

RATEPAYERS will not pick up the tab for cleaning up the city's beaches following the oil pollution disaster.

The council's utilities and works committee heard yesterday all accounts were being forwarded to the Department of Sea Fisheries, which was passing them on to the Department of Transport.

"They will claim from insurers," a cleansing spokesman said in reply to a question by councillor Jack Frost.

He said 70 percent of the oil had been removed from the blackened beaches, but oil was still washing up on beaches because of "the tidal flow".

The council's cleansing department would probably have the beaches clean just before the tourist season.

"We have already started cleaning the promenade in Sea Point ... and special steam-cleaning equipment will be used to clean changing rooms," he said.

56 ARG 9/8/94

Cites trumpeting may give SA a jumbo-sized

In October 1989 in Lausanne, Switzerland, members of the 103-nation Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) decided after 10 days of acrimonious debate to impose an effective global ban on the trade in ivory.

The legal mechanism for this decision was the upgrading of the African elephant from the convention's Appendix 2 list, which allows trade in products from listed species under controlled conditions, to Appendix 1 for highly endangered species, where all trade is banned.

It was not a unanimous decision, and was bitterly opposed by most of the southern African nations like South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Malawi, most of which have well-managed elephant herds requiring culling every year to prevent irreversible ecological damage.

The Cites' decision was confirmed at Kyoto, Japan in 1992, when the southern African countries expressed their opposition even more strongly.

Although South Africa registered a "reservation", meaning it was not legally bound by the Cites decision,

it has abided by the trade ban, despite the annual cull of between 400 and 500 elephants in the Kruger National Park and the stockpiling of tusks and hides worth millions of rands.

But South Africa has now submitted a proposal for consideration at the next Cites meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in early November, asking to be allowed to trade in non-ivory products only — skins and meat — by downgrading this country's elephant population to Appendix 2.

In return, South Africa will accept the Cites ivory ban and, as a mark of goodwill, has already withdrawn its reservation.

It is a move that has won the support of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), one of the world's biggest and most influential conservation organisations.

But the other southern African nations are still pushing hard to be allowed to trade in all elephant products as a source of much-needed funding for their national conservation efforts.

They see South Africa's move as selling out to the animal rights organisations, and are pressurising

Argus Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at an issue which may give Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers a jumbo-sized headache.

Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to withdraw the proposal.

Ironically, the animal rights organisations are also opposing the proposal, but for the opposite reason, and are also lobbying strongly.

The Stellenbosch-based SA Nature Foundation, the local arm of the WWF, was instrumental in persuading its international parent organisation to throw its weight behind South Africa's proposal, and invited two WWF experts to this country in May and June for an on-the-spot assessment.

"I really believe South Africa has to stand firm on this because we have a good chance of getting this proposal accepted," foundation chief executive John Hanks said in an interview this week.

"There is no chance that the international community is going to agree to open up the ivory trade until controls are in place in Japan.

"If we open up the ivory trade now, it's going to have all sorts of

opportunities for illegal ivory entering Japan.

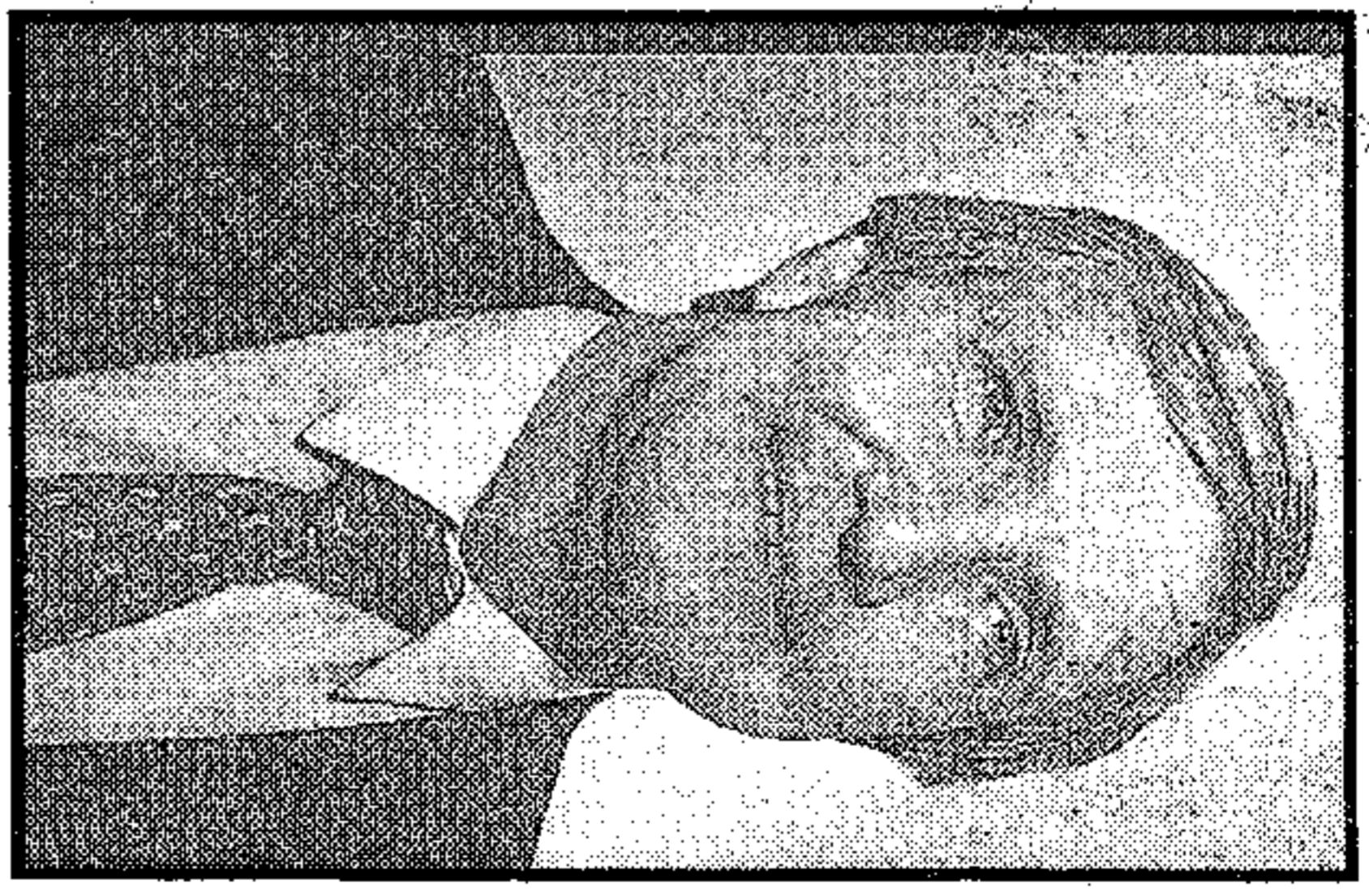
"And I would much rather we go about this in stages and get, say, the skins and meat accepted first as the first stage to opening it (the trade in elephant products) up.

"Because we still have to address the question — what do we do with these huge stockpiles of ivory? There's still a demand, and every single country to the north of us is desperately short of funds for conservation."

Animal rights organisations were extremely influential, particularly in the United States, Dr Hanks said.

"But I fear they're out of touch with the realities of Africa because nobody has answered the question from their side of who is going to pay these (conservation) bills.

"All the funds that they promise will be forthcoming are simply not materialising... the money is not coming forward for rhino or elephant protection, and that is the most fundamental issue.



HEADING FOR A HEADACHE: Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers

The issue of how many elephants were needed to conserve this species had to be tackled, Dr Hanks said.

"We have to ask how many each country can afford. The days of 600 000 elephants may be a thing of the past — we may find we can only afford to have 250 000 elephants now.

"People think if elephant numbers are cut in half that's the end of the species — that's nonsense," Dr Hanks said.

According to WWF, adopting South Africa's proposal would not cause any more elephants to be killed than is already the case.

If South Africa's proposal was accepted, this country would not be able to export ivory again unless Cites approved — "and approval requires a two-thirds majority of Cites' parties which would be very hard to achieve".

"If South Africa's proposal is rejected, it may join other southern African countries and look for ivory trading partners in spite of the Cites' ban."

Britain, on behalf of the European Union, has arranged a high-level meeting in Botswana next month to discuss the issue of the African elephant in the run-up to Cites.

headache

Rand Water in World Bank talks

Biday 10/8/94

GRETA STEYN

RAND Water has held exploratory talks with the World Bank on raising finance for part of a R3bn investment plan to provide water to the PWV region.

Rand Water CE Vincent Bath confirmed the funding requirements of the plan had been discussed with the bank, but added that discussions were in their early stages.

A World Bank loan would have to be approved by government, sources said. ANC leaders have opposed using bank finance for projects that do not generate foreign exchange earnings to pay off the loans.

Other foreign lenders have also been in talks with SA water authorities about providing finance for water provision, estimated to require billions of rands of investment to meet targets set in the reconstruction and development programme.

But Bath said finance could be raised on the domestic capital market, as Rand Water had done in the past.

He said Rand Water had been asked to project the additional water supply requirements for the PWV over a 15-year horizon (56) (56)

The key to meeting these requirements was the Lesotho Highlands water project, which would come on

stream in 1997. Through adequate investment in infrastructure within the limits of Rand Water's supply area, the water supply from Lesotho Highlands could fulfil the region's needs until about 2003.

Bath expected the full amount of investment spending from 1994 to 2003 would be R3bn. Thereafter, additional infrastructure would be required in the PWV region.

It is understood Japan and other countries anxious to link finance and aid to social spending have cottoned on to water supply as a route into SA. Grants and "fairly soft loans" had been discussed with Rand Water.

The World Bank is apparently ready to provide the finance, if Rand Water's board finds the terms and conditions acceptable. It is also understood a government guarantee would be required for such a loan.

Bank involvement would open up other sources of foreign finance, as creditors feel comfortable when its stamp of approval is on a country's policy package.

The bank's representative in SA, Isaac Sam, said it was up to SA to ask for a loan, and no requests had been received.

New water supply project

MICHAEL MOON

MORE than 400 rural communities had already submitted applications for help in water supply projects to the Mvula Trust, a non-governmental organisation set up to provide financial assistance for such schemes, trust executive director Piers Cross said this week.

The trust had been in operation for nine months and had already committed R30m to projects, he said at the launch of a new scheme at Turkey, near Tzaneen.

A total of R150m had been made available by the trust's founders, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Independent Development Trust and the Kagiso Trust, which had secured its contribution from the European Union. (56) (227)

Cross said the Mvula Trust was the only non-governmental organisation undertaking water provision funding on this scale. The majority of projects involved funding of between R250 000 and R500 000.

An important criteria in providing money was that the water projects had to be "community driven", with the trust providing the cash after a viability analysis.

The Turkey project will receive R700 000 to divert mountain spring water into village reservoirs. This will obviate the necessity for the rural community to dig for water in dry river beds, a supply that is unhygienic and has led to many cases of dysentery and bilharzia. Construction had provided 100 villagers with labourers' jobs.

Ship-shapoe solutions

DAVID BIGGS
Staff Reporter

RECYCLED shipping containers are being used throughout the country to provide schools, business premises and health care centres.

A single container, converted into a chicken farm in the Ciskei, created no fewer than 14 new jobs, according to Mr Temba Qukula, manager of Safmarine's Container Project. Some of the recycled containers have provided many more employment opportunities than that.

At the Site Five squatter area near Kommetjie, 180 children attend classes in converted containers. In Gugulethu a container serves as a creche and day care centre for the children of working mothers. Not far away, in Langa, containers house a baby care clinic and a TB clinic.

In Salt River, containers are used as a school for Down's Syndrome children and in George a whole shopping mall of containers attracts thousands of shoppers daily.

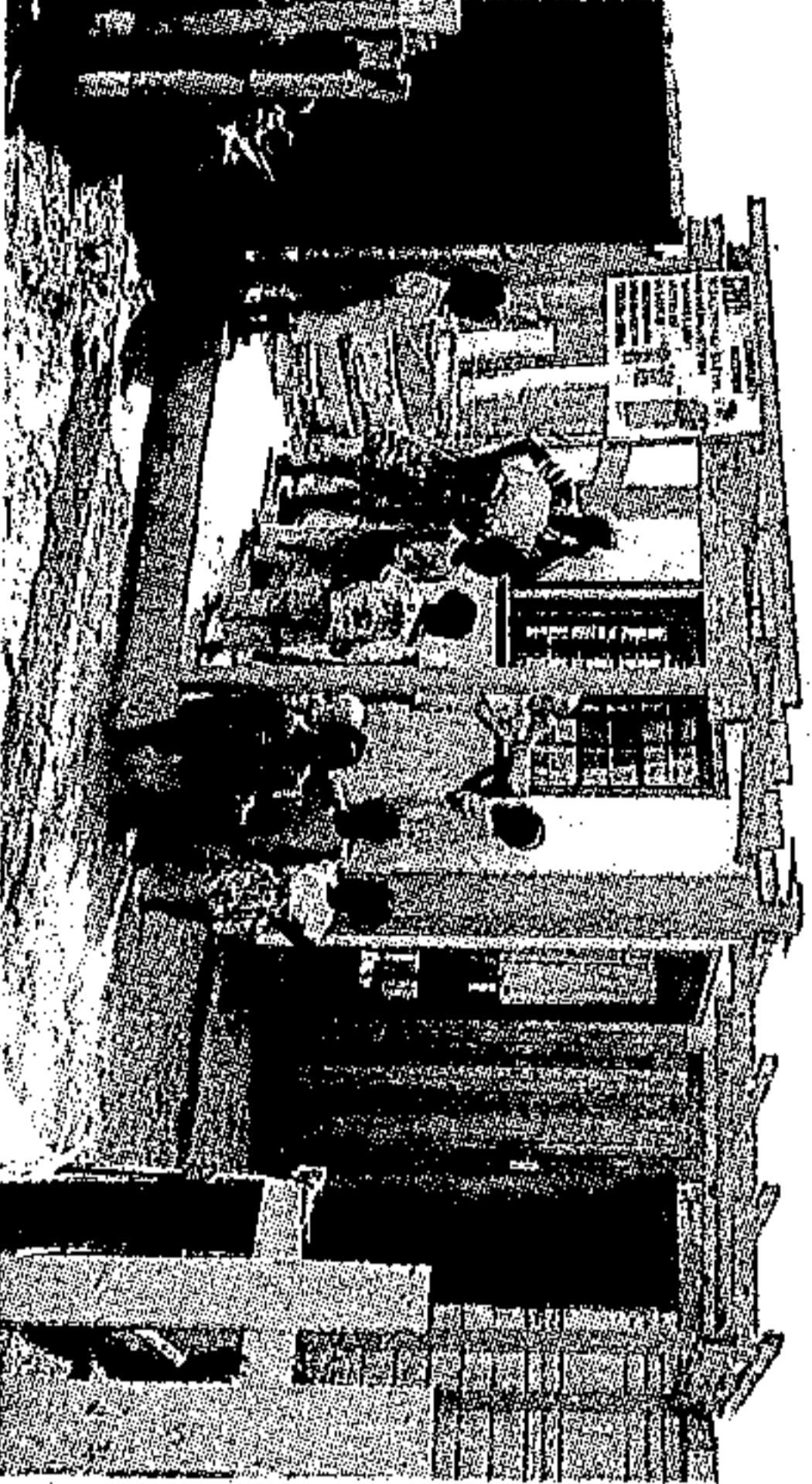
All these instant buildings are the result of an imaginative project started by Safmarine about five years ago. "A shipping container has a sea life of 10 years," Safmarine's Richard Warnes told me. "In the past we used to sell them for about R4 000 each when they reached retirement age."

"Then we decided they could be used as basic housing units, but members of the poorer communities had better ideas."

A survey conducted among township residents revealed that most of them would prefer the containers to be used in community projects that



SHOE BIZ: You can do all sorts of business from a container — even repair shoes.

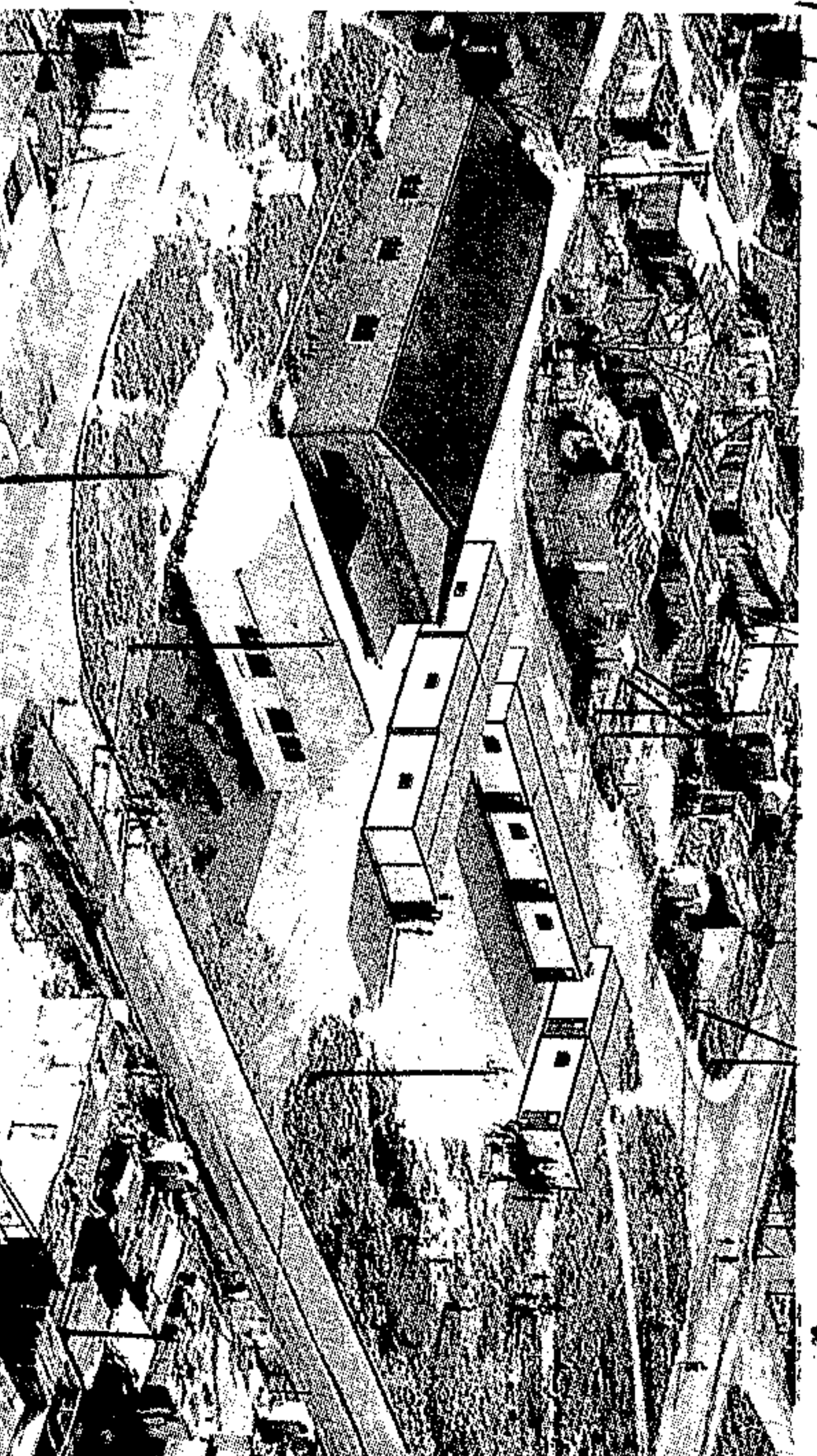


OLD SALT: The Catholic Welfare Development soup kitchen in Khayalitsha once sailed the seven seas.

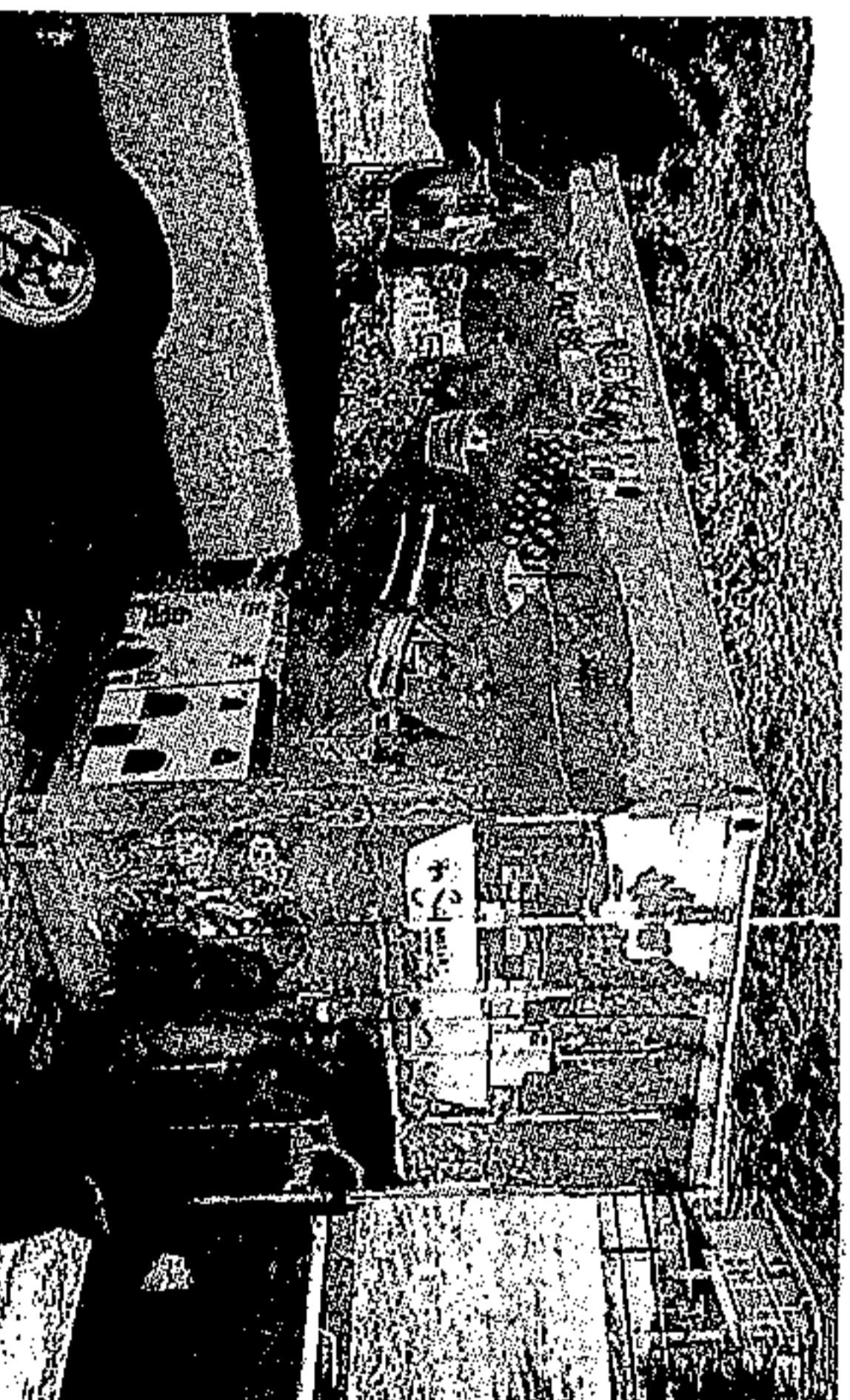
would be of benefit to the whole area, rather than serving just one family.

The Container Project was launched and to date more than 2 000 containers have been put into use, serving rural and urban communities.

"We ask for a nominal payment of R500 for a container," Temba Qukula told me. "The community is then responsible for the cost of con-



SHORE JOB: This collection of sea-going containers houses the Effakeni School in Wallacedene Squatter Camp near Kraaifontein.



WENDY HOUSE: The Peter Pan Down's Syndrome School in Salt River is housed in this neat row of converted containers.

to store their wares overnight.

The income from the rent was then used to finance other would-be hawkers on an informal basis. A hawker could borrow money for his first consignment of fruit or vegetables. The banking side soon outstripped the storage facility, and today more than 400 hawkers make use of the informal bank.

In Richard's Bay an enterprising young businessman, Lawrence Mavundla, set up three containers and rented space to hawkers who wanted

That's 400 new jobs pulled out of the box.

In several cases big companies have joined forces with Salmarine and local communities, and worked together to provide essential amenities based on container-buildings.

The project forges strong links at all levels of society. "One of the problems we're facing now," says Temba, "is that the supply of available



COLOURFUL CONVERSION: Schoolchildren decorated this container to convert it into a recycling collection depot in Kalk Bay.

containers is coming to an end, while the demand keeps growing."

He is negotiating with associated shipping companies in other countries and says it may soon be possible to import used containers to satisfy the demand for instant accommodation.

"In our country," says Richard Warnes, "we need schools and clinics urgently."

"We have an unusual social structure in the New South Africa. On the one hand we have third-world community needs, and on the other hand we have a first-world network of roads and transportation systems.

"The one factor makes the container project necessary — and the other makes it possible."

A dusty thirst soon to be quenched

Star 10/18/94

GRATITUDE

The people of Sekororo — or Turkey, as the first whites in the land called them — are giving thanks for a project which will bring 200 litres of water per day to each household in the village of about 8 000 men, women and children. ANITA ALLEN reports.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's listen to each other, was the gentle greeting under the huge fig tree where the Sekororo community had gathered to hear their leaders speak.

It was the end of long, hot day during which a long convoy of cars carrying strangers from the city and politicians had churned up clouds of dust through the north-eastern Transvaal village.

Hundreds of people jostled in the heat to catch a glimpse of premier Ngoako Ramathodi and the strangers. They sat at tables covered in hand-embroidered cloths, which were spotless and seamlessly ironed in a village which has no electricity, and where people are arrested for cutting down trees for wood.

On the tables were glasses and jugs of water for the thirsty visitors. Earlier, women and children dug holes in a dry river bed 4 km away to find the water.

They scooped the opaque liquid in to containers and carried them up the hill to the village.

It's a daily chore, which starts at daybreak and for some children it means that they get to school late. Cattle, goats and sheep drink from the same water holes in and around a toddler falls in and drowns.

No tests have been done to find out if the water is fit for human consumption, there seems little point since it is the only water the people have.

After 10 years of drought in the area near Tzaneen the water is increasingly difficult to find. In the jugs on the table it looks like ginger beer, but tastes like sand.

The people of Sekororo — or Turkey, as the first whites in the land called them — have gathered under the fig tree to give thanks for a project which will bring 200 litres of water per day to each household in the village of about 8 000 men, women and children.

Most of the funding comes from the Mvula Trust comprising the Independent Development Trust, the Development Bank of South Africa and the Commission of the European Union.

According to its contract with Mvula Trust, the community is responsible for managing the project and has to pay a small percentage of the capital costs. The Sekororo villagers have already collected R3 000.

The Turkey Water Project will serve three villages of the former Lebowa. It involves a 7 km long gravity delivery pipeline from a weir near the spring of the Sebiss River to three reservoirs.

One reservoir has been built by the former Lebowa government, and the community is building the other two and digging the trenches for the pipeline under the supervision of a civil engineer from the develop-

ment company, African Reach.

Construction costs including 160 000 man days of work is about R700 000. A community committee manages the project, and hires the workforce, currently about 97 people from the neediest families, for R10 a day.

Under the fig tree, project chairman Joseph Magape congratulates Ramathodi for being the first politician they have ever seen after an election.

Ramathodi says: "It is good to see a community helping itself and then asking the government to come in. That is how the government sees the Reconstruction and Development Programme — as a people driven process."

He promises machinery to help with digging, and a tractor to help cart away the rock.

"Re aloboga (thank you)," says Mvula Trust executive director Piens Cross. His one word of North Sotho gets loud applause. "We are very small, but you are very big."

Re aloboga, echoes Economic Union ambassador Erwan Fouere, and he promises to learn to speak their language. "It is a great privilege to help you get what is your right."

MP and Turkey Water Project trustee Rejoice Mabudafhasi rises. "Amandla," she cries with a clenched fist and broad smile. "Aweithu", is the loud response.

TOMORROW

Most women will have a lump in their breasts at some stage in their lives, and will have to face what it could mean and what to do about it.



Serious business . . . it is no laughing matter to collect water in the Sekororo district of former Lebowa. But things are about to change. PICTURES: ANITA ALLEN



All in a day's work . . . half the workforce on the water project are women, who walk long distances to gather stones for the cement.

De Villiers defends oil spill absence

Political Correspondent

ENVIRONMENT minister Dawie de Villiers has defended his absence from the Cape during the oil pollution crisis. (56)

Replying to a question in the senate by James Selfe (DP), Dr De Villiers said he had been on holiday with his family in Europe from June 24 to July 11. ARG 10/8/94

During the drawn-out negotiations process he had promised them he would spend "quality time" with them when the election was over.

When Dr De Villiers had got news of the crisis, he had checked with deputy environment minister Bantu Holomisa and acting environment minister Roelf Meyer whether he was needed.

He had been advised his return was not necessary, he said.

Industries promise to monitor ⁽⁵⁶⁾ air quality

JOHN YELD ^{ARG 11/8/94}
Environment Reporter

INDUSTRIES in the Milnerton area — including the Caltex refinery and Kynoch fertiliser factory — have committed themselves to running air pollution reduction programmes while a further study of the problem is under way.

This assurance was announced at a public meeting of the Milnerton and Surrounding Areas Air Quality Project last night.

The meeting accepted a number of recommendations made at an earlier meeting in June, including that general practitioners' patient profiles and health data be incorporated into the R1 million-plus study, and that a system of logging complaints be introduced.

The project, which involves three sophisticated monitoring stations, has been designed by CSIR air pollution expert Petro Terblanche, who co-authored a Medical Research Council report for Caltex earlier this year.

This report found that existing data was insufficient to determine whether air pollution in the area constituted a serious health risk or was just a nuisance.

A formal complaint system would be introduced using a specially designed questionnaire, Dr Terblanche said.

The United States had started introducing standards to control odours and South Africa should consider following that example, he said.

● Waste-Tech has admitted that an old liquid waste lagoon which is being rehabilitated at the company's Vissershok site is giving problems again.

Di White, the company's environmental services manager, said they had been successful in reducing the smell significantly, but that it had started again on Sunday after a new, more powerful aerator had been used.

Enough water for 2,5-million more

BIDAY 15/8/94

THEO RAWANA

THE central Witwatersrand, SA's most densely populated region, could accommodate about 2,5-million additional people with the present water supply, a study has found.

The joint study by the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber and the area's regional services council says about 10% of the area has adequate spare bulk service capacity to cater for major developments at minimal cost. A further 60% can accommodate some additional development with limited upgrading.

The study, which was guided by the chamber's engineering services task team and carried out by consulting engineers Jeffares & Green (J & G), consisted of an audit of existing bulk civil engineering infrastructural services to determine spare capacity in the area, J & G's Mike Richardson said at the weekend.

The report says a high percentage of the area has adequate water, sewerage, sewage treatment and road infrastructure capacity to cater for growth.

An additional population of up to 2,5-million could be accommodated in the central Witwatersrand using the present bulk water supply, despite the fact that about 25% of the area was not serviced by bulk water mains or reservoirs, the study says.

With regard to sewerage systems, the study says 22% of the area is not serviced. However, an estimated additional population of up to 1-million people could be accommodated in the central Witwatersrand without major modifications to either treatment works or bulk sewer outfalls.

Of the 1 469 road links identified, the majority were found to be able to absorb additional demand. The exceptions included roads crossing Johannesburg's northern border with Sandton and Randburg, some roads surrounding the CBD and two sections in Soweto.

Only three sections of the rail commuter network were identified as being used at capacity (in 1989), with

additional infrastructure required. Other sections, both within and surrounding the area, have up to 95% of their capacity unutilised.

The study concludes that existing stormwater drainage facilities impose no limit on development.

The areas most suited for intensified use include most of Randburg and virtually the entire northern suburbs of Johannesburg, as well as the mining land to the west of the CBD.

Richardson said, however, that the study had only considered services on a macro level (bulk supply and not local reticulation). Standards and levels of service were the key areas requiring reappraisal.

The study recommends that a committee be formed to collate and analyse information for use by all authorities in the region.

Richardson said it was also vital that demographic data be reassessed, as the study had indicated that the real population of central Witwatersrand could be as much as 50% more than previously estimated.

SA environmental future 'alarming'

CT 17/8/94 (56)

ENVIRONMENTAL degradation had reached alarming proportions in South Africa and future generations could inherit "a wasteland" if trends continued, Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers warned Parliament yesterday.

Introducing his budget vote in the National Assembly, he also said that there were serious deficiencies in South Africa's system of pollution control and that legislation would be introduced to pave the way for an integrated waste control system.

"The quality of life of millions of our people is being destroyed by a

dangerously polluted and destitute environment."

But, he added "all is not lost. If we are indeed serious about the environment, we can still reverse some of these alarming trends."

Dr De Villiers said that there was an urgent need for a comprehensive national coastal management policy to protect these areas against undesirable development and exploitation.

The Department of Environmental Affairs had embarked on a time-consuming process of developing a new policy but "we have now reached a point where further delay can be counter-productive".

New laws to reduce oil threat

CT 18/8/94

By BARRY STREEK (56)
Political Staff

NEW regulations are to be introduced to reduce the threat of oil pollution from laden oil tankers off the Cape coast, the Minister of Transport, Mr Mac Maharaj, announced yesterday.

His department's new regulations would have to be approved by the International Marine Organisation, however, because of their possible effect on international shipping, he said during debate on the Transport Vote in the National Assembly.

Mr Maharaj said no vessels were permitted to stop or anchor in territorial waters without permission, other than outside a port or harbour.

The cost of the recent Apollo Sun pollution disaster had been calculated at about R15 million, he said.

Claims

He "obviously" hoped to recover this amount from the insurers or owners, he said in reply to a question from Senator E K Moorcroft (DP).

No claims had been settled yet, but the Milnerton municipality, Waste-Tech and Chemserve had submitted initial claims totalling R329 000.

Mr Maharaj said there was no indication at this stage that the wreck of the Castillo De Bellver was a potential source of a major oil disaster.

● Mr Maharaj also said there must be some sort of assistance to the taxi industry, but this had to be worked out with the industry.

● Safety aim of Codeta — Page 7

Mine contaminates wetland

(56) ~~712~~ WMM 19-25/8/94

Paul Stober and Eddie Koch

A GOLD mine on the West Rand has contaminated a nearby wetland with radioactive materials, according to a study carried out by mining consultants.

"It is a major environmental problem which has to be dealt with," said Randgold Geology and Exploration head Mark Bristow, who headed the study.

The wetland is located 5km from Kagiso, but Bristow said there was no evidence that residents of the township face any immediate health hazards: "On the basis of what WesGold told us, the water in the wetland is not used for human consumption."

Bristow conducted the evaluation of the mine after First Wesgold's recent bid to take over Randgold. Randgold shareholders are set to make a decision on the offer on Thursday.

Randgold is using Bristow's study as part of a campaign to prevent the hostile takeover bid by WesGold's owners, Fraser Alexander. The takeover includes a proposal that Randgold shareholders should purchase the West Rand mine.

The study warned that Randgold would have to pay up to R50-million to rehabilitate the contaminated mine. This would mean containing the water from the mine and preventing it from flowing off the mine's premises, said Bristow.

Another problem identified by the study was the presence of dust, with

indications of radioactivity, blowing off the mine. The dust could increase the risk of lung cancer.

The WesGold mine, once the richest uranium producer in South Africa, has two processing plants on its premises. One is contaminated with radioactive material and has been closed, the other is still operating.

According to Bristow, it appears that radioactive waste is leaking from the southern processing plant into the drainage system which ends in the Wonderfontein wetland.

During flights to measure radioactivity on the mine and the area immediately surrounding it, Bristow's team found high concentrations of radioactivity in the wetland. In two boreholes on the southern border of the mine, the team found traces of hexavalent chrome, known to be extremely carcinogenic, and concluded that the chrome was "leaching into the property and the neighbouring water-drainage system".

First Wesgold could not be reached for comment on the report.

The National Union of Mineworkers has entered the fray by demanding that the PWV government launch an immediate investigation into the impact of radioactive waste in the mining industry on the health of workers and neighbouring residents.

The NUM is also opposed to the attempted takeover of Randgold by Fraser Alexander because it regards the latter as a mining group hostile

to organised labour. The union says Randgold has a more progressive labour-relations policy and is open to union participation in environmental rehabilitation and other health and safety issues.

"These disclosures (of radioactive contamination) provide shocking evidence of negligent disregard for the health of employees and residents alike, and an exploitative approach to mining, in which profits are reaped with scant regard for the social and environmental costs," said the NUM general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe. The disclosure of the contamination on the West Rand follows a report by the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) that about 10 000 workers are being exposed to higher than normal levels of radioactivity in the gold mine industry.

The CNS this month told a commission of inquiry into health and safety on the gold mines that 9 600 workers are exposed to radioactive dust and gas clouds in the workplace that range between 20 and 50 milliSieverts each year. The international safety limit for radioactive inhalation is 20 milliSieverts.

Such exposures could result in a higher rate of lung tumours among mineworkers. The radioactive dust comes from uranium and a substance called thorium. Radon gas combines with these to form a toxic cloud in underground areas and reprocessing plants. All three radioactive substances are byproducts of gold mining.

1918/94
ernments that tried to do so during the last decade failed and could barely keep up with the increase of their populations, according to the World Bank. Asmal knows this, so instead of "playing Father Christmas to the poor," he wants "to forge the space for the poor to take hold of their own destiny". The Mvula Trust has adopted this ap-



Minister Asmal ... not playing Father Christmas

proach as its guiding principle. "We are demand-driven and not supply-driven," says director Piers Cross. "This means we are market-related." (56)

Where people do not demand water supply and sanitation, or are not willing to pay their contribution, there will be no provision. "If water is a hand-out like it used to be under the previous government, and if people do not pay for it, the economic value of water is not recognised," he explains.

The Mvula Trust was founded last year by the Development Bank, the Independent Development Trust and the Kagiso Trust, and they made R150m available for Mvula's sole aim: financial assistance for community water supply projects. More than 400 communities have already applied for support and 27 projects are running.

The Turkey community in Northern Transvaal is one of them. The people there have until now suffered from dysentery and bilharzia, as the water the women bring from the river is dirty and just enough for cooking and drinking, but not washing. With the R696 000 granted by Mvula, the villagers have now started building two reservoirs and a pipeline to bring water closer to the villages from the mountain.

They will pay for the maintenance of the system, once it is ready, and maintain and administer it on their own. The project includes some basic training of community members in bookkeeping, project management and hygiene promotion.

"This is what RDP should really mean," says a villager: "Redevelop people." ■

RURAL DEVELOPMENT Self-help on stream

1918/94
Water comes out of a tap if you live in an urban area. But if you live in a rural area, and happen to be a woman, then you might be forced to get up as early as 4.30 am, walk up to 10 km until you come to a dry river bed, where you then start digging a hole to get only a few litres of muddy water to take back on your head to your family.

More than 12m people — most of them living in rural areas or on the urban periphery — do not have access to clean drinking water and 21m people do not have adequate sanitation and refuse removal. Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal wants the provision of basic services to become "a major field of investment until we have wiped out the appalling backlog." Though his current budget does not provide for this, his department has applied for a share of the money set aside for the RDP to tackle this problem. (56)

But charging government alone with the provision of safe water and sanitation for the whole population won't work. Gov-

Criticism ^(5L) for toxic waste plan

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

A SUMMIT of non-governmental organisations yesterday accused the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of planning to legalise the import and export of toxic wastes.

Summit participants said the department's position "contradicts and undermines" the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

"This conference demands an unconditional ban on the import and export of toxic wastes.

We urge the government to join the rest of Africa by signing the Organisation of African Unity's Bamako Convention," the participants said.

The Ministry of Environmental Affairs yesterday said South Africa had signed the Basle Convention governing the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste this month.

23/8/94
CT



Self-help lesson for squatters

Sit Times (Cape)

By TWEET
GAINSBOROUGH-
WARING

FOR many destitute squatters begging has become a way of life in the Peninsula's harsh economic climate.

Many squatters at Kommetjie's Site 5 knew of no other way to keep their families from starvation... until the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group (KEAG) came to their rescue with an ambitious self-help scheme.

"Instead of getting food for them as so many charities do, we decided to teach them how to grow their own," said Fulvio Grandin, KEAG co-ordinator of the food gardening and greening projects. (56)

Since February regular workshops in food gardening have been held at Site 5 and those who became involved are reaping the benefits.

Mr Grandin said: "Many Site 5 residents are from the Transkei, where they combined their jobs with farming to provide for the family. Unfamiliar with the soils and climatic conditions of the Cape these new residents battled to start their gardens. KEAG responded to their plight."

GROWING... Wiseman Mshumpela tends his cabbage patch
Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

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Concern over crayfish industry after oil spill

Large numbers found polluted, dead off Atlantic coastline

By Peter Arcus 25/8/94



(S6)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CONCERNED divers have found large numbers of oiled crayfish off the Atlantic coastline, and believe pollution from the ill-fated Apollo Sea could have a serious long-term effect on the valuable crayfish industry.

A combined research effort by divers and scientists from the University of Cape Town is being organised to look at the extent of the problem.

The oiled crayfish were seen during the past few weeks at Justin's Cave, off Oudekraal, by divers from the Orca diving academy and UCT marine biology student Nigel Stepto.

"We found that a lot of thick oil had settled on the bottom

there and we're very concerned because we also saw a lot of lethargic kreef," Mr Stepto said.

"The young animals didn't seem to be affected, but the medium and large kreef weren't nearly as frisky as they could be.

"Their feet, which they use to feel with, and all their mouth parts were coated with oil, and there were also a fair number of oil-covered carcasses lying around."

Other species did not appear to have been affected by the oil, Mr Stepto said.

"We picked up a few crabs and they were okay, and the oil wasn't sticking to the rocks so those species are pretty much alright as well.

"At the moment kreef are our major concern, and what's

worrying sports divers is that, they might be blamed for the degraded state of this resource in future. They want to show that there are pollution problems as well.

"As a diver and a scientist, I'm concerned with both sides, and I think most of us realise that in the long term the oil will have an effect."

Divers had reported similar patches of oil settling on other reefs along the West Coast, Mr Stepto said.

"We're not sure of the extent of this oil.

"We feel it might eventually be covered up, but at this stage it could be in all the sheltered bays and gulleys.

"We also don't know yet what the full extent of the kreef mortalities are — this might take three or four years

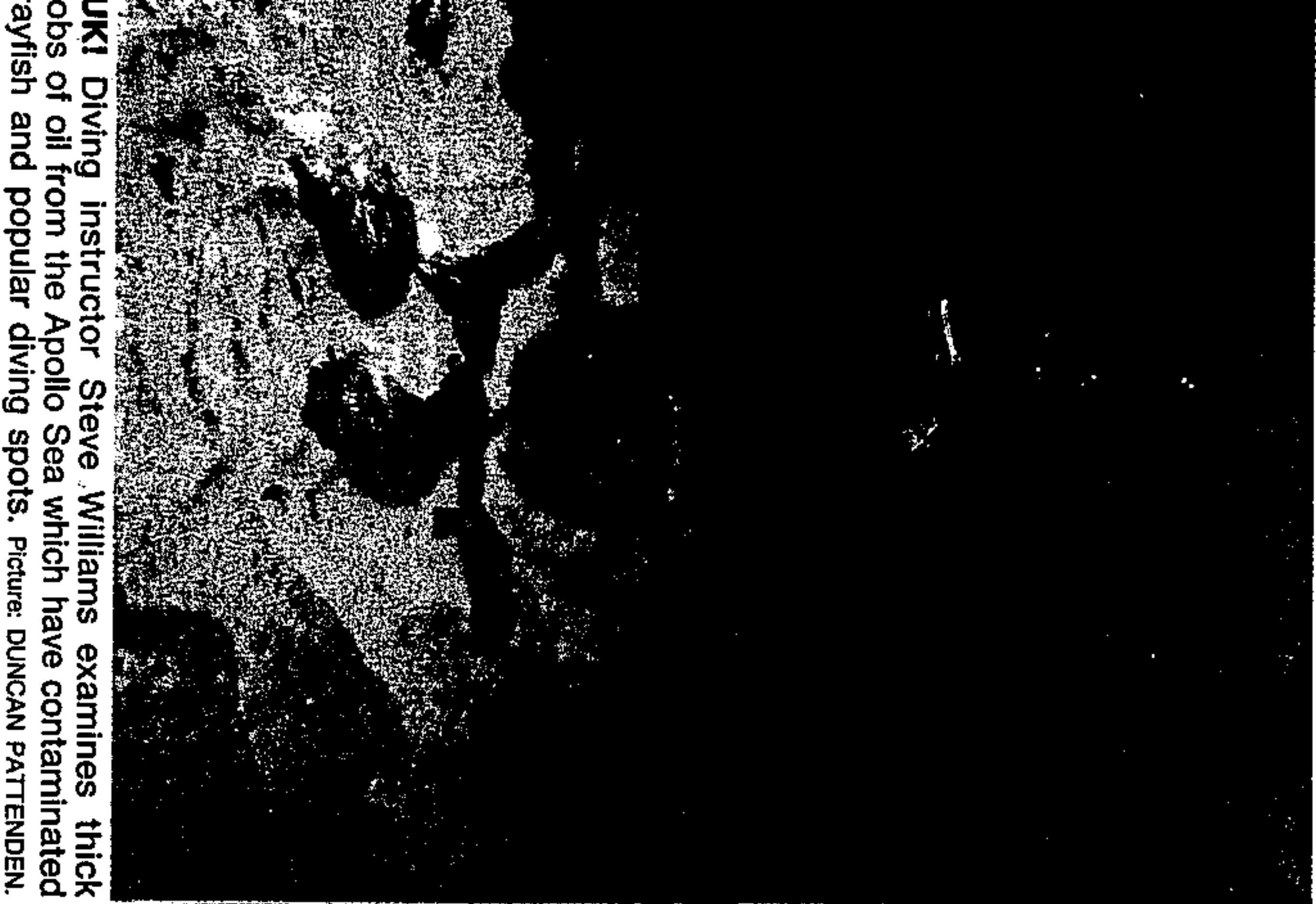
to become clear."

A joint investigation by divers from the academy, sports divers and scientists of UCT's Zoology Department was being organised, Mr Stepto said.

"We want to try and cover most of the dive sites along the coast. Hopefully we'll be able to put our data together and see just what the effects of the oil are."

The huge spill from the Exxon Valdez in Alaska had caused serious environmental damage, and South Africa's legislation had to be changed to try and prevent similar incidents here, Mr Stepto said.

"I think we can do a pretty good surface job of cleaning the oil in the short term, but it's the long term that will tell the real tale."



UK1 Diving instructor Steve Williams examines thick oiled oil from the Apollo Sea which have contaminated crayfish and popular diving spots. Picture: DUNCAN PATTENDEN.



'Ban sewage outfall pipes into the sea'

(56)

CT 26/8/94

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

OUTFALL pipes disgorging sewage and waste water into the sea off the South African coast should be banned in future, ANC MP Mrs Val Viljoen said yesterday.

Local authorities using this form of waste water disposal should be encouraged to change to more valuable land-based water reclamation, she said in the debate on the Water Affairs vote.

The most important consideration in choosing between the alternatives was that land-based reclamation plants conserved the resources.

Instead of choosing to construct outfall pipes to deal with effluent as the cheaper short-term alternative, land-based water reclamation plants were a better long-term alternative for the country and its people.

Mrs Viljoen said consideration should be given to enacting measures to ban all future outfall pipe construction.

Conservation shortfall

By CHRIS BATEMAN

THE Western Cape Nature Conservation Department was unable to perform its duties properly because of a shortfall of R6,9 million, posing a real threat to protection of the environment and the tourism industry.

This warning was sounded in the Provincial legislature on Thursday by Mr Lerumo Kalako, Minister of Environment Affairs, Nature Conservation and Tourism.

"Because of this shortfall we do not have enough staff to carry out our statutory duties . . . and are giving serious consideration to stopping certain functions and activities altogether unless funds become available."

Mr Kalako said efforts were under way, through affirmative action, to make the department "more representative without upsetting the position of present staff".

(56) CT 27/8/94

Resources 'plundered'

(56) ~~POACHING~~ CT 2/9/94
By CHRIS BATEMAN

POACHING syndicates will continue to plunder our marine resources if money is not found to beef up security, Minister of Environment Affairs, Nature Conservation and Tourism, Mr Lerumo Kalako, said yesterday.

The central government would be asked to meet a R6,9 million shortfall in the budget for conser-

vation needs in the Western Cape, he said.

The cash shortage posed a real threat to the protection of diverse natural habitats and the tourism industry.

This hampered his department in the prevention of oil spills, pollution control and the policing of marine resources.

"We simply don't have the capacity to stop this plunder of our

resources," he said.

Crayfish and perlemoen smuggling syndicates were growing and, because of staff shortages, conservation officers were almost powerless to stop them.

Sanccob and the SPCA, almost wholly reliant on his department for funding, were likely to have their subsidies chopped if the central government did not make up the shortfall.

SA 'can aid wildlife control'

Staff Reporter

SOUTH Africa, with her proven wildlife conservation record, has an important role to play in taking advanced wildlife trafficking management and policing strategies to the rest of Africa.

This is the view of Mr Jorgen Thomsen, executive director of Traffic — the world's largest wildlife trade monitoring organisation — who arrived here yesterday.

Mr Thomsen said yesterday that South Africa's new political acceptability in

Africa had increased the potential for cross-border trafficking but had also opened doors for collaboration on ways to tackle the problem. (56)

The international trade in unprocessed wildlife earns more than R60 billion annually, and illegal trade constitutes an additional R20bn. CTS/9/94

Mr Thomsen warned that SA was admitting thousands of African Grey parrots each year from Western and Central

Africa where the bird population was under strain. He said that in 1981 only six of the birds were imported into SA, compared with 7 000 in 1992.

Mr Thomsen said he would be looking into SA's progressive regulations, which limit the killing of sharks as a way to curb the sharkfin trade and restore declining shark populations in the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr Thomsen will hold a public lecture on the international wildlife trade tonight at UCT.

Ozone battle being won, slowly

(56) CT 7/9/94

PRETORIA. — There will be a rise in the incidence of skin cancer because of the depletion of the ozone layer in the next few decades, Dr PJ Aucamp, co-chairman of an international scientific panel, warned here yesterday.

Record levels of ozone depletion had been observed in the past few years and the ozone layer's most vulnerable

period lay ahead.

The scientific panel comprises countries party to the Montreal Protocol set up in 1987 to protect the stratospheric ozone layer which filters out harmful ultra-violet radiation from the sun.

Dr Aucamp said the peak period of ozone depletion would be about 1998.

"Then the situation will

start improving and by the year 2050 the depletion will be down to what it was before holes were detected in the ozone layer."

The incidence of skin cancer would not taper off after the predicted turning point in 1998. The accumulative effect of exposure would cause cancer until at least 2050.

Lotions to screen out the ul-

tra-violet rays were effective but the sense of safety they provided led people to spend too much time in the sun.

"Staying indoors is the safest option for light-skinned people. If you have to be in the sun, wear a hat," he advised.

Spray cans emitting CFCs had been virtually phased out. Asthma pumps were one exception. — Sapa

Environmental audits of SAB plant planned

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

AN INDEPENDENT environmental audit of SA Breweries' Newlands plant will be carried out twice a year and the findings released publicly, says general manager John Eastwood.

He was speaking at a function yesterday to announce his company's response to an audit of the Newlands brewery by the University of Cape Town's environmental evaluation unit — the first of its kind.

The function was attended by representatives of Newlands and Rondebosch residents and of the historic Josephine Mill.

SAB regional engineer Keith Balchin said the brewery had spent R11 million in its efforts to become a world-class facility environmentally.

They had accepted the recommendation in the UCT team's report that SAB adopt the British environmental management system BS 7750, but had also decided to go a step further and work towards meeting the requirements of the proposed international standard, ISO 14000. They hoped to comply with this standard shortly after the scheduled issuing date of January 1996, Mr Balchin said.

All the recommendations in the UCT report had been accepted by SAB but some could not be implemented immediately.

'Need for rain now desperate'

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

The levels of some Transvaal dams have dropped to below the halfway mark, well ahead of the start of the summer rains.

Large areas of the northern Transvaal will have to be declared disaster areas unless the seasonal rains relieve the crippling droughts of the past 15 years, said Transvaal Agricultural Union regional manager Gert Ehlers.

Stock losses

Unless there is relief this year, 600 000 cattle could be wiped out and boreholes will dry up. The loss of 70 percent of bushveld trees has already resulted in extensive stock and game losses.

The area bounded by the Limpopo River in the north, the Patala in the south and the Malakwena in the east (including Lebowa and Gazankulu) has had no rain since December 31.

Falls below the sparse annual average of between 200 mm and

250 mm have been recorded since 1979, he added.

With parts of the eastern, western and northern Transvaal hit either by drought, freezing cold, a plague of mice or devastating veld fires, citrus farmers in Marble Hall have lost 70 percent of their trees, Lowveld vegetable farmers have lost a full season and some northern Transvaal farmers have not even tilled their wheatlands. And a lack of grazing in Lebowa has reached critical proportions, he said.

"The Government will have to make provision for fodder for some small farmers," warned Ehlers.

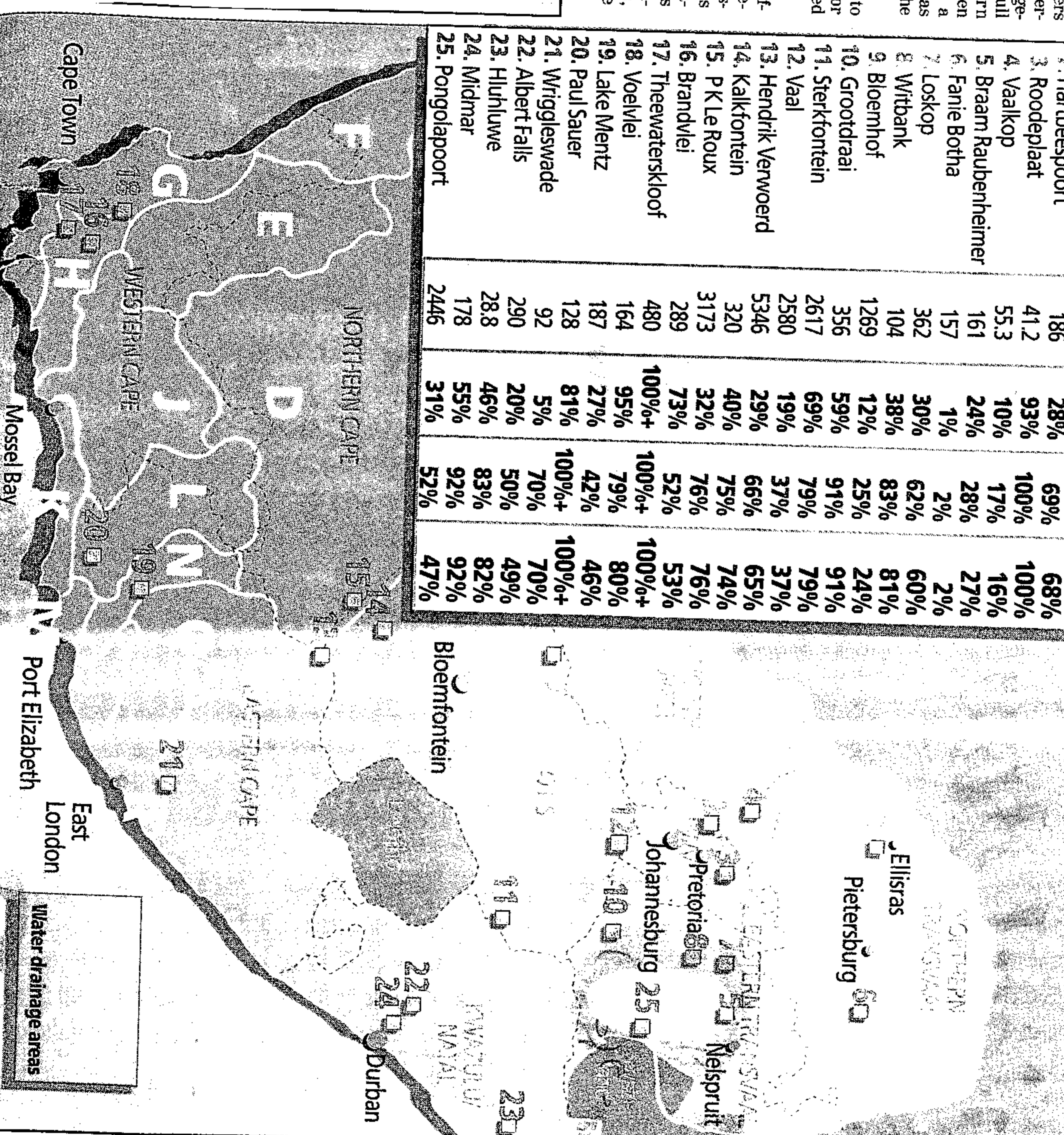
The Department of Water Affairs said sufficient water reserves in the Rhenosterkop, Loskop and Bonkhorstspruit dams would prevent a crisis in KwaNdebele. But localised shortages could occur, particularly in high-lying areas. In these cases, water tankers would be made available.

Major dams

	Capacity (Million cubic metres)	% full last year	% full last week	% full 28/03/94
1. Hans Strydom	146	41%	97%	97%
2. Hartbeespoort	186	28%	69%	68%
3. Roodeplaat	41.2	93%	100%	100%
4. Vaalkop	55.3	10%	17%	16%
5. Braam Raubenheimer	161	24%	28%	27%
6. Fanie Botha	157	1%	2%	2%
7. Loskop	362	30%	62%	60%
8. Witbank	104	38%	83%	81%
9. Bloemhof	1269	12%	25%	24%
10. Grootdraai	356	59%	91%	91%
11. Sterkfontein	2617	69%	79%	79%
12. Vaal	2580	19%	37%	37%
13. Hendrik Verwoerd	5346	29%	66%	65%
14. Kalkfontein	320	40%	75%	74%
15. P K Le Roux	3173	32%	76%	76%
16. Brandvlei	289	73%	52%	53%
17. Theewaterskloof	480	100%+	100%+	100%+
18. Voelwei	164	95%	79%	80%
19. Lake Mentz	187	27%	42%	46%
20. Paul Sauer	128	81%	100%+	100%+
21. Wriggleswade	92	5%	70%	70%
22. Albert Falls	290	20%	50%	49%
23. Hluhluwe	28.8	46%	83%	82%
24. Midmar	178	55%	92%	92%
25. Pongolaport	2446	31%	52%	47%

Stear 12/19/94

Dam levels



Water, water everywhere for dry rural communities

NOMAVENDA MATHIANE

THE Water Affairs and Forestry Ministry is to commence its reconstruction and development project by supplying water to rural communities countrywide, it announced at the weekend.

Areas earmarked for projects range from Northern Transvaal to KwaZulu/Natal, Free State and former Transkei. Work is scheduled to begin next month and in some areas next year.

In the Nebo district in Northern Transvaal 26 communities which have needed water for years will get it from a bulk portable water supply scheme on the Arabie dam.

Near Louis Trichardt in Northern Transvaal, the scheme includes development of wellfields, distribution systems and the extension and rehabilitation of water supply networks.

In the Nzhelele River Valley in former Venda, the scheme will be extended to serve the Makhado Canning factory. About 20 000 people stand to benefit from this project which comes into effect in October, the department said.

The Injaka Dam will be built on the Marite river to provide water to about 600 000 people around the Sabie River district.

In KwaZulu/Natal, developments include providing water to about 46 000 people while another scheme will be near Maritzburg through the Umgeni Water Board, the department said.

In former Transkei a small rural infrastructural development will provide water to about 60 000 people in 55 communities in the first year. Of the 1.8-million population in the area, about 93% live in rural villages and only about 1 700 have any semblance of a formal water supply.

Community organisations will offer backup to resource centres in five districts in former Transkei.

In Winterveld, north of Mabopane in Northwest, the scheme will supply about 300 000 people. (5b)

For communities around the Moretele region, water from the Apies River and the Roodeplaat Dam will be purified at Kudube water works.

Funds have been provided to expand the water supply programme in former Bophuthatswana. This will help communities which have reoccupied land.

Situated near Odendaalsrus in the Free State, water will be transferred from the Vaal river.

Also in the Free State, at Wesselsbron, about 30 000 people will be supplied with water from the Vaal River.

Warning on damage to SA environment

Bl Day 12/19/77

DAMAGE inflicted on SA's environment could render large tracts of land barren and jeopardise international trade, the Agriculture Department has warned.

Officials said at the weekend that land mismanagement had led to soil erosion at least 20 times the normal level. Maize production alone could be halved in 10 years.

Department deputy director-general Chris Blignaut said environmental damage last year alone cost R1,35bn. This could leave SA in conflict with the World Trade Organisation, which wants to tie environmental issues into trade relationships.

Ernst & Young also said at the weekend that SA companies would have to step up their environmental controls — in line with their European counterparts — to meet international investor requirements.

The department's resource conservation spokesman Vossie Vosloo said the chances of halting soil and water deterioration were bleak.

The rate of soil loss was more than 30 times the rate of soil formation, and it cost R900m a year to replace soil lost to erosion.

Vosloo said whole areas could sim-

LOUISE COOK

ply be abandoned, similar to the situation in Spain which had led to a 30% fall in agricultural production.

The department said mismanagement had rendered about 3-million hectares of bushveld useless, while 37-million hectares of Highveld grasslands had been ceded to the bush. About 6-million hectares of the Northern Transvaal had also been lost, and another 6-million hectares were expected to be written off soon.

Eastern Transvaal Agricultural Union chairman Boet van Rensburg said 94% of the region's potential agricultural land had fallen victim to the mining industry. (56)

Irrigation water in the Loskop and Witbank dams had been polluted from mining, while the Waterval River at Leslie contained sulphate levels up to 20 times the norm.

The Chamber of Mines and the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department dismissed such fears, saying at the weekend that rehabilitation was part of opencast mining and strictly monitored. The chamber said SA's environmental laws compared well with those overseas.

Environment watchdog proposed

CT 16/9/94
Political Staff

A NEW environmental watchdog body should be established in the President's Office and an inspectorate appointed to enforce environmental standards, an international inquiry has recommended.

The watchdog body, the Commission for the Environment, should provide public protection against violation of environmen-

(57)
tal rights as contained in the constitution.

The inquiry also called for an environmental inspectorate.

"At present these functions are shared across a number of government departments leading to confusion and fragmentation.

"Departments responsible for delivering services often have to monitor their own activities and

cannot be said to be independent," said the International Development Research Centre, which sponsored the inquiry.

The report was handed to the Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Professor Kader Asmal in Cape Town last night.

He said he was delighted to receive the report.

Mountain needs legal protection

By BARRY STREEK,
Political Staff

LEGAL action was needed to preserve Table Mountain because its management was fragmented, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

He also said he was "much disturbed" by the present management and shared the concern of many environmentalists about the "present unsatisfactory situation".

Dr De Villiers committed himself to legal action to save Table Mountain after senators from all parties supported intervention during an interpellation debate.

The Democratic Party's Senator E K Moorcroft, who introduced the issue in the Senate, said Table Mountain and its environs were priceless assets.

But it had been denuded of its unique fauna and flora by a net-

CT 21/9/94 (56) ~~238~~
Games bid

logo 'will
draw fame'

work of roads and buildings, and invaded by exotic trees.

"For 300 years the Peninsula mountain range had been comprehensively raped, for all to see."

The National Party's Senator Mark Wiley said that if the government decided today to underwrite Cape Town's Olympic bid, Table Mountain would become "the best-known natural feature on the face of the earth".

The Table Mountain logo was

part of the Cape Town 2004 bid, the first time a natural feature had been used for this purpose and would become known as one of the best-known natural assets of the country.

"The problem is that there was no implementable management plan," Mr Wiley said.

Dr De Villiers said Table Mountain had been administered by a number of different and unco-ordinated executive authorities.

It was, however, a difficult task as there were 12 local authorities and 162 private landowners with vested interests.

Mr Moorcroft said the DP was asking for Dr De Villiers to assume responsibility for the whole process of devising a single conservation approach.

Dr De Villiers replied: "I share the sentiments that some legal action is required. I commit myself within the powers given me to pursue that objective."

City pollution 'unacceptable'

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

UNACCEPTABLE levels of nitrogen oxide compounds were measured in the city last year, Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma said yesterday.

She said unacceptable levels of smoke pollution were reached in all cities and regions where large concentrations of people used coal as a main energy source for heating and cooking.

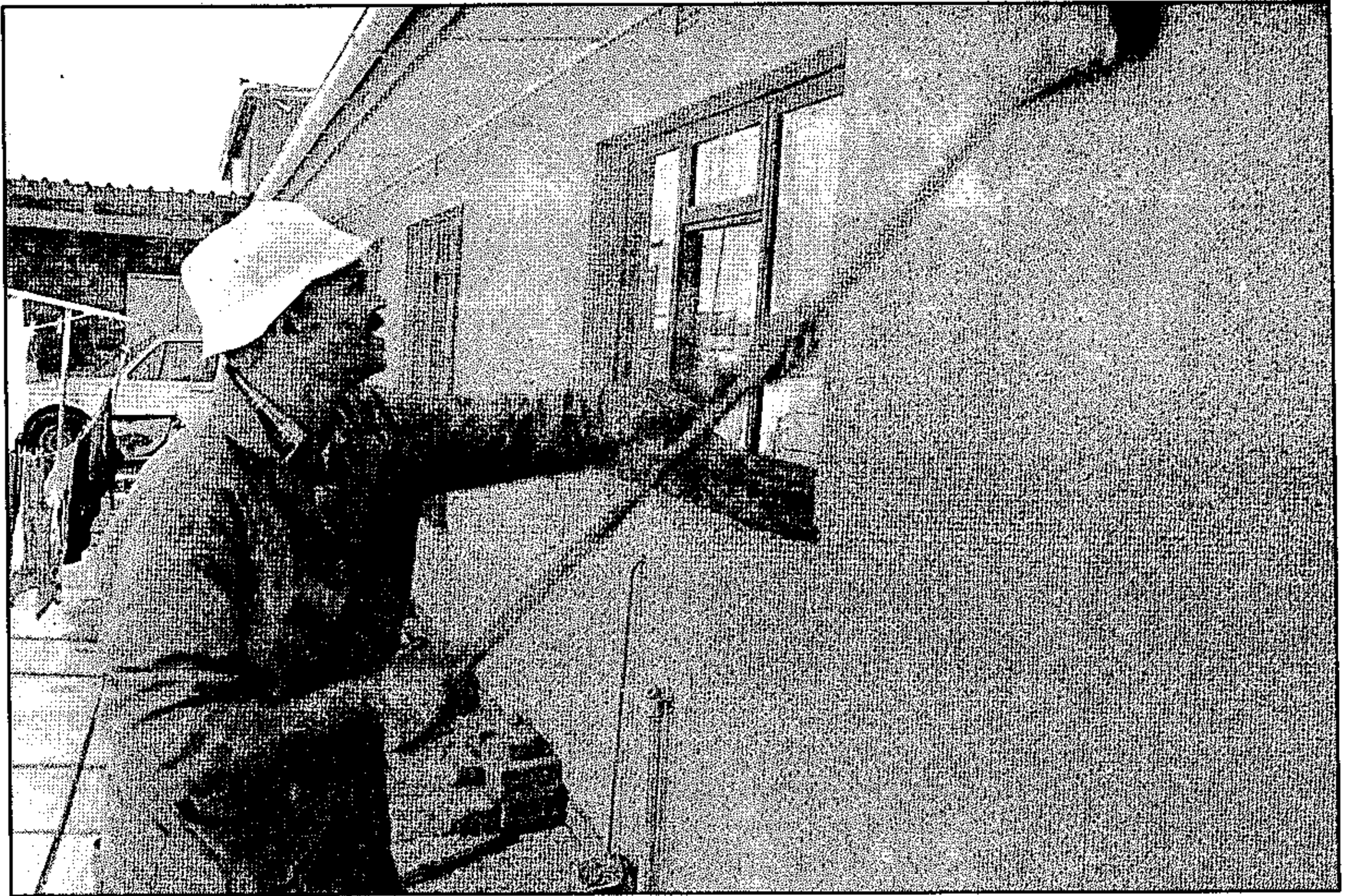
This problem occurred mainly in winter, she said in reply to a question by Mr Mike Ellis (DP).

Dr Zuma said the smoke pollution was being reduced by supplying electricity to these regions to replace coal.

The viability of replacing coal with a 'low-smoke' fuel was being investigated.

A policy to reduce motor vehicle emissions was also being formulated.

CT 22/9/94
(56)



SWEEPING THE WALLS: Ravensmead walls turn grey from pollution

Photo: Roger Sedres

Health hazards in Ravensmead

Southeaster (suppl. to South)

BY SABATA NGCAI

RAVENSMEAD residents say they have been suffering from industrial pollution for the past six years.

Their houses were built in 1987 next to the Mossop Leather factory.

The factory manager said the Regional Services Council health department had investigated the matter and assured residents that they were in no danger.

A thick cloud of smoke from the factory chimney has since engulfed the area.

Residents say they suffer constant headaches, ear and chest infections as a result of continuously inhaling smoke.

Children are the most affected. Mrs Rose Kohler said her pre-school daughter has been on antibiotics since they moved to the area five years ago. *23/9-27/9/94*

"The Parow municipality is responsible for our plight because they approved the building of the factory," Mrs Kohler said.

Residents have complained to the Parow Municipality and the factory owners that their five-year-old houses have devalued because of the pollution. *(56)*

Mr Thomas Fillis's walls have turned grey because of the pollution.

"The repayment of my bond is very high, and I cannot afford to paint my house four times a year." The problem has now been taken

up with the Provincial Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Lerumo Kalako. The Minister is investigating the problem on behalf of the residents.

The Parow Municipality said it was aware of the pollution problem and had asked an air pollution officer at the Regional Services Council, Mr Niel Rossouw, for assistance.

Mr Rossouw said he had contacted health experts and they said "there were no health hazards".

However, he said, residents had not stopped complaining about the effects of the pollution.

Mr Rossouw said the Scientific Research Council was not looking into the problem.

Ecotourism 'catalyst for growth in W. Cape'

~~(238)~~ (56) ARG 26/9/94
JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

"UNDISCIPLINED" development has left scars along the Cape coastline, and new plans for tourism-related facilities do not always take the environment properly into account, says regional minister Lerumo Kalako.

Speaking at the opening of Ecotour '94, an international conference and training workshop on Southern African ecotourism which began at the Waterfront today, Mr Kalako said he firmly believed ecotourism could be the catalyst for generating tourism growth in the region.

But tourism was by its nature both a user and an abuser of the environment.

"Much of what happens in tourism occurs in some of the most attractive and fragile environments in the world," Mr Kalako said.

"We in the Western Cape are extremely conscious of the natural resources we pos-

sess and their potential for drawing tourists.

"We are also aware of the danger of over-utilisation of these resources."

He appealed to the tourism industry to become more involved in protecting the natural assets on which it depended, and said the industry had to help develop a sound environmental policy which encouraged the goal of sustainable development.

"When environmental damage has been caused by tourism development, it has been due most often to poor planning of individual tourism schemes or to the overall rapid and unchecked growth of the industry," Mr Kalako said.

"At a time when the playing field for tourism is both expanding in spatial dimensions and shrinking in environmental quality, it is imperative that this industry plays a strong role in balancing the global relationship between development and the environment."

'Waste sites not meeting minimum standards'

(Sb) CT 27/9/94

Staff Reporter

MORE than half the waste disposal sites in South Africa do not meet existing minimum standards, a senior Water Affairs official said yesterday.

And only 135 of the 1 300 "land-fill" dumps have been issued with permits, although the law now requires that all dumpsite operators must have, or work towards, permits.

And more than half these dumps do not yet meet the standards required in a new trilogy of "minimum-requirement" waste management guideline documents released yesterday by

Water Affairs Minister Professor Kader Asmal at the Vineyard Hotel.

But Mr L Bredenhann of Water Affairs, who led the project to raise standards of refuse handling, said dumps would be closed down only in exceptional circumstances, such as if they were sited above an aquifer (underground water source) which had to be used.

Mr Jarrod Ball, a consultant to the department, said major land-fill sites in large cities and those operated by regional authorities were generally of a high standard.

Those run by the private sector

were generally well operated. But there were problems in smaller towns and particularly in township areas, he said.

The new requirements are guidelines for the department. Water Affairs will not make them law until it is confident that such laws are enforceable.

In the past, he said, people with power and wealth had disposed of their waste into areas where the poor lived.

Now the interim constitution said every person had the right to an environment not detrimental to his or her well-being.

"This provision will be enforced," said Prof Asmal.

'High waste standards could mean land lost'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(56) ARL 28/9/94
THOUSANDS of hectares of land throughout Africa may be sealed off forever because international standards make the cost of rehabilitating them too expensive, says a leading waste management expert.

In the keynote address to Wastecon '94, the 12th biennial congress of the Institute of Waste Management being held at Somerset West yesterday, Eric Senior of Natal University said some multinational companies could close their landholdings because of rehabilitation costs associated with tough standards.

"So should these standards be adopted for South Africa?" Professor Senior asked.

"We must stop thinking about (waste) treatment and disposal — we really must think much more about exploitation."

Waste had been used as far back as 4 000 years to make compost for agriculture, and more recently had been used to generate electricity in Brazil and for heating houses in Paris.

Methane gas from landfill sites could save South Africa 60-70 million tons of coal, while there were at least 16 potential uses for carbon dioxide derived from waste.

Compost from waste had "very real value" for impoverished sandy soils, and research was being done on the direct application of refuse to prevent soil erosion, Professor Senior said.

But government funding for research had been "strangled".

● Applying the "minimum requirements" policy for landfill sites announced this week will increase operating costs and result in more illegal dumping, says the new president of the Institute of Waste Management, Jarrod Ball.

Landfills were the cheapest and easiest option for waste disposal, but the sole reliance on this system needed to be changed because of environmental damage.

"I really believe the environment is picking up the tab," Mr Ball said.

Recovery of resource materials from the waste stream and recycling were attractive options, but operators had to have a market for these products to make this viable.

● Recycling can be a valuable tool in the government's Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), says regional Environment Affairs minister Lerumo Kalako.

In an opening address to Wastecon '94, read on his behalf by Rod Solomons of his department's Strategic Management Team, Mr Kalako said he subscribed to the integrated waste management (IWM) approach.

People were both the cause of, and solution to, the waste problem, and the Tidy Town Programme was an appropriate way of changing people's attitudes.

"I sometimes get the feeling that organisations such as yours tend to concentrate less energy and resources into recovery and recycling than in some of the other concepts inherent in the IWM," he said.

R3-m to boost rural drinking water supply

■ BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

The Cabinet has allocated R3 million for emergency drinking water in drought-stricken rural areas.

Relief is being offered in places where water supplies have dropped below 15 litres per person a day.

Assistance will be made by drilling boreholes, maintenance and repairs to existing infrastructure and, in extreme cases, carting water, said a Water and Forestry Department spokesman.

Crisis committees had been established where immediate action was needed — the first one in the Northern Trans-

vaal, the worst affected area.

Technical teams assisted by community representatives had already evaluated 144 cases of emergency water supply needs.

Contracts had been awarded for 33 water installations and another 11 were being sewn up.

In the Northern Transvaal, five government rigs were drilling boreholes, and another six would soon start operating. The department was providing necessary geotechnical services to direct the drilling programme, and broken infrastructure was being repaired at the rate of 120 installations a week, the spokesman said.

(56)

Area
JHE

Area
JHE

Emergency water for Northern Transvaal

THE Northern Transvaal will be the first beneficiary of R3m allocated to the Water Affairs and Forestry Ministry to provide emergency water supplies to drought-stricken rural areas.

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said on Friday relief measures for areas where water provision was less than 15l of water per person a day would range from drilling and equipping new boreholes to the carting of water in cases of extreme shortage.

Five government rigs were already drilling in the Northern Transvaal, and a further six would be despatched soon. Existing infrastructure was being serviced at the rate of 120 repairs a week.

The province had established a water crisis committee to monitor and prioritise water supply problems. A similar committee was being formed in the Eastern Transvaal, and government had called on other drought-stricken provinces where there was a critical need for government intervention to form similar committees.

Government had awarded 33 contracts for water installations and a further 11 were pending, said Asmal. Six departmental subcommittees, assisted by community representatives, had assessed 144 emergency calls.

Biday 310/194
MARK ASHURST

However, the pirating of water through unauthorised connections and the use of drinking water for irrigation purposes in some communities had created major water distribution problems and shortages.

The department appealed for the co-operation of all to prevent wastage. Departmental subcommittees would work closely with local authorities, water boards, the Rural Development Forum and non-governmental organisations through the provincial crisis committees.

Asmal also announced the creation of a bridging board to assume the responsibilities of the former Bophuthatswana water supply authority until legislation had been passed to create the Northwest water supply authority.

The board, which came into effect on October 1, would assume the powers vested in its predecessor by the Bophuthatswana Water Supply Authority Act 1988.

The committee will be chaired by Northwest provincial strategic management committee for economic affairs member Ben Marengwa. Other members would be announced this week prior to a formal opening by Asmal at a ceremony in Mmbatho.

(5b)
"The board represents a new chapter in the affairs of the Bophuthatswana authority ... (and) will be charged to set up subcommittees on development and auditing to promote maximum use of human potential, efficiency and other essential and enlightened norms," said Asmal.

The board would be replaced by a permanent board when the Water Laws Rationalisation and Amendment Bill 1994, currently before Parliament, came into effect.

Water authorities 'have to hike prices'

BIDay

6/10/94

MICK COLLINS

SA WATER authorities would be forced to hike prices to meet the demands of the reconstruction and development programme, international utilities research group National Utility Services said yesterday.

Of 14 countries surveyed, SA posted the highest increase of 10,65% in the period July 1993 to July 1994, the group said. The increase, reflecting the average across the six major municipal suppliers, exceeded the 7,5% inflation rate for the period.

Group sales manager for SA Rob MacKenzie said water authorities were faced with a period of critical change, given the paucity of natural water resources.

Under the RDP, the focus would fall on providing poorer populations with reliable, affordable supplies. (Sb) (2)

Studies were already being conducted by the Rand Water Board into the pros and cons of bypassing municipal authorities and supplying directly to communities.

"The Rand Water Board has stated its objective to play a role in implementing

the RDP. It sees a broadening of its involvement in water reticulation and sanitation as central to achieving this."

The considerable variance in the percentage increases applied by local municipal suppliers reflected the limitations of SA's natural water resources.

Durban (6,92%) and Cape Town (5%) kept prices below inflation. Johannesburg increased 13,01%, Pretoria 9,5% and East London 9,19%.

"Water supplies in the coastal cities, where natural resources are more abundant, are considerably cheaper than cities in the interior. East London at 121,2c/m³, remains the cheapest supplier. Johannesburg at 304c is the most expensive."

SA maintained its ranking as the 12th least expensive out of the countries surveyed, with an average price of R1,79/m³.

The group provides water, fuel and energy cost control services to 750 000 locations worldwide, including 30 000 in SA.

Oil flare fury

Staff Reporters

MILNERTON'S Caltex refinery shut down last night as clouds of acrid black smoke spewed out of the controversial plant after a power failure.

CT 11/10/74

Angry residents described it as the worst pollution the area had ever suffered.

A flame four times the normal size rose above the refinery, emitting an overpowering smell of burning rubber.

Some Table View residents left the suburb saying they "couldn't breathe", and a local hotel quickly lost most of its customers. Complaints were received from as far away as Melkbostrand.

Caltex spokesman Mr Terry O'Donovan said the Eskom power failure had caused the problem.

He said the smoke from the refinery's chimney stacks comprised unburnt fuel oil, a type of low-grade crude oil used to fire the refinery's burners.

The outpour continued for more than an hour of the two-hour blackout, which had been caused by a fire in an electrical sub-station.

Mr O'Donovan said that although the emissions were unsightly they did not pose a health threat.

Fled stench

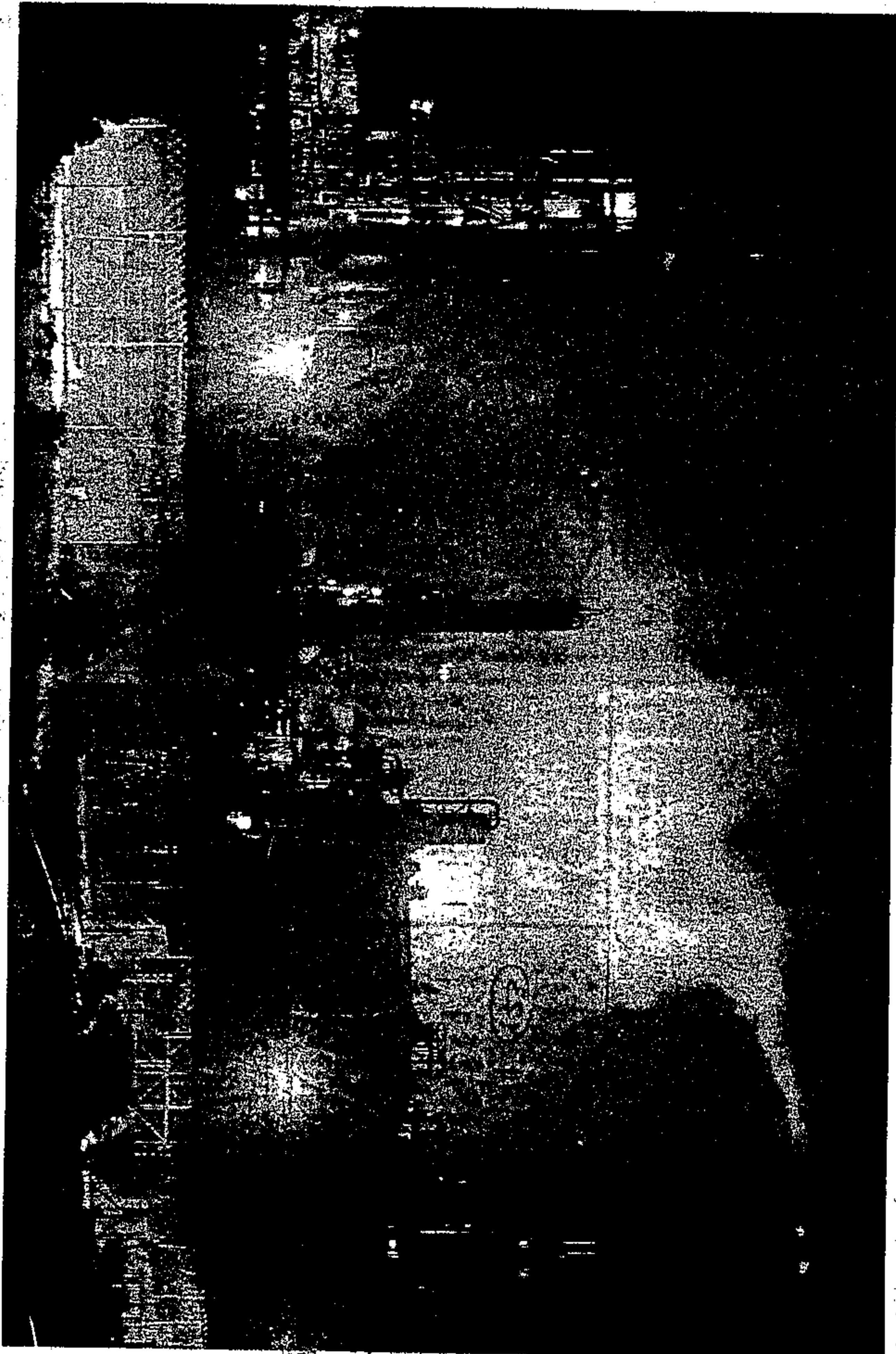
Eskom spokesman Mr Charles Cooper said the power failure had been caused when a breaker in a sub-station blew up, resulting in a blackout in the surrounding suburbs, including Montague Gardens, Bothasig and Richwood.

"According to our technicians, the fault was a one-in-a-million chance, which also caused the back-up power system to be knocked out," Mr Cooper said. A full investigation is to be carried out.

The duty manager at the nearby Killarney Hotel, Ms Liz Futeran, said patrons had fled the stench. "We weren't sure if we were being poisoned to death. You could choke on the fumes. The smoke came down with a rain-like effect. How have they been allowed to get away with it for so long?"

Mrs Futeran said her family had run the hotel for 30 years and had never had such severe pollution. Mr Paddy Pereira, a credit manager, who lives in Circle Road, Table View, said: "I can't breathe properly — there's this horrific, pungent odour, like a mixture of rotten eggs and petrol. It's disgraceful. When will Caltex do something about this?"

Bank consultant Mr Trevor Shaw called off a braai for friends at his Table View Extension Five home.



FOUL FUMES . . . Smoke billows from the Caltex Oil Refinery in Milnerton after a major technical problem last night sent thick fumes into the surrounding suburbs. Angry choking residents, many of whom fled the foul-smelling area, described it as the "worst-ever" pollution incident in the suburb.

Picture: ANNE LAING

Refinery to probe pollution incident

ARL 8/10/94 (56)

**JOHN YELD and
WILLEM STEENKAMP**
Weekend Argus Reporters

CALTEX is to raise the issue of reliable power supplies to its Milnerton oil refinery with Eskom's senior management, after the shut-down incident this week which elicited widespread complaints from the public.

Caltex has also launched an in-depth investigation into the incident, spokesman Niall Kramer said.

"The investigation will address the on-going reliability and operating procedures of Eskom power supply to the area.

"Even if, as has been suggested, this was only a one-in-a-million Eskom occurrence, Caltex is determined to ensure that the power supply from Eskom is reliable at all times.

"Irrespective of emergency situations such as this, Caltex remains committed to its publicly declared upgrade programme."

National Party senator Mark Wiley expressed concern about the incident, saying it was "inconceivable" that the shut-down had occurred at all and called for stringent environmental policies.

"One would have thought that numerous fail-safe, shut-down mechanisms, as found in the nuclear industry, would have existed to contain any potential pollutants.

"Either the industries must clean up their act without delay or be closed down."

Mr Wiley said the Western Cape in particular had to be vigilant regard-

■ The reaction to the shut-down at the Caltex refinery in Milnerton has focused on the need for a clearly defined environmental policy.

ing air quality — especially because of its Olympic Games bid.

There had to be a "holistic, integrated and workable" environmental management plan for the area.

"You can be sure that when the president of the International Olympic Committee, Mr Samaranch, visits Cape Town next month he will ask to see such a plan. Do we have one?" he asked.

Mr Kramer said that if all electricity to the refinery was lost — as was the case on Thursday — its back-up power systems automatically went into operation.

"These ensure that the plant is systematically made safe in a controlled manner.

"Although there is a visually dramatic flare, there is no public threat.

"However, the refinery shutdown is done under controlled procedures designed to ensure both staff and public safety, and this is exactly what happened."

■ The Wildlife Society in the Western Cape has urged Caltex to research and implement contingency plans which would prevent the public from having to pay the cost when pressure safety valves release excess fuel oil effluent into the atmosphere because of a power failure.

Skukuza plea for parks' future

(56) CT 17/10/94

NELSPRUIT. — The Skukuza Declaration released at the Kruger National Park yesterday was the result of a six-day conference to discuss the future of Africa's protected areas and national parks.

The Heritage 2000 World Conservation Union and Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas conference was attended by 123 delegates from more than

30 African countries and 10 international organisations.

National parks, nature reserves and other protected areas could provide great economic benefits to all the people of Africa and were often the key to sustainable development, the declaration stated.

The declaration called on all governments in Africa to provide systematic planning; more re-

sources; investment; productive partnerships with all role players; better government support, and adherence to global guidelines.

National Parks Board chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson said the Skukuza Declaration was an important document in that it highlighted the problems being faced by national parks and protected areas throughout Africa.

Public asked to help with heritage site list

THE public has been asked to help the National Monuments Council compile an inventory of cultural heritage sites before South Africa signs the World Heritage Convention (56) CT/18/10/94

The aim of the Unesco convention is to promote co-operation among all nations to protect and conserve the world's cultural and natural heritage, Arts and Culture Minister Dr Ben Ngubane said.

More details is obtainable from the Director, National Monuments Council, PO Box 4637, Cape Town, 8000. The closing date is December 1. — Sapa

SA 'door open' to toxic waste imports

MINISTER of Health Dr Nkosazana Zuma appeared to have left the door open to imports of toxic waste, DP spokesman on agriculture Senator Errol Moorcroft said yesterday.

He viewed with "grave disquiet" her failure to assure South Africans she was unequivocally opposed to imports of waste for disposal, he said in a statement.

Earlier, Dr Zuma had told the Senate no permission had been granted to any company to import mercury or other toxic waste for disposal in South Africa.

CT 19/10/94
Asked by Mr Moorcroft if she could give an assurance should such a request come before her she would refuse it, she replied: "I will treat any application on its merits."

Mr Moorcroft said the DP believed there could never be merit in importing toxic waste of any description. — Sapa (56)

Outcry over toxic waste import proposal

(56) Wm 14-20/10/94

Environmental groups have promised drastic action if Dawie de Villiers' proposal to allow the importation of toxic waste goes ahead, writes **Eddie Koch**

TOXIC waste shipments will be allowed into the country, according to new policy devised by Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers. The move overturns a current ban on toxic waste imports and would make South Africa one of only two African countries that trades in industrial poisons.

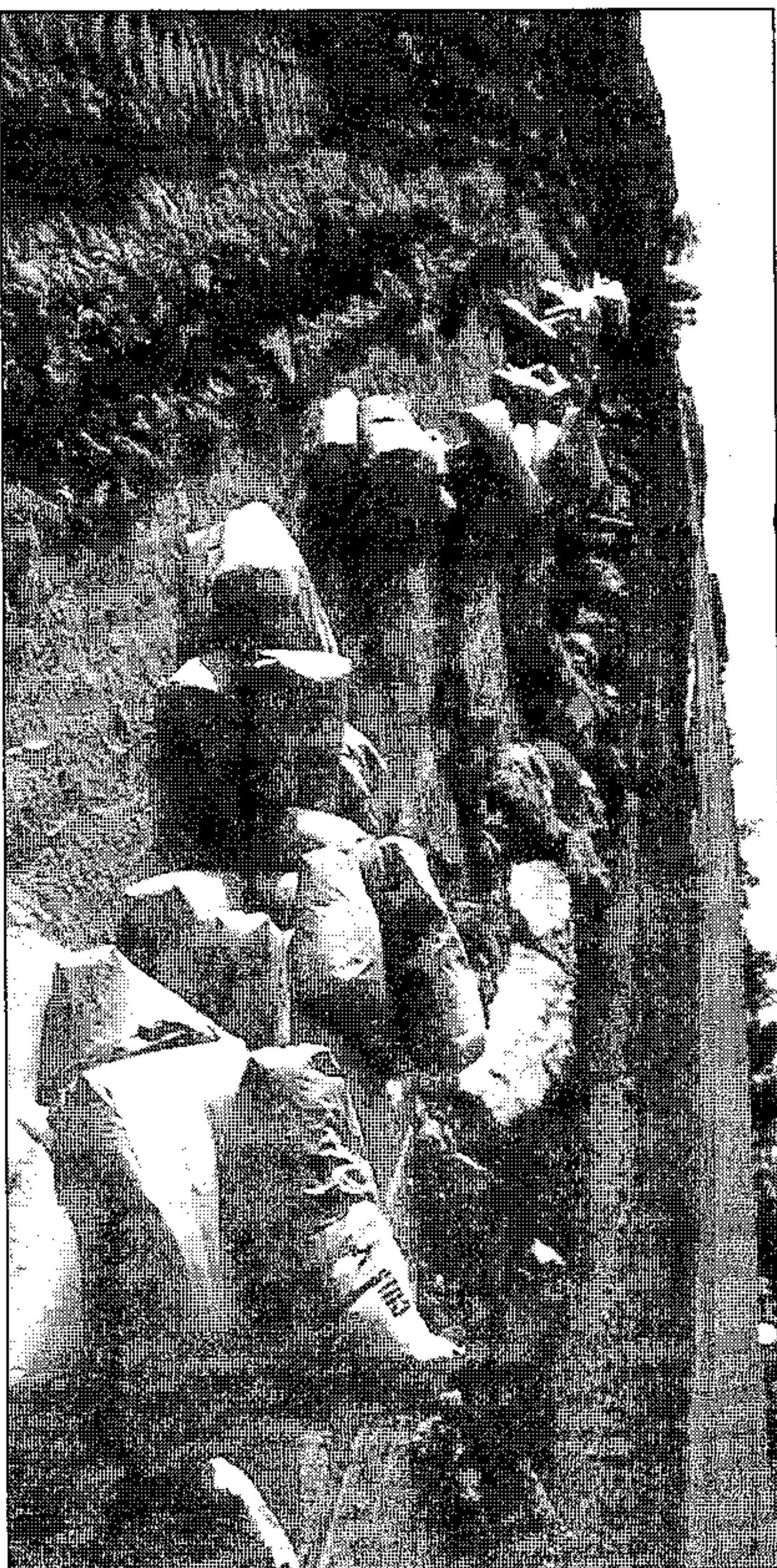
Environmental groups promise a nationwide campaign of civil disobedience if the proposal goes ahead and say they will mobilise support from the ANC and its allied organisations, who support a total ban on all toxic imports.

A White Paper gazetted this month says the existing embargo on toxic imports into the country is not in South Africa's interests and proposes to create regions in the country where toxic material from overseas countries can be dumped.

"A blanket ban on transboundary movement of such wastes would ... jeopardise and impact adversely on present economic and industrial activities," says the document.

The proposal flies in the face of ANC policy that states: "We will not allow our country to become a dumping ground for toxic waste."

"The only reason that other countries would pay South Africa to take their toxic waste is because contractors here are allowed to cut corners that contractors in countries such as the United States and the Netherlands



Waste not wanted: The Chloorkop toxic dump, site of recent protests by residents in the area PHOTO: STEVE HILTON-BARBER

would be jailed for doing," says Chris Albertyn of Earthlife Africa.

"The first costs to be cut are those of protecting the health of workers and pollution of the environment ..."

Every other government on the continent backs Organisation of African Unity resolutions which prohibit any form of toxic material being dumped here. The OAU has also adopted the Bamako Convention which bans all imports of hazardous wastes into the continent.

A discussion document on foreign policy, released recently by the ANC, recommends that South Africa sign the convention. The move by De Villiers' department is thus likely to open rifts in the cabinet between the ANC and the National Party, which allowed toxic imports when it was in power.

Environmental groups reject the White Paper's claim that South Africa

has the technical expertise to dispose of toxic materials in a safe way. They say recent incidents at the Thor Chemicals plant in Natal demonstrate how incompetent local authorities are in handling these imports.

A director and two senior officials from Thor, a British-owned firm with a plant at Calo Ridge near Pietermaritzburg, are currently facing culpable homicide charges after two workers died after being exposed to high levels of mercury toxins. Another worker has been in a coma for three years due to the exposure and 28 others are diagnosed as having mercury poisoning symptoms.

Thor was provided with a permit by the old government to import large amounts of toxic materials from the United States. Rivers in the region have been also been polluted by large

amounts of mercury leakages from the plant. The scandal led to the current ban being slapped on all shipments of waste into the country.

Earthlife Africa says it is mobilising its branches and allied organisations in the civic and trade union movements to resist the proposal. "There will be civil disobedience on a major scale if this passes into law," warns Albertyn.

The document stipulates that a strict set of minimum standards will be developed to minimise threats from transboundary movements of toxic waste and the storage of these materials. This has been supplemented by three volumes, produced by the Department of Water Affairs, which lay down detailed guidelines for managing waste.

Officials in the Environment Department defend the paper by noting it meets requirements of the Basel Con-

vention, an international agreement designed to ensure effective controls on transboundary movements of toxic materials.

It endorses the "polluter pays" principle which states that anyone guilty of damaging the environment by mishandling waste be forced to pay for reparations. This concedes to a demand that has long been made by the environmental movement.

The document also supports the "cradle to grave" principle, which provides for control of the entire waste cycle from the point of production to the recycling, destruction or safe disposal of these materials.

Willem Scott, deputy director in charge of pollution control at the Department of Environment Affairs, told the *Weekly Mail & Guardian* the proposed relaxation on toxic imports was intended "only as a last resort under special circumstances" and there was no plan for South Africa to become a major player in the trade.

He said South Africa was not snubbing the rest of Africa by allowing limited imports as many countries on the continent were party to the Basel Convention which guides the principles of the White Paper.

Human rights lawyers and green activists are worried that the proposed legislation specifically excludes organised labour from taking part in the management of toxic imports and dumping. The Thor case, they argue, shows that factory workers are frequently the first to suffer and play a vital watchdog role.

According to the department, the proposal will not become law until it has been subjected to scrutiny. "The public will be given ample opportunity to comment before it is finalised," said Scott.

Toxic waste reports 'a blatant lie'

56 ARLT 20/10/94

□ Minister condemns allegations

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter
and Sapa

ENVIRONMENT Minister Dawie de Villiers says it is a blatant lie to claim he wants to raise foreign exchange by importing toxic waste.

He said the aim of the claim was to promote unruliness and confusion.

But a recently published draft policy on the management of toxic waste by his department does not exclude the possibility of importing such waste, and Democratic Party spokesman on agriculture and the environment Errol Moorcroft expressed "grave disquiet" about the issue.

In a statement, Dr De Villiers hotly denied recent media reports that he had a plan to raise foreign exchange through the import of toxic waste.

"This statement is a blatant lie and (is) presumably aimed at inciting emotional conservation groups to action," he said.

His department had recently published for public comment a draft policy on the management of toxic waste, following South Africa's accession to the international Basel Convention.

The convention aimed to manage effectively the cross-border transport and dumping of classified toxic waste.

"In the introduction to the draft policy it is clearly stated that the purpose of the policy is to make a contribution to-

wards environmental conservation without damaging the economic development South Africa needs desperately," Dr De Villiers said.

"This can be done by the authorities concerned following a flexible approach and by involving all interested and affected parties in the public and private sector as well as those generating toxic waste.

"The key factor underlined by this participatory approach is the common desire for sustainable economic development."

Earlier this week, in response to a senate question by Mr Moorcroft, Health Minister Nokosazana Zuma said no permission had been granted to any company to import mercury or other toxic waste for disposal in South Africa, but that any such application would be considered "on its merits".

In a later statement, Mr Moorcroft said Dr Zuma appeared to have left the door open to imports of toxic waste.

He viewed with "grave disquiet" her failure to assure South Africans that she was unequivocally opposed to imports of waste for disposal.

The Democratic Party believed there could never be merit in importing toxic waste.

"The minister appears to have left the door open to such importation provided it has, in her view, 'merit'. The DP strongly condemns this attitude," Mr Moorcroft said.

'W Cape needs board to manage waste disposal'

Municipal Reporter

WASTE disposal in the Western Cape should be managed by a board of between 20 to 30 people representing communities, local authorities and the metropolitan government.

This idea was put forward at a national conference of mu-

nicipal engineers by K A Kaveney, the director of cleansing services in the city.

Similar boards operate in cities around the world, including Melbourne, Australia, where they provide an integrated approach to the problem of waste.

Among the services the

(S6) ARG 20/10/94
board would have to consider are domestic refuse, trade refuse, toxic and medical waste, river cleaning and law enforcement.

The board would also include an "audit team" which would assess the relative success of the programme and potential environmental hazards.

De Villiers' toxic waste plan slammed

WSM 21-27/10/94

(56)

Stefans Brümmer

ARIFT has opened between the PWV provincial government and Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers over a draft policy — vehemently opposed by environmental groups — aimed at overturning a blanket ban on foreign hazardous waste being dumped in South Africa.

PWV MEC for the Environment Siceo Shiceka this week slammed De Villiers' White Paper, saying that under no circumstances would he support the importation of toxic waste. De Villiers had not consulted adequately, he added, "contrary to the spirit of the government of national unity".

"While the White Paper justifies the importation of toxic waste on the basis of financial gain, if we consider the health, safety and environmental costs, the effects of accepting waste may well cost more than we earn ...

"Our dissatisfaction with the process of formulating this policy, as well as our dissatisfaction with the content itself, will be raised with De Villiers."

Shiceka's attack follows a statement last Friday from De Villiers' office slamming a *Weekly Mail & Guardian* exposé on the White Paper as based on "unfounded allegations" which were "aimed at inciting emotional conversation groups".

The controversy may, however, have caused a rethink by the Department of Environment Affairs, which said this week it had shifted the deadline for comment by a month — to the end of November — and that a crucial part of the document may be rewritten or scrapped.

Said Willern Scott, deputy director in charge of pollution control: "This thing is not cast in concrete."

The main point of contention is a section stating that, while South Africa currently has a ban on importing hazardous waste for dumping and acceded in May to the United Nation's Basel Convention, which limits transboundary movement of waste, "it is not in South Africa's interest to ban all transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes".

Reasons listed in the White Paper are:

- South Africa has the resources to develop treatment and disposal facilities of a standard which neighbouring countries may not have, and neighbouring countries "may resort to practices that may impact adversely on the regional environment" if South Africa does not import some of their waste.

- "Some byproducts that serve as valuable raw material ... are classified as waste in terms of the Basel Convention. A blanket ban on transboundary movement of such waste would thus jeopardise and impact adversely on present economic and



Dawie de Villiers: 'Did not consult'

industrial activities ... Existing commercial relations and arrangements should be protected."

Environmental groups charge that these paragraphs are an extreme interpretation of the Basel Convention which effectively contradicts it.

"This is like signing a human rights convention but reserving the right to torture political prisoners," said Earthlife Africa's Chris Albertyn.

Albertyn said importing neighbouring countries' waste could lead to the "laundering" of waste from developed countries. And allowing the import of hazardous waste for recycling was a "loophole" enabling the industry to

dump a majority of the material while recycling only a small part of it.

The Basel Convention expressly bans the transport of hazardous waste for disposal from the developed OECD countries to non-OECD countries, which include South Africa. In 1997 a similar ban is to take effect on the importation of hazardous waste for recycling purposes.

Greenpeace International joined the fray this week with a letter to De Villiers, saying the White Paper would be contrary to the "legally binding consensus decision made by the Basel Convention parties".

The Department of Environment Affairs' Scott this week said the paragraph allowing import of hazardous waste for recycling might have to be removed "with us getting this type of comment". He acknowledged the risk of unscrupulous operators using the contested paragraph as a loophole but said envisaged controls would render that virtually impossible.

Scott defended the import of some material classified by Basel as hazardous waste. Railway tracks, for example, often contained small quantities of lead — which Basel classifies as hazardous — but the recycling of the iron was less damaging to the environment than mining it in the first place. He said he believed the convention granted individual states the discretion to determine hazardous material classifications.

Toxic trade — call for total ban

Staff Reporter (56)

THE Wildlife Society has called on the government to ban unconditionally all trade of toxic wastes to and from South Africa.

Society spokesman Ms Marlene Laros said in a statement yesterday: "The society is completely against international trade in hazardous waste and believes that every country must take responsibility for its own industrial wastes by making the necessary capital investment to ensure their safe treatment and disposal." *CT 22/10/94*

Ms Laros said the society believed the polluter should pay for the comprehensive treatment of waste.

"We ask that the Minister of Environmental Affairs state unequivocally that South Africa will not trade in toxic waste," she said.

Broader consultation on environment

By CHRIS BATEMAN

A STRATEGIC "think tank" to help shape a White Paper on the environment, nature conservation and tourism was "too establishment-oriented," the Western Cape minister responsible, Mr Lerumo Kalako, said yesterday.

Opening two days of deliberations at a Somerset West hotel yesterday, Mr Kalako

said that his ministry was planning "further consultation with stakeholders", which included more township representation.

(56) CT 25/10/94
He suggested to delegates, who will address RDP and strategic management issues in several workshops, that development planning and conservation management remain his government's role.

He said he saw the private sector as a provincial government partner in creating facilities and assets and in tourism.

The think-tank comprises 30 organisations, including Cape Nature Conservation, the Wildlife Society, SA Nature Foundation, Guguletu Green Association, Earthlife Africa and representatives of Sanco, the ANC, the central government and provincial legislature.

Water and sanitation plan 'will cost R16bn'

PRETORIA — A national programme to provide communities with basic water and sanitation over a period of five years would cost about R16bn, Water Affairs and Forestry Department official Mike Muller said yesterday.

At a conference on financing infrastructural projects, held in Midrand, he said the programme could be financed successfully if householders who wanted higher levels of service were prepared to pay for them.

Key funding would come from user levies.

Funds would also come from government grants, local market loans and limited foreign investments, Muller said.

Although privatisation of water supplies and sanitation was unlikely, the mobilising of private sector support and consumer funding would be "of great value."

"What would eventually determine the success of the programme is willingness to pay for services that will relieve the present burden on the government and thus make funds available for investment," Muller told delegates.

"It is equally important to ensure that housing as well as urban and platteland development policy does not set unattainable demands."

The limiting resource in SA's development was not capital, but water, he said.

— Sapa. (56)

4th luxury bus crash this year

CT. 29/10/94 (56) ~~55~~

Staff Reporter

THE luxury bus crash on the N2 near Riversdale that killed eight and injured 30 people on Thursday night is the fourth major accident involving luxury busses this year.

A total of 27 people have died and 72 have been injured in these accidents.

Intercape spokesman Mr Marius Roux said yesterday that Thursday's crash was the first fatal accident in 25 years involving one of his company's coaches.

"We are investigating the road surface at the site, as we've heard there have been three other accidents there."

"All pre-departure maintenance procedures were carried out and the journey went smoothly until the accident."

"As far as we can tell at this stage, all safe driving prescrip-

A total of 27 people were killed

tions were adhered to and there were no mechanical problems.

"In consideration of the driver, we are unable to comment further on the circumstances."

Mr Roux said the company extended its condolences to the families of the deceased and hoped for the speedy recovery of the injured passengers.

"We will assist all involved to the best of our abilities."

Intercape managing director Mr Johan Ferreira was on the scene three hours after the accident, visited the injured in

Riversdale Hospital and helped to notify their families.

Riversdale police station commander Lieutenant Wim Dreyer said yesterday there had not been any other serious accidents at the site of the crash.

"We still don't know the cause, but we think a tyre may have burst, causing the driver to lose control," he said.

The bus was travelling from Cape Town to Port Elizabeth when the accident occurred about a kilometre outside Riversdale.

The impact ripped the roof off the vehicle.

The names of seven of the dead have been released: Miss L S Papier of Strand, Mr A Andradé of Hout Bay, Miss E C Jacobs of Riversdale, Dr E J Jammie of Plettenberg Bay, Mrs D S du Plessis of Somerset West, Ms R P Nyakurimwa of Zimbabwe and Miss S D O'Reilly of Somerset West.

Concern for environment and R440m

THE environmental impact of all projects will be taken into account when the European Union (EU) targets its multi-million rand Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) donor package to South Africa, EU development director Mr Philippe Soubestre said.

Confirming a R440m commitment to the RDP for 1994, he said no country could afford to neglect environmental concerns. (56)

Asked to comment on the RDP White Paper's apparent neglect of an environmental perspective, he said: "I very much hope the environmental aspect of these policies will be worked out and looked at closely." — Sapa

CT 29/10/94

Emerging markets PE ratio

30 September 1994

(52)
CT 2/11/94

Hungary	63.1
Peru	58.8
India	38.5
S. Korea	36.4
Taiwan	34.7
Malaysia	34.9
Philippines	32.7
Argentina	27
Turkey	26.3
Singapore	25.6
Pakistan	25.3
Colombia	24.9
Thailand	24.8
Sri Lanka	24.7
Chile	23.9
Portugal	22.5
Indonesia	21.6
Jordan	20.9
Brazil	20.2
Mexico	19.5
SA Industrials CR*	18.5
Poland	17.9
Venezuela	13.9
Zimbabwe	11.7
Greece	10.3
Nigeria	5.2

SOURCE: OLD MUTUAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

CR* = Commercial Rand

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70

Mutual: Stocks to surge

Deputy Business Editor

THE possible softening of exchange controls and the abolition of the financial rand could result in higher interest rates which augurs badly for both bonds, says Roddy Sparks, equity portfolio manager for Old Mutual's Guaranteed Fund.

Announcing a bonus declaration of 18% for its Guaranteed Fund clients for the year to June 1994, Sparks said a weaker rand would apply upward pressure on the inflation rate which was also bad for bonds but potentially good for equities, particularly rand hedge stocks.

Also in the JSE's favour, he said, was that growing foreign investment was likely to fuel demand for shares.

While equities were expensive by historical SA norms, they remained cheap when measured internationally, he said.

"South Africa currently ranks as one of the cheaper emerging

markets in the world, measured in terms of price:earnings ratios and also has in its favour the potential for strong earnings growth over the next few years."

This view, he said was based on prospects for good economic growth which would be stimulated by the RDP, strong world economies, higher commodity prices and improved trade prospects.

"In addition, any weakening of the rand will increase exports."

There was also a growing confidence in the SA economy and foreigners, generally underweighted in South African stocks, were likely to be net buyers of equities for some time, said Sparks.

He said Old Mutual Employee Benefits' Guaranteed Fund, with commitments to pension and provident funds of about R17bn, would maintain its high exposure to equities and remain

relatively short in interest-bearing markets.

On the property front, the focus, he said, was on well-positioned a-grade buildings — a sector of the market which was benefiting from a shortage of prime properties and seeing improved rentals and occupancy rates.

Sparks said if exchange controls were lifted, Old Mutual's approach to investing in international markets would be value driven and thus the extent of any offshore investment would be a function of the ruling exchange rate.

"While the ability to access overseas markets would allow for reduced risks as a result of portfolio diversification, the extent of international involvement by life insurers will also be determined by the rand liabilities of their portfolios and domestic legislation."

Earthlife welcomes US action on toxic waste

MARITZBURG. — Earthlife Africa has welcomed the American government's decision to file a multi-million dollar suit against Borden Chemicals and Plastics for illegally shipping toxic mercury waste to South Africa.

The action also includes an intention to prosecute the American chemical company for polluting the ground water at its plant in Geismar, Louisiana.

This development follows a joint Earthlife Africa and Greenpeace investigation this year which revealed Borden had shipped thousands of barrels of mercury waste to South Africa since 1986.

According to Earthlife spokesman Chris Albertyn the waste is stored at the Thor Chemicals mercury recycling plant near Cato Ridge. The British-based company Thor Chemicals and three top employees are current-

(56) AUG 2/11/94
ly on trial in the Maritzburg Supreme Court facing charges of culpable homicide and contraventions of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act.

Earlier in February pressure from both organisations resulted in Borden having to recall a shipment destined for South Africa and issue a promise to stop further waste shipments.

Mr Albertyn said the new gazetted South African policy specifically encouraged an expansion in operations such as Thor Chemicals.

"Our government is planning to encourage toxic waste imports through a new policy which justifies using lower health and environmental protection standards because we are a third world country. There is no magic which makes US toxic waste less poisonous while it is being shipped to our country," he said.

Bill may finally protect wetlands

Political Correspondent

(56)

RICHARDS Bay Minerals' chances of mining the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia could be finally ended by a Private Members Bill to protect wetlands introduced in parliament by ANC senator Stefanus Grove.

The select committee on private members' legislative proposals and petitions has recommended that Mr Grove's Wetlands Conservation Bill goes

before parliament.

It is likely that the Bill will become law within six months, once and for all, prohibiting mining in any of South Africa's 12 sensitive wetland areas, including the Lake St Lucia system.

Indications are that Richards Bay Minerals would still not ease up on their determination to mine sand dunes at Lake St Lucia.

They would probably challenge

the law in the Constitutional Court on the basis that it removes an existing right they had when the constitution was introduced — the right to mine.

In terms of Mr Grove's Bill, the Ramsar Convention on protecting wetlands, signed in Iran in 1971, would become part of South African law.

The convention provides for the prohibition of prospecting or mining within any listed wetland.

ARLT 3/11/94

At last, healers have medicine garden!

JENNY VIALL
Staff Reporter

IT was the realisation of a dream for Philip Kubukeli, president of the Western Cape Traditional Healers and Herbalists Association, when the first garden for indigenous medicinal plants was planted in Langa.

A herbal plot was planted at the Tsoga Environmental Resource Centre in Langa this week to provide traditional healers with a ready and cheap source of plants — and to conserve species threatened by rapid urbanisation and the increased demand for traditional medicines.

Mr Kubekeli was overjoyed at the planting of the herbs.

"It has been one of my objectives that traditional healers should do something to help the environment. I am encouraged by the support we've had."

The plants are being supplied by Kirstenbosch, which is growing plants, both endangered and otherwise, for the garden.

Horticulturist Ernst Van Jaarsveld said: "We have so many plants in South Africa, potentially rich in medicinal uses we must conserve them."



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM. The Argus.

DREAM COME TRUE: The planting of a medicinal herb garden in Langa was a dream come true for traditional healers Caroline Ntilashe, right, and Phillip Kubukeli, centre. Zola Nqose, co-ordinator of the Tsoga Environmental Resource Centre, helped with the planting.

Common

cause

(5)

ARTS/11/94

IRVING STEYN

Weekend Argus Reporter

RONDEBOSCH Common has become the second of Cape Town's historic open spaces to be saved from the threat of development and neglect, with this week's city council announcement of a management plan.

It follows the acceptance last year by the council of a master management plan by consultants recommending that Green Point Common should be opened up to the general public.

Among other things, the report recommended a moratorium on building on the green part of the common.

This apparently has not phased "concerned parties", who are bickering among themselves over the development of areas towards Three Anchor Bay ahead of the rapidly spreading Waterfront project.

'Anybody who thinks he is going to develop on the common can think again'

And in spite of the council's acceptance of the Green and Sea Point Area Plan, in which Green Point Common features strongly, the Waterfront development and the promise of an Olympics 2004 spectacular seem to have dimmed resolve over environmental decisions already in place.

The report accepted by council last year, prepared by consultants Todeschini and Japha, recommended:

■ That more of Green Point Common be made available for public use.

■ That the environment of the Common be upgraded with a landscaping programme.

■ That pedestrian access be improved.

■ That a walk connecting the common to Granger Bay be established and that traffic movement and parking on the common be rationalised.

The consultants also said that to make the common a coherent open space, fences and roads would have to be removed, a parking plan would have to be implemented and screen planting would have to be carried out.

Nothing much has been done since, apparently due to infighting between various parties, including residents' associations, developers, Olympic

■ Environmentalists and others are heaving a sigh of relief that the second of Cape Town's historic open spaces has been spared the horrors of development. But they shouldn't be too complacent — things can change.

planners and numerous other individuals and lesser organisations.

Take the Olympic scene into consideration. A bid team is reported to have plans for an Olympic area incorporating the 100ha Green Point Common, including the revamped stadium, for soccer and other sports. A monorail linking the city centre to the common has also been suggested.

But amenities and health committee chairman Chris Joubert is adamant. "It's all a lot of hot wind. Anybody who thinks he is going to develop on the common can think again," he said.

"It seems they don't know about this already accepted policy by the city council."

On the other side of the city, a news conference this week was told that the city's parks and forests branch has drawn up a draft management plan for the control of Rondebosch Common, "one of the southern suburbs' most precious natural assets".

It was said to be the first management plan for a natural urban open space in the Western Cape.

Spokesman James Jackelman said the development of the common would be low key and outlined several small projects that would be tackled.

The common had been identified as one of the last remaining sites on the Cape Flats hosting acid sand plain fynbos, a vegetation type that has been all but eliminated by urbanisation and alien plant invasion.

Mr Jackelman said although there had been extensive public participation, including consultations with organisations like the Friends of Rondebosch Common, parks and forests was looking for comment on the draft plan.

But as Mr Joubert pointed out, while the council now has its two major commons under strict jurisdiction, there's a whole new structure coming into place that will have 100 councillors instead of 27.

"They might make different decisions. Who knows? They could be reviewed and rescinded. But we will have to wait for the new council to be in place to see," he said.

Transkei lawlessness

The Argus Correspondent

ARG 9/11/94

(56)

UMTATA. — Nature reserve officers in the Transkei are being threatened by armed people, who say the land belongs to their forefathers and the government has no say over it, according to Eastern Cape MEC Tertius Delport.

He was commenting after a visit to Cwebe and Dewesa nature reserves where he went to assess damage caused by a group of people who had entered the reserves and destroyed protected trees. This was the second time locals had plundered the two reserves for seafood and timber.

'Protect coastline by force'

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA has the right to use military action to protect its coastline from environmental threats like unseaworthy vessels.

Mark Wiley, National Party senator from the Western Cape, said this in debate on the Maritime Zones Bill yesterday.

The bill, which brings into force South African partnership in international maritime conventions, was passed by the senate.

Mr Wiley said South Africa should set up a checkpoint at Cape Agulhas to screen vessels entering its waters.

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International law must be used to protect the coastline, he said.

Recalling the Apollo Sea oil spill this past winter, Mr Wiley asked whether another disaster was necessary before laws were changed.

Many ships were "floating and, in many cases, sinking montrosities, deliberately left in unseaworthy condition".

Mr Wiley said he hoped the bill would help prevent at sea "what happens on Table Mountain, where authorities cannot get together around a breakfast table".

South Africa was sending a message to the world that it would control its coastline, he said.

Tourism to be 'major force'

By AUDREY D'ANGELO
Business Editor

SMALL business people should take advantage of the opportunities offered by South Africa's growing tourist industry, so that its benefits are more evenly spread, SA Tourism Board (Satour) executives said at a workshop for entrepreneurs at the Arthur's Seat Hotel in Sea Point yesterday.

Mr Mike Fabricius, Satour's director of tourism development, said the industry would "grow substantially and be a major economic force to improve the living conditions of all South Africans."

It would bring opportunities for small business people to provide accommodation, food, entertainment and goods for tourists. Pointing out that luxury hotels

Openings for small businesses

accommodated only a relatively small proportion of tourists, Mr Fabricius said bed and breakfast accommodation was "a growth industry in itself".

Outlining the advantages to be expected in the future, and the contribution to the Reconstruction and Development Programme, Mr Fabricius said it was the largest industry in the world, generating jobs and foreign exchange.

Indications were that arrivals from other countries in August

(56) CT10/11/94
and September were 30% higher than in previous years.

And it had much potential for further rapid growth in this country. SA had only 0,6% of world tourism at present and was still only the fourth largest earner of foreign exchange for SA.

Johannesburg was still the main gateway to SA but Cape Town was coming close, helped by the number of airlines flying here.

Mr Fabricius said SA's tourism product was right for changing international tastes. Experienced, sophisticated travellers no longer wanted to go on holiday in large groups, following a set programme.

They wanted an individual experience that would give them the true flavour of the country visited, were interested in ecology and wanted flexibility. This was well-suited to SA.

Cabinet to back introduction of unleaded petrol

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE cabinet is expected to endorse the previous government's decision to introduce unleaded petrol at South African service stations by October next year.

The cabinet is to review the previous decision in the next few months, but indications are that it will give the nod to the proposed move that will see oil companies investing about R270 million — much already spent — to adapt their refineries to produce the new fuel.

Contrary to popular opinion, it is not straight concern for the environment that is the major motivation for the move to unleaded fuel, but rather technological advances in the motor manufacturing industry.

"This industry pointed out that, if we were going to stay in the mainstream of motor technology, we'd have to be using unleaded fuel," said SA Petroleum Industry Association director Colin McClelland.

"Countries like the United States, Japan and the European Community, from where most motor design emanates, are moving to a situation of almost 100 percent unleaded fuel for new vehicles.

"That's why that (South African) decision was made in 1991. But, with the changes in the country, the new government is having to revisit this issue and confirm that the original decision to introduce unleaded fuel is still in line with national priorities. "The cabinet will be making that

decision, we imagine, within the next month or so."

The cabinet would also have to decide at what price unleaded fuel — initially more expensive for the oil companies to produce — could be sold to make its introduction competitive, said Mr McClelland.

Last week, Mineral and Energy Affairs director-general Piet Hugo told a parliamentary committee that unleaded fuel should be available in July next year and it would cost about five percent less than leaded fuel.

The lower price would be based on a lower tax for unleaded petrol and would stay in place until this fuel had achieved a market penetration of at least 20 percent.

Oil industry environmental officer Bernard Winter said several committees had been formed under the auspices of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to oversee the introduction of unleaded fuel.

Taking lead out of petrol would not end pollution problems, he warned.

"If you don't have catalytic converters on a significant number of vehicles, you could have a situation where the photochemical smog potential will actually increase.

"Anybody who thinks that this brown haze over Cape Town is going to disappear after October next year is making a mistake — it's not, but the provision of unleaded petrol will pave the way for future reductions."

To Pb or to be Pb-free? That is the question South African motorists will probably face after July next year.

The present government is expected to endorse its predecessor's decision to introduce unleaded petrol at pumps from the middle of next year, and many motorists will then have the opportunity to buy cheaper petrol and — at a price — help reduce air pollution if they choose to fit catalytic converters.

But there are several problem areas in this complex issue.

"This is a highly technical matter, and it's also a very emotional matter," said oil industry environmental officer Bernard Winter.

Lead — chemical symbol Pb — was added to petrol as the cheapest way of improving the octane rating, he explained.

Octane is a measure of a fuel's ability to prevent the phenomenon of "pinking" or knocking in an engine — uncontrolled explosions resulting from petrol igniting before the electric spark, which is highly destructive.

"The old cars of the 1930s and '40s had very low compression ratios. They weren't very lively and their petrol consumption was poor.

"In striving to improve the efficiency of motor car engines, designers pushed up the compression ratio. This requires higher octane fuel, and the cheapest way of getting a higher octane is by using lead additives.

"Lead has been — and is still — the cheapest effective way of increasing the octane number of a fuel.

"But in the last 15 or 20 years the use of leaded fuel has become questionable because lead is a poison, and lead in fuel is one of the ways in which it can get into the environment."

The use of lead in petrol had become an emotional issue and, world-wide its use was on the way out.

But the main international motivation for removing lead was the high incidence of photochemical smog — an element of Cape Town's infamous "brown haze" — and one of the contributors to this smog is vehicle engines.

"The two main problems are unburnt hydrocarbons — that's petrol that has evaporated during handling at service stations or when cars are left in the sun — and nitrogen oxides, which are a product of combustion.

"Then there is a third factor: the presence of ultraviolet light.

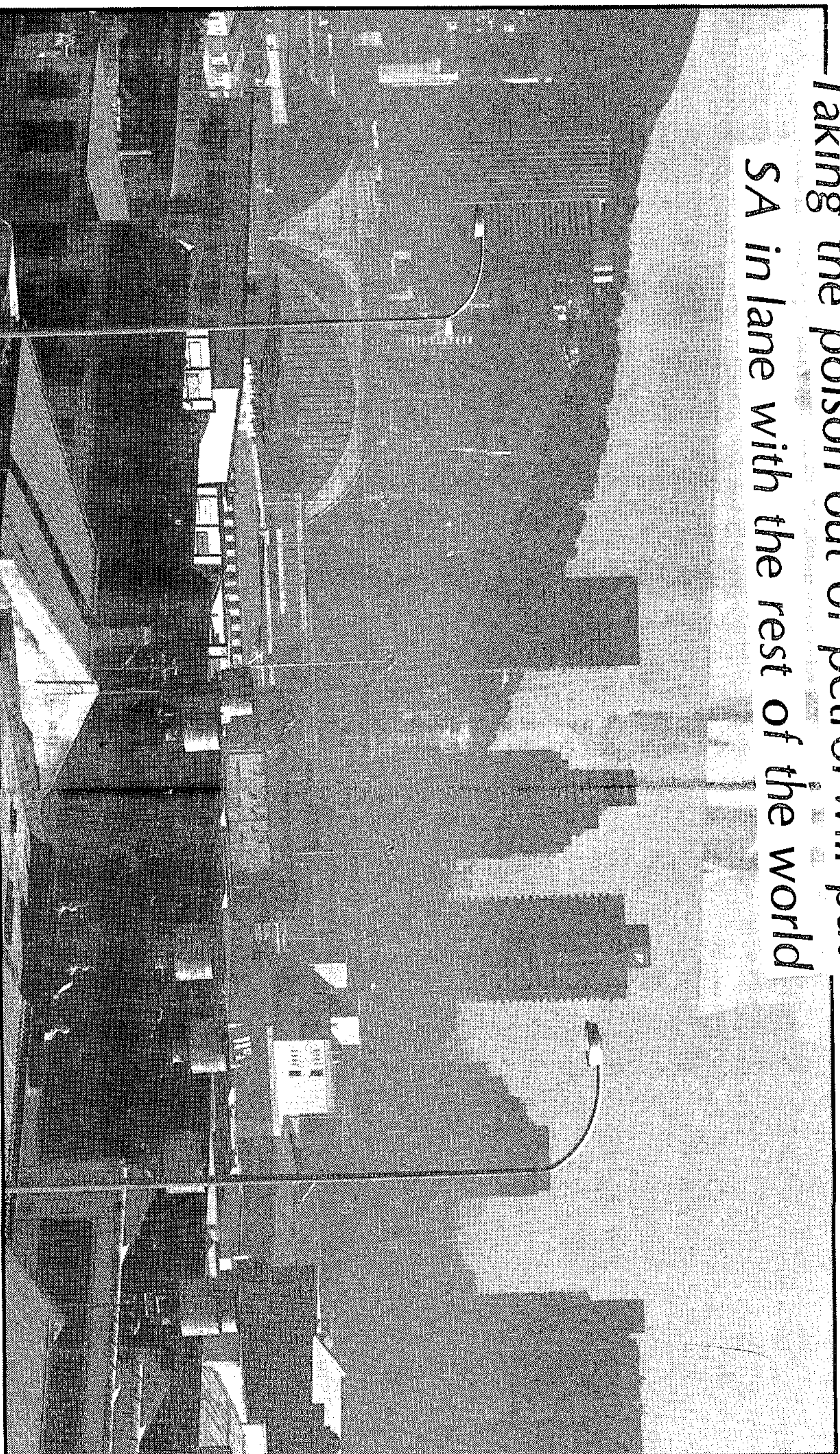
"These three together tend to make this 'soup' which contains ozone and other chemicals that are bad news for people with asthma and other breathing problems," Mr Winter said.

Unburnt hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from car engines were easily removed by catalytic converters in the exhaust systems of

Fill 'er up

With lead-free

Taking the poison out of petrol will put SA in lane with the rest of the world



Picture: LEON MÜLLER. The Argus
UNHEALTHY HAZE: Cape Town's notorious brown haze — partly the result of motor car exhaust emissions — hangs menacingly over the city.

ers are the metals platinum, rhodium and palladium, which are poisoned by lead.

"So to have them work efficiently, you need unleaded petrol, and that is the reason why the world has gone that route."

In Europe, all new cars have had to be fitted with catalytic converters as from the beginning of last year.

"In Japan, there's only unleaded petrol available, so you can imagine that the latest motor car technology caters for unleaded fuel.

new cars cannot tolerate lead at all.

"So the motor car industry in this country, if it's to have a viable export market, must make cars that can use unleaded petrol.

"And they really can only do that if there's unleaded fuel available in this country because, they claim, they'd otherwise have to run two production lines and use outdated technology.

"If South Africa doesn't move with modern engine technology, we'll be in a backward in 10 years'

unleaded petrol is going to be made available here."

If the go-ahead was given, there would be 97 octane leaded petrol and 95 unleaded at the coast, and 93 leaded and 91 unleaded inland.

The introduction of unleaded petrol had been promoted as providing a foundation for future vehicle emission controls which would allow South Africa to follow the world-wide trend to more environmentally-friendly vehicles.

This was because the availability of unleaded petrol made it pos-

to vehicles' exhaust systems, Mr Winter said.

But there were no legislative moves in the pipeline to make catalytic converters compulsory on new cars in South Africa.

"Without these catalytic converters, and considering the low ambient lead levels in the atmosphere in South Africa, the introduction of unleaded fuel will not result in any immediate environmental improvement."

have to:

- Establish national air quality standards which recognised sources of pollution from both vehicles and stationary objects;

- Establish emission standards for new vehicles;

- Require the fitting of emission control devices — like, but not limited to, catalytic converters — to help meet these standards; and

- Set up an effective monitoring system, such as a mandatory annu-

Smog in city increasing

Staff Reporter

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PHOTOCHEMICAL smog in the Cape Peninsula appears to be on the increase, which could have major implications for the health of the local population.

An article in the South African Medical Journal, quoting the results of a nine-year air pollution monitoring programme, calls for upgrading of monitoring equipment in Cape Town and for steps

ET 12/11/94
to prevent a further increase.

It said measurements elsewhere in the Peninsula were probably higher than those taken at the City Hall.

Increases in average monthly and peak-hour levels were measured and accepted guidelines were exceeded "a number of times" during the study.

A recent study in the Peninsula had shown a significant association between nitrogen oxide

levels and hospital admissions of children with asthma and acute respiratory tract infections.

The prime contributor of photochemical smog was vehicle traffic, which had increased by 32% in Cape Town since 1983.

● Photochemical smog, as distinct from "brown haze", is a blend of chemical compounds formed by the action of the sun's ultra-violet rays on industrial or vehicle emissions.

ARG. 15/11/94.

56.

Full steam ahead for city rubbish by rail plan

Municipal Staff

AN agreement which allows for the city's domestic refuse to be transported to a landfill site by rail instead of road was signed by Spoornet and the Cape Town City Council at the Civic Centre today.

At present domestic refuse is collected from households by four-ton trucks, transferred to a compacting plant

next to Athlone power station and taken by long-haul trucks to Vissershok landfill site 25km away.

The agreement was signed by the city engineer, Arthur Clayton, and Spoornet Western Cape regional manager Louis du Toit. The first load of waste is scheduled to be transported by rail by the middle of 1995.

Mr Clayton said the long-haul trucks were reaching the

end of their economic lives and were costly to maintain.

"A study done in co-operation with Spoornet revealed that considerable savings could be achieved by using rail transport which has spare capacity.

"The refuse will be baled, which will make loading and unloading easy, and at the same time reduces the energy required for compaction at the landfill site."

Spoornet will adapt its 44-ton capacity DZ-type trucks to carry the bales.

Mr Du Toit said: "One train could carry the equivalent of 100 road trucks which means 100 fewer motor vehicles on the already congested road system.

"Additional advantages are lower exhaust emissions and less wear and tear on the road infrastructure."

White Paper proposes tariff system to make all water users pay

CAPE TOWN — The White Paper on water supply and sanitation, published yesterday by the Water Affairs Department, proposed a new system of tariffs that requires bulk users by all users of tariffs that require achievement of the White Paper Minister within five years and might result in Departmental estimates of what this would cost ranged from between R7bn and R19bn over the five-year period, but these

estimates were "like throwing bones". The White Paper, which does not deal with water used for agriculture, traces a steady decline in the national Budget of 0.35% of the national Budget to about 0.9% of the national Budget over seven years. It states that an additional 1% of the Budget over seven years will meet the goal of providing basic water supply and sanitation services to all citizens. The department has a working group from the private sector investigating the viability of a national water bond. Asmal said there were widely differing tariffs imposed for water supply. "In some

cases the anomalies border on the immoral." Residents in some former on the water required to pay for water at all. He emphasised that everyone would be required to pay for water at all. The supply, albeit at differing rates, with the document states that in accordance the policy of sliding tariffs should be endorsed by the department. Three tariffs are suggested:

TIM COHEN

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- A lifeline or social tariff to cover basic needs. The quantity will not exceed 25l per capita a day and the tariff will cover only the losses incurred through the lifeline tariff.
- A normal and maintenance costs. The tariff will be set at cost (operating and maintenance plus capital) including a quantity of not more than 25l per day. The tariff will cover only the losses incurred through the lifeline tariff.
- A normal and maintenance costs. The tariff will be set at cost (operating and maintenance plus capital) including a quantity of not more than 25l per day. The tariff will cover only the losses incurred through the lifeline tariff.

The White Paper says water boards should be "democratised" and their mandate extended and rationalised directly to consumers in the absence of functioning local authorities. Services should be self-financing at local and regional level, except where communities are unable to afford basic services. In such cases, government may subsidise the cost of construction of basic services, but not the operating, maintenance or replacement costs.

Protest against waste (56)

ET 16/11/94
DEMONSTRATORS demanding an immediate moratorium on hazardous waste traffic to and from the country protested outside Parliament yesterday. Organised by Earthlife Africa, they demanded the immediate scrapping of the government's gazetted policy on hazardous wastes.

SA withdraws elephant proposal

FORT LAUDERDALE. — South Africa withdrew a proposal yesterday to trade elephant meat, hair and skin on world markets.

CT 16/11/94
The SA plan was opposed by other African nations with large elephant populations, and had caused a rift among conservation groups at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting here. (56)

Some delegates saw it as a threat to hard-won curbs on the ivory trade. The plan would have allowed South

Africa to sell elephant parts on the overseas market from animals culled from its herd of 7 500 in the Kruger National Park.

Some conservation groups argued that opening new international markets for elephant products would encourage poaching for elephant ivory.

International trade in ivory is banned under Cites regulations.

SA's decision to withdraw the plan "recognises that elephants continue to be threatened throughout most of Africa by the possibility of trade in their parts," said

Dr John Grandy, vice-president of the Humane Society of the US.

Other conservation groups supported the SA proposal as a way to raise money to bolster protection of the species.

"Revenue from this culling would have gone back into conservation," said Mr Simon Stuart, head of the species survival programme for IUCN, the world conservation union. "Our studies have shown strong conservation budgets stop poaching." — Sapa-Reuter

Govt considers bonds as a method to raise funds

'Water, sanitation for all'

Star 16/11/94

■ POLITICAL STAFF

Cape Town — An additional 1 percent of South Africa's national Budget over the next seven years will meet the goal of providing a basic water supply and sanitation services to all citizens, according to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry's White Paper on water supply and sanitation policy.

Speaking during a media event to publicise the White Paper, Minister Kader Asmal said the Government was considering issuing water bonds as a method of raising funds to meet this goal.

Also, a national water conservation campaign would be launched soon.

According to the White Paper, more than 12 million South Africans do not have access to adequate drinking water and nearly

21 million lack basic sanitation.

Basic water supply is defined as 25 litre per person per day, which people should not have to carry more than 200 m — fewer in steep areas — to their dwellings.

The annual budget of the department will have to increase from an estimated R1,6 billion a year to about R2,8 billion if most citizens are to get at least basic services in the next seven years.

Conventional water-borne sanitation is, in most cases, not a realistic, viable goal in the short term because of the cost.

Instead, the ventilated improved pit (VIP) toilet — if constructed to agreed standards and maintained properly — provides an appropriate and adequate basic level of sanitation service, the White Paper states.

Answering questions, Asmal said the cost of providing basic

water and sanitation to all South Africans was somewhere between R7 billion and R19 billion.

One of the terms of reference of the new National Water Advisory Council was water conservation, and a major campaign — possibly involving President Mandela — would be launched.

It was not possible to have a single water tariff for the country as tariffs had to reflect the cost of the service.

"But in some cases anomalies (in water tariffs) border on the immoral. We can't have a single tariff but we must remove these anomalies."

Responding to a question about the culture of non-payment, Asmal said he had found "an extraordinary pride" in people who had been newly supplied with water and water meters. "In my experience, they will pay."

Asmal said he had been inundated with appeals from communities.

"I understand the growing impatience that I encounter, but if we do not all gain an understanding of the task and how long it will take, we will land in a quagmire of panic-driven decisions.

"Supply schemes must be properly planned. The communities served by schemes must take ownership ... and responsibility for them."

The question of who paid for water was a sensitive issue, Asmal said. In some of the former TBVC states, water had been free.

"The bottom line is that we must all pay. Water tariffs must be paid so that there are enough funds for those who have no water supply."

Toxic waste imports out, says ANC select committee

ANY attempt to introduce legislation that permits the importation of toxic waste into South Africa will be blocked, ANC select committee members in parliament and the senate have told the Department of Environment affairs.

This was revealed by Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Bantu Holomisa during his opening address to the *Our Environment is in Our Hands* conference at a Gordon's Bay hotel.

The conference, billed as the first attempt to develop a community-based environmental policy for South Africa, is organised jointly by the Langa-based Tsoga Environmental Resource Centre and the Panos Institute in London.

Tsoga director Thobeka Thamage was applauded when she said South Africans had a re-

sponsibility to their children and grandchildren not to allow toxic waste into the country.

"We will be sending a strong message to the government — the people are very, very angry," she told Mr Holomisa.

"Our communities have been used as waste dumps — we cannot afford to absorb waste from other countries."

Referring to the outcry that followed the publication in September of his department's draft policy on hazardous waste — which does not rule out the importation of such waste into South Africa — Mr Holomisa said he was thankful the issue was being discussed openly.

He emphasised it was a draft policy that had been released for comment and that no final decision had been taken.

South Africa was a signatory to the Basel Convention which regulated, but did not forbid,

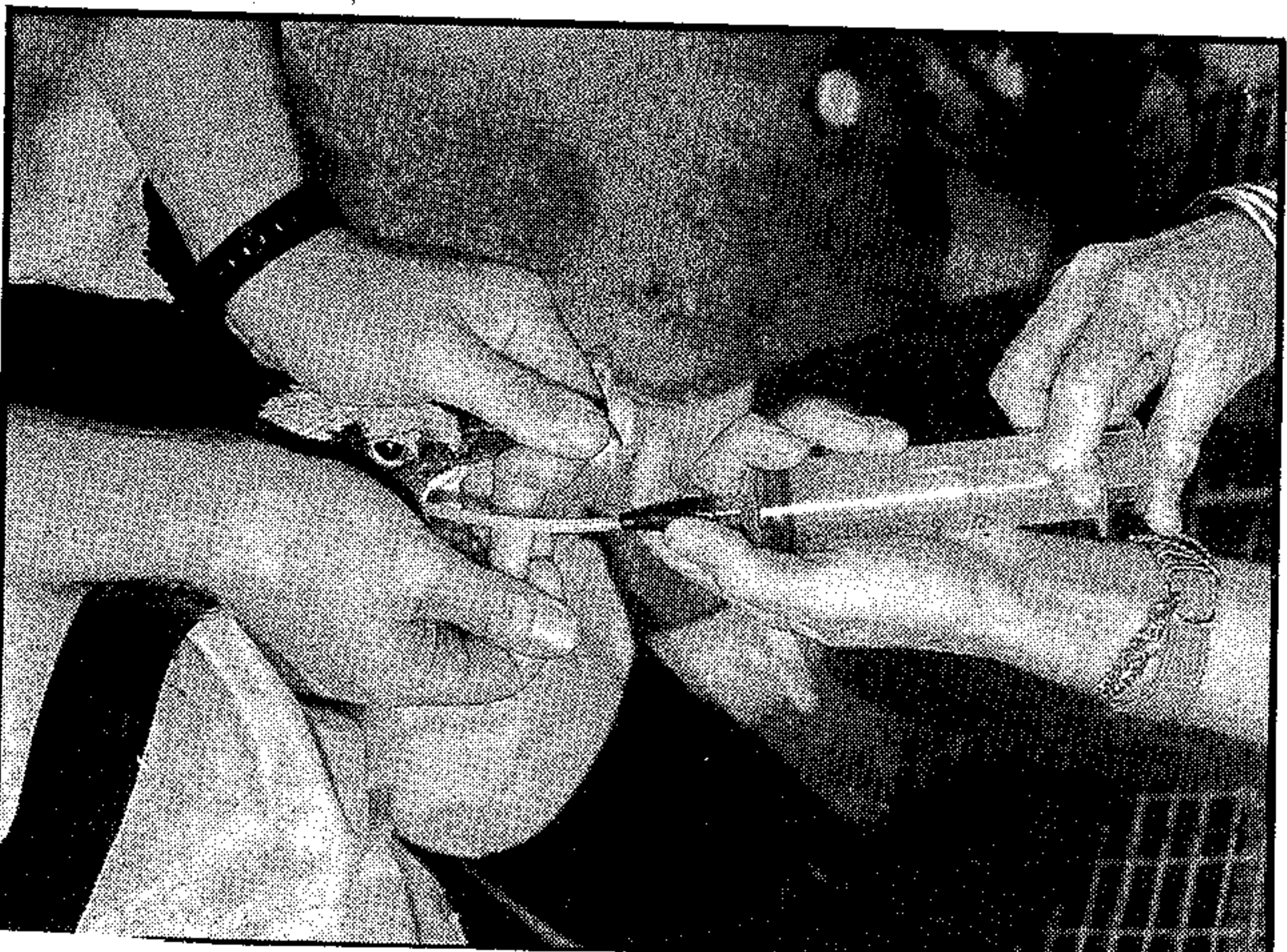
the trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste.

But it was possible the government could decide to adhere to the Organisation of African Unity's Bamako Convention, which outlawed the importation of any hazardous (toxic) waste to the African Continent.

"From the government's point of view, there is no problem if you express your views, and you can use whatever terms you want to," Mr Holomisa said.

"It would have been much worse if the department had just drawn up legislation and put it to parliament."

ANC members of the select committee in the national assembly and senate had "already whispered to the director-general" of his department that they would oppose legislation which allowed the importation of toxic waste, Mr Holomisa said.



Drought relief centres set up

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

RELIEF aid centres have been established to deal with the drought crisis in the Northern Transvaal and restrictions have been placed on top end-users, such as farmers and town dwellers. Mr Mike Muller, manager of community water supply and sanitation in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, said in Cape Town yesterday that rural people caught in the crisis must contact their local water board and ask for information on the crisis centres that have been established.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry confirmed that the Cabinet recently approved R3 million for drought relief "for emergency water supplies for human consumption" in the stricken areas of the Northern and Western Transvaal.

Muller said all requests for emergency supplies in the Northern Transvaal should be directed to Mr Derek Hallis of the water crisis committee at telephone (0152) 291-3292 or at PO Box 16, Pietersburg, 0700.

Similar requests in the Eastern Transvaal should be directed to Mr E Deacon, Private Bag X11259, Nelspruit, 1200. Muller was speaking from Cape Town where Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Mr Kadar Asmal

tabled the Government's White Paper on water supply and sanitation policy. Asmal met with North-West MEC for water affairs Mr Zacharia Pitso Tolo and a discussion of the ongoing drought in the far reaches of the old Transvaal province was expected to take precedence.

Asmal said long-term planning and greater capital expenditure would be made, while the recurrent crisis in the Northern Transvaal would be treated on a day to day basis. He said emergency measures, such as calling in the army, were expensive but it was "of utmost importance" that water be taken to people. (56)

Asmal said it was immoral for a country "with nuclear power, cellular telephones and vast intercatchment water transfer schemes" to have more than 12 million people without access to an adequate supply of potable water and nearly 21 million lacking basic sanitation. The White Paper, he said, shifts the emphasis in water supply and sanitation towards community needs, especially rural peoples' needs, and away from the luxury of sprinkler systems in the lush suburbs.

Import of toxic waste ruled out

CT 17/11/94

MARITZBURG. — A kwaZulu/Natal legislature committee yesterday unanimously rejected any plans to import toxic waste to South Africa, after two days of public hearings here.

In a statement, the Portfolio Committee on Conservation said it was "unanimous in rejecting any plans to import hazardous or toxic wastes into South Africa for the purposes of final disposal or destruction".

The committee added that it would urgently begin drafting legislation on a waste management policy for kwaZulu/Natal. — Sapa

Expert rejects UCT Rietvlei report

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TRANSNET'S controversial proposal to build 350 houses on an 11-hectare section on the northern banks of Rietvlei will not affect the vlei's biophysical status — provided certain mitigatory measures are applied.

This is the finding of an impact assessment by the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit, commissioned by property developer Equikor on behalf of Transnet.

But the assessment has been rejected by environmental consultant and wetland specialist Allan Heydorn, who said the mitigatory measures could not be enforced.

Argus. 19/11/91 X
"Such development would fly in the face of all modern management practice for wetlands and floodplains," Dr Heydorn said.

The UCT report on the proposed development at Lake Flamingo has not yet been made public.

At an Argus/Fairvest Cape "green" breakfast for the business community yesterday, Dr Heydorn — who is a specialist consultant to the South African Nature Foundation — said the UCT study had been "very good".

"However, as is the case with the St Lucia EIA (environmental impact assessment), there was a certain constraint in the brief given. It was a biophysical study only, and the socio-economic aspects were not touched on at all.

"In Cape Town — and particularly in Milnerton — you simply cannot ignore the all-important socio-economic aspects."

The mitigatory or ameliorative measures suggested by the UCT study included that the public confine to be allowed full access to the vlei around the development area, Dr Heydorn said.

Also, it recommended that residents of the new houses not be allowed to keep pets which could affect the wildlife of the vlei and that pesticides and herbicides not be used in their gardens.

"I applaud those recommendations, but in practice — where people have bought expensive properties or

where those properties have changed hands — those promises are all too easily forgotten."

Milnerton municipality wants to expropriate all Transnet's property at Rietvlei, which falls within the proclaimed protected natural environment, so that it can consolidate its Rietvlei nature reserve.

But Transnet claims the land is worth R32 million and has offered to give all the remainder of its 166 ha to the municipality if it is allowed to develop the 11 ha on the northern bank.

Last month, provincial Minister of Local Government and Development Planning Peter Marais said he would study the UCT report thoroughly as soon as it had been received by Transnet and make a decision.

A green revolution

Former ANC soldier has a plan to clean up the townships

BY SABATA NGCAI

SOLDIERS are usually trained to kill and destroy everything in their way.

But ANC-trained soldier Mr Zolile Nqose has dedicated his life to saving the environment and thereby building a prosperous future for all.

Mr Nqose, an officer of uMkhonto we Sizwe, is also a co-founder and coordinator of the Tsoga Environment Resource Centre in Langa. The centre aims to clean and green all townships.

While in exile for more than 30 years, Mr Nqose studied environmental issues as well as military strategy.

He said whenever the soldiers had free time, they would try to acquire knowledge and experience outside the military.

They knew the knowledge would be used to build the new South Africa.

Mr Nqose's interest in the environment began while he was studying film in Europe.

He returned to Tanzania after completing his studies and learned that plants in that country were being destroyed by pests.

He worked hand in hand with the Tanzanian authorities and, using the knowledge he had acquired overseas, he helped to combat the pests. This fueled his interest in the environment and he attended a series of workshops on related issues.

When he returned home from exile in 1992, Mr Nqose helped establish the Tsoga centre in Langa.

"When I left the country Langa was the cleanest African township in the Western Cape," he said. "When I returned it was the filthiest."

Mr Nqose said they chose Langa as the site for the environment centre because it was more stable than other townships. Nyanga, Guguletu and Khayelitsha were at that time rocked by taxi violence.

"We organise workshops to teach residents about the importance of the environment," Mr Nqose said.

"They come up with a wide range of interesting ideas on how to preserve our natural heritage."

Mr Nqose said the centre would help to green the townships, not only in Langa but across the Western Cape.

"The centre has not been created only for African people. It should serve as a model for all communities in the Western Cape."

He said more centres will be opened as soon as possible in other areas.

The centre has been made possible through fund raising, and trees and plants have been donated.

"We are planting fruit trees in schools and churches," Mr Nqose said.



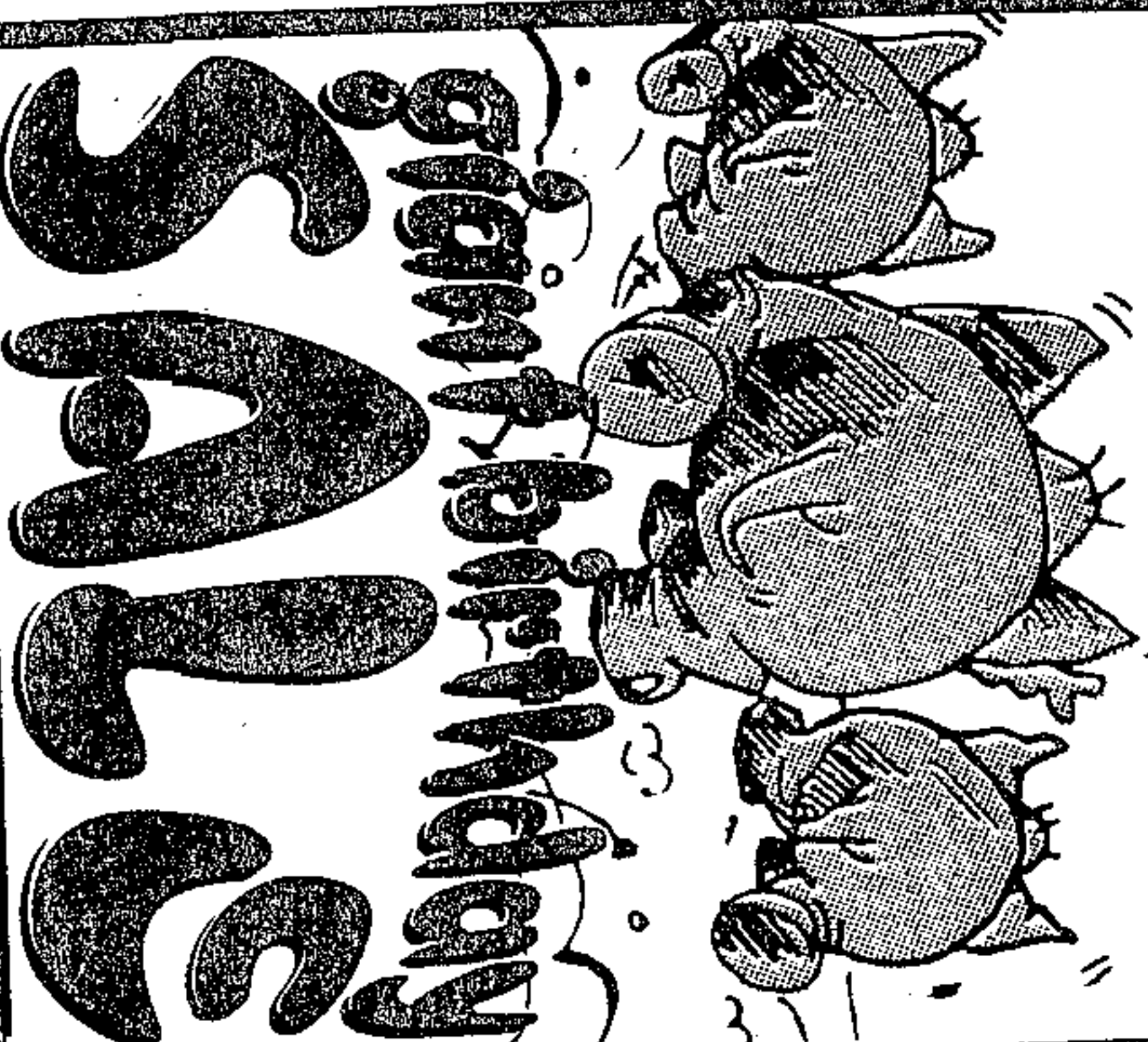
FRESH FRUIT DAILY:
Mr Nqose holds a lettuce grown in the garden of the Tsoga Environment Resource Centre in Langa

Photo: Roger Sedres

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BY WICKY STARK

MILLIONS of tourists flock to Cape Town every year to take in the sights of our beautiful city. But unlike foreign visitors, many Capetonians cannot afford to visit the natural wonders of their city.

However, there is a place which is close to their homes and doesn't cost the earth to travel to.

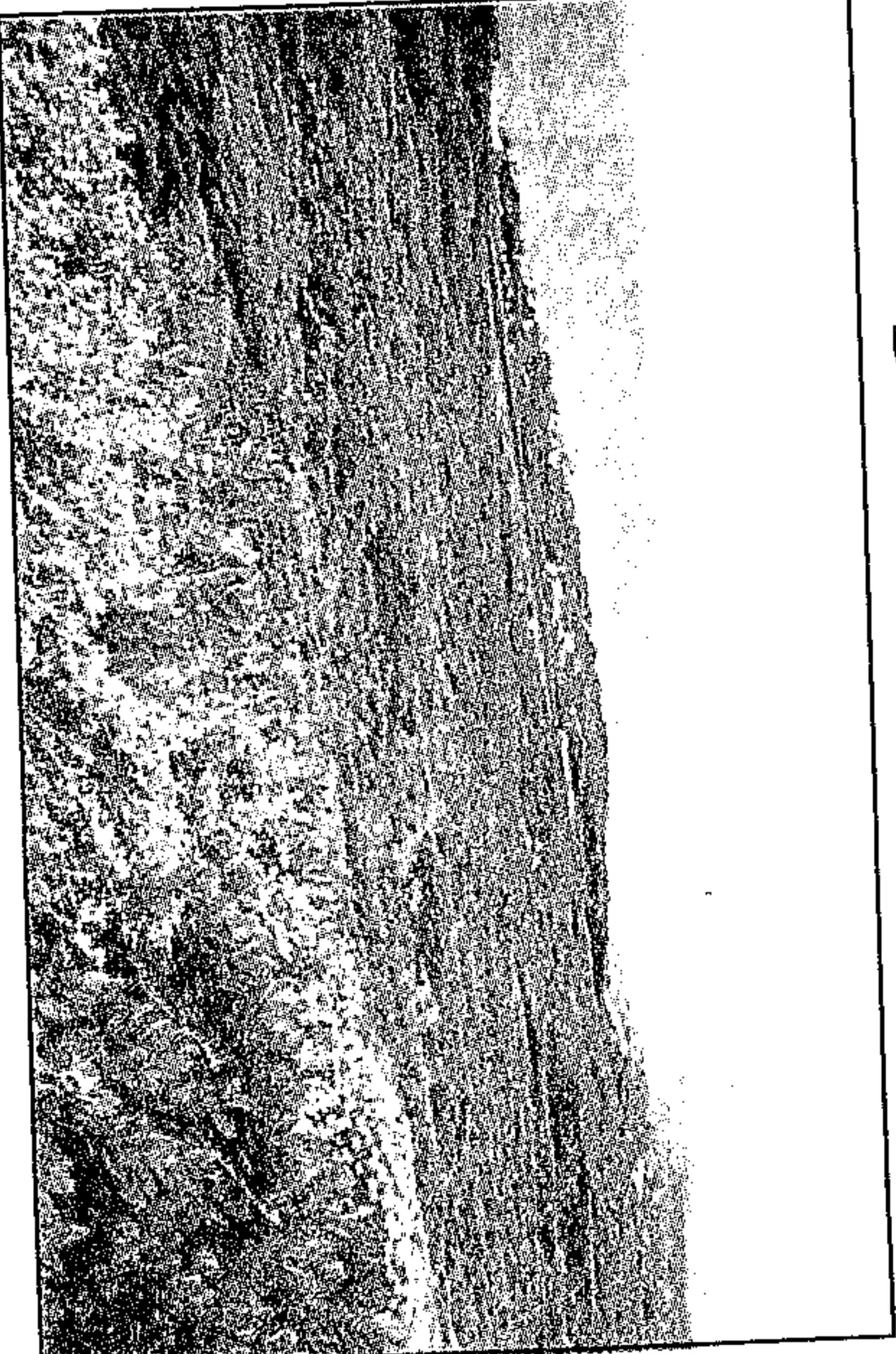
"People aren't always able to afford to take a bus to Kirstenbosch or Table Mountain so we are proposing that the Wolfgat Nature Reserve which lies between Mitchells Plain and the False Bay coastline be upgraded," said Mr Paul Britton of Parks and Forests department.

He was speaking on behalf of a steering committee which was established on October 22.

"We did a survey in the surrounding areas and discovered that people were enthusiastic about having a reserve in the area although very few of them knew that one already existed," Mr Britton said.

"The survey was followed up by a meeting attended by representatives of 50 organisations. The steering committee was established there."

The 248-hectare reserve protects the natural coastal dune and limestone sys-



GREEN SPACE: Wolfgat Nature Reserve should be upgraded for use by Cape Flats residents

tems. Wolfgat is also the home to the only mainland breeding site of the Kelp Gull in the South Western Cape. It also serves as a conservation area for rare Strandveld and Dwarf Coastal Fynbos.

"This area offers excellent educational opportunities for students in the surrounding areas," Mr Britton said.

The steering committee has already received a favourable response from teachers.

"Parks and Forests adopted the policy of community-driven projects long before the elections or the RDP took place and

we are in the process of developing that policy," said Mr Britton.

"We don't see the point in working out an elaborate scheme for the area when the community isn't involved."

While there has been a positive public response to the proposed improvement of the green area, the steering committee would like to have more community involvement. "We need the support of the community to lobby the city council and other funders," Mr Britton said.

For details, call Sandra van Daalen at 397-3041 or Mrs Moore at 376-5382.

Policy paper says the poor pay 50 times more for each drop

Water guzzlers targeted

Star 19/11/94

DAVID BREIER

CAPE TOWN — Affluent suburbanites with lush gardens and sparkling pools are going to pay through the nose for their water in future. And black squatters who struggle for every drop of water will be charged much lower rates for water they use.

This is the nub of the Government's new water and sanitation policy tabled in Parliament this week by Minister of Water Affairs Kader Asmal.

Water officials told WeekendStar the new policy would abolish one of the great iniquities of apartheid.

Pipes

The rich have long paid much less for every litre of water they used in the past and the poor have had to pay much more.

This is because water reticulation in established suburbs was built many years ago. It was subsidised by the authorities and has been paid for. The water it supplies is therefore charged at a cheap rate.

But in new black urban settlements, new reservoirs and pipes have to be provided — and water is more expensive in order to pay for this.

In addition, many areas have no water supply at all — and residents are forced to buy it from tanker suppliers at exorbitant rates.

Twenty litres of water supplied by tanker can cost between 50c and R2 — and buyers have to haul it away themselves in buckets and jerrycans. By contrast, a kilolitre (1 000 litres) piped to plush suburbs costs as little as R1,50 to R3.

This means that the poor can pay roughly 50 times more for every drop of water they use than the rich pay for the same amount of water.

This injustice is one of the reasons many blacks have rebelled and have refused to pay for any ser-

vices at all over the past few years, officials believe.

The White Paper turns this injustice upside down and proposes charging the poorest the lowest tariffs and the most extravagant water users the highest. It proposes three water tariffs.

The lowest tariff will be charged to the poorest who use on average use no more than 25 litres per person a day. This is regarded as the barest minimum for drinking, cooking and washing. The tariff will cover only operation and maintenance costs. This will be called a "lifeline" or "social tariff".

The second tariff, described as the "normal tariff", is for the average user. The limit will be 250 litres per person a day. This water will be provided at cost and will also help subsidise the lower "social tariff".

The highest rate, known as the "marginal tariff", will be charged for those who use more than 250 litres per person a day. This will be calculated as the cost of building a new water scheme at today's high prices.

In practice this will hit the Constantia or Houghton set who run their sprinklers all day and keep their swimming pools well filled through heatwaves.

Many householders who take tapped water for granted have no idea what a struggle it has been for about 12 million blacks to obtain water, officials say.

There are many black people who fill bottles with water at work and take it home with them.

In squatter areas, large numbers of shacks are served by one communal tap. Residents have to queue for water and lug it home over long distances. The White Paper stipulates that the maximum distance over which water should be carried in such cases should be 200 m.

ET 24/11/94
**Parks Board
'needs fixing'**

PRETORIA. — The National Parks Board has called on "the politicians to get their act together" and work on "fixing the credibility" of the body running South Africa's 16 national parks. (56)

"Six months have passed since we submitted comprehensive proposals on the reconstitution of the board to the minister, and nothing tangible has happened," NPB chairman Mr Naas Steenkamp said.

The board sent a letter to Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers earlier in the day, he added, calling for urgent action to make the body more representative of the population. — Sapa

effective maintenance and operation of the supply; and acceptable quality.

The history of water supply in SA is linked closely to apartheid. Access to water discriminated against the poor who did not have the resources to exploit water supplies or the money to pay for them. The needs of black communities were largely neglected in favour of technically advanced capital intensive developments that tended to benefit industry and agriculture.

The White Paper tries to address what is seen as the absence of coherent policy and an institutional framework with clear areas of responsibility. It courageously tackles the controversial issue of payment for services, saying: "An insistence that disadvantaged people should pay for water services may seem harsh, but the evidence indicates that the worst possible approach is to regard poor people as having no resources. This leads to people being treated as the objects rather than the subjects of development. It generates proposals for unaffordable subsidies which tend to reach only those with influence leaving the situation of the majority unchanged."

Government's basic policy is that services should be self-financing at local and regional level. The only exception is in cases where communities cannot afford basic services, in which case the State may subsidise the cost of constructing basic

Fm 25/11/94
 minimum services, but not the operating, maintenance or replacement costs. Full payment for at least recurring costs in areas where consumers have not been paying for water will be introduced over two years.

Water tariffs will be geared to the ability of communities to pay for their service starting with a "life-line" tariff to ensure that everyone has at least a basic level of service and is provided with not more than 25l of water a day. The tariff will cover only operating and maintenance costs.

A "normal" tariff will be for consumption not exceeding 250l a day per person and will be charged at cost, which is defined as operating and maintenance costs plus capital and will include the losses incurred through the life-line tariff.

A "marginal" tariff will be charged for consumption in excess of 250l a day per person and will be defined as the cost in current values of the latest or next water supply augmentation scheme. This means, for example, that people who want the



Asmal ... towards water supply for the majority

(56)

luxury of swimming pools will pay for the excess at a substantially higher rate.

The full financial implications of the policy will be known when a national water supply and sanitation development strategy is completed in the near future.

The White Paper divides the State's institutional goals into three phases:

□ The short-term aim is to maintain service delivery, rationalise the central government department and transform the

water boards;

□ In the medium term, to support institutional development at local level and provide technical and financial aid for the development and provision of water and sanitation services; and

□ The long-term goal is that the provision of services should be the function of competent, democratic local government supported by provincial administrations.

The private sector is seen as having an important role in service provision through capital investment, operation and main-

cont.

Fm 25/11/94
WATER

No pipe dream

(56)

More than 12m South Africans in up to 15 000 communities do not have access to an adequate supply of potable water and nearly 21m lack basic sanitation. The lack

Fm 25/11/94
 tenance of facilities, training and capacity building, organisation development, and financing and commercial services.

Though full-scale privatisation of services is not seen as an option at this stage, a number of "delegated management" contracts are already in operation and others are being discussed.

"The Department will consider proposals for the private sector to provide services where these may be in the public interest and where this approach is supported by the community concerned. Given the challenges facing the sector in the development of financially self-sufficient, consumer-oriented services, there would appear to be particular opportunities for innovative partnerships in these areas." (56) ■

Row over ⁽⁵⁶⁾ mountain resort plan

CT 29/11/94

By YVETTE VAN BREDA

ENVIRONMENTALISTS are outraged by a proposal to build a holiday resort and conference centre on a farm in the Du Toit's Mountains, and have called for a detailed environmental impact study.

The proposal is for a nature orientated holiday resort consisting of a 100-bed hotel, a conference centre for 200 and 158 holiday cottages on different parcels of land on the 500ha farm Elandspad, about three kilometres from Du Toitskloof Pass.

Mr Ian Lehr, chairman of the Cape Piscatorial Society, said the property was in the catchment and feeder stream area serving the Elands River.

Development could reduce the level of the river or sewerage could lower the quality of water.

He said Cape mountain streams had been acclaimed internationally by authorities on trout fishing and any negative impact on them would deprive the Western Cape of a valuable amenity.

The Wild Life Society said the resort would set a precedent, detract from the eco-tourism potential of the area and destroy it as a wilderness area.

Mr Jonathan Levy of the SA Mountain Club said the area was a nature

area where people sought a "wilderness" holiday experience and it was not suitable for the kind of development proposed.

Mr Barry Heydenrych, conservation officer of the Botanical Society of SA, said they had recommended that the application be withdrawn and a full impact study be commissioned.

The owner of the farm, Mr Hans Visser, said a series of fires had nearly ruined him. He had sold 400ha of the original farm and was considering selling more.

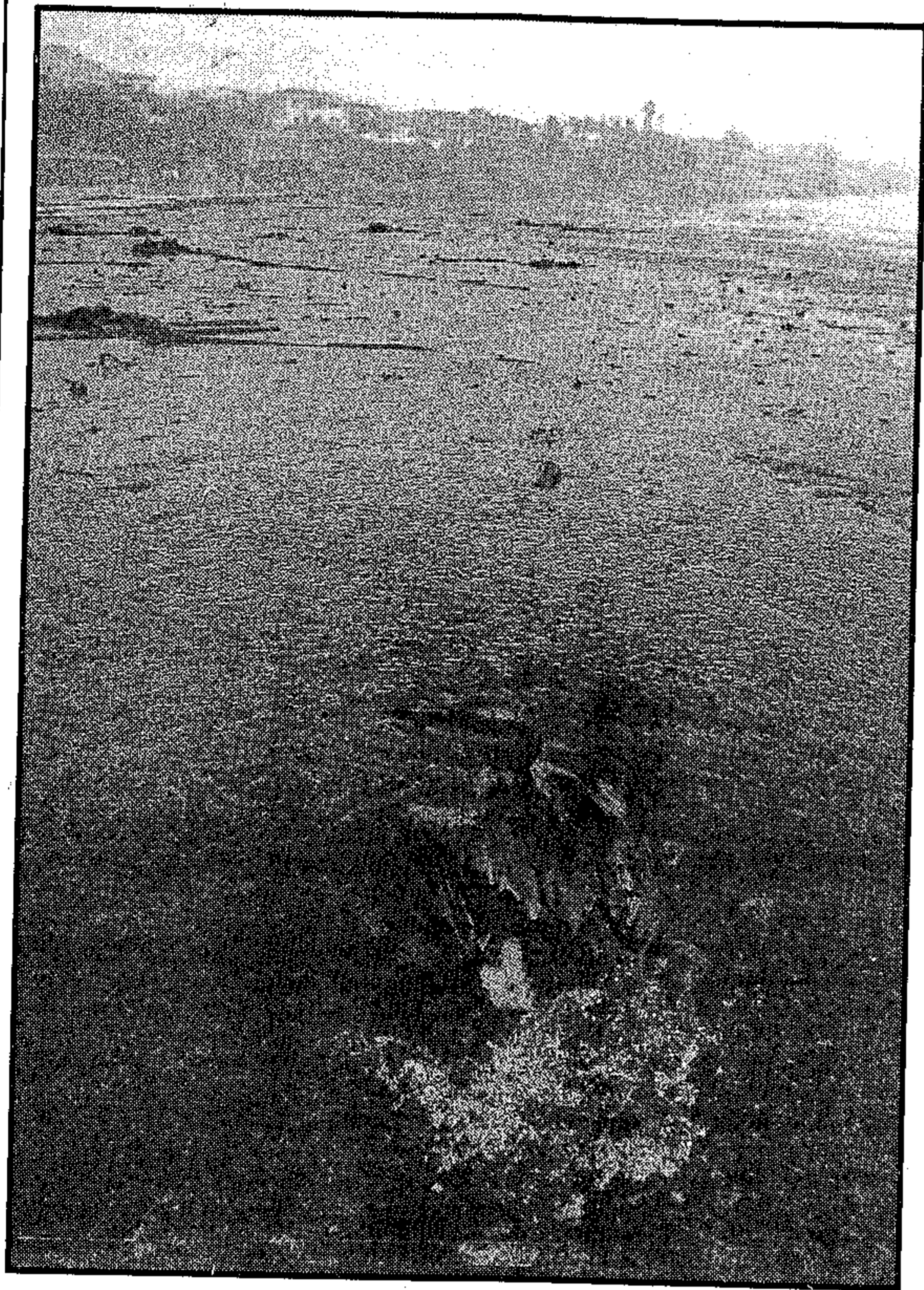
After he had approached the regional services council it was suggested that he apply for the mountainous section of the farm to be rezoned for recreation and sub-divided into 15 or 20 plots.

Mr Visser said there was no planned development — it was merely a proposal. The area was not a wilderness area but a "bona fide farm".

A Paarl RSC spokesman said there had been several objections to the application.

The RSC and the departments of Water Affairs, Agriculture and Nature Conservation had held a site inspection and were calling for an impact assessment.

Developers had now proposed building either 70 holiday cottages or a hotel and 30 holiday cottages.



Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.
BEFORE: A doomed cormorant struggles pitifully through a thickly oiled Fourth Beach at Clifton, soon after the Apollo Sea went down at the end of June.

Oil clean-up

“THANK you — you’ve been great!”

That’s the message to workers and Cape Town people — particularly long-suffering Clifton residents — from the management team which has been co-ordinating the big oil clean-up of the Atlantic seaboard since June 25.

The oil washed ashore after the ore-carrier Apollo Sea was lost with all hands in a storm and resulted in an intensive five-month cleaning operation involving about 3 000 people.

The operation comes to an end on Friday, although a stand-by crew will be on duty throughout the holiday season to deal with any oil pollution problems.

The Chinese-owned ship was carrying just under 2 500 tons of fuel oil when it went down.

“But we tested the black ‘mousse’ when it landed on the beach and found it contained up to 90 percent water. So expanded over a 10-to-one ratio, that’s potentially 20 000 tons,” said chief engineer Bruce Black of the city council’s cleansing branch.

“Also, at various times we were collecting a bit of sand and shells and so on, so we’ve disposed of a total of 14 000 tons.”

Cape Town had never experienced such a sustained cleaning operation, Mr Black said.

“This has been a real partnership between the workers involved and the public — and particularly the people of Clifton, who have shown tremendous forbearance and patience.

“We have seriously impacted on the lives of at least 2 000 people — and possibly as many as 5 000 — but with very few exceptions, they’ve been really accommodating and we couldn’t have done it without their support,” Mr Black said.

“All the workforce at every level demonstrated their commitment to Cape Town.

“They were out there in rain and shine, often labouring in ice-cold

weather and it was boring and unrewarding work, but these guys just went out and did it.

“You must remember that Clifton’s Fourth Beach was wall-to-wall oil up to 300mm thick in places, but they persisted.

“The whole operation was underpinned from the bottom. And if it doesn’t work from there, no amount of charisma or charm at the top will get your project working.

“For me, this has been sheer magic — these people have bent over backwards, and I think Cape Town owes them a huge debt of gratitude,” Mr Black said.

Most of the workforce were taken from the city council’s cleansing branch.

“From 50 labourers initially, we were already up to 150 by the end of the first week.

“But there are no spare staff in this department anymore and we had to continue with our ordinary work as well, so we borrowed another 50 labourers from our parks and forests branch.

“Also, there are all the supervisory staff — approximately one for each group of 10 labourers — and logistical people.

“Then we ‘borrowed’ another 50 labourers from Portnet, and took on temporary staff who we recruited through the council’s project management services as a way of sharing the load across the departments.”

That took the number of labourers to 300, and after a call for quotes for more contract staff, Clifford Harris supplied another 200 which took the total to 500.

“They (the building contractor’s men) were an absolute godsend — they performed consistently well and I don’t think we could have had a better arrangement,” Mr Black said.

Overseas experts brought in by the ship’s insurers to oversee the clean-up had been hugely impressed.

ARC 30/11/94

57

‘sheer magic’

Hunting 'a benefit' to conservation

ULUNDI. — Hunting can benefit conservation and be a lucrative industry, Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

In a speech to the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa at a kwaZulu/Natal resort, Chief Buthelezi said hunters, by setting aside certain areas and game for hunting, were playing a conservation role and conserving habitats and species.

"Organised hunting societies can play a vital role in promoting environmental education to rural people. The hunter is a member of the community who, as a result of his sporting interest, is in a unique position to play a major role in motivating those within the sphere of his contact to assist in constructive support of conservation practices."

Chief Buthelezi, president of the kwaZulu Conservation Trust and Rhino and Elephant Foundation, said R100m was generated through foreign tourist hunting licences last year. — Sapa

CT 30/11/94

(56)

Wednesday November 30 1994

Renaming ^{Sowetan} of dams

THE HF Verwoerd Dam in the Free State has been renamed the Gariiep Dam with immediate effect, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Mr Kader Asmal said in Pretoria yesterday. 30/11/94

The new names of 11 other dams are:
Braam Raubenheimer Dam in the Eastern Transvaal becomes Kwena Dam; Fanie Botha Dam (Northern Transvaal) becomes Tzaneen Dam; Hans Strijdom Dam (Northern Transvaal) becomes Mokolo Dam; Paul Sauer Dam (Eastern Transvaal) becomes Kouga Dam; Charlie Malan Dam (Eastern Cape) becomes Impofu Dam; Hudson Ntsanwisi Dam (Eastern Transvaal) becomes Nsami Dam; Lake Mentz (Eastern Transvaal) becomes Darlington Dam.

Nokmkgomo Matlala Dam (Eastern Transvaal) becomes Arabie Dam; PK le Roux Dam (Free State) becomes Vanderkloof Dam; Sarel Hayward Canal (Free State) becomes the Orange-Riet Canal; and Jan Wassenaar Dam becomes Klaserie Dam.

(50)

Kruger National Park may also be renamed

Govt changes dam names

Star 20/11/94

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Twelve dams and water schemes around the country named after political figures of the apartheid era have been renamed, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal announced yesterday.

The list submitted by a 16-member committee appointed by Asmal includes the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam which becomes the Gariep Dam, a Khoi term for the wilderness area associated with the Orange River.

Describing the occasion as very historic, Asmal told a press conference that he had discouraged the committee from coming up with names of living politicians or great figures of South African history.

"Let us rather remember the water wonders of our country by the names given to them by communities, the names of areas, towns, valleys, rivers, descriptions, etc — with due regard for pre-colonial history and indigenous tongues."

The complete list is:

- Braam Raubenheimer Dam becomes Kwena Dam (North Sotho for crocodile).
- Charlie Malan Dam — Impofu Dam (Xhosa for eland).
- Fanie Botha Dam — Tzaneen Dam.
- Hans Strijdom — Mokolo Dam.
- Hudson Ntsanwisi Dam —

COMMITTEE resists temptation to replace apartheid names with liberation struggle personalities

Nsami Dam.

■ Jan Wassenaar Dam — Klaserie Dam.

■ Lake Mentz Dam — Darlington Dam.

■ Mokgomo Matlala Dam — Arabie Dam.

■ Paul Sauer Dam — Kouga Dam.

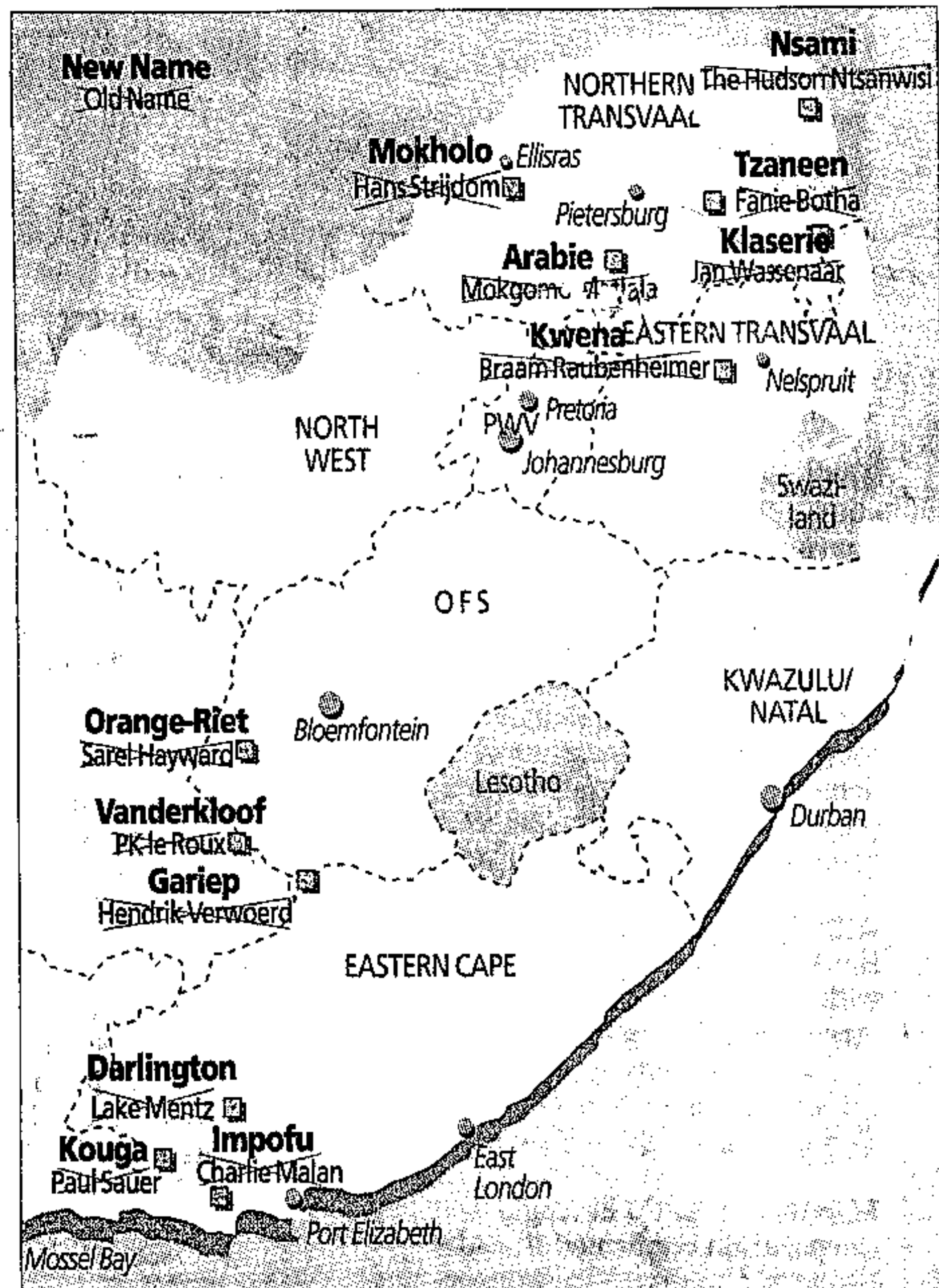
■ Sarel Hayward Canal — Orange-Riet Canal.

■ P K le Roux Dam — Vanderkloof Dam.

Our Own Correspondent reports that one of South Africa's best-known national assets could lose its name in the not too distant future after Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom yesterday proposed a new name be found for the Kruger National Park.

National Parks Board spokesman Mattie Hough said the historic association of Afrikaner leader Paul Kruger with the world-famous park had all but disappeared.

It would cost a lot of money to build up the same brand awareness of any new name for the park, she added.



Lekota scorns CP members

Bloemfontein — Free State Premier Terror Lekota yesterday berated a group of Conservative Party supporters who confronted him to demand the restoration of the statue of Dr Hendrik Verwoerd.

"A man whose laws, pass laws, I saw take my own father into jail for nothing but that he had forgotten a piece of paper (passbook). And you tell me that he is your hero. If that is your hero, that is the future you want, our ideas are different," Lekota fumed. — Sapa.

Stricter controls for toxic waste planned

PRETORIA. — South Africa plans stricter controls on the disposal of toxic waste, Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers says.

"The proposed policy is a first step to address the major hazardous waste issues and it is intended to subject hazardous waste to progressively stricter control," he said in a statement yesterday.

"Investigations indicated that hazardous waste management required specific and urgent attention."

Dr De Villiers said proposed regulations on imports and exports had created "tremendous concern" because some of these were incorrectly interpreted as allowing the relaxation of controls on toxic waste imported for financial gains.

"I stated on many occasions that the dumping of toxic waste from elsewhere will not be allowed in South Africa.

"This directive will be clearly embodied in the regulations that will accompany the general policy," Dr De Villiers said.

But he said some chemical waste had to be discarded and sites for this needed to be well-designed and built.

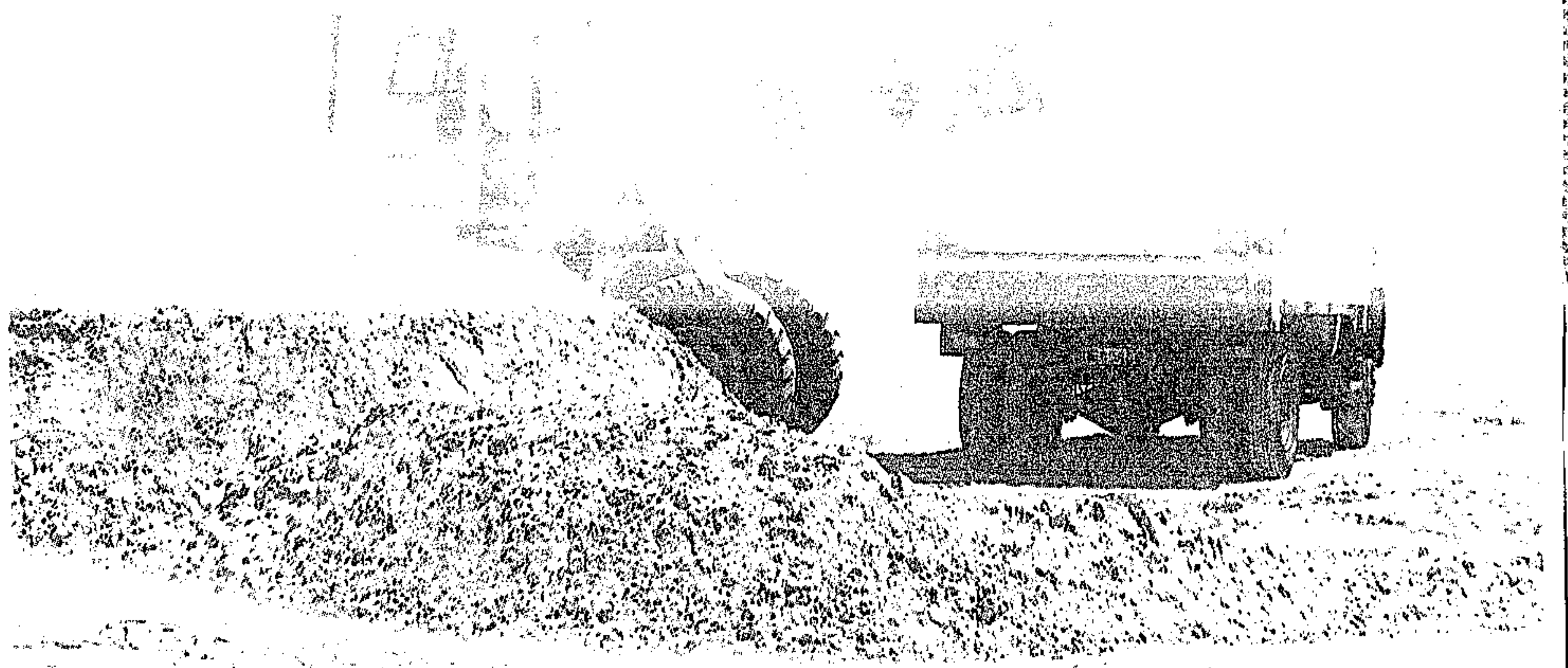
"South Africa has a need for more sites which must be operated under strict and controlled standards.

"A shortage of such sites will have serious consequences," he said.

Dr De Villiers said more efficient production processes were essential to cut down on waste production. —

Reuter.

(56) APR 11/12/94



Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus.

FREE-LOADING: Nature is replenishing Die Plaat beach faster than it's being depleted by sand mining, say estuarine hydrologists of the CSIR.

Hermanus claims CSIR backing for beach mining

HERMANUS municipality has been ordered by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to apply for a permit to continue mining sand from the beach — a practice that has raised the ire of some conservationists.

But town clerk Thys van Rooyen says the mining at the popular Die Plaat beach at the mouth of Hermanus lagoon has the approval of the CSIR and has been continuing for years without causing environmental damage.

The sand is being used as fill for local building work and as bedding material for the new sewerage pipelines being laid in the town.

Conservationist Ian Martin said a front-end loader was being used constantly on the beach and that huge quantities of sand were being removed.

"I believe it's totally unacceptable to mine a beach," he said.

Mr Van Rooyen said he agreed the mining looked "ugly" and understood why people got emotional about it.

"But I'm happy this is not an ecological disaster. This has been going on for probably 50 years, and it has been done in consultation with the CSIR for the past eight to 10 years.

"Because of people's concerns, we got the CSIR in to look at it and we've

Although the government, acting on complaints, has ordered Hermanus Municipality to apply for a permit to continue mining beach sand, it is claimed the operation does little or no harm and has been going on for half a century. What is more, the council is soon to be replaced by a transitional authority. Environment Reporter **JOHN YELD** looks at the controversy.

worked with the top experts in the country."

The CSIR had found that, because the nearby dune had been stabilised, there was an unnatural build-up of sand on the beach at the mouth of the estuary.

"They said we should be encouraged to remove sand in this area where we breach the mouth, which we do every year," Mr Van Rooyen said.

"I've been here for 16 years and you can't see where the sand has been removed — you take it out one day and it's been replaced by the next."

Laurie Barwell, project leader of the CSIR's integrated coastal environmental management group, confirmed that they had been involved in studying the estuary and beach area.

They had recommended the drawing up of a total catchment management plan, but that as an interim measure, the mouth could be breached regularly in one place when the water in the lagoon reached a certain level.

"It is a managed system, so if they

are taking sand from the recommended area, it's no problem — it's quite an insignificant amount compared to what nature takes," he said.

"It's only the compaction from the trucks that could be problem and, if they are taking sand from other areas, there could be a potential problem when it comes to opening the mouth."

Mr Van Rooyen said the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, apparently acting on a complaint, had told the Hermanus council to apply for a permit to mine the sand.

But the council was being replaced by a transitional authority.

"I want to ask this new council if they want to apply, so we're a bit in limbo at the moment," he said.

Mr Van Rooyen confirmed that W A Bishop Transport, owned by the Hermanus mayor, was one of the contracting firms taking sand.

But Mr Bishop's involvement in the operation had been cleared with the provincial authorities at the time of his joining the council.

ARG 1/12/94 (56)

Minister 'committing political suicide'

LERUMO Kalako, Minister of Environment Affairs, Nature Conservation and Tourism, was committing "political suicide" by allowing "gabba" appointees on his strategic management team to pursue a "shocking" political agenda at the expense of a "rich reservoir of knowledge, insight and sensi-

tivity" among nature conservation officials, Nationalist legislator Ryno King charged. ARG 1/12/94

The department could no longer afford Mr Kalako and (ANC strategic management team member) Liso Ngcokoto, he said. (56)

Minister's advisers slammed

By CHRIS BATEMAN

NATURE conservation in the Western Cape had been overthrown by ignorant strategic "advisers" with no concern for the environment and a "shocking" political agenda, National Party Western Cape MP Mr Ryno King claimed yesterday.

Speaking during the Reconstruction and Development Programme debate in the provincial legislature, Mr King said Environment Affairs,

Nature Conservation and Tourism Minister Mr Lerumo Kalako was committing "political suicide" by following a political agenda.

He accused Mr Kalako of failing to keep his vastly experienced and dedicated a-political departmental heads informed of his actions and instead consulting his "political gabbas" on his advisory team.

"Like bulls in a china shop they (the minister's Strategic

Management Team — STM) ... are busy trying to rip out the heart of the environmental department and in the process have totally isolated the minister from the rich reservoir of knowledge, insight, sensitivity and pulse of his department," Mr King said.

He had watched with "bitter irony" on Tuesday, when Mr Kalako's political "lackeys" had "thrown him to the wolves" in a controversy on the pur-

CT 1/12/94 (56)
chase of cellular phones.

However when it came to a question on the workings of his Nature Conservation chief, Dr Johan Neethling and his department, Mr Kalako was able to "hold his head high".

"The mess you find yourself in today is due to the deadly poison administered by Mr Liso Ngcokoto (ANC executive and SMT member) — this lovely department can no longer afford the two of you," he said.

Kalako hits back at Nat's 'gabbas' charge

By CHRIS BATEMAN

NATIONAL PARTY MPL Mr Ryno King — who has accused Nature Conservation Minister Mr Lerumo Kalako of "favouring his political gabbas" — could not tolerate "a black face leading a department staffed by white people", Mr Kalako hit back yesterday.

Mr Kalako said Mr King had exposed a true apartheid-sup-

porting mentality by making claims on Wednesday of a "political coup" in the Western Cape Department of Nature Conservation.

Speaking in the debate on the Western Cape Delegation of Powers Bill in the provincial legislature, Mr Kalako said the director-general, Mr Herbert Beukes, had "disassociated himself" from Mr King's allegation that he had failed to

keep his "vastly experienced and dedicated a-political departmental heads" informed of his actions.

Mr King, in Mr Kalako's absence on Wednesday, accused him of "favouring his political gabbas" on his advisory team.

Yesterday Mr Kalako responded: "We're trying to put together a department... he must stop planting his informants in my department and

mobilising staff to undermine me."

Mr Kalako said that "fortunately" his staff chose instead to come to him and assert that they were not prepared to be used as political tools.

Alluding to a cabinet crisis earlier this year when ANC members refused to attend meetings over a controversial civil service "restructuring" document, Mr Kalako "warned" MPLs that using

professional staff for their own political agendas would be "failing this province".

The Delegation of Powers Bill was unanimously accepted.

It enables the executive committee (cabinet) to delegate powers to the premier, one of his 10 ministers or any provincial official and brings the old CPA law into line with the new constitution.

Enel Major warns Tories to unite c

'We risk l

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
Weekend Argus Reporter

OVER the past few months environmentalist Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society has had his car tyres punctured 30 times outside his house.

On top of this there are the "lousy" abusive telephone calls in the early hours of the morning that wake his family.

Local environmentalists "risk their property and lives" when they become involved in environmental issues or try to halt multimillion rand developments.

He says it is impossible to establish a link between the harassment and any particular environmental issue. But the ongoing harassment had forced him to consider the toll his work takes on his family.

"It's hard to believe, but somebody keeps sticking a long thin wire into my tyres. And I'm not the only environmentalist who is being harassed in this way. When the kids answer the phone it's hard on them and my wife does break down a bit," he says.

Much of his work has political overtones to it and Mr Gubb believes that this could result in harassment.

"Many people see workers being party-political but this is

LONDON. — Prime Minister John Major has warned his feuding Conservative Party to unite or face defeat at the next general election.

His rebuke yesterday came just three days after a damaging split in the party over Europe and ahead of a parliamentary vote next week which could open new fissures about taxing domestic fuel.

Mr Major told the annual Conservative Women's Con-

ference in west London that the next election, due by mid-1997, would be fought against the background of strong economic recovery.

But, he said this would not guarantee the Conservatives would continue a marathon term in office which began in 1979.

Departing from his prepared text, Mr Major told the conference: "No one should be so blithe as to assume the

economy alone will win the next general election."

He said what was required was "the Conservative Party fighting the same fight, at the same time, for the same cause and against the same enemy," adding: "Then we shall win."

Earlier this week, eight legislators were expelled from the parliamentary party for refusing to back the government on a bill to boost Britain's contributions to the European Union.

140 feared dead after ship sinks ferry

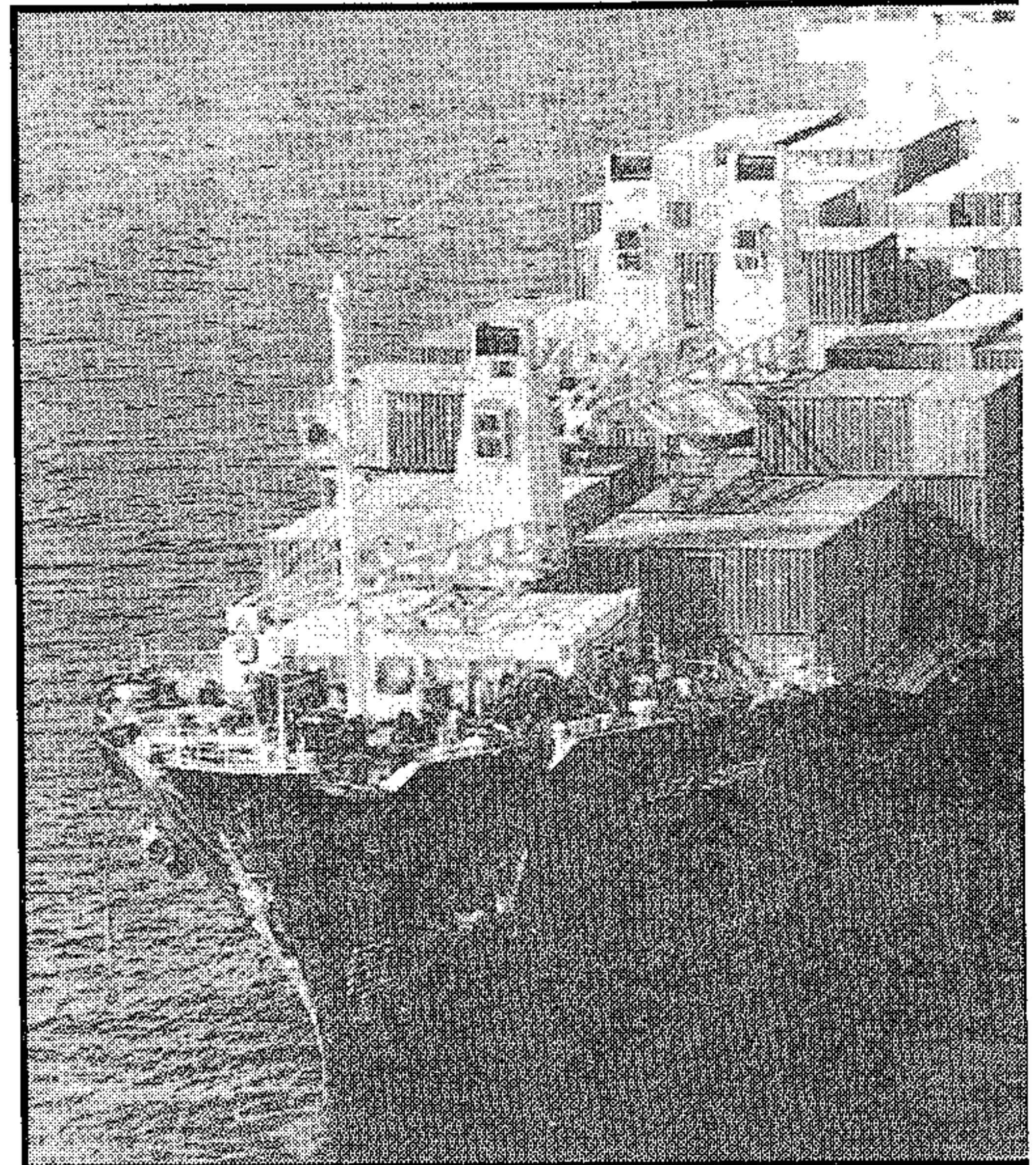
MANILA. — More than 140 Filipinos were feared drowned after an inter-island ferry collided in darkness with a container ship in Manila Bay and sank.

Rescuers recovered 34 bodies, but as night fell yesterday they suspended the search for 113 passengers and crew of the ferry Cebu City still believed missing. The search will resume at first light.

"I think they are dead. If they were alive fishermen should have found them already," Coast Guard spokesman Jaime Daquilanea said.

"I think they are with the ship below."

Frogmen who located the vessel in less than 30 metres of water at the mouth of Manila Bay said they could see bodies pinned under baggage and de-



PLACE OF SAFETY: Passengers from the ferry Cebu City tran

Battle over St Lucia set to start again

Star

6/12/94

■ BY JAMES CLARKE

The battle to save St Lucia from being mined is about to begin again with the mining company Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) admitting it never did withdraw its application to mine titanium in the dunes.

Lake St Lucia is in one of South Africa's most prized tourist areas.

Environment and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers is sympathetic towards RBM, and KwaZulu/Natal Premier Dr Frank Mdlalose is understood to have called for a fresh inquiry.

RBM said originally it would abide by whatever decision the original inquiry took.

It has now told the Campaign to Save St Lucia that it never agreed to withdraw its application to mine the area.

RBM, expecting a fresh



Frank Mdlalose ... wants a new inquiry.

fight with the South African public, is spending millions of rands advertising its corporate responsibility programme. (56)

The costly scientific inquiry into whether the area should be mined concluded mining could jeopardise the area's fragile ecology.

BUSINESS

Hermanus ordered to stop sand mining

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

AUG 7/12/94
A FAX message ordering Hermanus municipality to stop immediately all sand mining at the mouth of the Hermanus lagoon has been sent by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

This was confirmed by Hermanus town clerk Thys van Rooyen, who said an application for a mining permit — as required by law — would be made soon.

The sand is being used as fill for local building work and as bedding material for the new sewerage pipelines being laid in the town.

Last week, in response to criticism of the mining operation at the popular Die Plaat beach at the mouth of Hermanus lagoon, Mr Van Rooyen said it had the approval of the CSIR and has been continuing for years without causing environmental damage.

"The new transitional local council met last night for the first time so I'm under tremendous pressure at the moment, but we do still want to take the sand when we start working again next year," Mr Van Rooyen said.

"So we will be applying for a mining permit within the next week or two."

The department's action was welcomed by some concerned residents and visitors, including Gill Winshaw of Somerset West who said she was "absolutely thrilled".

Ms Winshaw had an attorney draft a petition against the mining, which has been continuing for years, and was about to start collecting signatures opposing it.

"It was all drawn up and ready," she said.

Referring to the CSIR's recommendation that sand could be taken from the area where the mouth of the lagoon was regularly opened, Ms Winshaw said she believed flushing the lagoon was a sound practice.

"They must open it at the right time and, when they need to do this, they can use a bulldozer.

"But I still want to see a lot more facts and figures about the lagoon and the beach area — we need to handle this correctly as a whole."

^{eJ 7/12/94}
**Kalako: No problem
to swop portfolios** (5b)

By CHRIS BATEMAN

SWOPPING his Nature Conservation and Environmental Affairs portfolio for Mr Lampie Fick's Sport portfolio should pose "no problems", Tourism Minister Mr Lerumo Kalako said yesterday.

Responding to reports that the long-rumoured portfolio swop was imminent, Mr Kalako said it "made sense and shouldn't create any problems".

With the Olympic bid for 2004 and the Rugby World Cup next year, sources said, combining Sport and Tourism was a pragmatic adjustment, and adding Environment and Nature Conservation to Agriculture was seen as efficient administration.

Plan to truck 20 000 tons of sand

Staff Reporter

THE Serina kaolin company intends moving 200 000 tons of sand from its new Chapman's Peak mine across the Noordhoek Valley to the old mine at Brakkeklouf.

Last night the Noordhoek local council met and decided a public meeting would be called soon to debate the issue. The operation would require

relief from some conditions imposed on mining by the RSC.

The sand would take about a year to move at a rate of 45 truckloads a day.

Serina's chairman, Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, said in an interview yesterday that the company had suggested the move for aesthetic reasons.

"It would be far easier and cheaper for us to leave the sand

at the mine site." ^{CT&I12/94}

It was only necessary to remove the initial quantity of sand. Once the Chapman's Peak mine was in production, the kaolin-bearing sand would be pumped via an underground pipeline to Brakkeklouf.

If the council voted against the trucking, and insisted on moving the sand via the pipeline, Serina would have to start

construction on the pipeline earlier than planned.

"But that would be a disadvantage to the council because we had agreed to allow the council to put their proposed sewer line in the same trench, thus saving them costs." ⁽⁵⁶⁾

"But the council has not yet got approval for their sewer, so if we constructed our pipeline earlier, they would not be able to use the same trench."

Fire risk (56) CT8/12/94 higher after budget cuts

CAPE NATURE Conservation's rangers would find it difficult to fight big mountain fires during the high-risk summer season because of budget cuts, a spokesman said yesterday.

"If there are a large number of fires there's a strong likelihood we'd not be able to handle some of them," chief Boland conservator Mr Grevile Ruddock said from Jonkershoek.

"The budget cut is a problem... We can't increase our staff or buy extra fire tenders or replace ageing equipment. Communications equipment is vital and ours is not adequate."

Much of the fire-fighting took place in mountains where Air Force Oryx helicopters were used to "bomb" blazes with water. "This costs us thousands of rands an hour."

An air force spokesman said Cape

Nature Conservation had to foot 22 Squadron's helicopter bill of between R2 700 and R5 000 an hour. Costs were waived when life was threatened.

The department's R35 million 1994/5 budget was cut by 7,6% to help fund the April elections and the Reconstruction and Development Programme, assistant finance director Mr Alan Katzeff said.

"We have to work within limits and will not be able to render the services we want to, or have to," he said.

Mr Ruddock said his Boland division could field 80 fire-fighters in four reserves, covering about 220 000ha of mostly mountainous terrain.

"If, as in 1991 when there were nine lightning strikes in wide areas at once, we'd not be able to manage."

"I'd be lying if I said there wasn't a heightened risk. It would be very difficult to deal with a major fire." — Sapa

New probe coming on Thor Chemicals

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The cabinet has ordered a new probe into the activities of the Thor Chemicals factory in Cato Ridge and its mercury waste problem.

Environment Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said yesterday the cabinet had approved the appointment of a four-man commission to investigate the way in which mercury stockpiles at the factory are processed and disposed of and the problem of mercury sludge on the premises.

The proposed commission members are Prof D Davis (chairman), Prof A Crouch, Dr F Petersen and Dr D Williams-Wynn. The commission must still be approved by the president.

However, the environmental watchdog group Earthlife Africa said yesterday it was "very disappointed" by the way in which the commission was appointed and the exclusion of indepen-

dent foreign experts.

Spokesman Mr Chris Albertyn said Earthlife and trade union recommendations were deliberately ignored.

"This is an attempt by the Department of Environment Affairs to be seen to be doing something, but without rocking the boat too much".

Mr Albertyn said there were no suitably qualified experts on mercury waste in South Africa.

"We offered to bring in the world's leading expert in this field — Prof O Lindqvist of the University of Gotteberg in Sweden — but the department decided to choose its own members."

Thor Chemicals has welcomed the commission. "We have always maintained our recycling technology represents the best way of handling mercurial residues.

"We have called for an open inquiry ever since our premises were called into question."

CT 9/12/94

(56) (VRS) (VRS)

Making waves in Transkei's reserves

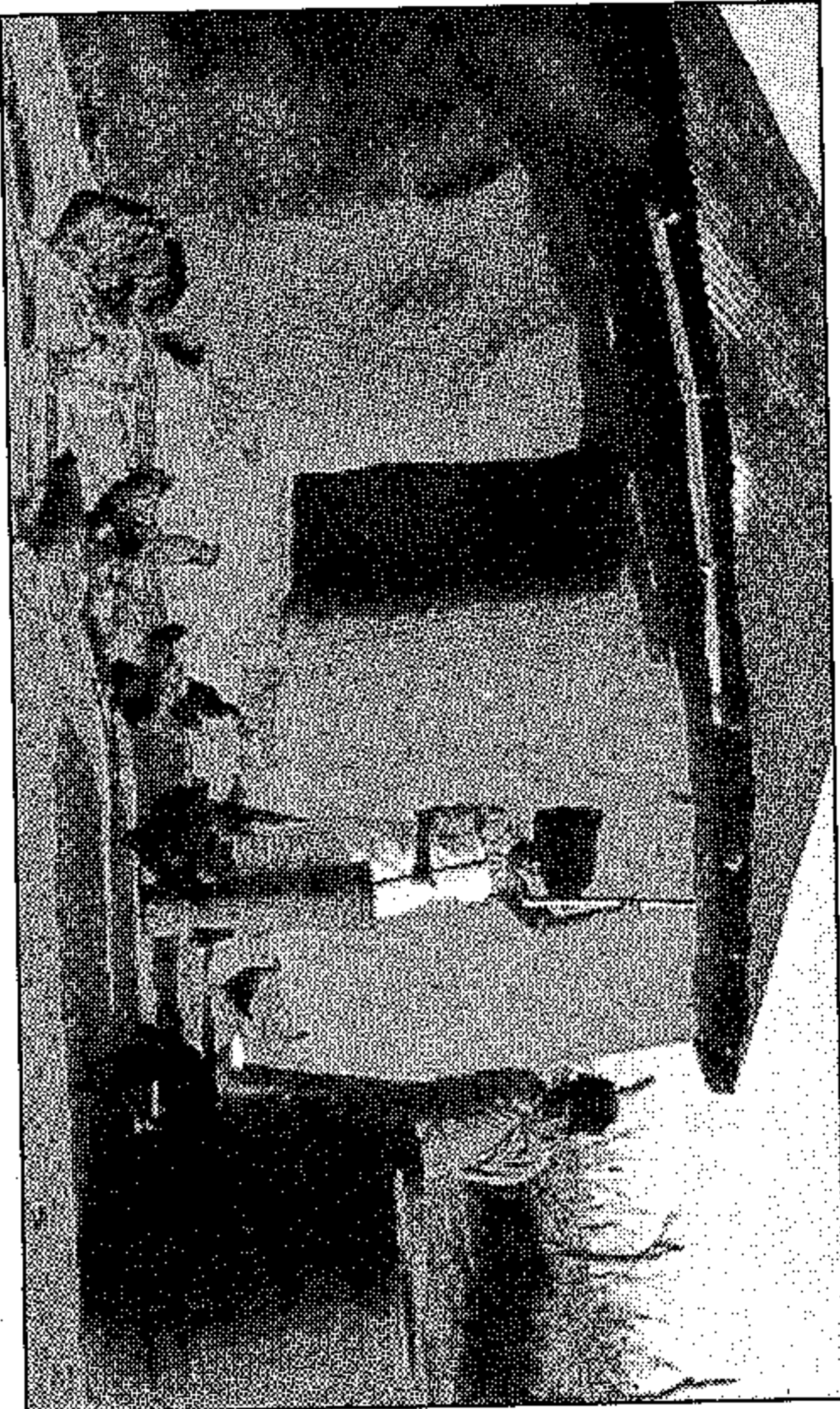
SLM WMM 9-114 1105 12/94

A ground-breaking deal between conservationists and Transkei's peasants has ended the plundering of nature reserves, reports **Eddie Koch**

THE invasion of nature reserves in Transkei that led to the plunder of wildlife and marine species by peasants on the Wild Coast has ended with a path-breaking agreement between conservation officials and villagers from the area.

Graphic footage of shellfish being plucked off the shores of the Dwesa and Cwebe coastal reserves dominated recent television news reports and led to fears in conservation circles that other game reserves around the country would be subjected to similar land invasions.

But officials from Eastern Cape Nature Conservation met this month with leaders from villages which surround the reserves to broker a deal that has effectively stopped the environmental damage.



Transkeians will help manage reserves in return for access to resources

Wildlife authorities agreed in principle at the meeting that local people be allowed controlled use of forest trees for construction of houses and free access to the coastline so they can tend to ancestral graves and harvest seagrass for weaving purposes.

The conservationists are considering the possibility of allowing people to harvest limited amounts of shellfish, pending scientific investigations into this prospect.

The meeting also agreed that representative committees — made up of conservation officials and community leaders — be established at each of the reserves so that tensions between the parks and the people around them could be peacefully negotiated.

"Consensus was reached that the nature reserves should be managed in collaboration with the local community, and that the aim should be shared responsibility and joint decision-making," says a report by Eastern Cape conservation official Christof Fabricius.

A tourism project run by the villagers themselves was also mooted at the meeting. "It was decided that conservation officials would play an active role in community development and facilitate the development of environmentally sensitive rural industries."

It is also possible that cattle farmers in the surrounding areas will, subject to negotiation, be allowed to use parts of the reserves for emergency grazing during periods of drought.

Community members have agreed, in return, to patrol the shores of the reserves to prevent illegal plunder of shellfish and other marine resources. "Speaker upon speaker (at the meeting) expressed their gratitude," says Fabricius. "They expressed their willingness to pay for trees and undertook to regulate their own activities."

The report notes that the Cwebe and Dwesa communities have historical and cultural links with the coastal forests and shoreline that date back more than 300 years.

Dwesa was proclaimed a state forest in the late 1800s but local people were allowed to harvest forest trees and shellfish in a controlled way for decades. They were allowed unrestricted access to seawater for ritual purposes and could use the beach sand for building. Cattle were allowed into the unfenced area.

In 1984 wildlife was introduced to the reserve and the villagers were refused all entry, resulting in them being cut off from the sea. This led to a long period of resentment and antagonism as people were severed from resources needed for subsistence and cultural purposes.

The communities conveyed their grievances to conservation authorities in Umtata this year. "When they had received no positive response by early November, they started with protest action which culminated in the recent destruction of the marine resources."

The latest agreement marks a dramatic move away from old autocratic styles of game reserve management and will be seen as a prototype for community-friendly conservation models that are being experimented with in various parts of the country.

Air quality study: Residents 'satisfied'

RESIDENTS of Milner-ton and adjacent areas have expressed satisfaction with progress made in setting up air quality monitoring points.

The chairman of the project's steering committee, Derrick Oxley, said there would be regular meetings to keep the public informed.

Sophisticated equipment worth R500 000 was installed at Tableview and the Bothasig station

is being updated.

Criticised

The equipment measures emissions from nearby industrial areas, which include sulphur dioxide, various oxides and hydrogen sulphide.

Previous monitoring of the air pollutants was criticised as the instruments were moved every six months.

The new study is intended to determine whether the pollution is

CT13/12/94
a health hazard or a nuisance.

Doctors in the affected areas have reported respiratory problems in patients linked to air pollution.

Nuisance

Levels of air pollution are governed by three sets of guidelines.

These are set out by the Environmental Protection Agency of the US, the World Health Or-

(56)
ganisation and the Department of Health.

The levels measured so far are considerably lower than those set out in the various guidelines.

Commenting on the levels, Mr Oxley said: "We didn't expect them to exceed the health guidelines all the time."

Dr Petro Terblanche, co-ordinator of the air quality project, said hydrogen sulphide may have been a nuisance during this time.

Durban gets

(56) eco-tourism BD 13/12/94 congress

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Durban has been chosen as the venue for Ecoworld, an annual international eco-tourism summit meeting expected to draw 2 000 delegates and more than 350 exhibitors and to generate R10m in delegate spending.

Clive Booth of the Greater Durban Marketing Authority said securing the meeting for Durban was "probably the biggest acquisition" for the city.

Spearhead International is handling the marketing of the multinational event. Spearhead spokesman Jacques Verster said it was decided that the summit should be identified with one city.

Verster said there had been discussion on alternating EcoWorld between Durban and Cape Town — SA's two "eco-cities". But it was decided that Durban had more to offer in terms of accessibility to a diversity of natural environments.

The aim of EcoWorld would be threefold, he said. It was hoped that the summit meeting would bring together the business sector, politicians and environmental experts so that a holistic view on eco-tourism would be gained. "We need them together to really achieve something."

The summit would kick off with a four-day world congress on eco-tourism, followed by a four-day exposition.

The third element would be an international wildlife film festival which would then travel the country, and a pop concert marrying international and African groups as a grand finale, he said.

The concert would be televised worldwide by satellite.

"The best part is we have time on our side. We have the whole of next year to plan this properly," Verster said.

Claremont CBD 'now a rubbish dump'

(56)

□ Residents blame informal traders

FEROZA MILLER
Staff Reporter

INFORMAL traders are turning the Claremont central business district into a rubbish dump, according to irate ratepayers and businesses, who have called for action.

The Claremont Business Association, of which most businesses in Claremont are members, has applied to the Cape Town city council for by-laws which they hope will be promulgated next February.

With the promulgation of the by-laws, informal traders will have to comply with regulations which include specified trade areas, cleaning up after trading and not obstructing pedestrians in shop doorways and on pavements.

The businesses interviewed were responding to a Southern Argus investigation into allegations that informal traders cause a number of problems including obstructing pedestrians

on pavements, taking up much available parking space and generally turning the CBD into an eyesore.

Woolworths finance and administration manager Tertius Nell, said that businesses had hoped the by-law would be promulgated before Christmas.

"Informal traders are definitely causing problems. The issue now is the creation of a central area," said Mr Nell.

Michelle Kruger, assistant manager for The Link Shopping Centre, said: "The problems caused by informal traders have been aggravated over the past two years by their growing numbers.

"The minute someone puts up a stall on a particular spot, several others follow."

Ms Kruger complained that there was often no space for people to walk on pavements, that traders scattered their litter around and that people were walking into and getting hurt by traders' canopies and umbrellas.

Norman van Zyl, who has lived in Claremont for most of his life, said that since vendors had occupied the stretch of Main Road from the Werd-muller Centre to The Link and including Draper Square, the area had been turned into a "rubbish dump" by evening.

"This should not be accepted by ratepayers," said Mr van Zyl.

"These vendors take up all the parking and we can't even walk on the pavements anymore. At the end of the day they leave all their debris, which includes empty packets, boxes and cartons at the most convenient point for the wind to do with what it wants."

City council Director of Cleansing Kendall Kaveney, said it was illegal for traders to leave their boxes on pavements.

He said that at the last count there were 90 places in Cape Town where hawkers operated and Claremont was only one of these.

Rietvlei housing scheme blocked

ET 15/12/94

Staff Reporter

A CONTROVERSIAL housing development on the banks of Rietvlei proposed by Transnet and Equikor, and vigorously resisted by the Milnerton municipality, was turned down by the Western Cape Regional Services Council yesterday.

The development proposals erupted in a fierce battle in October between Transnet, the owners of the land, and the Milnerton municipality, which attempted to expropriate the land for inclusion in a municipal nature reserve.

Equikor sought to develop a small section of the 160-hectare site, which constitutes about one-

Protection of area paramount

third of the Rietvlei nature area and is in the north-western segment.

It proposed that 11,5 hectares be developed for 360 low-rise housing units and that the remaining 149 hectares be donated to Rietvlei Wetlands Reserve.

In discussions with the municipality, Equikor offered to estab-

lish new public facilities on the site and to upgrade others.

It was also prepared to create a bird island in the lake and make a substantial cash contribution to help maintain the wetland area.

However, at its monthly meeting yesterday, the RSC found the protection of the area's natural assets was paramount and that the development would be in conflict with the guide plan for the Cape Metropolitan Area.

According to the guide plan, the utilisation of designated nature areas must be aimed primarily at the conservation and protection of the natural environment.

The council found the proposed development of housing, "presumably built near the water's edge, cannot conform to the spirit and aims of the Guide Plan".

ET 29/12/94 (56)

'Conservation is cost-effective'

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Billions of rands could be saved if appropriate environmental conservation policies were built into the low-cost housing initiatives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, it is claimed.

UCT environmental and energy experts Dr Guy Preston and Mr Steve Thomas said the

use of appropriate technologies could save the country billions in correcting future environmental damage.

The RDP's low-income housing programme was certain to cause the most significant impact to SA's environment of all other physical developments over the next five years, they wrote in the current issue of the Independent Development Trust journal *Leading Edge*.

In the case of water, for example, policies should be put in place enabling people to meet their needs using as little water as possible.

They said that while enough water should be provided to keep sewers open, it would also make sense to instal fittings that minimised water usage.

The goal, they added, should be convenience and comfort combined with a minimum

waste of water and money.

"The greater the ease with which consumers are able to meet reasonable needs without incurring daunting bills, the greater will be the willingness to pay for the service," Dr Preston and Mr Thomas said.

They stressed that in addition to affordability it was essential for RDP housing policies to promote equity, efficiency and sustainability.