

ENVIRONMENT - 1995

JANUARY - MAY

Furore over FW's fishing in vital marine reserve

ST 11/95

(56)



CAUGHT... Deputy President FW de Klerk with the huge kabeljou on the cover of the Western Province Shore Angling Association's magazine

By DIANA STREAK
SCIENTISTS are up in arms over a permit that allows Deputy President FW de Klerk and his friends to fish in a marine reserve dedicated to scientific research.

Fishing has been banned since 1986 in the reserve at De Hoop near Mr de Klerk's holiday home on the southern Cape coast — except for scientific purposes.

Scientists feel the internationally recognised research project has now been placed in jeopardy.

Dr Colin Buxton, associate professor at Rhodes University's ichthyology department, said he was "very disturbed" to hear about the permit.

"This is viewed by the rest of the world as pioneering research. The permit should never have been issued in the first place."

Sea Fisheries director Dr Louis Botha said he had no idea why the permit had been issued to Mr de Klerk.

"I feel permits should only be issued to bona fide scientists," he said.

Mr de Klerk's permit was signed by Cape Nature Conservation head Dr Johan Neethling in December 1990. The permit stipulated that records of all catches be kept.

But Dr Bruce Bennet, of the zoology department at the University of Cape Town — the only other permit holder for the area and who has led the research since 1984 before De Hoop was declared a marine reserve — said he had received no data from Mr de Klerk.

He said he would immediately ask for the information Mr de Klerk is supposed to have kept, but that he had "reservations about the quality of the data".

"The project is widely recognised as one of the best of its type because we had researched the area before it was declared a reserve."

Dr Bennet has tagged about 20 000 fish in the 45km reserve, the biggest of its kind in the country, and has a one in 10 recapture rate. Tagged fish are supposed to be reported and thrown back.

"They must be catching our tagged fish but I have never heard of a single returned tag," he said. "These are obviously good fishermen capable of catching a lot of fish."

Dr Bennet said a major problem was that Mr de Klerk's public bragging about catches had "irritated" previous owners of coastal properties who were no longer allowed to fish there.

"It also adds to the pressure from anglers trying to get into the reserve and makes it more difficult to keep it closed."

Scientists' discontent over the granting of the permit was brought to a head with the publication of a photograph of Mr de,

Klerk, his grandson, and a Mr Paul Hayward with a 47kg kabeljou outside his Lekkerwater holiday home.

Dr Neethling said Mr de Klerk had been granted the permit "to obtain statistics for that portion of coastline" as Mr de Klerk "was the only person residing along that section of coast on a regular basis".

He said details of the

catches were kept in a record book at Lekkerwater. "Extracts are made and kept on file in Cape Town for later correlation with other statistics of a similar nature," he said.

Dr Neethling said Mr de Klerk's use of the holiday home was conditional on him "occupying a position of public office".

A spokesman for Mr de Klerk refused to comment.



Baby in a miracle escape

By CYRIL MADLALA

A SIX-month-old bundle of joy had a miraculous escape on Christmas Eve when she was buried under the rubble of a house during a hurricane in Impendle in the Kwazulu Natal Midlands.

About 2 000 people were left destitute and 200 houses destroyed as corrugated-iron roofs were torn off and several houses flattened.

This week a relieved Mrs Prisca Duma told how

her baby daughter, Nontobeko, was recovered with only minor bruises after being left behind in a mud-brick house that had collapsed on her.

The baby and her 77-year-old grandmother were the only ones who could not escape when the storm hit this mountainous district.

"We all thought Nontobeko and Grandma were dead," an excited Mrs Duma said. "The roof was gone and all that remained was rubble. We could not

believe our ears when we heard Nontobeko crying softly underneath."

The baby was found lodged between two mud blocks with only minor bruises on her chest and head.

"When I picked her up I could hardly recognise her from the dust. I just screamed and prayed out loud in praise of the Lord," she said.

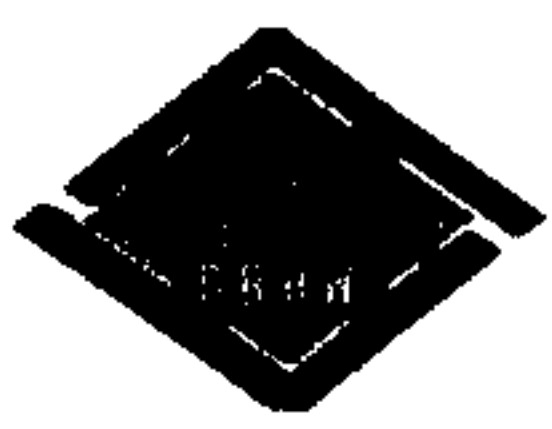
Nontobeko's grandmother escaped injury. While the family celebrated the New Year in a tent in Impendle, Nontobeko was more than 50km away in Elandskop with Mrs Duma's parents.

Meanwhile, her father, Mr Msongelwa Duma, is counting his losses. He moved to the Novuka area of Impendle only a year ago. He sold a bull, a horse and 10 goats to build his house.

His proud possessions — worth about R25 000, including the house — have literally been blown away. But the most precious of them all, Nontobeko, is at least intact.

No one was killed during the storm, and there were only minor injuries.

E VIVA DRAW



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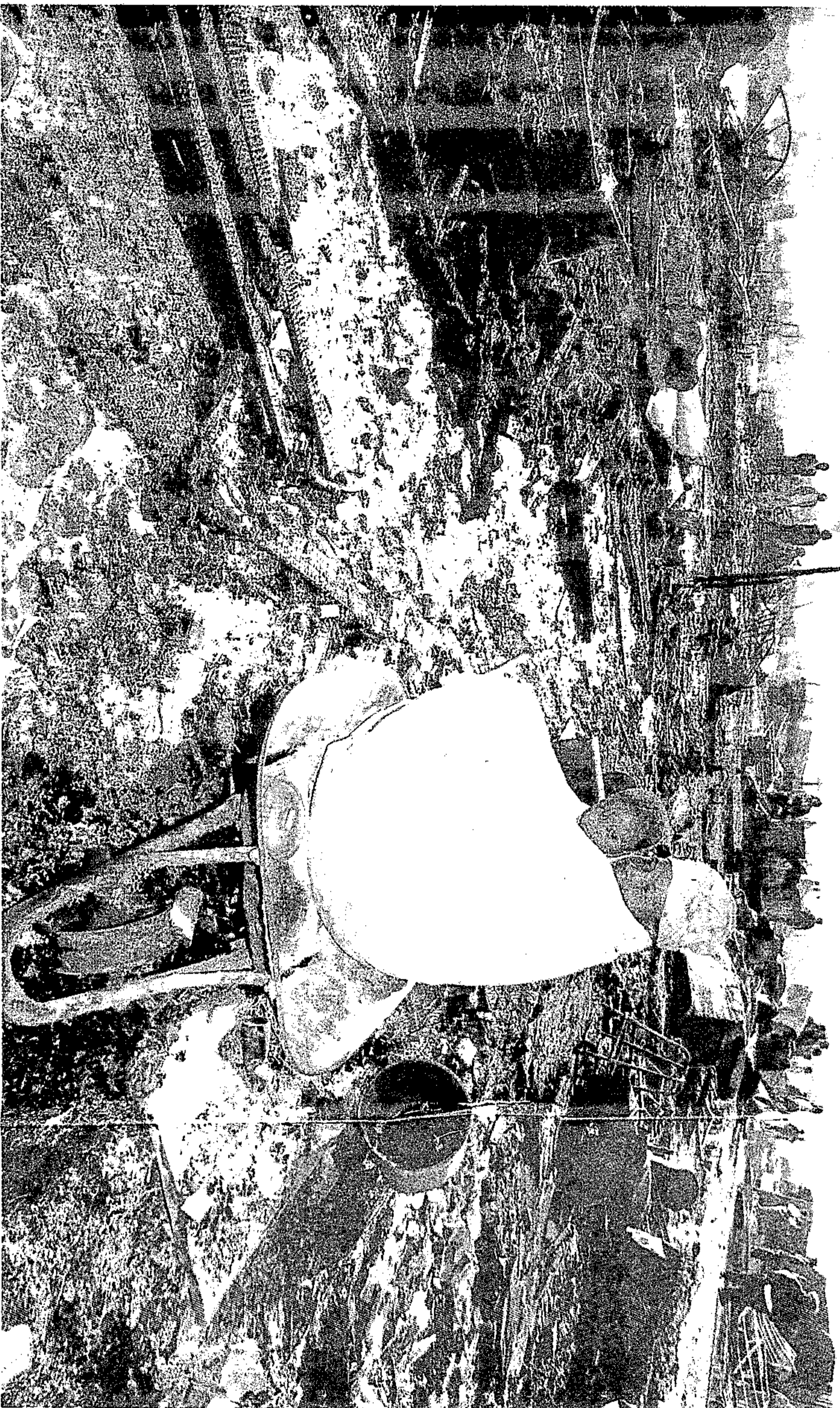
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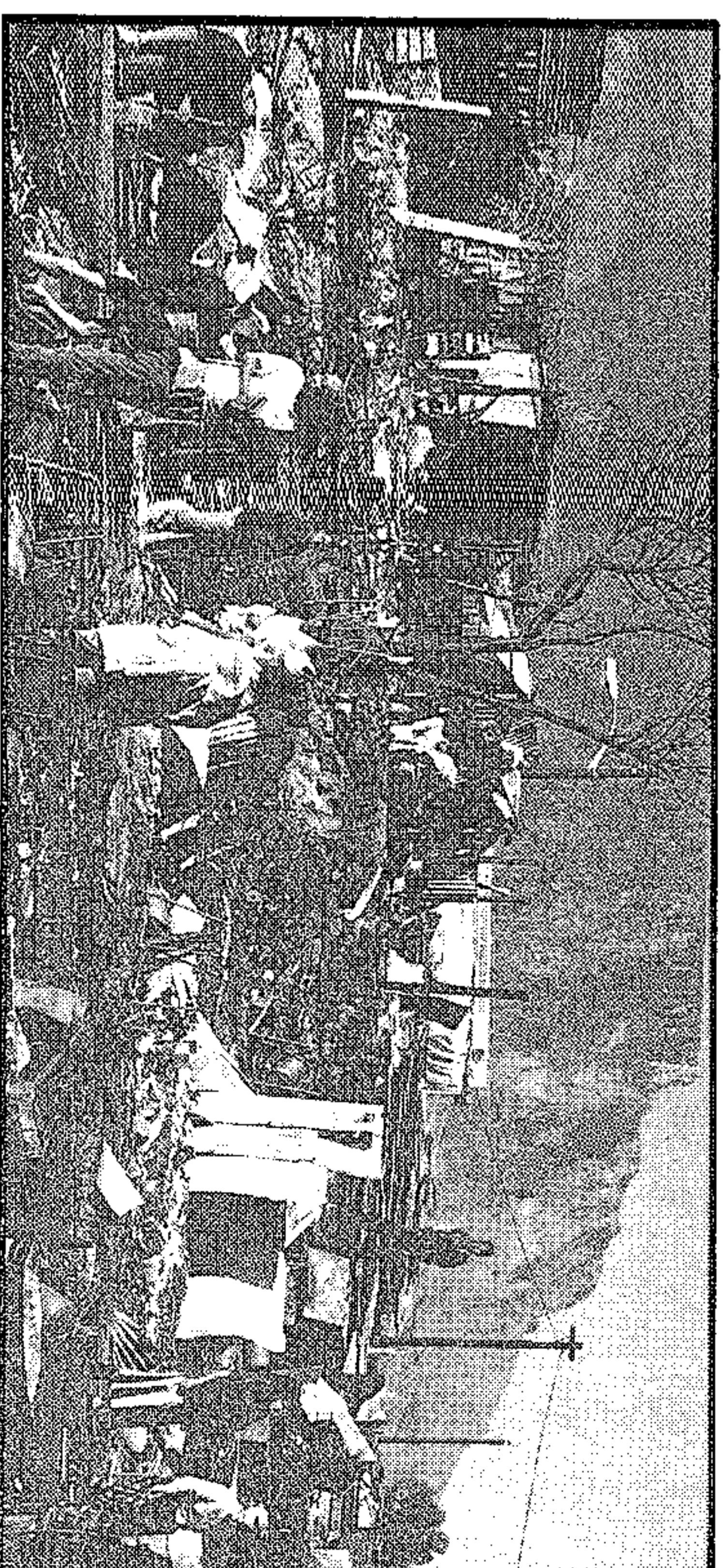
Marconi Beam fire devastation



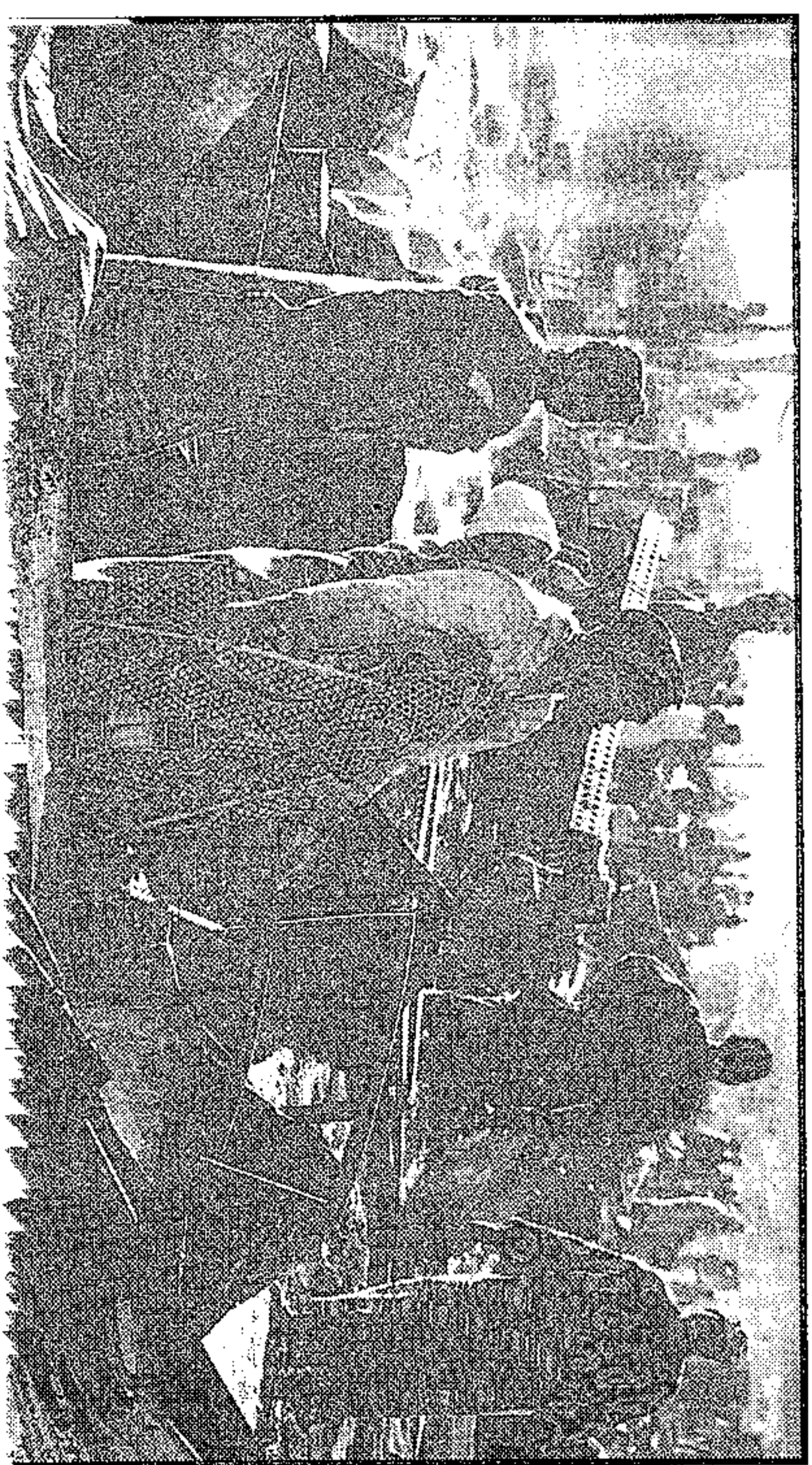
DEVASTATED: With a charred wasteland behind her, Nomalinda Tshen with her baby Younella sits in shock on a wheelbarrow at Marconi Beam camp near Milnerton after a devastating fire. Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.



PICKING UP MONEY: At first light this morning, one of the victims of the Marconi Beam fire, Cynthia Dodana was picking through the ashes of her former home for money. No-one in her family has a job.



IMPASSIVE MOUNTAIN: Table Mountain was the backdrop to a scene of devastation and despair this morning after a fire swept through the camp shortly after midnight.



Shack fire tragedy

Figures

9/1/95

(56)

Thousands lose homes in blaze

NORMAN JOSEPH, ROGER FRIEDMAN and THABO MABASO Staff Reporters

THOUSANDS of people have been left homeless as a fire, fanned by a strong south-easterly wind, swept through the Marconi Beam informal settlement in Milnerton early today destroying at least 600 shacks and claiming one life.

Hours earlier, another blaze razed about 130 shacks in Nyanga leaving more than 500 people destitute, one with severe burns.

The dead man was identified as Shideka Martens, 28.

The Red Cross Society, learning the situation today an emergency, has appealed to businesses and residents for urgent donations of clothing, blankets and non-perishable food.

"We are in dire straits," public relations officer Elsa Green said.

Milnerton Town Clerk Peter Gerber said the Marconi Beam fire started about 12.30am and quickly spread through the settlement.

Sections of Marconi Beam were regularly destroyed by fire, but today's blaze seemed to be the worst disaster yet to afflict the troubled community. Six months ago residents were battling to cope with ankle-deep floodwater after the worst mid-winter storm of 1994.

The blaze proved too hot for the Milnerton fire brigade to handle and a large contingent of firefighters from the Cape Town fire brigade stepped in to help.

"There are 1 200 shacks in the settlement. I hope there are no other bodies among the rubble and debris," Mr Gerber said.

Red Cross calls for food, clothes

THE South African Red Cross Society has appealed to the public for donations of blankets, clothing and non-perishable food for families left homeless by the fire at Marconi Beam informal settlement in Milnerton.

Head of the society's voluntary services department Delaine Van Boom said clothing for babies, toddlers and children was a priority. Formula for infants was also in short supply.

Donations should be left at the society's headquarters at 21 Broad Road, Wynberg, or at the St John Ambulance offices at 80 Darling Street in Cape Town during office hours.

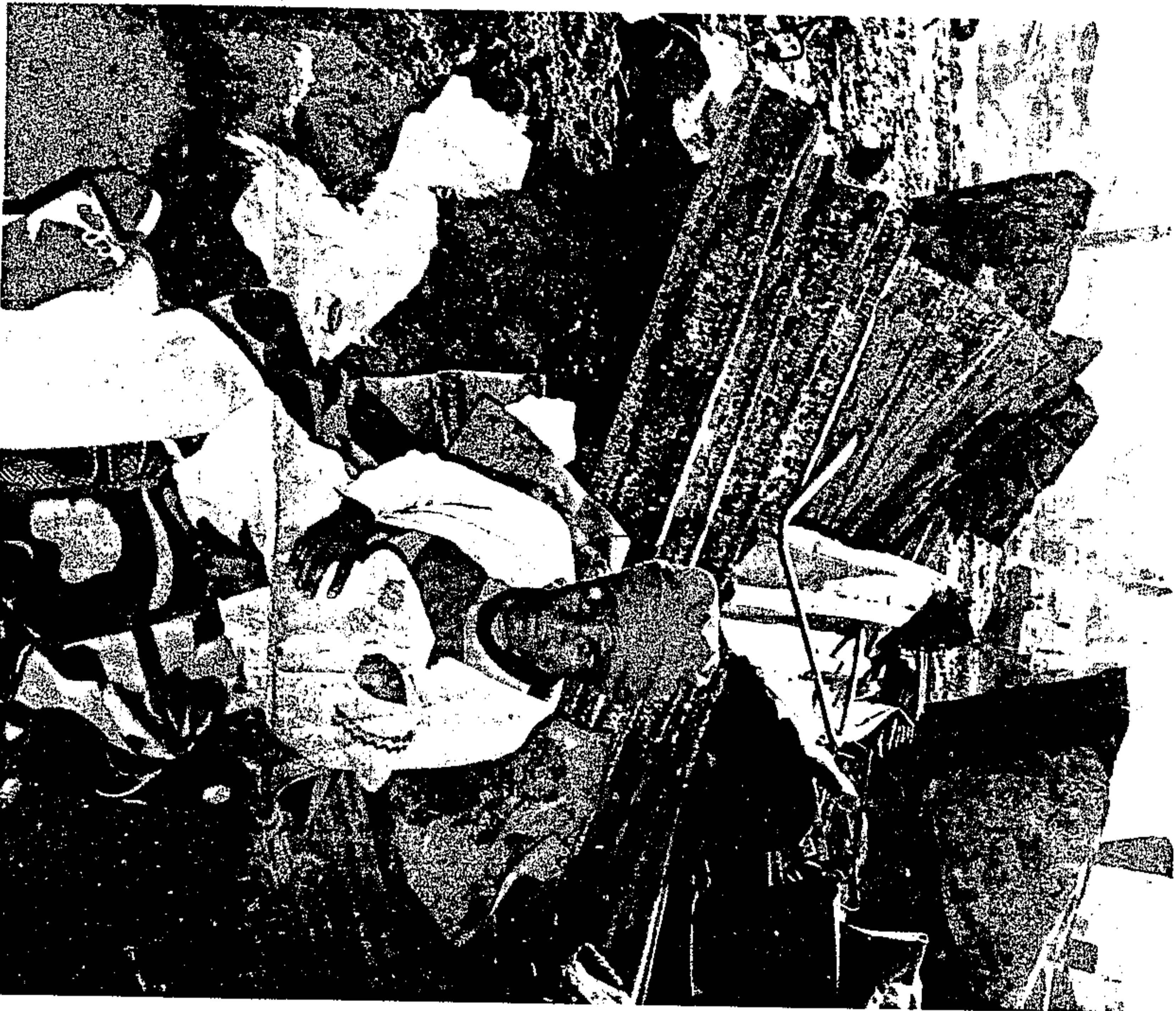
Donors are invited to contact Delaine or Elsa at the Red Cross Wynberg office at 797 5360 or Lorraine at St John at 461 8420.

An emergency meeting was held at 3am today, attended by members of the Marconi Beam committee, the police, municipal officials and officers of the fire department.

Mr Gerber said he had ordered milk, bread and blankets for about 2 000 people. A bakery would be delivering 1 000 loaves of bread later today, he said.

At a second crisis meeting scheduled for later today temporary arrangements to accommodate the homeless would top the agenda, Mr Gerber said.

(Turn to page 3, col 7)



MISERY: Lena Ndayi with her yet-to-be named two-week-old son next to the burned out wreck of her Marconi Beam shack. Fire-fighters from the Milnerton and Cape Town brigades fought an hours-long losing battle to curb the blaze which destroyed more than half of the Milnerton informal settlement.

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus

419 (021) 6650

daily

Inclusive approach to heritage conservation urged

Monumental challenge

(56)

star 5/11/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Large-scale deproclamation or re-evaluation of existing national monuments have been dismissed as "counter-productive" and "denuding the cultural landscape" by the National Monuments Council in its report on future heritage conservation in South Africa.

Instead, the report to Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Dr. Ben Ngubane recommends that "the disproportionate bias towards Eurocentric values" be rectified as soon as possible in a pro-active way.

In the case of controversial existing monuments, the report recom-

mends that efforts be made to stress an inclusive historical interpretation of the facts and to strive, through the educational process, to change people's interpretations.

"There is an urgent need for the NMC to re-evaluate its priorities in the context of an all-embracing South African perspective which takes account of cultural diversity and reflects a true account of the nation's past," the report says. "For this to happen there is a need for any future council to be more representative of the whole population."

It does not specify the size of the new council, but recommends that it should comprise representatives of the nine

provinces as well as expertise in all related fields.

Other main recommendations include:

■ A special task group be established to draw up a White Paper on new legislation to replace the existing National Monuments Act (Act 28 of 1969).

■ The name of the NMC be changed to National Heritage Council to properly reflect the body's all-encompassing cultural heritage conservation functions.

The report recommends that instead of "monuments", the terms "heritage sites" should be used.

The NMC recommends close co-operation with marginalised communi-

ties on heritage conservation projects; allocation of subsidies and trust funds to restoration projects; affirmative action; awarding of bursaries for conservation-related studies; creation of education programmes; and the promotion of traditional trades through job creation on restoration projects.

A special section of the report dealing with the preservation of war graves recommends that a subcommittee of the NMC should co-ordinate the activities of the various organisations currently engaged in looking after the graves of soldiers and other victims of conflict.

It also recommends that the graves of victims

of recent conflict must be part of the conservation effort, and to emphasise that they are included, the NMC recommends that "war graves" in future be referred to as "graves of victims of conflict".

The report to Ngubane is a synthesis of six workshops held around the country in July and August by a panel of assessors under the chairmanship of Herbert Prins, which was appointed by the NMC. It also includes a separate 14-page summary and comments on the assessors' report by the NMC.

The documents are available from the NMC at telephone (021) 462-4502, fax 462 4509.

Community fire units urged

(56)

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

COMMUNITY fire-fighting units should be set up in squat-

ter areas to prevent fires from devastating informal settlements such as Marconi Beam in Milnerton where it will cost an estimated R250 000 to rebuild what was lost.

This was the view of provincial local government minister Peter Marais, who visited Marconi Beam yesterday after about 2 500 people lost their homes in a fire which razed at least half of the settlement early on Monday.

"Unless we learn something from each fire, there will be no progress in this regard," Mr Marais's remarks follow a spate of shack fires in the Peninsula, the worst of which was the Marconi Beam fire yesterday which destroyed 600 shacks.

Also yesterday, more than 500 people were left homeless in Nyanga when a fire razed 130 shacks.

The Marconi Beam fire was termed a civil emergency by Milnerton town clerk Peter Gerber who convened the first emergency meeting to deal with the crisis about 3am yesterday. More meetings were planned throughout the day.

The fire toll across the Peninsula has been severe. In late November, two fires hit homes of about 90 families in Langa and 22 shack dwellers in Guguletu.

More than 450 people were made homeless after a fire destroyed 137 shacks in Wellington in early December.

On Christmas day, a fire gutted the homes of 200 families living in shacks and blocks of flats in Langa.

Three days later, in Khayelitsha, 15 shacks were destroyed and a man and a child burned to death.

One person died in the Marconi Beam fire — a fact described as a "miracle" by municipal employees.

Mr Marais, who visited Marconi Beam in his capacity as acting provincial housing minister, cut short his leave to view the devastation which deprived 600 families of all their possessions.

He was accompanied by Milnerton mayor Rod Hulley, Mr Gerber and town engineer David Brook.

They took a walk through the settlement which by 2pm was a hive of activity as residents started to rebuild their shacks amid swirling dust and ash in the strong southerly easterly.

Mr Marais promised financial help for the families of Marconi Beam, saying "the principle of giving has already been accepted."

The fire is the fifth to have struck the community in recent months — a factor which enabled the municipality of Milnerton to respond quickly to the crisis.



DEVASTATION: Table Mountain looms behind the blackened ruins of the 600 shacks which were burned down at Marconi Beam informal settlement in Milnerton yesterday.

Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

Miraculously, the little primary school and the community hall were spared the flames, but everything else went in its path, with just blackened, twisted metal from bedsteads, chairs, and building frames left behind.

Arrangements to house the homeless in tents on the Theo Marais sports field were being made, but many shack dwellers were hard at work putting up shelters, some with the assistance of their employers.

Many were reluctant to leave the area in case somebody else rebuilt on their patch of land. Marconi Beam, which was serviced with standpipes and toilets for about 400 shacks, houses about 1 200 families, putting the density at 140 units per hectare.

Although fire hydrants were positioned in the community, the strong wind and density made it difficult for firefighters to control the flames and they battled for three hours to bring it under control.

The municipality had as its immediate short-term objectives to get families under cover, provide emergency food and basic building materials. But longer term needs re-

main, with many families having lost all their possessions and money in the blaze. Cash donations can be made to the Standard Bank, Milnerton branch in account number 078283051, branch number 02650982.

Drop-off points for blankets, clothing, mattresses, food and building materials include the police, the fire station, or municipal works yard, all of them in Koeberg Road.

The Red Cross House in Broad Road, Wynberg, and St John Ambulance, Darling Street, Cape Town, also have collection points.

Marconi squatters have lost count of disasters

THABO MABASO
Staff Reporter

MARCONI Beam residents have stopped counting all the fires they've had to fight.

Almost every resident in the camp has at one point or the other been affected by a fire that broke out mysteriously or when a candle fell over.

Unemployed Norman Mthwaze, 34, lost all his belongings in yesterday's early-morning blaze.

In civvies but angels of mercy every one

THE South African Red Cross Society puts out fires of distress across the Peninsula on an ongoing basis.

Red Cross staff and volunteers who were on standby as a matter of course, began mobilising at 4am yesterday to help feed and clothe at least 2 500 people left homeless by a fire that swept through the Marconi Beam

The emblem of the South African Red Cross Society is always visible in times of emergency with society staff and volunteers rushing to aid victims of fires, violence and floods.

Staff Reporter ADELE BAILETA spent a day at the society's Wynberg headquarters and found that the work extends beyond disaster relief.



SOUP KITCHEN: About 2 500 people, who were left homeless after the fire, were given emergency meals by the SA Red Cross Society yesterday.

High School for the Disabled
Lotriet, 76, says: "We add oth-



there is anything to be done" is part of a project for the elderly.

She and a group of peers visit old people at Apricot House in Bonteheuwal and supply them with wool and other materials for handicrafts.

"Helping others has given me confidence and taught me

Red Cross staff and volunteers who were on standby as matter of course, began mobilising at 4am yesterday to help feed and clothe at least 2 500 people left homeless by a fire that swept through the Marconi Beam informal settlement near Milnerton.

Volunteers and fieldworkers were also busy assessing fire damage in Nyanga where over 138 shacks were razed to the ground leaving over 290 people homeless.

Soup had to be distributed, blankets handed out, food parcels packed and distributed and contact made with organisations and local authorities.

All of these exercises are co-ordinated from the nerve centre of the Cape regional office in Wynberg.

Spending a day at the Society headquarters is like being inside an autoteller machine — the faster the money and other donations come in the quicker it gets pumped out.

"I have some crutches to give away. Who can I speak to?" asks a caller.

The society's public relations officer and fundraiser Karin Corner thanks the caller and makes a plan to collect the crutches on her way home from work.

At the same time she points out chairs to social workers from the Tembalethu

rushing to aid victims of fires, violence and floods. Staff Reporter ADELE BAILETA spent a day at the society's Wynberg headquarters and found that the work extends beyond disaster relief.

High School for the Disabled who have come from Guguletu to get donations for a party. They sit and wait.

"The phone never stops ringing, either with people asking for help or offering to help," Mrs Corner says.

Down the passage Colleen Jacob is busy with the society's Home Based Care Project which aims to care for sick people including Aids patients in their own homes.

A guided tour to the back of the Wynberg building reveals another hive of activity.

Volunteers ladle egg powder into packets for food parcels containing other basic nutritional items. Some parcels get snapped up immediately by increasingly long queues of refugees from the violence in our own backyard or from as far afield as Rwanda.

Americans Aaron Olsen, 20, and Jason Warren, 19, are in South Africa "on mission".

They help pack the parcels for victims of violence, shack fires, floods and for indigent families.

A basic parcel contains egg powder, samp, maize meal, rice, sugar, milk powder and rice.

Lotriet, 76 says: "We add other goods such as soap powder and peanut butter. It depends on what contributions we get."

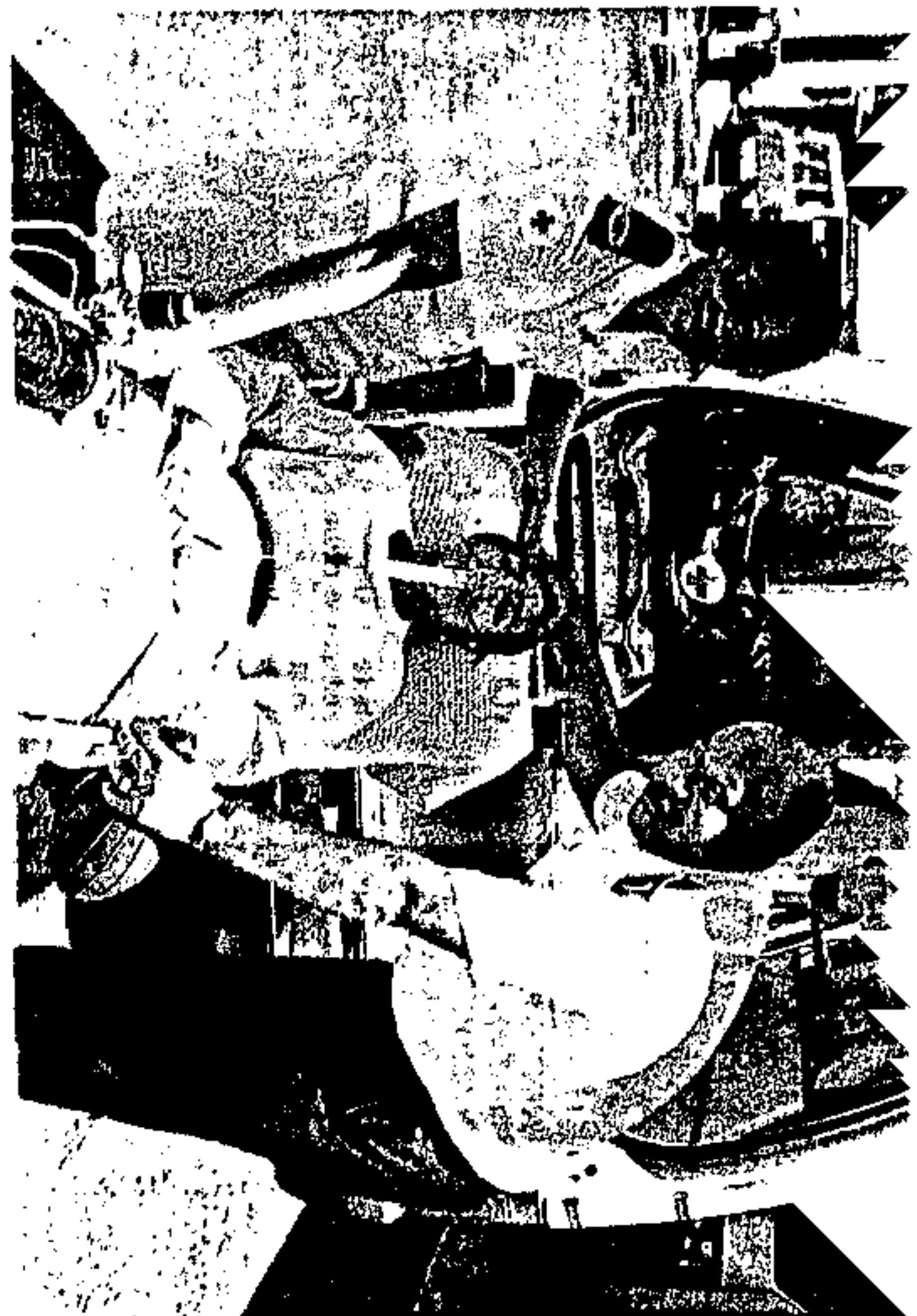
Volunteers were called in over New Year to help the skeleton staff distribute 400 crates of milk donated by Homestead Dairies.

Mrs Corner says: "About 40 people a day queue on our doorstep waiting for food. Since the influx of foreign refugees the demand is much higher."

Clutching blankets and a parcel of food, Zairan Deno Francisco, 22, and Angolan Geremia Kende Pedro, 25, say they came to South Africa to find work and prosperity.

"We have come from nothing and we have nothing," says Mr Francisco. His mother who lives in Angola has stopped working since her leg was amputated as a result of a war wound. Both Mr Pedro's parents died in Angola's civil strife.

Red Cross fieldworkers who come in and out of the building are helping to set up sewing projects and gardening schemes with the unemployed. A fire station for Harare in Khayelitsha is also



RECEIVING END: Non-uniformed South African Red Cross Society volunteer Musilgal Kahn acts as a patient while uniformed volunteers Gertnude Mouton and Stephen Langley, who both have full time jobs, show what they do in their spare time.

being planned.

Deline Van Boom co-ordinates the voluntary services department which includes uniformed and non-uniformed volunteers who are involved in disaster relief, welfare and assisting the destitute.

Stephen Langley and Gertnude Mouton enter her office looking pale and tired but smiling nevertheless.

They have just returned to base after transporting an Aids patient who is in the terminal stages of the disease to St Luke's Hospice.

They are uniformed volunteers and first aiders who are qualified to drive an ambulance. They received the Red Cross call after having come off night duty.

Mr Langley is responsible

for dispatching newspapers and Mrs Mouton is employed as a housekeeper at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Mr Langley says: "I have been doing this for years and will continue to as long as I can. It gives me a good feeling to help others."

Rylands High School martricular Musilgal Kahn who "is hanging around to see if

visit old people at Apricot House in Bonteheuwel and supply them with wool and other materials for handicrafts.

"Helping others has given me confidence and taught me how to communicate. It's nice to feel that people look up to you," Ms Kahn says.

Deline Van Boom says there are 500 volunteers who form the uniformed "mirrors" of the Red Cross. In the Cape region there are 25 active detachments.

"Many of them are unemployed but they put in thousands of hours of duty ranging from First Aid services at concerts and sporting events to assessing the magnitude of shack fires, to making soup and packing clothing during a disaster."

The most shocking experience for volunteers and salary staff was when a Red Cross Society volunteer was shot and wounded in October after rushing to help victims of the Khayelitsha Stadium massacre.

"It was very frightening. The volunteer is receiving counselling for post-traumatic stress disorder."

"When we go into a disaster or dangerous area we trade on our symbol — the red cross — and believe that everyone will respect it. When something like this happens it makes our volunteers vulnerable," says Mrs Van Boom.

Unemployed Norman Mthwaze, 34, lost all his belongings in yesterday's early-morning blaze.

"Everything I have went up in flames. The only property I own now is the clothes I'm wearing," he said. Hours after the disaster, his eyes were red from not sleeping since midnight.

He had not eaten anything for most of the day, because he couldn't get his mind off the morning's fiery drama.

Mr Mthwaze has been unemployed for six months. His wife, also jobless, lives with her parents in the former Transkei.

"I don't know what to do and I don't even know where to sleep tonight," he said, holding back tears.

Yesterday was the second time his shack had been destroyed by fire.

Norman Mthwaze said: "If the government fails to carry out its promises it will be rearing a nation of criminals, as people will turn to crime to get what they want."

Lillian Dikana, 41, who is also unemployed, lost her shack for the second time yesterday. She salvaged only two suitcases.

The dwelling first burnt down in 1991.

"With my savings I had just refurbished my shack and now it's all gone," she said, sorrow and disillusionment written all over her face.

Mrs Dikana, who was a domestic worker before a car accident put her off work the whole of last year, also has a one-year-old daughter to care for.

Yesterday's disaster robbed Jackson Yafele, 54, of his shack.

"I was nearly overpowered by the smoke," he said.

He was asleep when the fire started and only managed to save a jacket, two trousers and a blanket.

Like so many of his neighbours, he is unemployed and doesn't know how he will rebuild his shack.

Mr Yafele says to prevent further fires in the camp the government must build houses in Marconi Beam.

None was as angry as William Papier who lost R4 000 in life savings and more than R6 000 in property.

"I don't like the way we are living," he said.

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R20 000 gift to Marconi squatters

Staff Reporter

THE Round Table has kicked off a campaign to help destitute residents in the fire devastated Marconi Beam squatter camp by donating R20 000.

Spokesman for the Western Cape Round Table, Geoff Blackbeard, said the money was left over from last year's flood disaster campaign.

"As soon as we heard the reports yesterday morning about the fire we decided to get involved," he said.

Thousands of people were left homeless when a fire swept through the camp near Milnerton early yesterday, destroying about 600 shacks.

Mr Blackbeard said the Round Table wanted to help Milnerton Municipality raise about R200 000.



HELPING HAND: SA Red Cross Society workers hand out food to people who lost everything in the blaze.

"The aim is to provide each family with a starter kit that consists of two mattresses, blankets, clothing and basic food."

Mr Blackbeard said the Round Table would also help

in trying to get sponsors to donate items such as tents.

People wishing to help can deposit donations into the Milnerton Municipality Disaster Fund, Milnerton Standard Bank account number 078283051, bank code 02650982.

Litterbugs

cost the city

CT12/1195

R46m in '94

By MELANIE GOSLING

LITTERBUGS cost Cape Town R46 million last year.

If trends continue, ratepayers will spend even more this year to keep their streets clean, according to the chief of the City Council's cleansing department, Mr Bruce Black.

He said Cape Town's street cleaning bill was the biggest single item in the city's cleansing budget of R108m.

"And it is increasing at a frightening rate. We have to divert resources on a continuing basis to deal with it.

"We spend more money on removing what people don't put into refuse bags than on what they do put into refuse bags," he said.

The council spent R42m on refuse removal last year, R3m on beach cleaning — excluding the oil pollution clean-up — and R1,4m on river cleaning.

"Littering is everyone's problem. The most frequent answer is to say the authorities should be stricter, but we have only 16 law enforcement officers in the city and don't have the budget to employ more. It is up to each individual to curb it," Mr Black said.

He said businesses in the city exacerbated the litter problem by leaving their rubbish in bags or boxes on the

streets where vagrants had access to them.

Mr Black appealed to businesses to be responsible about disposing their rubbish.

"Many companies have a key role to play in reducing litter. People who leave rubbish out are as responsible for littering as if they themselves had strewn it around the streets.

"I know vagrants go through the refuse to get material for recycling, and some may say by denying them access to the rubbish you are denying them a living. Recycling must be done but there are responsible ways of doing it," Mr Black said.

Excrement

He said the city's social problems became cleansing problems as vagrants who slept in alcoves and on pavements left excrement which had to be cleaned up.

"The problem is exacerbated by certain businesses who make financial rewards available to street people consciously by giving them handouts or unconsciously by allowing them access to alcoves.

"They could eliminate access with gates," Mr Black said.

Gigantic missi

■ While the public is still gasping in horror at scenes of devastation, the Red Cross Society "army" is already mobilised and set to go out to feed, clothe and offer new hope ...

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE smoke is hardly billowing skywards before the Red Cross Society, like a well-tuned army, kicks into action, volunteers telephoning one another and preparing to mobilise to bring immediate relief to victims of the fire.

That's the scene that surrounded the raging fires that destroyed about 700 shacks in Peninsula townships, leaving as many families and about seven times as many individuals with their lives in tatters.

It's at that point, when all seems lost and hopeless, that Red Cross volunteers arrive, armed with blankets, clothing and food, to offer the first ray of hope.

And within days the resilience of people stripped of their homes and mostly all of their personal belongings, kicks in. Shacks start going up again with both donated and salvaged material, and evidence of the devastation begins to fade.

But it's a major undertaking to restore normality, and without the generous help of the people of Cape Town, well known for opening their hearts and digging into their pockets in times of disaster, the jobs of relief agencies like Red Cross would be 10 times more difficult.

This week, following fires that first destroyed about 500 homes in Marconi Beam squatter camp, then a further 160 at Nyanga and another 47 at Phola Park, Guguletu, aid flooded into the Red Cross Society offices in Wynberg.

"We've been inundated with calls to offer help. Within hours of the first news of the Marconi Beam fire at the beginning of the week we had mountains of black bags and boxes piled up here," Red Cross spokeswoman Karin Comer said.

And that's "first base" for their mammoth disaster relief exercises that kick quickly into action at first news of a problem. Large numbers of voluntary aid personnel are quickly mobilised, calls are made to suppliers always ready to provide bread and other staples, the stocked warehouse is opened and teams get packing.

The offices are a hive of ac-



□ **OUT OF THE ASHES:** After the devastating Marconi Beam fire last weekend, residents have no choice but to rebuild from whatever building material is available. Plenty of new, donated material is in evidence but residents, like Thandikaya Macekiswana, are "recycling" burnt corrugated iron too.



□ **PARCEL RELIEF:** An opportunity for squatters to start again, thanks to generous donations of food, clothing, blankets and mattresses. Here Marconi Beam resident Penny Nonbotho, with her registration card in her mouth, takes home her share of the donations.

Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus.

tivity as volunteers sort donations, pack food parcels and vans for their counterparts who actually go out into the field.

"But for Red Cross our involvement is relatively short-lived. We're there immediately the disaster happens, feeding and clothing, and helping to provide shelter. But within days the surrounding communities and the communities themselves start helping themselves, and that's when we back out," Ms Comer said.

Late this week Red Cross

was tying up the loose ends at Marconi Beam where Milner-ton Municipality, the local police and other agencies were slickly distributing aid. But the job was only just starting at Phola Park in Guguletu where, just nights later, fire had destroyed the lives of about another 50 families.

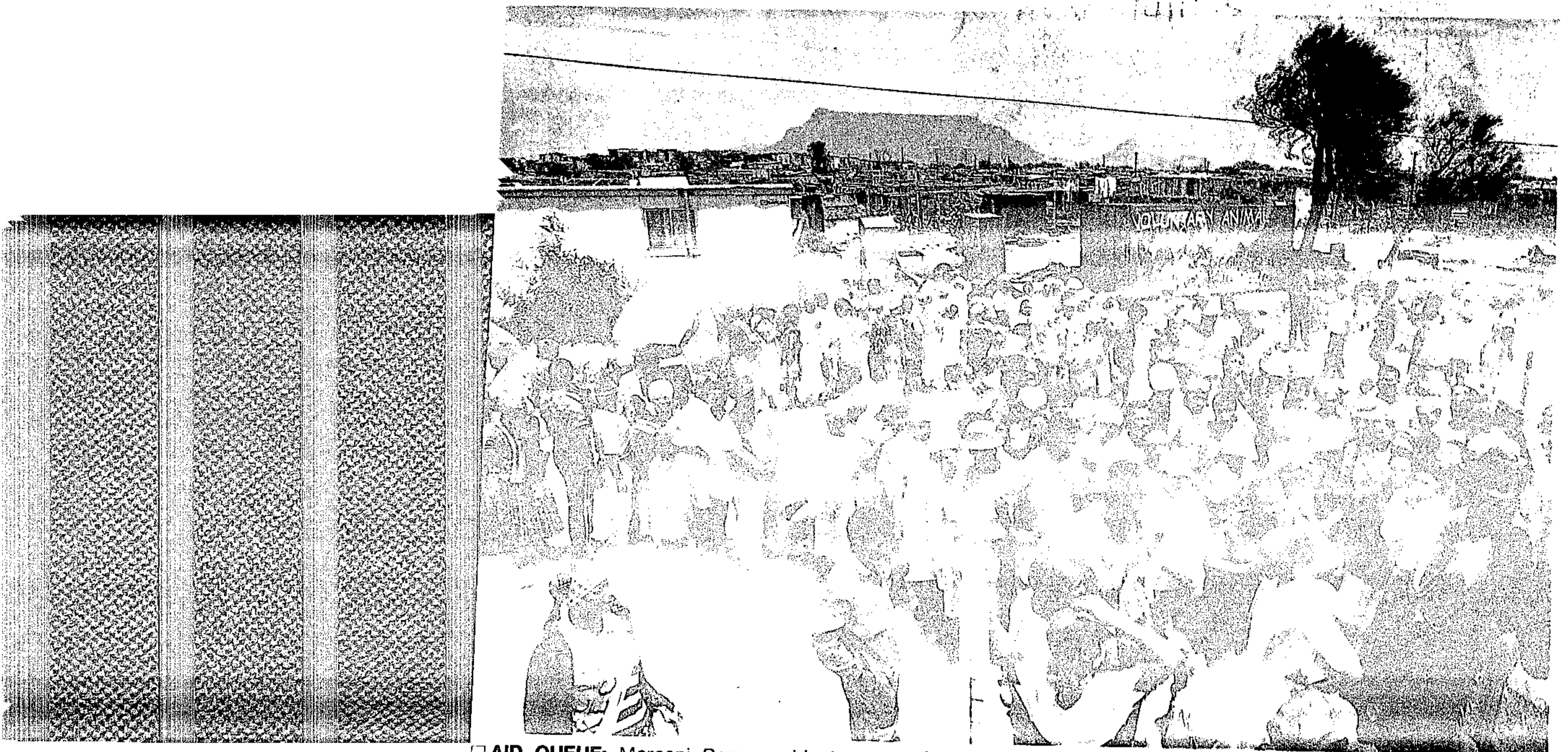
Explaining the usual chain of events, voluntary services spokeswoman Carol White, said that assessing the needs of the affected families was an important first step. Once families had been fed and blankets

distributed, volunteers collected data around the victims and issued disaster relief cards which entitled them to further assistance.

Feeding from mobile kitchens carried on for the first few days while other relief agencies moved into affected areas and families began rebuilding their shacks and their lives. Victims also received clothing and food parcels packed by volunteers from donations and existing stores.

Finally, building materials were brought into devastated

on of mercy



□ **AID QUEUE:** Marconi Beam residents queue for mattresses and parcels of clothing at the aid centre in the informal settlement established by Milnerton municipality. In the background shacks are rising out of the ashes as residents rebuild their lives.

areas and what wasn't donated, the Red Cross Society had to buy from its own funds.

Volunteer Janet Court, preparing to leave for another day of feeding victims of the Marconi Beam fire, told Weekend Argus personnel worked late into the night making sure everyone got at least one hot meal each day.

"Everyone gets involved at times like this. Nobody cares what their actual job description is, they just get down and do what's necessary," Ms Comer said referring to office staff organising lunches and dinners for the volunteers themselves.

Discussing the fires that generally plagued Cape Town townships at this time of the year, Ms Comer said fires that were considered "small" here would attract major attention say in Johannesburg, and that this caused some problems for Red Cross.

"If 20 shacks burn down here people don't even notice it and it's lucky to be even recorded in the Press. But for the people who have lost homes it's an end to their lives as they know it. So it's vital for us to get continued support and not only when real disaster strikes."

■ Several collection points for donations for fire victims have been established where people can drop off relief food, clothing and other necessities. Anyone donating food should concentrate on simple, staple foodstuffs like soya products, and tinned fish and vegetables. Relief agencies specially need baby food, clothes, equipment and milk powder.

Drop-off points are:

■ SA Red Cross offices, 21 Broad Road, Wynberg;

■ In Milnerton: The Medi-City, municipality, library and fire station;

■ Lentegeur Library in Mitchell's Plain;

■ Pick 'n Pay in Somerset West;

■ Fish Hoek municipality;

■ Goodwood Pearce's Furnishing, 169 Voortrekker Road, from 8 am to 6 pm;

■ St John Ambulance, Lower Darling Street, Cape Town.

Donations towards the Disaster Relief Fund can be deposited into account number 271625414 at the Standard Bank in Wynberg. Please specify the donation is for disaster relief.

For further information contact the Red Cross at 797-5360.



□ **HELPING OUT:** Offers of help have streamed into the Red Cross offices in Wynberg, from where relief operations are masterminded. Here, local resident Philippa Jordi, drops in with some donations.

Anti-pollution lawyers gun for Apollo bosses

(56) ST(M) 15/1/95

THE South African Environment Action Trust, the legal action group formed by Cape attorneys last week, has named the owners of the Apollo Sea, the ship that caused the latest oil spill on Cape Town's beaches, as its first target.

"The trust has already received claims totalling millions of rands from affected property owners, businesses and members of the public who have suffered financial loss and inconvenience as a result of the oil spill," said Roelou Barry, a spokesman for the trust.

"Our phones have not stopped ringing about the oil spill and the trust interprets this as a signal from the people of Cape Town for immediate action."

Mr Barry said the new trust plans to act by itself, or for others, on any environmental issue where it believes the conservation rights enshrined in the new constitution have been threatened or broken.

"We have set up a carefully chosen legal team and when we take on a challenge to the environment we will fight it aggressively."

Mr Barry said the sight of the Cape's beaches covered in thick black oil was "something that seems to have sickened every Capetonian who witnessed it".

"We must not let the Cape of Storms become an alibi for the disposal of old wrecks and all that they may contain. A message must be sent out to those who perpetrate this kind of pollution and that message must be 'you can't get away with it in the Western Cape,'" said Mr Barry.

The trust will be officially launched later this month.

SA 'lags behind' in chemical control

BO 17/11/95 (56) LOUISE COOK

SA LAGGED behind the rest of the world in chemical control, agricultural sources said yesterday.

SA sold the same amount of agricultural chemicals as any First World country, but lacked sophisticated measures to limit chemical build-up.

Agriculture Department sources said chemical misuse by farmers, and "black drum" substances — pirated from the genuine product and sold by some "smaller companies" — had caused havoc in the industry.

In some cases farmers' chemical applications to crops had been 10 times higher than the legal amount. This pushed input costs up and reduced crop quality.

"Farmers obtain pirate products cheaply without proper advice on how to use them. Misuse and overapplication have caused extensive insect resistance."

Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals Association director Jan Kleynhans denied such substances were available in SA.

"SA has one of the best control systems in the world. About five working groups appointed by industry regularly monitor resistance levels."

Kleynhans said R760m was spent on agricultural chemicals in 1993.

"Sales figures have been consistent for at least the past three years."

SA's chemicals ombudsman Max Orban also dismissed the claims but conceded that, while not many farmers were guilty, it was difficult to track transgressors down.

Waste site plan angers residents

By WILLEM STEENKAMP

MORE than 80 angry residents of the West Coast hamlet of Philadelphia last night rejected plans for a hazardous waste site nearby, and accused the developers of not including them in procedures.

Enviroserv, a subsidiary of waste consultants Wade Refuse, plans to dig a landfill for hazardous waste on a 300ha plot immediately next to the N7, within 2km of Philadelphia and less than 40km from the city.

General and class 1 hazardous waste, including heavy metals, poisonous substances, carcinogens and medical waste, would be dumped in the landfill.

At a meeting in the Philadelphia NG Kerk hall residents claimed that consultants the Planning Partnership had not followed government guidelines for integrated environmental management procedures.

Mr Peter Kantor, a city attorney representing the community, said two-thirds of

the population — especially the “disadvantaged” community — had not been informed of the plans for the site.

Repeated statements by the Planning Partnership senior partner Mr Christo Kannenberg, who also chaired the meeting, that his company had tried “our best” to get all parties involved met with cries of derision.

It was decided to postpone the meeting to a future date, and the community will meet next week to discuss the problem.

OCT 18/1/95

(56)

'Birding best in Africa'

SA urged to capture ecotourist market

56
Jan 16/1995

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

The biggest growth sector in the travel business is the burgeoning ecotourism market, according to David Allan of the University of Cape Town's department of statistical sciences.

Writing in *Vision 1995*, the annual of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Allan warns that for South Africa to capture its share of the market there must be a clear understanding of what today's ecotourist expects.

"Ecotourists spend more per capita on their trips than any other type of tourist," says Allan.

"This buzzword means different things to different people. For inefficient and unscrupulous operators it is a cover under which to charge naive travellers exorbitant amounts in return for shoddy and uncomfortable outdoor experiences. For others, it is just another marketing label for the same old game-watching holidays that they have been offering for the past 20 years."

The Ecotourism Society's definition of ecotourism is internationally accepted as "purposeful travel to natural areas to understand the cultural and natural history of the environment; taking care not to alter the integrity of the ecosystem, while producing economic opportunities that make conservation of natural resources beneficial to local people".

Allan warns that today's traveller is better informed than previously and is looking for a wide experience and understanding of the environment being visited.

"This demands that tourism managers and their staff match these expectations by becoming more knowledgeable themselves and by presenting a wider variety of ways in which their customers can explore natural environments," he says.

Migrants

Allan, a specialist at UCT's avian demography unit, argues that much more needs to be done to project South Africa as a premier birdwatching destination.

"Avitourism" has the potential to play a major role in ecotourism, he says. Some 900 bird species have been recorded in the sub-region, of which 530 breed in South Africa and 211 are non-breeding migrants.

South Africa ranks tenth in the Afrotropics in terms of the total number of species present, but lack of infrastructure and extreme political instability in many African countries probably means that the most species can be seen in South Africa, Allan notes.

"If we offer a product that is attractive, well-packaged and reasonably priced, tourists will come; if not, they will go elsewhere. Any strategy based on insincerity, greed, inefficiency or a hint of blackmail ('pay up or we'll destroy the place') will not succeed in the long term."

Vision is the EWT's coffee-table annual in full colour. It presents an overview of environmental issues and strives to point to the road ahead. This year, in addition to the ecotourism focus, there is a conservation update on the southern African states, with contact details for responsible government and NGO bodies; a chapter on people and organisations in South Africa and the work they are doing — including 21 years of the EWT; a feature on businesses in the country which are doing outstanding conservation work; and a look at wildlife artists and their art.

The book is available from the EWT's Bushwillow Stores at R69,95, or direct from the EWT in Johannesburg, telephone (011) 486-1102 or fax 486-1506.



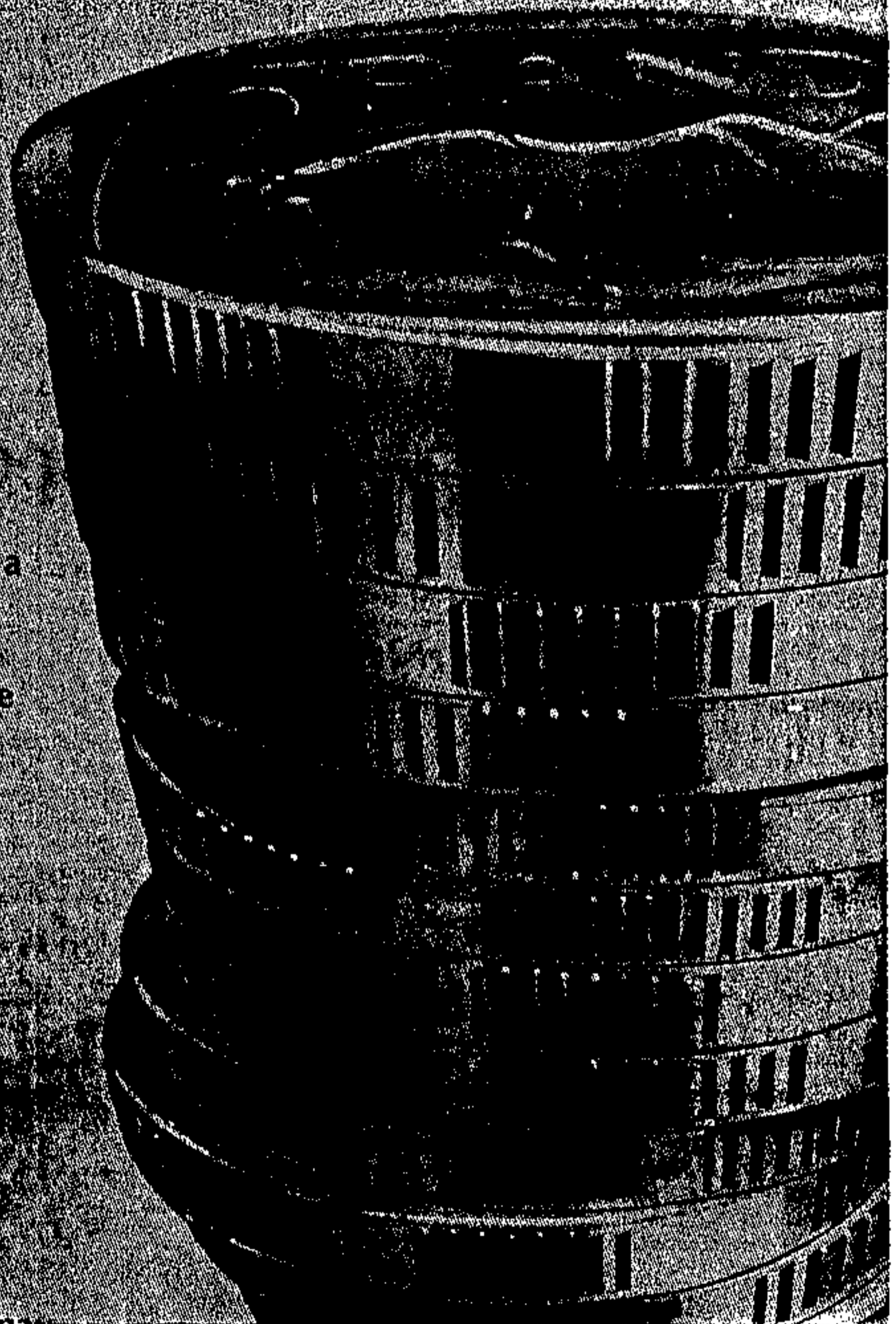
Avitourism . . . this bateleur eagle in the Kruger Park is one of 63 species of diurnal birds of prey in South Africa. By comparison, North America has only 30, and Europe 38 species.

PICTURE: ETIENNE ROTHBART

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Eco-tourism fund 'a flop'

(56) RD 16/11/95
THE Industrial Development Corporation's (IDC) R600m pool to fund eco-tourism development has been a failure, tourism consultants said at the weekend.

The fund, established in May 1992, has to date allocated only R65m for 14 projects from a total of 33 applications for R257m.

An IDC spokesman said that the unsuccessful applicants had failed to meet IDC criteria. The scheme required that they provide at least 40% of the investment required for individual projects.

Loans were provided only to those projects that developed, improved or expanded tourist accommodation in the larger private reserves and in areas adjacent to

AMANDA VERMEULEN

or under the control of the relevant conservation authorities.

The IDC spokesman said loan facilities were "tailored to the cashflow of the project and interest rates are in line with capital market rates".

However, various tourism consultants have said the terms were too stringent, thus defeating the scheme's object.

Kessel Feinstein Consulting director Gillian Saunders said the loans were not soft enough to attract prospective developers, who in many cases were unable to

□ To Page 2

IDC

raise the capital through the traditional lending institutions.

"Many small and medium size enterprises need a kick start to get them going, as well as favourable loan facilities to tide them over the generally unprofitable introductory period when the business is being established."

Price Waterhouse Meyernel's Hospitality Group co-ordinator John Awbrey said the IDC had not advertised the scheme sufficiently to the general public, leaving most potential entrepreneurs ignorant of the funding facilities.

In addition the criteria regarding location was limiting, which further reduced

□ From Page 1

the number of potential applicants.

The IDC spokesman said one of the reasons more loans had not been granted was the uncertainty over the future of the national and regional nature reserves, and future legislation governing them.

Potential investors were reluctant to commit to any projects until this matter had been resolved.

However, he said the expected improvement in domestic and foreign tourist numbers should have have a beneficial effect on the body's general tourism scheme, established in 1993. Of a fund of between R100m and R200m, 17 projects to the value of R26m had been approved.

Government to weigh up ⁽⁵⁶⁾ the use of unleaded petrol ^{Star 3/1/75 (183)}

■ BY DEREK TOMMEY

Pik Botha's speedy reaction to the report that unleaded petrol is to go on sale this year should go some way to allaying industry and consumer concern that they are about to become milk cows for the refining and distributing industry without any prior public discussion or parliamentary debate.

Botha, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, showing his political antennae are still sensitive, said last week the proposal to introduce unleaded petrol was taken by the previous government, but that nothing would happen until the matter has been reviewed by the present government.

Concern among industrialists stems from the fact that they see no need whatever for the introduction of unleaded petrol and regard the proposal as something that will add further to their costs and make them less competitive.

They point out that countries with unleaded petrol are

those which have serious pollution problems and consequently insist on cars using auto catalysts to reduce the emission of noxious gas from motor vehicles.

However, auto catalysts are "poisoned" by ordinary leaded petrol and therefore have to use the more expensive and less efficient unleaded petrol.

But South Africa has few cars by world standards, has little or no vehicle pollution problem, so auto catalysts and unleaded petrol are unnecessary.

Los Angeles, where pollution has become a major problem, had more cars than the whole of South Africa, said Paul Kruger, chief executive of Sasol, when asked recently whether SA needed unleaded petrol.

The proposal to put unleaded petrol in the filling stations apparently comes from the refining and distribution industry.

Most filling stations offer petrol with two octane ratings.

But it appears that these days petrol with a lower rating is not selling.

Then someone had the idea of replacing the lower octane petrol with unleaded petrol — even though there is apparently not a car on the road in South Africa needing this exotic fuel.

Presumably the industry hopes that once unleaded petrol becomes available, the government might be persuaded to make auto catalysts compulsory on new cars.

The basis of manufacturing industry's concern is the cost increases that could arise from the use of unleaded petrol.

It is proposed that buyers of leaded petrol should subsidise users of unleaded petrol by about 5c a litre.

This would boost the fuel bill by about 2 percent. In addition, the introduction of catalytic converters would add several thousand rands to the cost of a new car.

These costs could make SA industry less competitive and increase inflation.

Cango Caves 'mismanaged'

Staff Reporter

THE world famous Cango Caves are deteriorating rapidly due to mismanagement by the Oudtshoorn town council, according to Dr Stephen Craven, president of the Speleological Association.

He warned that unless something was done to combat the town's "mismanagement" of the national monument, the tourism industry centred on the caves in the area could collapse.

Speaking to association members in Cape Town last night, Dr Craven said the limestone formations in Cango 1, which is open to tourists, had "dried out" in comparison to Cango 2 and 3, where access is limited.

Dr Craven's thesis, Management Problems of the Cango Cave, was published in October.

Dr Craven said last night he believed the deterioration was caused by huge numbers of people — up to 3 000 a day —

Threat to local tourism

visiting the caves.

The caves had been damaged by the increased temperature from their body heat, humidity from perspiration and carbon dioxide.

He said the town council managed the cave system as if it were "the municipal swimming pool", with no expert knowledge or policy.

In the early apartheid years a separate entrance for blacks had been blasted.

And later, when former prime minister Mr BJ Vorster visited Oudtshoorn, the town council

planned to blast another hole for him to visit Cango 2. This was "thankfully averted" when one of Vorster's aides said he would not crawl through the hole.

Funds derived from the caves had paid for a library in the town and a statue outside the police station. Town council members and the town clerk had also flown overseas to attend conferences on international caves, he said.

He said continuous monitoring of the temperature, humidity and carbon dioxide pressure in relation to the number of daily visitors should be implemented to save the caves.

An independent management board with members from the Cape Nature Conservation, the Parks Board, the town council, and tourism bodies should be established.

A museum, a "sacrificial cave" and a nature trail to attract excess visitors disqualified from visiting the cave when the quota of daily visitors was exceeded should also be built.

City to get 'photo stops'

TWO "photo stops" should be established in the city — one in St George's Mall and on the Foreshore — as an experiment, the utilities committee recommended this week.

At each of these stops a mounted photograph of the view from there would be displayed. Passers-by would be told by a signboard how to take their own replica photograph.

A council spokesman said yesterday only two spots had been recommended initially as the council thought it best to be careful the stops do not turn out to be excuses for advertising billboards.

It is unknown how the public will respond.

Sponsors who advertise on the signs will pick up the entire tab.

Fishing rights row in Galapagos

Staff Reporter

SOUTH AFRICAN conservation bodies have joined a world bid to save the Galapagos Islands from the onslaught of illegal fishermen who held conservationist staff hostage last week.

The fishermen were demanding that the sea cucumber fishery be re-opened.

A spokeswoman for the Southern African Nature Foundation, Ms Ronel Beukes, said yesterday the organisation condemned the violence on the Galapagos which had "a remarkable parallel" to the perlemoen war in the Cape.

In a statement yesterday the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said a group of fishermen, some masked and armed with clubs and machetes, had held conservation staff on the Galapagos hostage, demanding that the sea cucumber fishery, which was closed last

month, be re-opened.

"Sea cucumbers fetch high prices as a delicacy in Europe and Asia. They have been decimated in other parts of the world because of overfishing. Because of a higher price, people have been lured to the Galapagos where they have already had a severe impact on the marine reserve," the WWF said.

The sea cucumber fishery was opened experimentally in October last year, where a maximum catch limit was set at 550 000. By December, between six and 10 million had been taken out.

"In addition to devastating sea cucumbers, many fishermen are illegally taking sea horses, oysters, scallops and conches," the WWF said.

"Fishermen are camped illegally on the shore inside the National Park. Trash continues to accumulate on the shore and mangroves are still being cut as fuel."

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ROW Over excluded pupils

By CLAIRE BISSEKER

REGIONAL education authorities, the ANC and the National Education Co-ordinating Committee (NECC) look set to lock horns as thousands of black pupils were turned away from crowded township schools yesterday.

As the school year opened, principals defied instructions from the Western Cape Education Department to register all pupils — but school inspectors will be on hand today to enforce the ruling.

Yesterday new applicants were told to try elsewhere or return at the end of the week once past pupils had registered.

Western Cape Education Department director Dr Johan Brand said circuit inspectors had told principals to register every applicant.

"The whole strategy is that the pupil must be accepted at school. Once we know where we stand we can start moving pupils around and filling in the holes," he said.

In a statement released last night the ANC, NECC and South African Democratic

Teachers' Union (Sadtu) said the registration and admission of pupils had generally proceeded smoothly yesterday.

But NECC secretary Mr Sihle Moon accused the department of trying to confine the problem to black areas by cramming overcrowded schools with hundreds of pupils until new township schools were built.

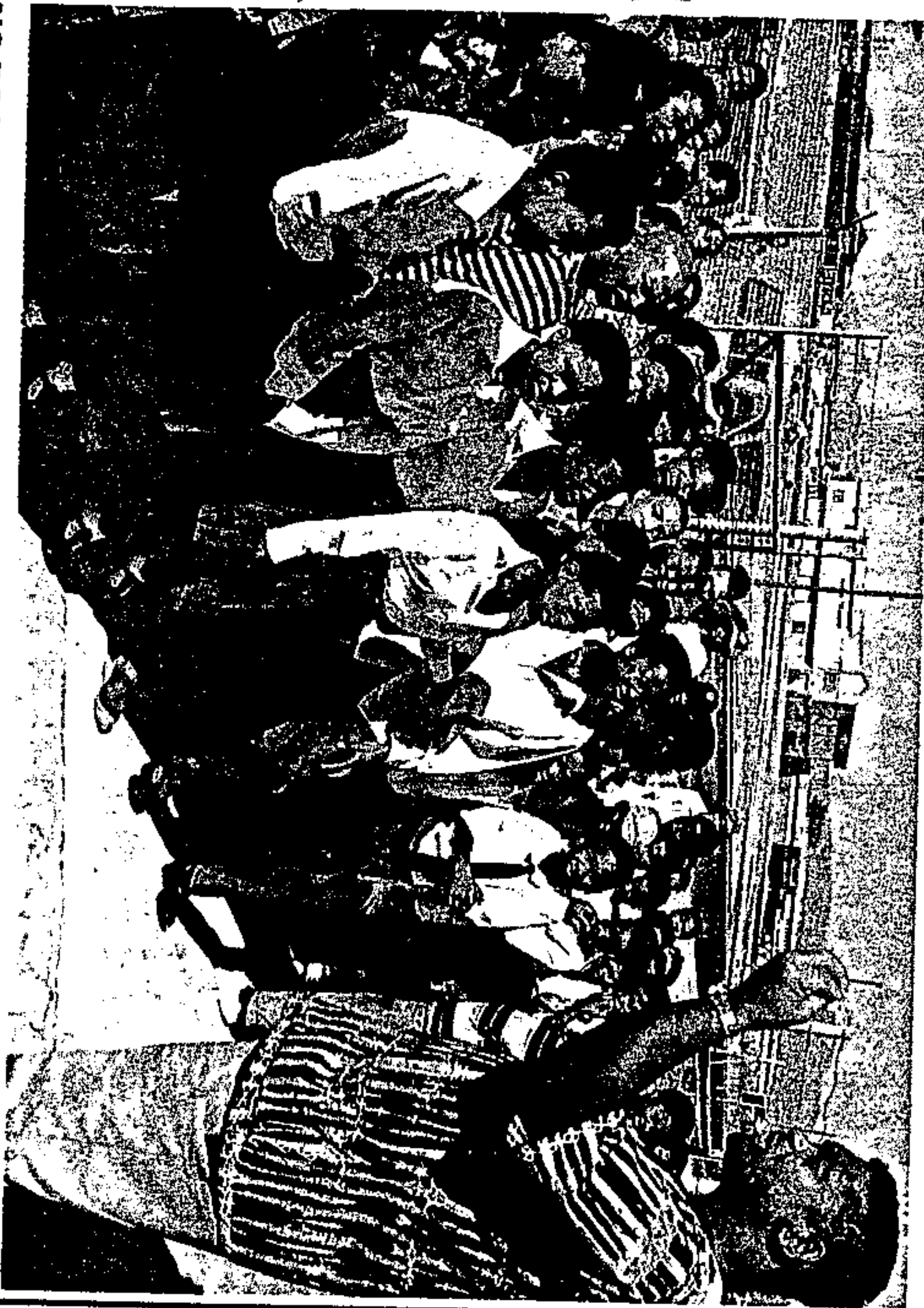
At mid-morning yesterday, Fezeka Senior Secondary principal Mr Bucks Baloyi explained to about 80 pupils, many in uniform, that the Guguletu school was full. Earlier he turned away 150 pupils and on Monday about 300 were refused places.

Nearby I D Mkhize High School was also full. Community workers said they had turned away about 1 000 pupils in the past two days.

Elsie's River High School said the school had already enrolled about 200 pupils more than it could accommodate, although more than 100 had to be turned away.

Spes Bona High School was also full.

● Fee confusion — Page 8



NO ROOM... Mr Bucks Baloyi, principal of Fezeka High School in Guguletu, tells new applicants the school is full.

Picture: BENNY GOOL

RUN FOR YOUR HOUSE, ENTER NOW

— PAGE 9

Waste site plan angers residents

By WILLEM STEENKAMP

MORE than 80 angry residents of the West Coast hamlet of Philadelphia last night rejected plans for a hazardous waste site nearby, and accused the developers of not including them in procedures.

Enviroserv, a subsidiary of waste consultants Wade Refuse, plans to dig a landfill for hazardous waste on a 300ha plot immediately next to the N7, within 2km of Philadelphia and less than 40km from the city.

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At a meeting in the Philadelphia NG Kerk hall residents claimed that consultants the Planning Partnership had not followed government guidelines for integrated environmental management procedures.

Mr Peter Kantor, a city attorney representing the community, said two-thirds of

the population — especially the "disadvantaged" community — had not been informed of the plans for the site.

Repeated statements by the Planning Partnership senior partner Mr Christo Kannenberg, who also chaired the meeting, that his company had tried "our best" to get all parties involved met with cries of derision.

It was decided to postpone the meeting to a future date, and the community will meet next week to discuss the problem.

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UNLEADED FUEL

Paying the piper

Can motorists and business afford the additional costs of unleaded fuel?

Oil companies have spent R270m preparing for its introduction; motor industry spokesmen says it is essential to keep SA abreast of global technology; catalytic converter manufacturers will benefit from an expanded market; government seems to favour the switch.

These factors will be on the mind of Mineral & Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha when he receives the report of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Introduction of Unleaded Fuel in a few weeks before submissions go to the Cabinet.

Neither Department of Mineral & Energy Affairs director of transport energy, Theunis Burger, nor spokesmen for the oil and motor industries are prepared to respond "at this stage" to allegations that the costs could put the introduction of unleaded fuel in jeopardy.

The field belongs mainly to critics. "Pollution levels do not justify unleaded fuel at this stage. Furthermore, cost implications are not acceptable to consumers who already spend a large proportion of their incomes on transport," says Consumer Council spokesman Paul Roos.

He feels motorists should have the right to choose between leaded and unleaded fuel — preferably at the same price. "Loss of engine power and increased fuel consumption caused by unleaded fuel may just sway public opinion," he says.

Director of UCT Energy Research Institute Richard Dutkiewicz says a study at

Cape Town's Foreshore traffic circle shows lead levels of "between 50% and 66% of the World Health Organisation's acceptable limits." He adds that the amount of lead now in the atmosphere caused by traffic is not a health hazard.

Dutkiewicz says unleaded fuel (with its lower octane levels) causes reduced engine efficiencies but the costs of producing the fuel go up "quite dramatically."

Should catalytic converters be introduced by law, installing new fuel injection technologies (and doing away with carburettors) and the so-called Lambda Sensor could be "very expensive. Scrapping the carburettor could cost an average of R2 500 per vehicle."

An AA spokesman says his organisation is concerned about pollution and supports the introduction of unleaded petrol. "Government should ensure that both leaded and unleaded petrol are available so that users of leaded petrol are not prejudiced by an additional financial burden."

The AA is more concerned about the manner in which unleaded petrol is introduced and possible tax implications for users of leaded petrol.

The spokesman says it is understood "that a 5% (9c/l) price differential has been recommended to government, which will mean that unleaded fuel will sell for 166c/l on the Reef at current prices. Given the fact that unleaded petrol is about 3c/l more expensive to produce, this means there is a gap of about 12c/l, for which someone will have to pay."

Overseas there is a tendency for governments to impose an additional tax on leaded petrol after unleaded fuel is introduced. "The motorist will be asked to cross-subsidise the use of unleaded fuel in SA. The AA wants to avoid consumers bearing this burden on their own."

The solution, the AA believes, might be for oil companies and government to share the burden. Oil companies claim they need a 20% unleaded share of petrol sales in the first year to make its introduction economically worthwhile. "Oil companies should accept a lower margin on sales, while government should forfeit a portion of its 60c/l fuel tax to soften the blow to motorists," the AA says.

It adds that a 1991 President's Council report on unleaded fuel found that, with increased fuel consumption, "the estimated cost of unleaded petrol would be 9% higher than that of leaded petrol because of the addition of expensive aromatics to achieve higher octane levels." Sasol Oil technical manager Jan Botha says the production costs of unleaded fuel would be "about 1,5c/l-3c/l more than for leaded fuel."

Petroleum Industry Association spokesman Colin McClelland says about 80% of global demand is for unleaded fuel, and with new engine technologies directed towards unleaded petrol, "the crude oil-based liquid fuels industry is responding to

Constitution opens the way for 'green' litigation, says expert

Supreme Court Reporter

THE constitution has opened the way for major environmental litigation, according to an article in the legal journal, *De Rebus*.

The article, dealing with "green rights", was written by Johannesburg attorney Des Williams.

He said the provisions of Section 29 of the constitution, namely the right of everyone to an environment which is not detrimental to their health or well-being, had opened the way for major environmental litigation.

"The Constitutional Court has not yet begun its work and there is still a degree of uncertainty as to a number of important questions

which will affect any litigant seeking relief against an infringement of the rights contained in Chapter Three of the constitution."

He said the way had been opened for class actions — court actions instituted by a group of people.

"It is only a matter of time before environmental activists use the procedures of the constitution to take steps in the interests of a group of people, or in the public interest, against activities which allegedly infringe the rights of section 29."

Mr Williams said it was possible the anti-smoking lobby could seek an order to the effect that the sale of cigarettes constituted an in-

fringement of the rights of passive smokers.

"Groups of workers whose health is threatened by unhealthy working conditions could take action against their employer by way of a class action. An individual may seek an order interdicting the state from disposing of radioactive materials at a particular disposal site." (56)

Mr Williams said it remained to be seen whether the Constitutional Court would encourage the development of class action procedure and whether environmental lawyers would "rise to the challenges and opportunities" the constitution presented.

ARG 20/1/95

Table Mountain at risk

Staff Reporter

TABLE MOUNTAIN could deteriorate into a pile of rock unless it was properly managed, environmentalist Dr Douglas Hey said yesterday.

Dr. Hey, chairman of the management advisory committee of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE), said it was essential that a new management plan be drawn up and implemented as soon as possible.

"Table Mountain is a priceless natural resource. Of course it must be used for outdoor recreation and tourism, but it is essential it is managed properly.

"Unless it is, there is a danger of over-usage, where trampling and too many people could damage the mountain and it could deteriorate into just a pile of rock," Dr Hey said.

The CPPNE is currently managed by various local authorities, departments and over 160 individuals.

(57) CT25/1/95

Turn national parks into assets, SA urged

BD 26/1/95

56 (258)

MICHAEL MOON

SA NEEDED to rethink its approach to national parks in order to make them more relevant to the majority of the population, world-renowned Kenyan conservationist Richard Leakey said yesterday.

The emphasis had to change and facilities altered to attract more foreign tourists, thereby bringing in foreign exchange and creating tourism sector jobs.

The Kruger National Park was a good example of a resource which had become identified with the former NP regime and was irrelevant to the majority in the country, said Leakey, who was in Johannesburg to deliver an address last night.

The parks had been akin to private resorts for the Afrikaner elite. And the way they continued to operate was not conducive to attracting foreigners. "Afrikaners used to enjoy having braais and the like. But you cannot expect Japanese tourists, for example, to want the same thing. They want a proper meal at the end of a day."

Parks such as Kruger were a world resource and should be retained, but their preservation depended on whether they could be made into an asset right now.

Historical factors meant many blacks

did not view parks in the same way as whites. And while blacks could now benefit from them, there was not enough space or facilities for everyone.

"The average Soweto voter could not give a damn about biodiversity. But he would listen carefully to the argument that such areas might contribute to development in the country," he said.

"The historically deprived must be considered, and a strategy must be adopted that is realistic and addresses the concerns of the majority of the voters." The best option was to improve the tourism aspects.

Leakey, who played a leading role in getting ivory trade banned, said he foresaw that within a few years it might be possible to drop the ban.

"I do not see in principle why there should not be trade in ivory. But you need to deal with the practicalities of Africa, where there is inadequate policing and smuggling is so easy that it inevitably leads to poaching. Poaching has been stemmed by the ban. But in two or three years time we could look at it again to see if it is feasible to allow art trading again."

Nature body gets new name

Staff Reporter

THE Southern African Nature Foundation (SANF) will officially change its name to WWF South Africa on February 1.

This follows a request made by its parent organisation WWF (World Wide Fund For Nature) at its annual conference in Austria last year.

CT 30/1/95
WWF is one of the world's largest private international conservation organisations, with 28 subsidiaries around the world and 5.2 million supporters. (56)

'War' on single currency for EU

BRUSSELS. — Politicians and central bankers are waging what amounts to guerilla warfare over the European Union's plans to create a single currency in just under two years' time.

Theirs is a hearts and minds campaign to influence public opinion, but behind it lie deeper political issues including fear of failure, national pride, and who pulls the strings. (56)

On one side are the bankers who insist the economic and political foundations must be firmly and permanently in place before any move to currency union.

Facing them are politicians who have grabbed on to the tail of the economic recovery and begun promoting a quick move to a single currency as a way of cementing the bloc.

The final decision will be theirs.

Bank of England Governor Eddie George was yesterday the latest to add his voice to the chorus of central bankers sniping at the idea that the single currency could, or even should, be created at the start of 1997. CT 1/2/95

"It is a mistake to think that, due to the cyclical changes of the past few years, a single currency is within reach," George told the French business daily *Les Echos*.

Under the Maastricht Treaty, a single currency can only be created between 1997 and the end of 1998 if a majority of the EU's 15 member states meet a set of targets on government debts and deficits, currency stability, inflation and interest rates.

"That seems to me unlikely," George said.

Ranged against the doubting bankers — who have done much in the past 18 months to co-ordinate their policies and therefore smooth the way for currency union — are the politicians who by and large have done very little.

SA marine crisis denied

CT 3/2/95

~~SA~~ Staff Reporter (56)

A FISHERIES chief director Dr Louis Botha has refuted claims that the country's marine resources are in a crisis through mismanagement.

He said he disagreed with Western Cape Marine Conservation Society chairman Mr Vic Kabalin that catches in local waters were only 20% of what they were 26 years ago.

"Countries in the northern hemisphere, particularly France, Germany and Britain, have major problems with their marine resources, but South African resources are not in a crisis.

"Rock lobster is the only one we have a problem with. But this is not through mismanagement," he said.

He said pilchards, which were over-exploited in the past, had recovered.

Perlemoen quotas had been stable for decades.

Horse mackerel quotas had tripled.

Anchovy quotas varied between 150 000 and 600 000, depending on the state of the stocks which were affected by environmental factors.

'Political football' threat to Cape mountain chain

56

ARG 14/2/95

□ Private report urges national park status

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TABLE Mountain and the rest of the Peninsula mountain chain has become a "political football", and environmental affairs minister Dawie de Villiers should initiate steps to have the area declared a national park.

Also, the current CPPNE (Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment) management advisory committee should be dissolved, and powers delegated to Western Cape premier Hernus Kriel regarding the mountain's management should be withdrawn.

So say two of the people directly involved in environmental planning for the mountain chain; landscape architect Paul Britton and botanist James Jackelman.

Although both are employees of the Cape Town city council, their remarks are contained in

a report issued in their private capacities, *The Conservation of the Cape Peninsula Mountain Chain: A proposed way forward.*

They pointed out that both the recent UCT report *Policy for the multi-purpose use of the Cape Peninsula* and the interim Kahn report, *Rationalisation of public land in CPPNE*, had far-reaching implications for the future use of the Cape Peninsula mountain chain.

"We are concerned about the relatively low level of political and public awareness of the asset value of the Cape Peninsula and the consequent weak political will and commitment, as reported by UCT," they said.

"This has led to a lack of impetus in processing the UCT report. Nobody has publicly accepted responsibility."

The current restructuring of municipal boundaries and the creation of the Cape Metropolitan Council had further impli-

cations, as did the sub-regional plan for the southern Peninsula currently being finalised.

The Peninsula mountain chain was essentially a national asset which required provincial or national funding.

"As provincial conservation subsidies are being phased out and Western Cape Nature Conservation is facing budget cuts, national funding would be the only answer.

"But will this be forthcoming? If national status is obtained, access to worldwide funding could be achieved."

National park status "clearly fitted the bill" in terms of primary criteria for a conservation authority for the Peninsula mountain chain, although the National Parks Board would have to establish a management structure to accommodate "the very parochial concerns of locals, residents and managers".

Also, local expertise and experience would have to be utilised by the National Parks Board to ensure that "Pretoria doesn't rule the waves".

The report was presented in their private and professional capacities "in the best interests of the conservation of this priceless heritage".

"While it is agreed that the proposals made in this report will still require considerable debate, we challenge other organisations who have a better alternative to publicly pronounce it," they said.

Interested parties can voice their views on the proposed expansion of the waste disposal site at Vissershok. The site can be utilised for another 25 years. But, residents of Morning Star will have the site virtually on their doorstep. The question remains as to what kind of waste will be dumped at the proposed site. JOHN YELD reports.

N7 waste site: Bid for major expansion

13/2/95

PROPOSALS to expand Waste-tech's hazardous waste disposal site at Vissershok which will allow it to be used for another 25 years are being assessed by authorities and interest groups like environmentalists and local residents.

The proposed expansion programme will take the site's boundaries to within about 500m of the Morning Star small-holding community to the north. There are already two well-established informal shack communities on its borders.

The Vissershok site, 25km north of Cape Town off the N7, has been used for waste disposal for 20 years.

But, newly gazetted "minimum standard" regulations for waste disposal sites in terms of the Environment Conservation Act require the company to apply formally for a permit from the department of water affairs to operate the site.

The company — an established firm of waste contractors which provides collection and disposal services for domestic, medical and hazardous wastes — is also using the application for permission to expand the site significantly, from 40ha to 110ha.

At present, it handles about 132 000 tons of non-hazardous waste (slightly more than half of which is generated by industry) and just over 19 000 tons of hazardous waste each year.

The company operates another site at Bellville Park, next to Bellville stadium, for the disposal of non-hazardous waste such as domestic waste, garden refuse, building rubble and non-hazardous industrial waste.

This site is scheduled to close in 1997, and the company wants to use the expanded Vissershok site for waste now going to the Bellville Park site.

"In addition to the closure of Bellville Park, there is a general shortage of suitable waste disposal sites in the Western Cape," it said in an information package about its proposals.

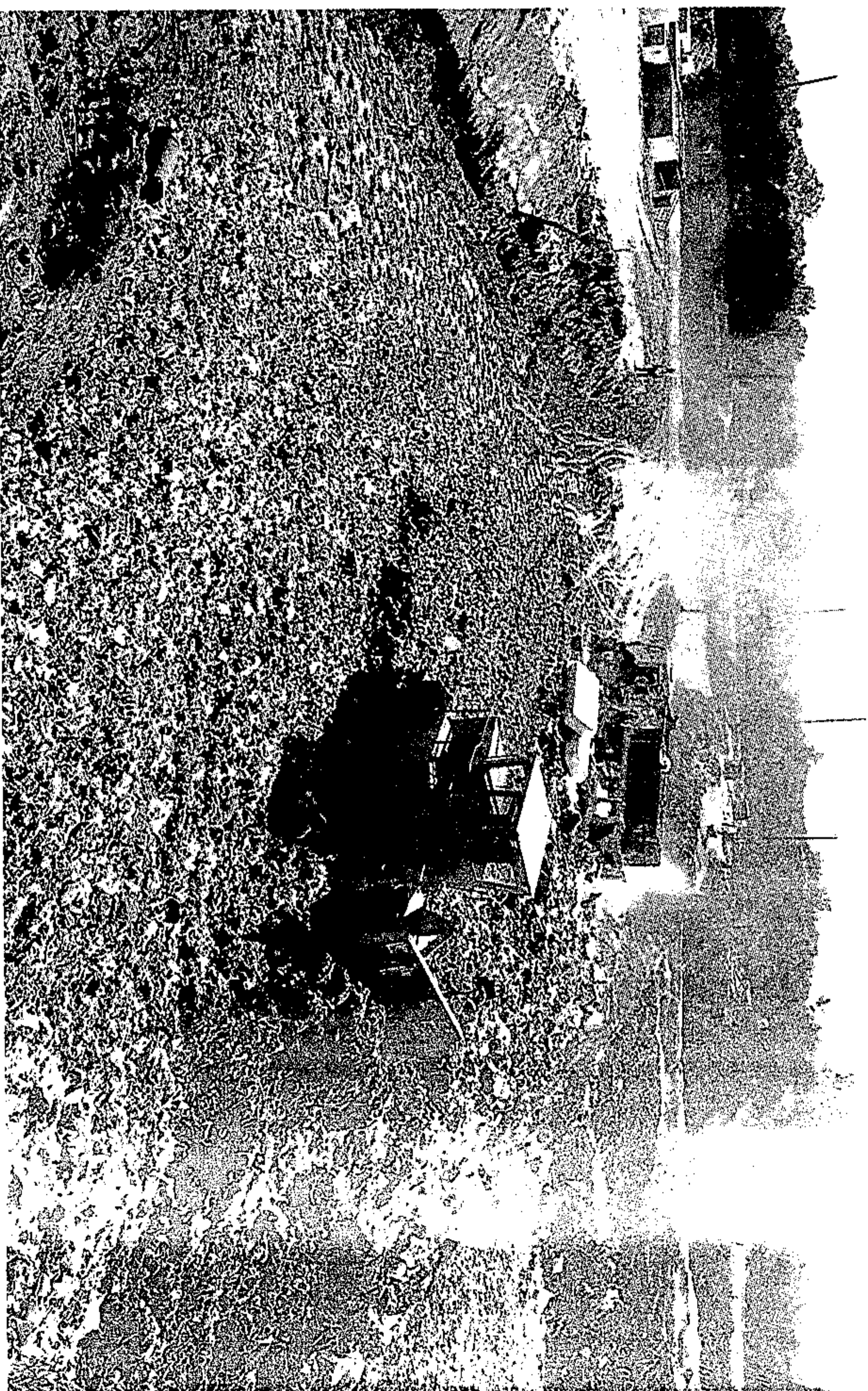
"The population of the greater Cape Town metropolitan region is also expected to increase from three to six million over the next 30 years, and this increase will be accompanied by increasing industrialisation and a concomitant increase in both non-hazardous and hazardous wastes."

Its proposals are being assessed by local authorities, landowners, civic groups and environmentalists, among others, following site visits and workshops in past weeks where the company explained its motivation for the proposal.

A spokesman for Nihnam Shand, the firm of environmental and consulting engineers appointed by the company to conduct a full public participation programme, said it (Waste-tech) was aware of problems and perceptions commonly associated with waste disposal sites.

"The aim of this programme is to inform interested and affected parties — such as neighbouring landowners, local authorities, environmental groups and civic associations — of proposals to expand the site and to provide them with an opportunity of identifying issues and concerns.

"Such issues and concerns raised during the programme will be forwarded to the waste company, the department of water affairs and forestry and other local and re-

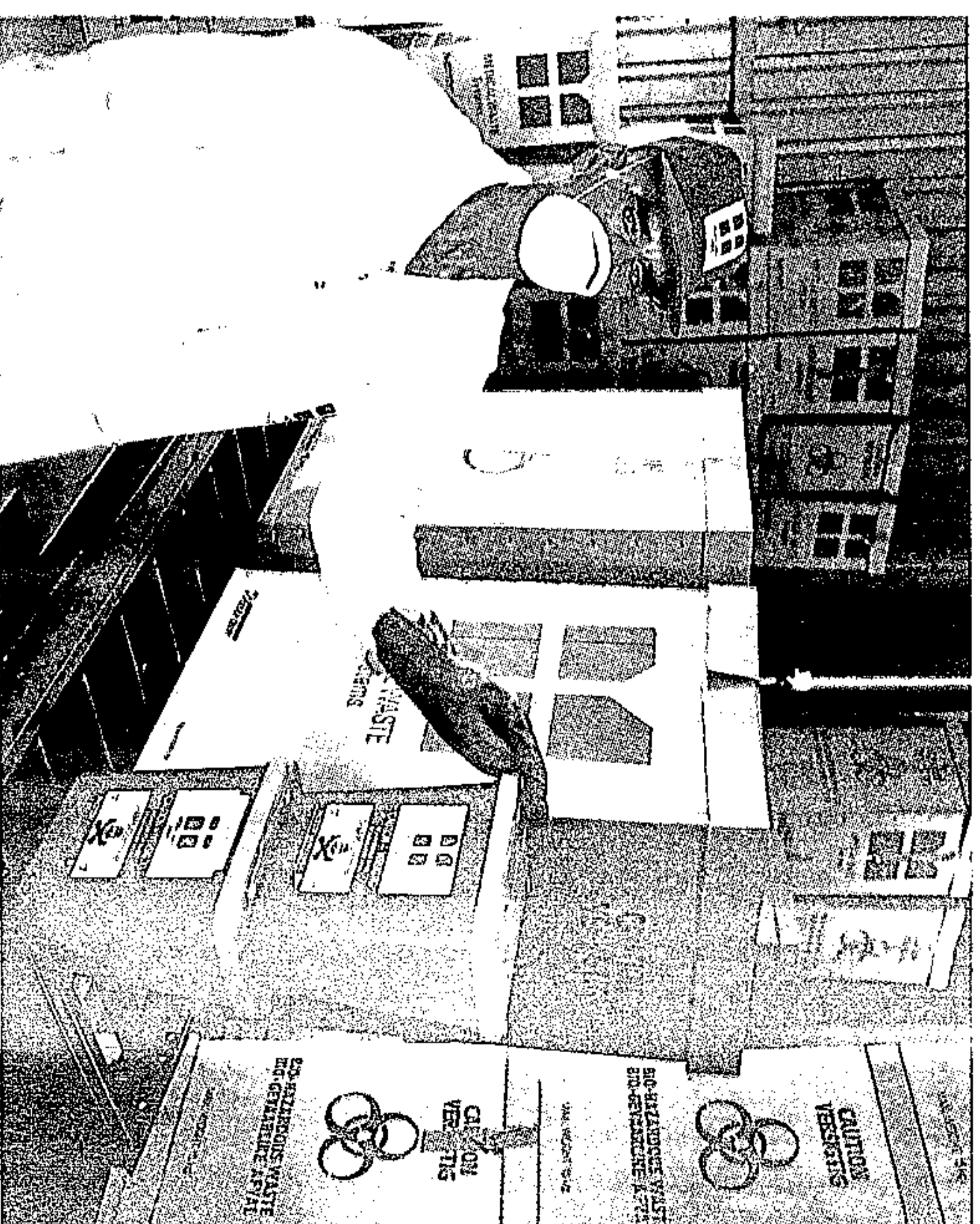


MAJOR OPERATION: A compacter at work in the main non-hazardous landfill area of Waste-tech's Vissershok site. The white area on the left is waste that has been compacted and covered with a clay layer, prior to re-qualification. In the background, top left, are concrete containers holding toxic waste that cannot be neutralised.



YUKI A lagoon of oily waste, left, before treatment at the disposal site.

HANDLE WITH CARE: Robert Wagener, below, of Blouberg tries to load cartons of medical waste into the incinerator at Waste-tech's Vissershok hazardous waste disposal site.



gional authorities to help them assess the public's response." The objections and comments would also be passed to the firm which had been commissioned to conduct an environmental impact assessment of the proposed expansion and upgrading.

For further information, contact Tony Barbour, 24-5544.

Metro council vows to fight Jukskei pollution

56

BY ANNA COX

The Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council yesterday agreed to take urgent and immediate action to fight the high bacterial counts in the Jukskei River.

Johannesburg Democratic Party leader Claire Quail said that as the North-Eastern Metropolitan Substructure had no powers to act and could not allocate funds to unblock drains in Alexandra, it was imperative for the TMC executive committee to act urgently.

Water studies revealed that bacteria counts in

the river had reached 12 million for each 100 ml of water. The normal count for water for recreational use should be 200.

Blocked drains in Alexandra had forced raw sewage to flow into the river, resulting in the high count.

Said Quail: "We have a serious problem because squatters living along the banks of the river use the water every day for drinking, cooking and washing. Children also play in the river. The danger of serious diseases such as diarrhoea, polio and cholera could

4/2/95
cause an epidemic."

Executive committee chairman Colin Matjila said his committee had already taken steps to alleviate the situation and added that a full report would be submitted to the council at its next meeting. Councillors would be asked to vote funds to unblock the drains.

The TMC recently gave R188 000 to a youth community group, Work to Win, to train unemployed youths to unblock and maintain drains. Work has already begun on a small section of Alexandra and will last for six months.

DP criticises IDC over eco-tourism

Political Staff

ET 8/2/95
the potential beneficiaries.

THE Democratic Party yesterday slammed the government-owned Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) for its failure to spend millions of rands on promoting eco-tourism.

The DP said it deplored reports emanating from the IDC that millions of rands of development capital for eco-tourism remained unused because of "uncertainty and ignorance" on the part of

"The DP believes eco-tourism holds the key to massive benefits for those areas most sorely in need of socio-economic development.

It asked IDC managers to "dispel the underlying causes of this highly unsatisfactory state of affairs".

It suggested, for example, that guidelines to submitting applications should be made available in a number of languages.

Houses on Rietvlei: Call for impact study

□ *Wildlife Society asks Kalako to stall development*

ARG 16/2/95 (56)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TRANSNET'S controversial proposal to build houses on the northern banks of the Rietvlei lagoon should be subjected to an Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) process, which includes public participation and a full impact assessment.

This is the opinion of the Wildlife Society which has asked regional environmental affairs minister Lerumo Kalako not to approve a permit for the development before an assessment has been made.

The proposed development is within the declared Rietvlei Protected Natural Environment (PNE) and a permit is required before development or change in land use.

In an open letter to Mr Kalako,

the Wildlife Society said the development proposal was "ill-conceived" and that Transnet had chosen to use the South African Transport Services Act of 1989, which precluded the need to allow public comment, to push its proposal.

But the legislation expired next month which allowed an "ideal opportunity" for the correct process to be followed.

"In line with your request in 1994 that the UCT Environmental Evaluation Unit report be made public, we urge you to request that the developers follow the IEM procedure which is transparent, includes adequate public participation and involves consideration of the total environment," the society's letter stated.

Although the rationale given to develop the land was economic, the type of development planned would "once again" allow privi-

leged ownership and deny access to what was an international asset.

There had been great effort on the part of many non-government organisations, the Rietvlei Action Group, CSIR, World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF-SA) and the Milnerton municipality to ensure sound environmental planning, adequate management and legislated protection for this "world-renowned system".

"As Rietvlei is a Protected Natural Environment, we are aware that your ministry will be required to issue or refuse a permit for this ill-conceived development.

"We therefore request that, prior to the consideration of granting a permit for development within the Rietvlei PNE — in accordance with the Environment Conservation Act of 1989 — a full environmental impact assessment is conducted within an IEM process."

● Mr Kalako's office has been asked to respond.

'Fatal flaws' in waste dump plan

By WILLEM STEENKAMP

(56)

THERE were at least seven possible "fatal flaws" in plans to construct a hazardous waste dump within two kilometres of the tiny West Coast hamlet of Philadelphia, a meeting there last night was told.

About 60 Philadelphia residents last night unanimously endorsed a resolution that opposed the dump, which is being proposed by waste company Enviroserv.

CT 24/1/95
Enviroserv wants to build a dump for class 1 hazardous waste, which includes heavy metals, carcinogens and medical waste, alongside the N7 on a 40ha parcel of Klipvlei farm.

Mr Peter Kantor, an attorney representing the Philadelphia Action Group, told the meeting that at least seven possible fatal flaws made the proposed dump unfeasible.

These were that the dump would be in a

seismologically unstable area, in a sensitive catchment area, overlying an aquifer, close to incompatible land such as residential and farming areas, upwind of the community, that it would attract birds into an area with an airstrip and that it failed "to meet public acceptance".

If the government accepted any one of those flaws, Enviroserv would be forced to concentrate on alternative sites — which it had not yet identified.

Opposition grows to N7 toxic waste dump

56
PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

ARG 24/1/95
OPPOSITION to a proposed toxic waste dump on the N7 near Philadelphia is steadily increasing, with the Philadelphia Action Group (PAG) vowing to oppose the waste dump's construction with "all means at our disposal".

At a meeting in the town's Ned Geref Kerk hall last night, several speakers among a crowd of about 60 residents voiced surprise at the proposed plans, saying Philadelphia was — in environmental terms — the worst possible site for such a dump.

The proposed plan by waste disposers EnviroServ to construct a landfill for hazardous waste on

the farm Klipvlei next to the N7, two kilometres from Philadelphia, has met with growing resistance since it was first aired in September.

General and class one hazardous waste — including heavy metals, poisonous substances, carcinogens and medical waste — would be disposed of at the site.

"The HH-grading of the site would mean that everything except nuclear waste could be disposed of here," said local NGK minister and PAG-convenor Jan Mostert.

Residents fear the site might contaminate ground water in an area dependent on boreholes for all water.

Green issues demand attention from industrialists

(56) BD 16/2/95

CAPE TOWN — The environmental row brewing between Saldanha Bay's tourism interests and Iscor, which is planning to set up a R3,6bn steel mill in the area, is an example of concerns that will have to be tackled by industrialists when planning new developments in SA.

Iscor has said it is investigating four potential sites in Saldanha Bay.

However, the local town council has received a number of objections to the rezoning by Iscor of a site it owns and which has been used as the basis for the group's environmental impact study.

The dispute is not new. Broadly, it boils down to industrial development versus environmental interests. But the economic benefits of the plant to Saldanha Bay and SA as a whole appear unquestionable.

The plant, scheduled for completion in 1998, represents a major capital investment project. About 4 000 new jobs will be created during its three-year construction period, and 600 permanent jobs once it is up and running. Another 1 200 to 1 800 new jobs will be created in the region if Iscor contracts out support services.

The plant will have an annual production of 1,2-million tons of hot-rolled steel coil, potentially worth R1,6bn to Iscor and hundreds of millions of rands in export earnings. The plant has already generated R265m in new investment plans by Portnet to upgrade Saldanha's port facilities. Portnet also plans to increase staff by a third once the upgrading is operational.

The 40 000-strong Saldanha Bay-Vredenburg community is largely dependent on the fishing sector, most small businesses and industries in the area are geared towards fishing.

But by the Sea Fisheries Department's own admission, SA's fishing resources need to be carefully managed, as they are being fished to the maximum and show little long-term growth potential.

Saldanha-Vredenburg town clerk John de Klerk said: "We have been waiting for this development for 20 years (the idea of establishing a steel plant in Saldanha was first mooted in the early '70s), but the greenies are making life difficult.

"Our community has shown little growth because of its dependence on the fishing sector."

Saldanha residents confirm this view. Resistance to the proposed siting has emanated mainly from a small number of tourism-related business interests in Saldanha Bay.

The site in question is about 3km from the nearest residential area and coastal leisure resort Blue Water Bay, and 4km from Club Mykonos in Langebaan.

Although the Cape Botanical Society has expressed concern over Iscor's measures to protect the environmentally sensitive limestone shrubbery, the site appears barren, punctuated only by sparse, dry scrub.

Iscor has promised to address as many environmental concerns as is technologically possible.

De Klerk says Club Mykonos, the Lange-

baan municipality and the parks board have indicated they intend to object to the rezoning, with the major environmental concern being the visibility of the plant and its closeness to the coast.

Although a Club Mykonos director refused to go on record with his concerns about the site, as did other resort owners in the area, they boiled down to "not in my backyard".

As one Saldanha businessman put it: "Most businessmen around here are nervous about the siting of the plant, but they are afraid to say so openly because they fear Iscor will move the plant to another town."

Iscor says it intends establishing the plant on the coast to enhance the competitiveness of its exports. Moving the plant inland would inevitably result in higher product handling costs.

"We are going to the public with a rights issue to finance the plant, which will be active in Saldanha for many years to come. We don't want a white elephant on our hands," says Iscor public affairs manager Neels Howatt.

At a meeting last week, Saldanha ratepayers, citing potential social problems, opposed the establishment of a workers' hostel near Blue Water Bay on a site that used to be occupied by Mossagas workers.

Iscor countered by saying it intended to create family units for workers.

Concerns have also been raised by Namakwa Sands.

GM George Brown is discussing with Iscor the possibility of dust contamination of Namakwa Sands' product from the steel plants' stockpiled materials.

"We feel that, like Namakwa Sands, heavy industry should be situated well out of town and away from tourist attractions," he says.

Langebaan town clerk Floras Brand says his town council is concerned about possible marine and land pollution.

However, De Klerk says industrial effluent will not be discharged into the sea, and stack emissions will amount to only thin wisps of white smoke. "The visibility pollution is a factor, but it is a price we must pay for development."

Saldanha remains one of the prettiest towns on the West Coast, but residents claim that tourism, in spite of active marketing over the years, has contributed little to the community.

The closeness of Club Mykonos to the proposed site is a point worth considering. Although tourists are unlikely to want to go to a resort on the doorstep of a giant steel mill, high sand dunes and the Strategic Fuel Fund's vast oil storage tanks stand between the site and the resort.

Notwithstanding the fact that one would have to — as De Klerk puts it — "crane one's neck at Club Mykonos to see even the top of a smoke stack", the steel plant could bring a great deal of Iscor-related new business to the resort, which boasts one of

the top conference facilities in the province.

Club Mykonos recently employed top foreign consultants to study the feasibility of establishing a multimillion-rand casino at the resort. The steel plant is likely to affect their decisions.

A Saldanha hotel owner says the tourist business is slow at the best of times, mostly concentrated in the Christmas and Easter holidays. She says most of her business comes from travelling businessmen who stop in the town overnight.

Nevertheless, the environmental concerns about the plant will have to be addressed. The Saldanha-Vredenburg metropolitan council has received a number of complaints to which Iscor will have to respond.

The final decision on whether to rezone the Iscor site will rest with the provincial government. With an extension already granted to Iscor for Section 37E accelerated tax write-offs, the construction of the plant cannot be delayed for too long.

Although Western Cape premier Herms

Kriel has expressed his support for the project, tourism minister Lerumo Kalako would not express a view on the plant until his department had carried out further studies on the proposal.

Ultimately Iscor and Saldanha's community will have to walk the tight-rope of a long-term balance between industrial development and environmental interests — interests which neither party can ignore.

Industrialists

Thousands of identity documents unclaimed

□ Municipal election registration starts Friday

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

THOUSANDS of identity documents are lying unclaimed in the Department of Home Affairs offices in Cape Town — and unless their owners collect them, they will not be eligible to vote in the forthcoming municipal elections.

Registration begins on Friday and will take place over the next three months.

Home Affairs regional representative Piet Schoeman confirmed that more than 20 000 identity documents had been issued for city collection points.

Many of the identity documents had stemmed from the issuing of temporary voters' cards as these cards had been treated as identity document applications.

The biggest pile of unclaimed documents is at Nyanga, where 14 288 docu-

ments had not been claimed at the end of last month.

Other figures for the city are 2 499 documents at the Wynberg office, 1 102 at Cape Town regional office and 4 075 in Bellville.

"It is very important that people collect their forms or they may apply again without realising their document is ready," Mr Schoeman said.

However, the number of unclaimed documents was small compared to the hundreds of thousands of applications the department dealt with last year in anticipation of national elections, he said.

Meanwhile, a system is being developed to accommodate people who are in the process of applying for documents during the registration period.

The National Task Team on Local Government, which is being co-chaired by Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert and Khehla Shubane, is contemplating al-

lowing voters to register if they have a slip from Home Affairs indicating they have applied for a document.

However, this system has not yet been agreed on and, according to the regulations governing registration, an identity document is a prerequisite for registration.

Mr Schoeman said it would take an estimated six weeks for a document to be issued.

This meant that people who had not applied previously could, in theory, be issued with a document before the three months had lapsed, if they applied now.

In the Cape metropole, about 2,5 million voters are expected to register in a process which might cost as much as R8 million.

Among the first to register in Cape Town will be Western Cape local government minister Peter Marais.

ruck hijacked y armed gang

me Reporter

FULLY loaded truck was hijacked in Voortrekker Road near row Industria today.

A police spokesman said an armed gang pounced on the driver of the RTT Freight truck at Dam, forced him out of the cab and sped off with the lorry in the direction of Mitchell's Plain.

About two hours later police recovered the truck in a bush next to the R300 freeway near Mt. Two suspects were spotted near the truck when police approached.

A bakkie loaded with video machines was also found near the scene. The men fled into the dense bush. The police Dog Unit is helping with the hunt for the suspects.

Opposition grows to N7 toxic waste dump

PIETER MALAN
Staff Reporter

OPPOSITION to a proposed toxic waste dump on the N7 near Philadelphia is steadily increasing, with the Philadelphia Action Group (PAG) vowing to oppose the waste dump's construction with "all means at our disposal".

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the farm Klipvlei next to the N7, two kilometres from Philadelphia, has met with growing resistance since it was first aired in September.

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Residents fear the site might contaminate ground water in an area dependent on boreholes for all water.

Kaolin truckings plan

36

ARG 30/1/95

Residents fear traffic and road dangers

GILL TURNBULL
Staff Reporter

A NOORDHOEK residents' meeting has vetoed a Johannesburg mining company's plan to truck crude kaolin from a new mine on Chapman's Peak to Brakkeklouf, the company's established plant on the opposite side of the valley above Sun Valley.

However, by the time a vote of 20-9 against was taken last Thursday, most of the more than 100 people who attended the often-heated meeting had gone home.

Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, for Serina Mining Company, suggested although trucking would be more expensive for the company it would be more "environment-friendly" because this would reduce the Chapman's Peak stockpile more quickly.

The company sought approval for its plan to truck 16 000 loads (200 000 tons) of crude kaolin for 12 months while laying slurry pipelines along Noordhoek main road from Chapman's Peak to Brakkeklouf.

This meant 45 12-ton trucks (90 trips with return journeys) a day during office hours — estimated at a truck every six minutes. In return for this concession

Serina offered to pay the R1 million cost of a tandem sewerage pipeline, which Noordhoek rate-payers would otherwise have to bear as Noordhoek's increasing numbers of septic tanks are polluting ground water.

Those against the trucking were concerned about the noise, safety and the impact of 16 000 12-ton trucks on the existing road.

On the question of the heavy traffic's impact on safety, Wildlife Society manager, Andy Gubb, said many horse riders, including young children, used the road every day.

"Horses can be unpredictable and skittish and when you look at the possible death of one child what is R1 million?"

A man pointed out from the floor that wear and tear on the road could cost the roads department many millions.

Some residents expressed scepticism at the company's undertaking not to work after office hours, pointing out that at the company's operation at Trentham, opposite Cape Dutch Nurseries, this same undertaking had been broken.

A Serina official admitted the Trentham plant had had "problems" and had worked over some weekends.

The meeting heard the company planned to mine a pit of up to 40 metres deep with a horizontal

perspective view of about five metres. The view from the top of Ouksaapseweg would be about 20 metres.

The operation would take out about 30 percent of the earth and return the rest to be rehabilitated with grass and possibly wild barley or oats.

Mr Gubb took the authorities to task for not having followed a public participation process procedure when advertising the meeting. Mr Gubb asked why the Noordhoek council had posted notices on lamp posts instead of advertising in the Press to the wider community.

● In an interview with Southern Argus after the meeting Mr Gubb said he had heard the site was due to be rezoned for residential purposes after mining was finished.

He expressed concern about the effects of heavy winter rainfall on the slurry dam on Chapman's Peak and the possibility the stockpiles might collapse.

"If their dam broke what would be the penalties for Serina?"

"Last year we had torrential rains and there were white rivers running down from Brakkeklouf which damaged the main Noordhoek road. At that time I inspected the dam and it was almost full and had it collapsed as happened in the Transvaal we could have had a major flood disaster in Sun Valley."

Vetoed

Bill to ban mining in wetlands under fire

CAPE TOWN — The Wetlands Conservation Bill which aims to outlaw mining in 225 000ha of SA's wetlands, including the St Lucia area, has been tabled in Parliament.

The legislation, immediately criticised yesterday by both pro- and anti-mining lobbies in the St Lucia dispute, was introduced as a private member's Bill — which means it does not necessarily have the support of any political party. Some ANC MPs said it would probably be backed by a majority in their party.

The Bill seeks to have the international Ramsar convention on wetlands written

TIM COHEN and
MICHAEL MOON

into SA law. Introduced by ANC Senator Stefanus Grové, it was initially formulated by former ANC MP Rob Haswell whose attempts to pilot it through the old Parliament were blocked for three years.

The Bill was passed by the ANC-dominated parliamentary select committee on private members' proposals and will be referred to the Office of the State President because of its implications for state land. The Environmental Affairs select

committee will then discuss it and hear public submissions. **BD 1/2/95**

The Ramsar convention has designated 12 SA wetlands as internationally important sites, and the Bill seeks to have these and other areas protected from damaging activities such as mining.

Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) said the Bill was an attempt to block the company's planned titanium dredge mining operations on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia. If the Bill was enacted and mining

To Page 2

Wetlands (56) **BD 1/2/95**

From Page 1

at St Lucia prohibited, jobs would be lost and the company would lose five years of economic life, "with concomitant ripple effects in the region's socioeconomics".

"RBM fully supports the conservation of wetlands, but believes that as the Environment Affairs Department is drafting new legislation which will probably give holistic support to this principle, the private members' Bill is superfluous."

The Bill contradicted constitutional principles which called for multiple land use, said RBM.

A spokesman for the Natal Parks Board, which has strongly opposed the mining

plans, said the Bill was flawed in that it was too obviously focused on the St Lucia issue and wider protective measures were needed to cover all the country's wetlands.

Board planning head Trevor Sandwith said integrated environmental management legislation being drafted under the existing Environmental Conservation Act could achieve this.

A final decision on whether to allow dune mining in St Lucia rests with Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha, who has said land claims in the area have to be dealt with first. A commission to look into land claims was appointed last month.

Bill to protect wetlands tabled

CT 1/2/95 (56)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

DRAFT legislation has been tabled in Parliament to protect 12 wetlands — including St Lucia and six estuaries in the Cape — and prevent mining in them.

The Wetlands Conservation Bill was first introduced into Parliament by the former ANC MP for Maritzburg South, Mr Rob Haswell, in May 1992 and has now been approved for debate in the Senate.

The Senate Select Committee on Private Members Bills has agreed to submit the measure for debate, after it was re-tabled by the ANC's Senator Stefanus Grove.

However, last year the Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, indicated that his department was planning amendments to the bill.

A relieved Mr Haswell said yesterday he was told by all parties at the time that they supported the measure, but it had been

St Lucia will not be mined

buried in the Select Committee on Private Members Motions, which was chaired by a former cabinet minister, Mr Adriaan Vlok, at the time.

"I am pleased it has been resurrected and I hope it gets unanimous support," he said.

"It should sail through Parliament."

Mr Haswell, who was appointed an alderman of Maritzburg this week, said the ANC had not endorsed the measure as such, but he hoped it would support it.

The bill will require the

government to implement the provisions of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar), which was adopted in 1971 and signed by South Africa.

A "wetland" is defined as a range of environment types including springs, marshes, rivers, vleis, swamp forests, estuaries and even coral reefs.

An explanatory memorandum said: "Historically wetlands have been regarded as unproductive and even unhealthy wastelands. This has led to many errors." It said 12 South African wetlands of international importance had been designated under the Ramsar Convention, including the De Hoop Vlei (750ha), De Mond State Forest, Heuningnes Estuary (918 ha), Langebaan (6 000ha), Wilderness Lakes (850ha), Verlorenvlei (1 700ha) and the Orange River Mouth Wetland (2 000ha).

The 155 000ha St Lucia system had also been designated.

'Whereas banks do financing on collateral, we do it on potential. Our security is the feasibility study,' the IDC tells Anita Allen

Millions for ecotourism 'lie idle'

(56) ~~Star~~ Star 11/21/95

The conservation and ecotourism industry is not making use of hundreds of millions of rands which the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) is prepared to make available for development, according to the general managers of the state-owned agency's industrial development division.

They identified two main causes for the lack of applications for financing of ecotourism projects:

- Uncertainty surrounding the control of national and other proclaimed parks, which has resulted in development plans being put on hold.
- Fundamental misconceptions within the conservation community of what constitutes an economically viable project.

In the two years since the IDC first announced it was willing to grant R600 million in loan financing for ecotourism ventures, only 33 applications for R257 million have been received. Of these 14 projects, mainly for lodges and accommodation, have been approved for a total R65 million.

The only significant projects have been the upgrading of the Natal Parks Board's Hilltop Camp in Hluhluwe Game Reserve, the building of a link road through the corridor between Hluhluwe and Umfolozi and the construction of a two new lodges in the Madikwe Game Reserve.

Two projects for R1 million were rejected, and 17 applications were either not investigated or were withdrawn, mainly due to being incomplete or for not complying with the basic criteria of the scheme.

IDC general managers Jan de

Bryun, Ben Smith and Bertus de Vos said two problems identified in the IDC's 1993 and 1994 annual reports remained unresolved.

The 1993 report said that tourism needed "a higher priority in government as obstacles to the development of South Africa's unique selling features in the international market relate mainly to inadequate co-ordination and bureaucratic impediments."

The 1994 report said "it is unlikely that there will be any significant increase in demand for IDC finance until the control and direction of the public sector nature reserves have been resolved."

The IDC managers rejected recent criticisms in the media of the corporation's *modus operandi*. They said the fundamental problem with applications from conservation authorities and organisations stemmed from a lack of understanding by applicants about how the IDC's ecotourism financing operated.

The IDC's traditional role has been to provide loans for industrial manufacturing development. In 1982, it announced its willingness to extend this to the development of ecotourism after the government's White Paper on Tourism identified that lack of finance and ready access to sources of finance were impeding the development of the industry, which is potentially one of South Africa's most important generators of foreign exchange and new jobs.

At the time, the IDC said it could make R800 million available, a figure which was based on the estimated cost of provid-



One of the biggest IDC projects . . . upgrading of accommodation and tourist facilities at the Natal Parks Board's Hilltop Camp in Hluhluwe Game Reserve.

ing 3 000 additional beds over the next five to six years to cater for a 12 percent per annum increase in foreign tourists.

But, strictly speaking, there is no limit on the total amount the IDC could make available for the development of ecotourism facilities.

De Bryun stressed that there was no R600 million "fund" sitting gathering mothballs. Finance was available out of the normal cash flows of the IDC.

As far as individual loans were concerned, the IDC collaborates with shareholders and banks on financing and technically does not look at the amount that is required. It has

granted loans as small as R150 000.

What determines whether it is handled by the IDC or its subsidiary the Small Business Development Corporation, is the amount of aftercare that is needed. The latter has a mentor programme, which caters for new or budding entrepreneurs.

The way the IDC operates, an applicant's submission is handed to a projects team, which conducts its own feasibility study to determine economic viability.

"Whereas banks do financing mainly on collateral, we do it mainly on potential. Our security is the feasibility study — can the applicant meet commitments and generate sufficient revenue to finance loans?" De Bryun said.

One problem he pointed out was that conservation authorities have traditionally been funded by Government through the Budget.

"They are used to receiving grant money and expect us to do the same. We don't offer grants. If a grant is needed, the authority goes to Government."

Another potential block was that the idea of commercialising to attract tourists was like a "culture shock" for conservationists whose mindset centred on the protection of biodiversity and wilderness areas.

"Commercialisation is the only way to finance loans," De Bryun said. "Some people have the tendency to look at ecotourism as property development. But it's not. You don't have revenue unless you have tourists walking through the door."

This means that IDC loans allow for land acquisition and in-

rastructure development other than tourist accommodation provided its a proclaimed conservation area. However, for this type of project the application must be by a national, provincial or regional conservation authority and the project must also be linked to commercial development.

The advantages of IDC over ordinary commercial private sector financing is that it offers two schemes — fixed interest rates and risk sharing. With interest rates, the IDC requires that the shareholder or owners provide at least 40 percent of the total funding requirements.

Risk sharing or equity financing tends towards larger projects and the IDC enters as a shareholder, with an upward limit of 49 percent of the shares. No interest is paid. Instead, the IDC holds shares, which it can sell for a profit after the lead-in time when the project is up and running.

Providing shareholder or owner funding was where 60 percent of prospective applicants failed to qualify, the IDC managers said.

The IDC has been heavily criticised for not supplying grant financing, but the managers said this amounted to giving money for nothing, which was a luxury the IDC could not afford.

The IDC managers agreed that financing ecotourism projects needed lateral thinking. They believe their organisation has the talent to do this and to be flexible.

"Our doors are always open and our commitment to ecotourism remains," De Bryun concluded.

De Villiers concerned at Iscor plan

CF 3/2/95

CF 3/2/95

Staff Reporter



THE Minister of Environment Affairs, Dr Dawie de Villiers, has expressed fears that Iscor's R3,6 billion development could have a major impact on Saldanha Bay's environment.

"The announcement by Iscor at the end of 1994 of the proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay has drawn considerable reaction from environmental conservation bodies. A plant of this nature and scale can have a huge impact on the environment.

"In accordance with my responsibility as Minister of Environment it is essential that I evaluate the objections to the potential negative consequences on the environment," Dr De Villiers said.

Because of this he had urgently requested the Council for the Environment to evaluate the negative environmental impacts and to advise him accordingly.

"The council will study all available information and consult all interest groups. The results of the investigation will be considered and if further steps are necessary, these will be taken in conjunction with Iscor and the provincial government," Dr De Villiers said.

Iscor has said they plan to go ahead with their steel plant, despite the concerns of the minister.

The plant will produce a million tons of hot rolled steel a year and create 600 jobs in the plant and another 600 to 1 200 in support services.

Late 'victory' for farmer who lost his land in pollution battle

By CHRIS BARRON

THREE years ago Piet Geldenhuis lost his farm after he was sued for claiming that his cattle were being poisoned by fallout from a nearby vanadium-processing plant.

Now a two-year study by Onderstepoort scientists has found that air pollution from the plant had caused chronic vanadium toxicity on the Eastern Transvaal farm.

The study also found that the cattle on Mr. Geldenhuis's farm in the Steelport valley suffered from a disease which suppressed immunity and impaired fertility.

The government has now established an inquiry to probe the effect of vanadium processing on the environment of the whole Steelport area, which Mr. Geldenhuis regards as "a victory for me".

When Mr. Geldenhuis made his claims in newspapers in 1992 Transvaal Alloys sued him for defamation. By this time his once proud herd had been decimated and he could not fight the defamation action in court or pay the company's legal costs of R73 597. His property was sequestered and he was declared insolvent.

But in December last year the Onderstepoort scientists produced another report, this time published in the Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research. After an exhaustive investigation on Mr. Geldenhuis's farm over a two-year period they concluded that there was now "sufficient evidence to make a diagnosis of chronic vanadium toxicity which was caused by air pollution from the nearby alloy-processing unit".

They found "abnormally high" levels of vanadium in the surface soil and on the grass which "probably" came from the air.

Their report also confirmed the symptoms Mr. Geldenhuis had observed in his cattle. They found signs of a disease called "illthrift" in animals between four and 18 months old, which caused poor growth, emaciation, diarrhoea, intermittent fever, stiff gait and death. Illthrift suppresses the immune system of cattle, disrupts their ability to digest food and impairs fertility.

Animals that survived for more than two years were stunted, walked stiffly and were not as active as other animals of a similar age.

However, the government's investigation committee is not convinced

that the Onderstepoort scientists have established beyond doubt that the vanadium toxicity in the area comes from the processing plant.

Said John Wates, head of the inter-disciplinary team working for the committee: "The presence of vanadium in the soil could be explained by natural processes."

Mr Wates said the environmental problem being investigated was of national interest. He said the committee's investigation would be completed around the middle of this year.

He said there were about four vanadium processing plants in the country.

What made Mr. Geldenhuis's claims so sensitive was that South Africa is one of the world's largest producers of vanadium, a strategic metal used in space programmes and essential to the production of uranium.

Transvaal Alloys was taken over by Anglo-owned Highveld Steel about a year ago. According to the technical director of Highveld Steel, Dr Johan Plehaar, it was now bringing the processing plant on line and would keep it operational "for a short period depending on market conditions".

He rejected the Onder-



LONG FIGHT ... Piet Geldenhuis with some of the paperwork from his struggle

stepoort report as "totally inconclusive" and added that "nothing conclusive" had yet come out of international studies on vanadium in the environment.

Still to be properly studied are the effects of vanadium poisoning on human health. Mr. Geldenhuis claimed he suffered severe health problems, including severe depression, eye problems and bone and muscle pains as a result of vanadium poisoning from the plant.

56 ST 5/2/95

Millions for ecotourism development go unused

AR 4/2/95

IN spite of general agreement that ecotourism is one of the keys to growth in South Africa, development of the country's natural assets is markedly slow.

General managers of the state-owned Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) identified two main reasons for the lack of applications for financing of ecotourism projects:

■ Uncertainty surrounding the control of national and other proclaimed parks, which has resulted in development plans being put on hold.

■ Fundamental misconceptions within the conservation community of what constitutes an economically viable project.

In the two years since the IDC first announced it was willing to grant R600 million in loan financing for ecotourism ventures, only 33 applications — for R257m — have been received. Of these, 14 projects, mainly for lodges and accommodation, have been approved for a total of R65m.

The only significant projects have been the upgrading of the Natal Parks Board's Hilltop Camp in Hluhluwe Game Reserve, the building of a link road through the corridor between Hluhluwe and Umfolozi, and the construction of two new lodges in the Madikwe Game Reserve.

Two projects were rejected and 17 applications were either not investigated or were withdrawn, mainly due to being incomplete or for not complying with the basic criteria of the scheme.

IDC general managers Jan de Bruyn, Ben Smith and Bertus de Vos said two problems identified in the IDC's 1993 and 1994 annual reports remained unresolved.

The 1993 report said tourism needed "a higher priority in government as obstacles to the development of South Africa's unique selling features in the international market relate mainly to inadequate co-ordination and bureaucratic impediments".

The 1994 report said: "It is unlikely that there will be any significant increase in demand for IDC finance until the control and direction of the public sector nature reserves have been resolved."

The IDC managers said the fundamental problem with applications from conservation authorities and organisations stemmed from a lack of understanding by applicants about how the IDC's ecotourism financing operated.

The IDC's traditional role has been to provide loans for industrial manufacturing development. In 1992 it announced its willingness to extend this to the development of ecotourism, after the government's White Paper on Tourism identified that lack of finance and lack of ready access to sources of finance were impeding the development of the industry, which is potentially one of South Africa's most important generators of foreign exchange and new jobs.

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ing, there is no limit on the total amount the IDC could make available for the development of ecotourism facilities.

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ANITA ALLEN

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What determines whether it is handled by the IDC or its subsidiary, the Small Business Development Corporation, is the amount of aftercare needed. The latter has a mentor programme which caters for new or budding entrepreneurs.

According to the way the IDC operates, an applicant's submission is handed to a projects team, which conducts its own feasibility study to determine economic viability.

"Whereas banks do financing mainly on collateral, we do it mainly on potential. Our security is the feasibility study — can the applicant meet commitments and generate sufficient revenue to finance loans," Mr De Bruyn said.

One problem he pointed out was that conservation authorities have traditionally been funded by government through the Budget. "They are used to receiving grant money and expect us to do the same. We don't offer grants. If a grant is needed the authority goes to government."

Another potential block was that the idea of commercialising to attract tourists was a "culture shock" for conservationists, whose concerns centred on the protection of biodiversity and wilderness areas.

"Commercialisation is the only way to finance loans," Mr De Bruyn said. "Some people have the tendency to look at ecotourism as property development. But it's not. You don't have revenue unless you have tourists walking through the door."

This means IDC loans allow for land acquisition and infrastructure development other than tourist accommodation, provided it is a proclaimed conservation area. However, for this type of project the application must be by a national, provincial or regional conservation authority and the project must also be linked to commercial development.

The IDC managers agreed that financing ecotourism projects needed lateral thinking. They believe their organisation has the talent to do this and to be flexible.

"Our doors are always open and our commitment to ecotourism remains," Mr De Bruyn said.

Surrounding municipalities powerless to help

Jukskei: 'nothing we can do'

50 staff/2/95

56

METROPOLITAN council has not delegated powers to allocate money for clean-up of highly contaminated river

BY ANNA COX

Although the bacterial counts in the Jukskei River have reached crisis proportion, surrounding municipalities say they are unable to act as they have not yet been delegated powers by the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council (GJMC).

Three municipalities, including Sandton, Randburg and Alexandra, are part of the North Eastern Metropolitan Substructure (NEMS).

Nkele Ntingane, executive committee chairman of the North Eastern Metropolitan Substructure, which includes Sandton and Alexandra, said nothing could be done until powers had been delegated.

"Once this has been done, Alex will become a priority area for the new local authority. We realise the situation is very serious but there is nothing we can do," she said.

The Jukskei River water quality management steering com-



Health hazard . . . the water from the contaminated Jukskei River which flows through Alexandra is used daily by residents despite its high content of bacteria. Here Elizabeth Jacobs collects stones from the river to make a pavement outside her shack. Flooding of the shacks is an added danger.

PICTURE: JODI BIEBER

mittee has been monitoring the bacteria counts in the river in the past year.

Randburg, Sandton and Alexandra municipal officials, a representative of the Department of Water Affairs and a firm of consulting engineers serve on the committee, which meets once a month to discuss the problems. A full report is issued every two

months.

Engineer Hermine van Dyk, who serves on the committee, said: "We are assisting and training unemployed youths, through the Work to Win project, on how to clear and maintain the drains and we have embarked on a major educational campaign teaching residents not to litter and pollute and not to

throw things into drains. We need more funding to clear out all the drains."

Work to Win co-ordinator Moshe More said funding was a problem.

"We have been given R188 000 by the TMC, but it will only last us six months and we have only been able to do a small section of Alex. Already we can see the

difference in the streets where the drains have been cleared.

"There is no longer dirty, smelly water running down the streets. We are educating people on a door-to-door basis and distributing pamphlets to teach people how to use the services properly. We want to see a clean environment of which we can be proud," More said.

Company explains reasons for decision to truck crude kaolin

AKL 6/2/95

(57)

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

SERINA Kaolin reasons for trucking crude kaolin from its Noordhoek site below Chapman's Peak to its plant at Brakkeklouf above Sun Valley and the method it proposes have been outlined by chairman Sybrand van der Spuy.

He was commenting on a presentation he made recently at a public meeting called by the Noordhoek Local Council when he outlined the plan.

He explained that Serina was seeking permission to truck crude kaolin from its Noordhoek site to Brakkeklouf for a period of 12 months.

This would entail six trucks carrying 16 000 loads over the 12-month period.

The main reason for this move was a delay in the building of a pipeline within the road reserve of Noordhoek Main Road that would carry slurry (crude kaolin mixed with water) from Noordhoek to Brakkeklouf.

The delay was caused by an agreement between Serina and

the Western Cape Regional Services Council to jointly lay the Serina pipeline, together with a sewer main to serve Noordhoek, which is at present on a septic tank system of sewage removal.

Although Serina had permission for its pipeline and was ready to start, there were delays in getting permission for the sewer.

Mr Van Der Spuy said trucking actually would be more expensive than using the planned pipeline, but it would reduce the size of the stockpile and the initial disturbance at the Chapman's Peak site at Noordhoek.

Commenting on a remark at the public meeting that an undertaking to work only in office hours had been broken at Serina's workings at Trentham, Mr Van der Spuy said there had been storm damage at Trentham in June 1994 and official permission in terms of their permit was sought and granted for work to be carried out on a couple of Saturday mornings to repair the damage.

Answering criticism levelled at the company's operation by the Wildlife Society's Andy Gubb — who said the public participation process had not been followed — Mr Van der Spuy said a notice of the meeting was posted by the Noordhoek Council to every Noordhoek resident.

Mr Gubb's concern about the effect of heavy winter rainfall on the slurry dam at Chapman's Peak was answered by the fact that there would be no surface dam on the Noordhoek site.

Waste material from the process was backfilled into a pit and there would be no surface slurry dam.

Answering allegations by Mr Gubb that white rivers had run down the road from Brakkeklouf, damaging the main Noordhoek road during last year's torrential rain, Mr Van der Spuy said there was no spillage from the kaolin pit and the storm water had emanated from the mountain above the mine workings, which was not white in colour.

He produced photographs to refute Mr Gubb's allegations.

Mr Gubb said he had inspected the dam, it was almost full, and if it had collapsed, as happened in the Transvaal, there could have had a major flood in Sun Valley.

Replying, Mr Van der Spuy said the workings were flooded and a pit of water was the result. It was not a surface dam. The slimes dam which collapsed was in the Free State and was a surface dam, not a pit.

The pit had contained about 100 million litres of storm-water and acted as a buffer. If not, all this water would have found its way to Sun Valley.

Mr Van der Spuy added that the public meeting did not have a mandate to accept or reject Serina's proposal, in spite of a show of hands indicating that about 20 people were not in favour of the trucking proposal.

The meeting was merely to inform and report back to residents.

'Make Donkergat base part of park'

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

(56) CT13/3/95

THE Donkergat military base — once used for training controversial "Recte" soldiers — should be closed down and be incorporated into the West Coast National Park, the Council for the Environment has urged.

It said the Donkergat base, opposite Langebaan beyond Schaapen Island, was "one of the

greatest environmental disturbances" especially for the southern area and the National Park.

"It should be closed and the area included in the National Park," it said in its report on the environmental impact of the proposed Saldanha Steel project by Iscor.

The council said most effects on the environment from the steel project would be "of low significance and of a low order".

"Where significant or meaningful, mitigation measures will reduce them to medium or low significance."

It said preventive measures against the danger of pollution of the groundwater and resultant pollution of the bay had been provided for in the design of the plant.

It said the proposed site for the steel project already had an industrial appearance as a result of the Namaqua Sands plant, the oil stor-

age facility, the railway line and the infrastructure of the ore terminal and the loading harbour.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, who released the council's report on Friday, said: "The natural beauty of the southern Langebaan lagoon area and the West Coast National Park is therefore not damaged.

"The potential for tourism thus remains unimpaired."

Milnerton pollution 'relatively low'

STAFF REPORTER

LEVELS of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and respirable particle pollution in the area covered by the Milnerton and Surrounding Areas Air Quality Study are "relatively low", a meeting in Milnerton was told last night. **CT 10/3/95**

However, levels of hydrogen sulphate (H₂S), which has a characteristic rotten egg smell, "exceed the odour threshold limit from

time to time", and pollen levels posed a risk to sensitive people on 25% of the days monitored, according to a progress report presented to the meeting on the project's first three months of air pollution monitoring.

The report also noted a significant drop in complaints about air pollution in the area since the project began last year. **(56)**

Project manager Dr Petro Terblanche, of the CSIR, said she was "not so sure we can do any-

thing" about pollen, as it occurred naturally.

She said the pollution monitored contained respiratory tract irritants, rather than "dangerous" carcinogens, but added that they were dealing with many irritants that "do the same thing, so they have to be controlled very strictly."

Dr Terblanche said most complaints about odour involved the Caltex refinery, then Kilson Lime Works, Waste-Tech, Kynoch and the nearby sewage works.

INTERNATIONAL

EU seeks greater control over loans

(56) CT(BR) 10/3/95

BY JOHN FRASER

FOREIGN NEWS SERVICE

Brussels — The European Parliament is insisting on more control over European Investment Bank (EIB) loans to South Africa.

The European Union assembly is set to adopt a report next week which will welcome plans to grant loans of more than R1,2 billion over the next two years.

Around 40 percent of the loans will be granted this year, with the balance in 1996.

However, the assembly wants the legal framework for the loans to be altered, so that it can play a bigger role in monitoring the repayments of the loans.

In the report, European MP John Tomlinson says the European Parliament "has encouraged all actions taken to stabilise the emerging democracy in the country and to improve its economic and social conditions."

It adds that European governments "can thus rely on parliament's support in principle for measures in favour of South Africa."

On the EIB loans themselves, the report notes that "although South Africa has in general a good physical infrastructure and an advanced financial system, substantial infrastructure investments and external financial assistance are required in both urban and

rural areas, notably in areas of high concentrations of the black populations".

It adds: "The Community is taking action in an area of development co-operation, in order to promote harmonious, balanced and sustainable social and economic development. The loans complement other measures taken in favour of South Africa which together form a coherent approach to the development of the country."

Tomlinson argues that technical changes to the legal framework for granting the loans are needed "for reasons of legal coherence and correctness", but adds that he does not "intend to slow down decision-making procedures".

Minister in court tussle over dagga

WM 10-16/3/95

(56)

Environmentalists have threatened to interdict the police minister unless he puts a stop to a Natal dagga-spraying operation, reports **Eddie Koch**

A COALITION of civic organisations yesterday threatened to interdict Police Minister Sydney Mufamadi unless his commissioner stops the narcotics bureau from spraying large areas of KwaZulu Natal with a dangerous herbicide designed to stamp out the province's dagga industry.

"Police are using helicopters to spray some 200 000 hectares of the province with a herbicide called Round Up in order to kill dagga crops in the area.

"The problem is that the substance is highly toxic to humans and the police have no way of informing people in the area about the dangers," says Chris Albertyn from the Environmental Justice Networking Forum.

The environmental pressure group claims indiscriminate spraying of the herbicide over rural settlements infringes the human rights of civilians in the area. Albertyn faxed Police Commissioner George Fivaz yesterday saying his organisation intended to apply for a supreme court interdict against the police minister unless the narcotics bureau stops the operation immediately.

The EJNF has been joined by Earthlife Africa, the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, the South African National Civics Organisation and a range of rural development organisations.

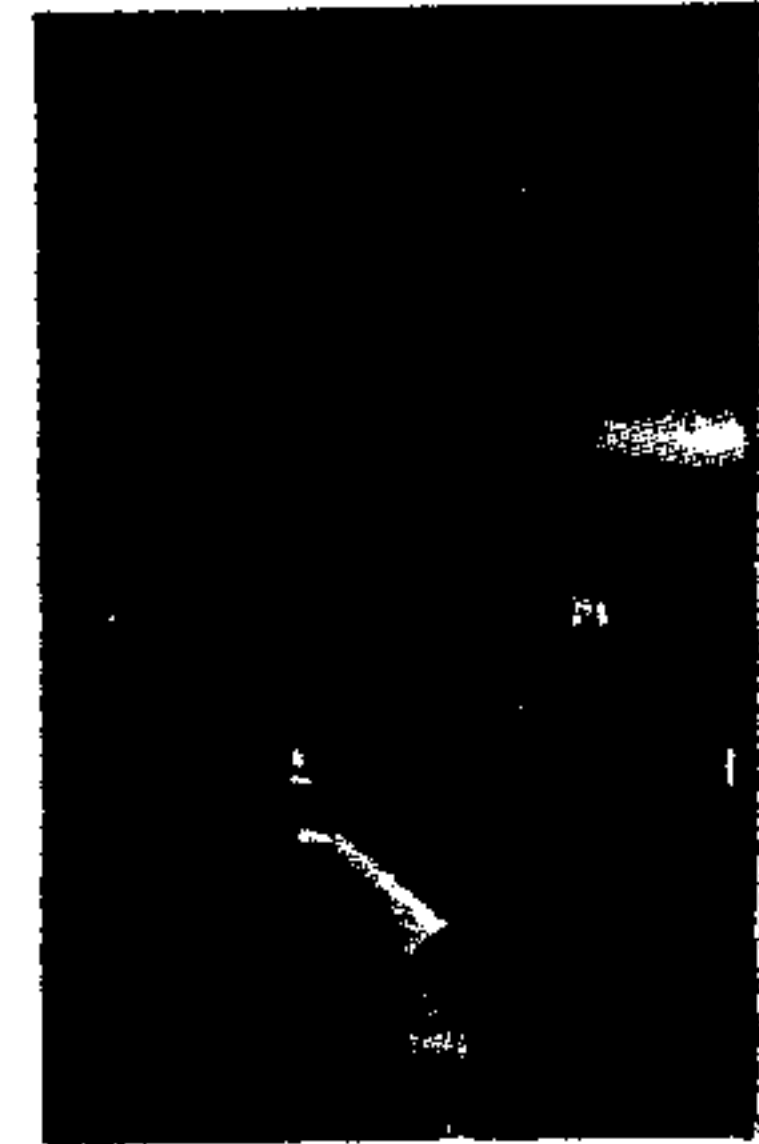
"We wish to make it clear that in directing this demand to you we are not taking issue concerning the illegality of the cultivation of dagga," says the letter to Fivaz.

"We view the matter in so serious a light that unless we receive an undertaking that the South African Narcotics Bureau will immediately desist from the aerial spraying of dagga with herbicides ... we will apply to the Supreme Court for an urgent order to prevent the spraying which we view as hazardous."

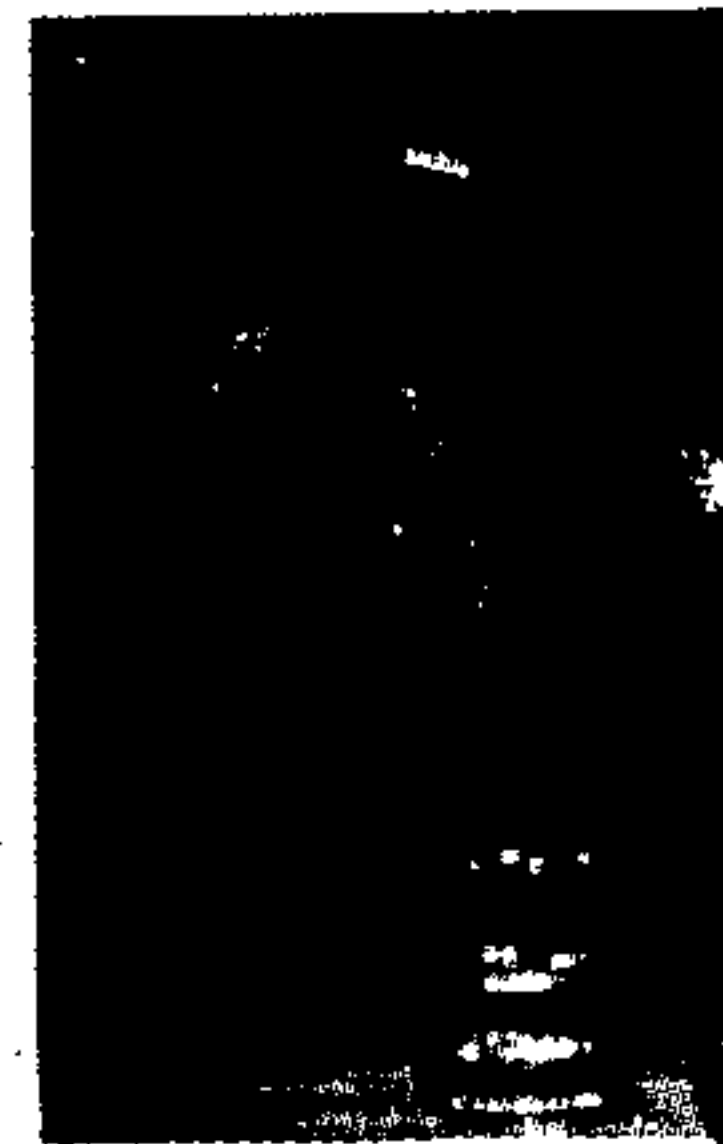
According to the Pesticide Action Network, an international organisation opposed to the use of dangerous agricultural chemicals, strict controls are required to prevent the ingredients of Round Up from damaging the health of people living in the area.

Crops must be left for a number of days after being exposed before they are harvested and livestock should not be allowed into the contaminated area. "There is no way the police can inform people about the dangers or implement these controls with this type of spraying," says Albertyn.

A police spokesman said the matter had been handed to deputy commissioner general Zolisa Lavis. "He will look into the complaint and issue a comment later."



San



Concern over hotel plans

ET 8/3/95

56 ~~222~~

THE City Council's agreement to investigate 22 controversial sites for the possible development of new hotels has led to concern in environmental circles.

The sites include Newlands Forest, Lower Oranjekloof (not the protected area), Park Island in Zandvlei, Princess Vlei area, Sunrise Circle, Surfer's Corner, the zoo site, Kloofnek, and the Strand Street quarry.

Mr Rod Young, the council's development co-ordinator, said his office had received many requests from hoteliers wanting sites because there were no privately-owned sites large enough.

Mr Young emphasised that the

sites were merely being investigated for availability and suitability.

He said the developers wanted to build accommodation ranging from five-star hotels to youth hostels.

Mr Young refused to be specific about the sites, saying it was too early in the process for that.

Mr Edward Tilanus, spokesman for the Cape Environmental Trust (Captrust) representing 60 environmental organisations, said that open spaces should be identified first and "the council should realise that densification does not mean covering every existing open space with low-rise buildings".

Mr Tilanus accused the council

of acting unilaterally, "like they never asked the public whether they wanted to have the Olympic Games here", he said.

Earth Life spokesman Mr Greg Knill said that it was vitally important to have impact assessments done on the proposed sites before "they even considered doing anything" and there was a need for total transparency.

Mr Knill said there was a perception that "tourism will solve all" but tourism did have negatives which needed to be debated.

Mr Andy Gubb of the Wild Life Society said impact studies could take up to two years and "we are running out of time".

Committee 'must expand agenda'

Municipal Staff

(56)

POLICY issues and environmental affairs matters must be placed on the agenda of the new urbanisation, planning and environmental management committee, its members heard at their first meeting.

The new committee replaces the old town planning committee and its co-chairman Sivine Matika said the monthly meetings could not only discuss town planning issues.

ARG 8/3/95

"We need to address some of

the other important issues facing this committee like policy matters and environmental issues. We need to re-look at the compilation of this committee's agenda and include the other aspects."

The new councillors were given a brief overview of the work the different branches — such as building services, town planning, surveys and land information, and the metropolitan transport — did in servicing the committee.

Committee member Clive Keegan stressed the need for

the committee to work out a sound relationship with the land survey structure of the Cape Metropolitan Council.

"In the past very little information was exchanged between ourselves and the old Western Cape Regional Services Council although a lot of the issues covered our area of jurisdiction," he said.

"We must ensure that this committee is kept informed about metropolitan developments and planning that could affect our work."



ON THE BEACH: A holidaymaker tows his children — illegally — behind his 4 x4 4 on Hermanus beach.

(56) ARLT 8/3/95

No beach vehicles — and no butts

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE government's new policy on vehicles on beaches — essentially a total ban except in specially demarcated areas under permit — is binding on all local authorities and cannot be implemented at their discretion.

This warning comes from Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers, in response to complaints that Hermanus municipality is not enforcing a ban on vehicles at the De Mond area at the mouth of the Klein River lagoon, leading to the Plaat.

Also, property owners at

Grotto Bay on the West Coast near Darling, have complained that a weekly "invasion" of off-road vehicles is ruining the sand dunes and ecologically-sensitive areas of beach.

Dr De Villiers's remarks were made in a letter to Hermanus conservationist Ian Martin, who expressed concern that the local council was not implementing the new regulations.

"The (Hermanus) town clerk and representatives of the Overberg Regional Services Council and Cape Nature Conservation did indeed agree that it was feasible to implement the policy by the summer holi-

day season," Dr De Villiers said.

"However, the Hermanus town council decided that it was necessary to first inform vehicle-users about the introduction of new control measures."

Dr De Villiers said: "It must be clearly understood that the policy binds all coastal local authorities and it may not merely be implemented at their discretion."

But Johan Matthee, head of marketing and communication for the Greater Hermanus municipality, said that neither the previous town council nor the transitional council had taken a decision.

DP attacks environment plan

Environment Reporter

THE Democratic Party has slated the decision made last week by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers and Cape Premier Hennis Kriel to set up an independent board to manage the Peninsula mountain chain.

DP environment spokesman Errol Moorcroft said their decision flew in the face of their prior commitment to involve the public and environ-

mental interest groups.

"The DP believes that if an 'independent statutory management body' is to be entrusted with the management of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment, then consideration should be given to the National Parks Board, which is such a body.

"This would obviate the inevitable delays that will be part of the process now suggested."

(56) ARG 6/3/95

NICOLA JENVEY

DURBAN — Thor Chemicals, recently fined R13 500 for negligence, is suing environmental activists Chris Albertyn and Mark Colvin for alleged defamation.

Earthlife Africa and the Environmental Justice Forum will also be cited as defendants.

Thor attorney Roy Monk said he had "no doubt" his

Thor tackles top environmentalists

client had a prima facie case for defamation.

Attempts to contact Albertyn and Colvin were unsuccessful.

INGRID SALGADO reports that Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal visits Thor Chemicals at Cato Ridge near Durban today to dis-

uss the disposal of large amounts of toxic waste.

Mercury has been detected in the waters emanating from springs below Thor, and the Minister wanted to obtain a first-hand view of the situation, the department's director in KwaZulu/Natal Joe Hansmann

BD 6/3/95
said at the weekend.

Asmal would also assess options of removing about 10 000 drums of stored toxic waste at the site. Water Affairs was watching Thor "very carefully".

Hansmann said the Minister was "very environmentally aware" and had "some very strong views".

Clean up 'trashy' city, council man urges

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(56) (288)
LITTER in the commercial areas of central Cape Town has trebled since 1985 but the council's cleansing force has remained virtually static, says the city's director of cleansing services Kendall Kaveney.

Speaking at a Clean City Awards function in the Civic Centre, Mr Kaveney said Cape Town had a serious litter problem, with about 3 000 tonnes of

ARG 3/3/95
waste being dumped in the streets each month.

"Thankfully, about 2 000 tonnes of it goes straight into bins but — and here is the bad news — about 1 000 tonnes becomes litter on the streets, sidewalks and in flower beds."

Much of this litter also ended up in stormwater drains.

"It costs around R80 a ton to remove litter from a bin, but R700 a ton from the street and over R2 000 a ton from a storm-

water system," Mr Kaveney said.

"We collectively have to take responsibility if we want our city to look tidy, and we must bear in mind that we will very shortly have a Rugby World Cup and — dare I mention it — an Olympic bid."

Tourism was a huge industry and all tourists demanded security and cleanliness otherwise "they won't be coming".

He appealed to business to support the Clean City Awards.

Govt plan for mountain chain slated

ENVIRONMENTALISTS reacted with dismay yesterday to a government plan for the conservation of the Cape Peninsula.

Minister of Environment Affairs Dr Dawie de Villiers decided on Tuesday the 29 000ha Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) would be administered by the Western Cape Department of Nature Conservation. This would be done in terms of na-

tional legislation to be drafted by experts chosen by a forum.

Critics of the plan include the World Wildlife Fund (South Africa), the Wildlife Society and UCT senior botanist Prof Richard Cowling.

Sources said the National Parks Board (NPB) was also dissatisfied.

Missgivings centred on why Dr De Villiers and Western Cape Premier Mr Hennus Kriel had "ignored" a pro-

posal by Mr Kriel's advisers that plans be debated in a public forum.

Prof Cowling said the plan must be publicly motivated and defended against other plans. "Dr De Villiers and Mr Kriel's decision is worrying. It smacks of old-style politicking."

The CPPNE advisory committee said the forum had to be widely representative. Committee chairman Dr Douglas Hey said it was important

"whoever manages the mountain must have the expertise and finance."

World Wildlife Fund conservation director Dr Ian MacDonald said Dr De Villiers' support for provincial control came as "depressing" news which could frustrate efforts to have the area declared a World Heritage Site.

The area must fall under a national authority. — Sapa

CT 2/3/95

(52)

Province gets charge of environment

CF 1/3/75

(52)

THE Cape Peninsula must be administered by the provincial nature conservation department in tandem with proposed national legislation which conserves local sites of international importance, Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers decided yesterday.

Western Cape nature conservation director Dr Johan Neethling said Cape attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn had been appointed chairman of a forum which would choose an expert and representative group to write legislation for the mountain chain's conservation management.

He said Dr De Villiers and Western Cape Premier Mr Hermus Kriel had "thought it a good idea to create a special authority to manage a potentially expanded Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment".

Work would start immediately on setting up the forum.

These decisions were taken at a top-level meeting on the Cape Peninsula's future conservation management yesterday attended by Dr De Villiers, Mr Kriel, National Parks Board chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson and Dr Neethling.

The meeting ends months of speculation about which executive authority will take control of the administratively splintered 29 000ha area, one of five South African sites vying for International Heritage Site status.

The results of the meeting are likely to be challenged by environmentalists and organisations wanting a publicly attained mandate on how the area is to be administered.

The National Parks Board, widely mooted as the most eligible heir to the area, was no longer in contention as either an intermediate or final cus-

todian of the area.

"There was almost consensus that national legislation was needed to give local expression to World Heritage Sites and biospheres of international importance by means of umbrella legislation," Dr Neethling said.

"Provincial laws are then needed to articulate this in terms of financing and management. The Western Cape department of nature conservation will administer the law, but will have no control over the proposed management council, which will be defined by the law-writers." — Sapa

Wildlife Society slams White Paper

INGRID SALGADO

(56)

THE Wildlife Society yesterday slammed the reconstruction and development programme (RDP) White Paper for failing to address environmental concerns, saying it would lead to costs of inadequate environmental planning being carried by those who could least afford it. *BD 19/11/95*

The White Paper, unlike the RDP base document, failed to take account of SA's resource base and did not recognise the interdependence between the environment and economic, social and political life.

The Environment and Tourism Ministry had to be included in economic decisions.

The society suggested:

- Creating an environmental task force to undertake the restructuring of educational infrastructures and syllabuses;
- Legislation requiring an integrated environmental management procedure; and
- Institutionalising environmental impact assessments by independent specialists.

An unhealthy environment would detract from SA's ability to market itself as an ecotourism destination. The environment would be degraded if education did not help people break their pattern of "consumptive, degradative lifestyles", the society said.

Furthermore, the White Paper's policy on non-governmental organisations was ambiguous, the society said. It seemed to say in one breath that government would take over their functions, that their funding would be channelled through government and that close co-operation between the organisations and government was needed.

The guiding principle behind economic policy framework needed to be improving the quality of life through environmentally sustainable development in a manner which was equitable and efficient.

2

Dukuduku forest an ecological disaster - Chiolo

(56) ~~20~~
Cape Town. Freedom Front
MPs have challenged the ANC-
led Government to demonstrate
that it can handle the squatter
occupation of the Dukuduku for-
est better than F W de Klerk's
previous government.

Dr Willem Botha made the
challenge yesterday and another
FF MP, Joseph Chiolo, said the
response to questions on the for-
est by both governments reads
like one of the worst environ-
mental horror stories.

"South Africa is allowing and
sanctioning one of the worst eco-
logical disasters to happen right
before our eyes," he said.

Dukuduku was declared a na-
ture reserve in July 1993.

The KwaZulu/Natal legisla-
ture was negotiating with squat-
ters to vacate the area and al-
ready 541 families had moved,
although some had moved in
again, said Minister of Housing
Sankie Nkondo.

The Government's lack of seri-
ousness in dealing with environ-
mental issues, said Chiolo, was
reflected by the National Assem-
bly's select committee on en-
vironmental affairs and tourism
chairman Peter Mokaba circulat-
ing a questionnaire from the In-
ternational Parliamentary
Unions 40 days after the dead-
line. — Sapa.

Star 13/95

Call for environment policy

JOHANNESBURG. — The ANC yesterday called on Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers to convene a national conference to discuss environmental policy issues and priorities in South Africa.

(56) ET 23/1/95
ANC environment spokesman Mr Tami Sokutu said few changes had taken place in the government's environmental policy and its priorities.

"The budget remains dominated by 'wild life' concerns and very little (is) allocated to issues like environmental education and population control," he said.

The proposed conference would help formulate a national environmental strategy. — Sapa

Polluters must foot the bill

(56) Jan 28/1985

THE implementation of the 'polluter pays' principle is a growing trend in environmental legislation.

SOME may think it cheaper to discreetly drop off a week's crop of used syringes and swabs behind a tree on a patch of open veld. There may be those who consider it a cost-cutting exercise to allow untreated effluent to find its own way to the nearest water course. Few will realise that the real costs of such polluting activities are potentially high.

The implementation of the "polluter pays" principle is a growing trend in environmental legislation. But what does this popular catch phrase entail? Simply stated, those who choose to pollute will be required to foot the bill.

If the State decides to charge the polluter under one of the available penalty provisions, a criminal case would ordinarily ensue. On conviction, a fine of up to R100 000 could be imposed (if charged under the Environmental Conservation Act). Civil claims could also follow in event of damage to persons or property eventuating from a pollution incident. Equal or even greater costs may be incurred under certain statutes where the State has the power to require the polluter to pay for clean-up operations.

Under the Water Act, for example, clean-up costs may be recovered from anyone who has directly or indirectly gained some advantage from polluting. Costs may be recovered from those who have benefited from the clean-up operations — benefits might include an enhancement of the value of the land concerned.

The polluter may have moved on to greener pastures but could still be liable for the costs of cleaning up previously owned land.

Pollution clean-up operations are extremely expensive and

time-consuming, especially where long-term pollution must be attended to. Clean-up operations require extensive labour, financial and technological resources.

These resources are not at the disposal of the State. If they were, we would be aware of many more instances of penalisation of activities which have caused damage to the environment and far less aware of pollution build-up in our rivers and streams.

Very few statutes oblige polluters themselves to bear the responsibility of effecting clean-up operations. This anomaly will need to be reversed in future "polluter pays" legislation.

A major shift in emphasis is urgently required, placing the onus on the private sector to effectively deal with its own pollution management and for the State to play a secondary role in monitoring the process. To assist this, economic incentives can be devised. Some incentives are already in place: for example, reduction in tariffs where effluent treatment takes place on site prior to discharge to sewers.

Reasonable self-regulation of the industrial sector must be encouraged. Effective environmental management programmes should incorporate committing resources to cater for contingencies. This can be effected through environmental insurance or by setting up correctly structured trust funds.

In this way, those who pollute will need to make their own financial provision for the clean-up of their operation and not simply leave the task to the Government.

■ *Robyn Stein is an associate of the firm Bowman Gilfillan Hayman Godfrey Inc, specialising in environmental law.*

'Lobby govt on environment'

ERIC JANKOWITZ

ENVIRONMENTAL groups should lobby government for the inclusion of their concerns in the final constitution, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal said this week.

Speaking at the launch of *Health before Profits*, a book by Peter Lukey published by the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, Asmal said access to information was crucial.

Public and private sector information should be available to enable people to push for environmental control, provide a safe and healthy environment and give real flesh to the constitution (56)

Asmal said struggles around the environment and equitable access to resources would be high on the agenda during local government elections. "Rural and urban people are concerned about access to land, shelter, waste, sanitation, waste collection and management and transport."

Bearing in mind that ownership did not mean the right to abuse natural resources and facilities, his department was reviewing water legislation. A discussion paper would be available by next month.

In the past, companies were able to externalise costs by restricting health and safety spending. Factories which disregarded pollution were often located close to settlements.

Asmal said those interested in environmental justice should not only concentrate on hazardous waste disposal, but should look more broadly at the whole question of how resources were distributed and used.

Legitimate competing interests should be taken into account. For example, it was necessary to balance employment needs with the call for resource protection.

SA can't join Lome

56

Special Correspondent

CT 27/2/95

BRUSSELS. — South Africa has been told it is too rich to be eligible for trade concessions under the Lome Convention.

After a series of meetings with EU commissioners during a weekend

visit, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said SA would instead aim for trade and aid benefits in a new, separate accord with Brussels.

"We want free access to the European market for our apples, cars, coal, iron and steel, and then we need aggressive marketing to sell them."

'Open mountain debate'

THE debate about the management of Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain should be thrown open to the public, environmental advisers decided yesterday.

The advisory committee for the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) will recommend Premier Mr Hennis Kriel convene a forum to discuss management proposals for the 29 000ha CPPNE, Cape Nature Conservation said.

The forum would debate the merits of the UCT "Fuggle report" on a unified CPPNE environmental management policy, the Kahn report on rationalising land control, the Metropolitan Open Space System and the South Peninsula Structural Plan. (56) CT 23/2/95

It would also decide how the committee's successors would be chosen.

Hailing the forum as a positive step, Mountain Club of South Africa spokesman Mr Lester Coelen said: "The forum is a mechanism which will break the logjam and restore confidence in the consultation process.

"It will allow any organisation that believes it can run the CPPNE to put its case."

Welcoming public participation in the CPPNE's management, committee chairman Dr Douglas Hey said: "It behoves each South African to make every contribution to this precious heritage."

The National Parks Board — a widely-punted contender for control of the fragmented CPPNE — is due to meet Mr Kriel and Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers next week to discuss the CPPNE's future. — Sapa

Politicians going 'green'

Staff Reporter

(56)

CT 22/2/95

THE "greening" of political leaders has begun, with the launching yesterday of the Wilderness Initiative, which aims to develop an "environmental conscience" among politicians in the new South Africa.

The programme, a joint venture by the Wilderness Leadership School, the European Union and the Kagiso

Trust, will take more than 200 political leaders on five-day wilderness trails in kwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape.

The project was launched by Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Professor Kader Asmal, who said it aimed to restore the balance between humanity and nature "by providing a direct experience of wilderness for the leaders who shape our society."

Cape conservation in spotlight

ENVIRONMENT Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers will meet Western Cape Premier Mr Hernus Kriel next week to discuss the sensitive issue of who takes responsibility for conserving the Cape Peninsula, Environment Ministry spokesman Mr Stefan Coetzee said yesterday.

Tuesday's meeting would also be attended by Department of Environment Affairs director-general Dr Colin Cameron, National Parks Board chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson and Cape Nature Conservation director Dr Johan Neethling.

Mr Coetzee said discussions would cen-

tre on the future management of the 290 00ha Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE).

An environmental management policy study by UCT proposes that the National Parks Board replace provincial control of the CPPNE until the area is placed under independent executive management as a World Heritage Site.

UCT environmental scientist Dr Richard Fuggle said "vested interests" were hampering the implementation of key recommendations on the CPPNE's future management.

"I still firmly support the proposal that an expert and representative group be set up to oversee the implementation of the report's recommendations. I cannot get an answer on why this has not happened."

The CPPNE is currently managed by 12 municipalities and more than 160 private land owners.

CPPNE Management Advisory Committee chairman Dr Douglas Hey said he believed Table Mountain and the CPPNE should remain a provincial concern.

"It is part of the heritage of the people of Cape Town." — Sapa

(56) CT 22/2/95

Rejected report recommended (56)

Staff Reporters

CT 22/2/95

OUTGOING regional environmental minister Mr Lerumo Kalako has okayed a controversial UCT environmental impact assessment on Transnet's multi-million rand development proposal at Rietvlei.

The same assessment was rejected last year by conservationists and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) as being too narrow to provide information for an informed, responsible decision.

The impact assessment was commissioned by developer Mr Ian Hirschon on behalf of Transnet.

Mr Kalako said Minister of Local Government and Development Planning Mr Peter Marais had asked him to comment on the development.

"I okayed the environmental impact report (on the development) commissioned by Hirschon," he said.

A spokesman for Premier Mr Hennis Kriel said yesterday the final decision on whether the development would go ahead now lay with Mr Lampie Fick, regional minister of the new Department of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism.

Mr Kriel yesterday was handed nearly 4 000 signatures from people opposing the development.

Green plan launched

CT 21/2/95

JOHANNESBURG. —
The European Union,
with Kagiso Trust and
Wilderness Leadership
School, is to begin a pro-
gramme to promote en-
vironmental awareness
among South African
leaders. (56)

Wilderness Initiative
is the first step towards
creating an "environ-
mental conscience", the
EU said yesterday.

The programme will
be launched at a city
hotel today. Minister of
Water Affairs and
Forestry Professor
Kader Asmal will be a
speaker. — Sapa

200 key leaders invited back to nature

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(56) ARG 21/2/95

FOLLOWING in the best historical and religious traditions, some 200 of South Africa's key political and social leaders will head off into the wilderness for several days of environmental soul-searching.

They will be part of an innovative environmental programme during the next three years, initiated by the Wilderness Leadership School and funded by the European Union and the Kagiso Trust.

The programme — billed as a world-first — is being officially launched at a function in Cape Town today.

Leaders from across the political spectrum will spend five days on trails in South Africa's wilderness areas, selected according to their relevance to regional issues and conserva-

tion status, Wilderness Leadership School director Andrew Muir said.

The trails would offer the leaders an opportunity to be away from their pressurised work environments, and would bring together critical players from both political and non-political sectors to discuss environmental issues.

There was no doubt that conservation of the country's natural resources would be the next significant focus of political attention, Mr Muir said.

"The strength of wild areas is that they function beyond the confines of urban life and demands of a political agenda; they are relatively neutral areas.

"And it was no mistake that leaders from our past journeyed to these areas to reflect on the immediate and future path of humanity."

The programme was an attempt to place modern decisionmakers in a

better position to adopt an integrated approach to policy decisions affecting the natural and urban environments.

"Ultimately, these trails will clarify the importance of conservation, the urgent need to conserve important natural resources, and nurture renewable resources in the city environment," Mr Muir said.

"We have always believed that conservation is far more than the protection of birds, animals and plants. It is as much about people as it is about the environment.

"We strive to restore a balanced relationship between humanity and nature by providing a direct experience of wilderness, especially for leaders who shape society."

The programme is also being supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa and the Environmental Justice Networking Forum.

Warning on development

AKU 20/2/95 (56)

□ Campaign to ensure mountain is untouched

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

NEGOTIATIONS are underway to acquire three prime mountain properties above Kommetjie for incorporation into the new Slangkop nature reserve.

Kommetjie conservationists say the steeply-sloped properties — within the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment and which include an historical blockhouse dating from World War 2 — are totally unsuitable for development.

The Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group (Keag) is co-ordinating a protest campaign to ensure the properties stay undeveloped.

"In developing this land we will be forced to put up with houses, electricity cables, roads, telephone cables and sewerage connections, all of which will possibly have a significant negative impact on this previously unspoiled area,"

a Keag letter to local residents stated.

"In addition, the beautiful scenic drive which is attracting large numbers of tourists, and passing trade through Kommetjie, could be degraded by this development.

"We believe it is imperative that a precedent is not set and that sites such as this are not developed."

Within days, residents had started responding with protest letters to Keag.

Landowner Rob McKenzie of Hout Bay said he was keen to sell the properties to the Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC) for incorporation into the reserve, but that he would accept an offer based only on the RSC's own independent valuation.

"The RSC has made me an offer which is unacceptable," Mr McKenzie said.

"It is below their independent valuation, so the ball is in their court at the moment.

"I think everybody — Keag, the RSC and myself — is keen that this land is acquired for the reserve.

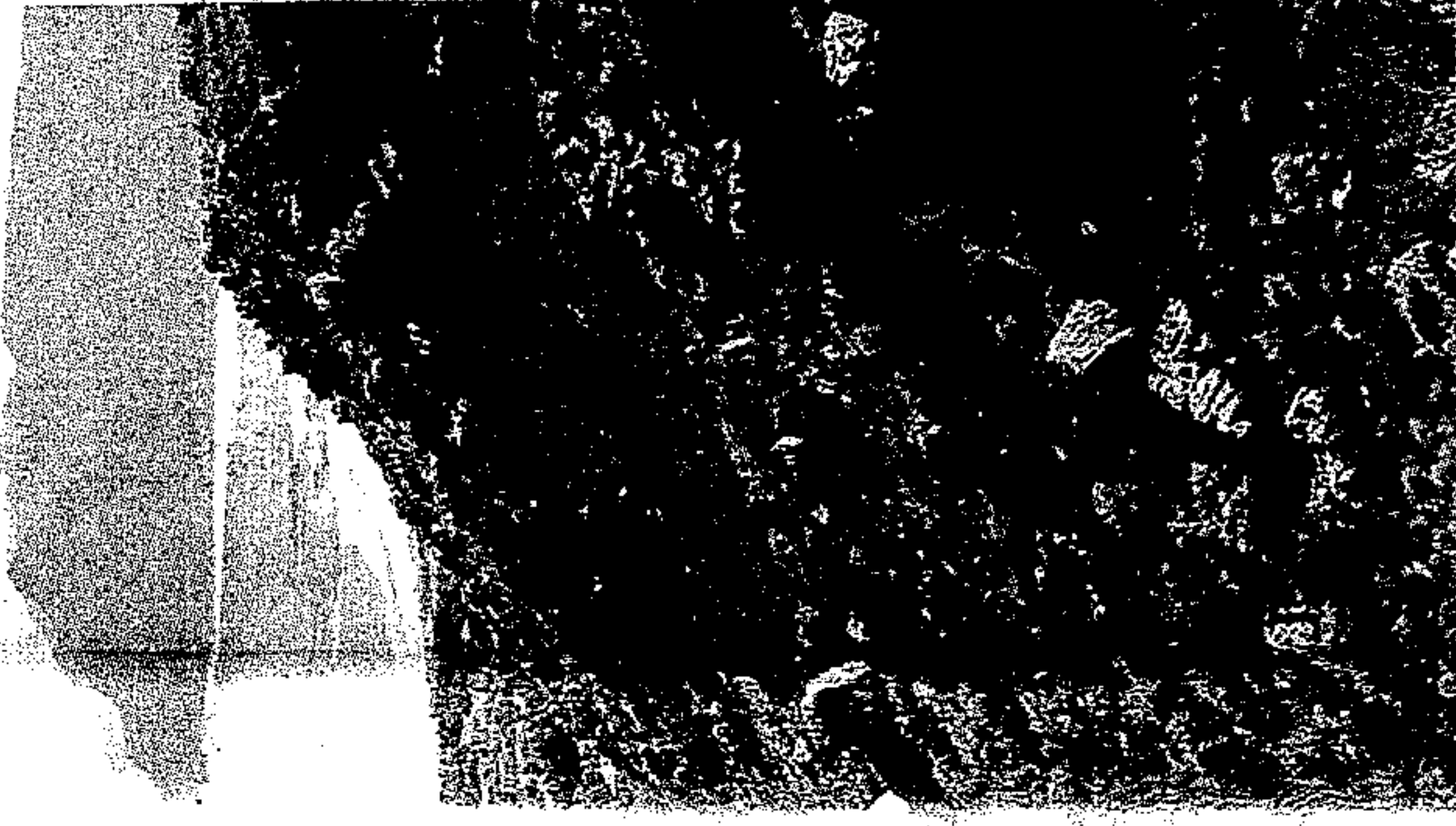
"We all accept that private ownership is probably wrong, but I do have title and the zoning exists — I'm not applying for anything new.

"The land has considerable value and if negotiations fail I have no choice but to go to public auction."

The RSC confirmed it was negotiating Mr McKenzie but declined to go into detail.

"It is quite a sensitive issue," a spokesman said.

● See page 11



Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

PRIME SITES: These eroded on the steep slopes above Kommetjie, adjoining Slangkop nature reserve, must remain undeveloped, say concerned Kommetjie conservationists who believe any development will spoil the natural beauty.

Greening 'relegated to fringe' (56)

Staff Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL considerations were being relegated to a fringe issue by the new Cape Metropolitan Council, Mr Llewellyn van Wyk said at the council's inaugural meeting yesterday. CT16/2195

He said environmental concerns were too important to be left to the council's Transitional Restructuring Committee (TRC), where he feared they would be treated "as fringe issues on an ad hoc basis".

They should be placed under the Planning Committee's jurisdiction.

However, TRC member Mrs Joan Heming said environmental affairs should fall under TRC jurisdiction.

The matter was referred to exco.

(2) (a) The members of the Medicine Policy Committee were:

Prof P Eagles (Chairman)—University of Western Cape
 Mr Bada Pharasi—Centre of Health Policy Wits Medical School
 Dr Mano Chetty—University of Durban-Westville
 Mr Vasu Chetty—R & C Pharmaceuticals
 Prof Peter Folb—University of Cape Town
 Mr Mike (Mkulu) Hadebe—ANC/SANDEF Military Department (SAMS)
 Mr Peter Hearn—Department of Health
 Ms Marisa Jacobs—University of Western Cape
 Ms Precious Matsoso—IHHD Botshelong—Empitweni
 Mrs Sue Putter—SAAHIP
 Prof J Schlebusch—Department of Health
 Mr C Badenhorst (Secretary)—Department of Health.

(b) The terms of reference of the Medicine Policy Committee were:

- Develop a pricing plan for medicines used in South Africa in the public and private sector.
- Develop a plan to ensure that medicines are tested and evaluated for effectiveness in the South African context of treatment using epidemiological approaches.
- Develop an Essential Medicine List to be used in the public sector and prepare treatment guidelines for the health personnel.
- Develop specific strategies to increase the use of generic medicines in South Africa.
- Prepare a plan for effective procurement and distribution of medicines in South Africa, particularly in the rural areas.
- Investigate traditional medicines.
- Rationalise the structure for pharmaceutical services.

Racial/sexual discrimination in workplace: mechanisms/tribunals established

*26. Ms M SMUTS asked the Minister of Labour:

Whether he intends establishing any new mechanisms or tribunals to deal with (a) individual complaints of, and (b) disputes based on, racial or sexual discrimination in the workplace; if not, how will such complaints and disputes be handled; if so, what action is he planning in this regard?

N164E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR:

Employers who discriminate against workers on the basis of race or gender are violating certain provisions of the Interim Constitution. Section 8 in the Interim Constitution states that: "No person shall be unfairly discriminated against, directly or indirectly, and without derogating from the generality of this provision, on one or more of the following grounds in particular: race, gender, sex, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture or language". The Constitution furthermore states that all workers must have the right to fair labour practices.

The draft Labour Relations Bill Negotiating Document seeks to give effect to these and other provisions in the Interim Constitution and the RDP White Paper. The draft Bill proposes new structures such as Workers Forums, Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration and a Labour Court—all of which are aimed at resolving disputes more effectively and speedily as well as creating better shopfloor management labour relations. Any worker who may be subjected to discrimination as outlined in the Constitution can take up the matter within the structures provided for in terms of the proposed Bill. Workers and management will find that most disputes and issues that may result in conflict will get resolved at the level of Workers Forums and Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration rather than litigation.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Labour will also, as part of our five year programme, address other issues which indirectly impact on equal opportunities—such as maternity rights and working hours. Provision has also been made in the structure of the Department of Labour

for the establishment of a sub-directorate to deal with Equal Opportunities. The responsibilities of this structure would include *inter alia* the promotion of affirmative action, gender rights in the workplace and the development and administration of Equal Opportunity policies and programmes.

For written reply:**Certain person leaving/re-entering SA**

1. Mr L T LANDERS asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name and particulars have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, used his passport to leave South Africa; if so, (a) on what date, (b) for what reasons, (c) to which country, (d) on which flight and (e) what (i) is his (aa) name and (bb) passport number and (ii) are his other relevant particulars;
- (2) whether this person has since then re-entered the country; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

N2E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (1) According to the Department's records a Mark Lucy departed from the Republic on a British passport No C612356E on 6 February 1993 on flight SAA 232. The Department's movement control system does not reflect the destination. A South African passport No DC01659136 was issued to a Mark Allan Lucy on 15 January 1993.

The date of birth of Mark and Mark Allan Lucy, namely 6 July 1967, corresponds.

- (2) No. According to the Department's records Mark Lucy has not yet re-entered the country.

Importation of toxic waste: records of companies in SA

3. Mr L T LANDERS asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- Whether his Department keeps records of companies in South Africa which import toxic waste into the Republic; if not, why not; if so, (a) which companies imported such waste

during the period 1 January 1990 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) from which countries was such waste imported in each case and (c) what are the further relevant details?

N5E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

For a number of years it has been police in South Africa not to import toxic waste for final disposal on land. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism has therefore not kept any specific records of toxic waste imports into the Republic. As a result of the Basel Convention which came into effect in the Republic during August 1994 there is an obligation on the Department to keep record and to report to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention annually;

- (a) the department is aware of the spent mercury catalyst waste imported by Thor Chemicals for recycling since 1990. Thor Chemicals reported on these imports to the Department of Health. These imports have been terminated;
- (b) United States of America;
- (c) according to the available information the unprocessed spent mercury catalyst is still on the premises of Thor Chemicals. The Cabinet has recently approved that a Commission of Enquiry be appointed to recommend *inter alia* on the best practicable environmental option to deal with the problem of waste on the premises.

Trafficking in narcotics: decrease in prosecutions

4. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether there was a decrease in the number of prosecutions against persons trafficking in narcotics and other prohibited substances during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what was the extent of such decrease;

- (2) whether he or his Department intends investigating the reasons for this decrease; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N10E

HANSARD 15/3/95

Permit system

for 4x4s soon

(56) CT 20/3/95
BY DAN SIMON

A PERMIT system to control and monitor the use of 4x4 and other off-road vehicles on sensitive beaches and dunes along the West Coast is expected to be introduced soon.

The West Coast Regional Services Council in Moorreesburg has made recommendations to the provincial administration for such a system. It has also urged that certain beaches be closed to 4x4 enthusiasts.

This follows the successful implementation of a permit system along stretches of coastline between Hermanus and Witsand by the Overberg regional services council.

Residents of a new West Coast property development at Grotto Bay recently expressed their anger over a weekly "invasion" of 4x4 vehicles which they said were destroying ecologically sensitive dunes and stretches of pristine beach.

The Four Wheel Drive Club of Southern Africa, the Cape Land Rover Club and Off-Road Adventure 4x4 Club said they were "very much in favour" of a permit system such as the one which had been successfully introduced in Natal.

"We have a strong conservation and environmental ethic," Four Wheel Drive Club spokesman Mr Jeffrey Cohen said.

Department of Environment Affairs coastal management officer Mr Shaun Schneier said the recommendations were the result of a national policy initiative promulgated last April in terms of the Environment Conservation Act.

The regulations stated in principle that off-road vehicle use on beaches should be prohibited, with the exception of specific demarcated areas where vehicles might be permitted subject to the introduction of a permit system.

He said the department had identified areas which were to be closed to off-road vehicles. These included bathing areas, beach areas next to bathing areas, ecologically sensitive areas such as dunes, estuarine salt marshes next to estuaries, estuarine inter-tidal sandflats, bird and turtle nesting areas and beaches with steep gradients.

Greens slam Kalako on Cape Point ruling

ARG 23/3/95

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

WESTERN Cape Premier Her-nus Kriel has been asked to rescind a decision of his Minister of Sport, Recreation and Tourism, Lerumo Kalako, giving the green light to the development of a new restaurant and funicular railway in the Cape Point Nature Reserve.

In a letter to Mr Kriel signed by the branch manager of the Wildlife Society, Andy Gubb, and conservation ecologist, Marlene Laros, reference is made to a letter Mr Kalako sent to the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

In it he allegedly said: "I hereby wish to inform your good office that I have no objection to the proposed development taking place at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve."

The Wildlife Society letter to Mr Kriel said: "As was the case with the proposed Transnet development on the banks of Rietvlei, Mr Kalako did not inform interested and affected parties of his decision, in spite of the fact that in both instances there was considerable public opposition to the proposals."

"The doubt which the Wildlife Society has with regard to the Western Cape regional government's commitment to open and transparent decision-making has been strengthened by these actions of Mr Kalako."

"The Wildlife Society wishes to register the strongest possible protest against the fact that again there is no public record of Mr Kalako's decision."

In terms of the Environmental Conservation Act of 1989, the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve fell within the Protected Natural Environment and any development needed a permit from Cape Nature Conservation. No permit had been supplied, the letter said.

Decision-makers should at least insist on an adequate environmental impact assessment being undertaken prior to making decisions.

In his letter, Mr Kalako listed eight conditions under which he would have no objection to the Cape Point proposal.

"The Wildlife Society in general supports these conditions but is concerned about the fact that the wording of the letter does not require that these conditions be met."

SPORTS

Ramsamy -
man in the middle
- p29

INSIGHT

R4-m cycad thefts plan uncovered

A joint operation by the Narcotics Bureau and nature conservation departments of the Eastern Cape and former Ciskei has uncovered an illegal cycad operation believed to involve R4-million.

Thirty-one tons of the endangered plant were found on two trailers outside Grahamstown on Monday afternoon.

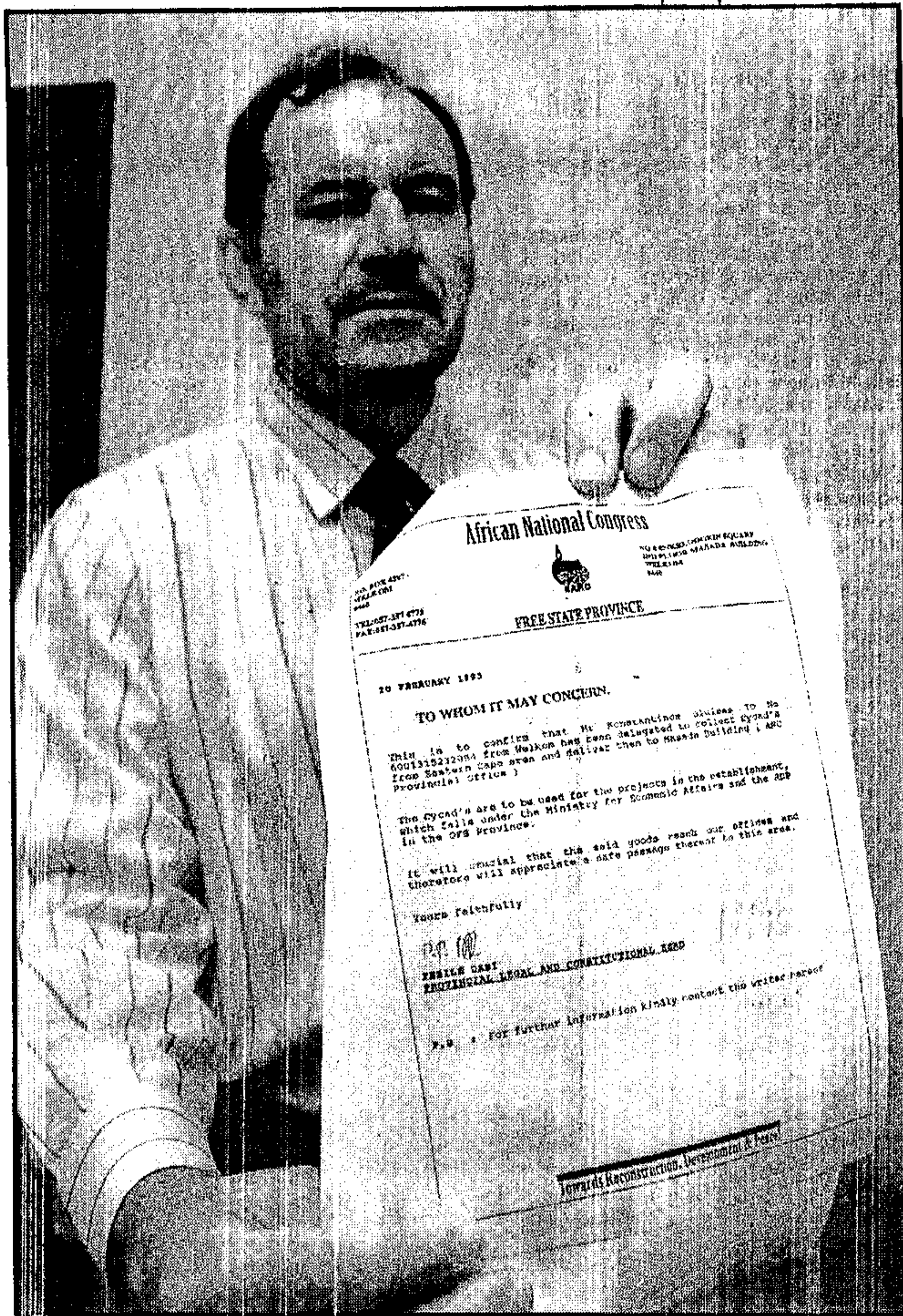
The driver and a Welkom businessman were arrested.

The businessman, Konstantinos Juleas, appeared in Grahamstown Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Ciskei and Eastern Cape nature conservation departments have said neither had given permission for removal of cycads. —

Sapa.

(SB) Star 24/3/95



Picture: NIC BOTHMA.

□ **PROOF:** DP senator Errol Moorcroft with proof that authorisation to remove the cycads was given on letterheads from the ANC Free State office.

ANC officials tied to cycad-smuggling

CLIVE SAWYER

Weekend Argus Political Correspondent

THE African National Congress has been urged to fire Free State and Eastern Cape officials allegedly involved in cycad-smuggling.

Democrat Senator Errol Moorcroft said the ANC should take immediate steps to remove from office all those involved in "plundering" the rare plants from the Eastern Cape.

Police in this week arrested two men after seizing a truck loaded with tons of cycads allegedly bulldozed out of the

ARC 25/3/95 ground without a permit.

The action followed an investigation by Eastern Cape nature conservation officials, the Endangered Species Protection Unit and the police.

Senior ANC officials reportedly had issued letters saying the cycads were needed for a project being run by the Free State Ministry for Economic Affairs.

Mr Moorcroft said illegal removal of huge quantities of the plants was "unprecedented environmental vandalism". Cycads were an endangered species, protected under the

(S6) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

"The fact that the recipient is a political party and that authorisation was given by the office of the premier of the Eastern Cape is equally unprecedented."

Mr Moorcroft congratulated the Eastern Cape Department of Nature Conservation for its vigilance "and for resisting political pressures" allegedly brought to bear by the office of Free State Premier Patrick Lekota to release the confiscated goods.

A spokesman for Mr Lekota could not be reached.

Plundered⁽⁵⁶⁾ cycads are doomed to die

By RYAN CRESSWELL

ONLY a fifth of about 330 endangered cycads stolen by a syndicate in the Eastern Cape and seized by police this week are likely to be successfully replanted.

The conservation officer for the Eastern Cape nature conservation department, Jaap Pienaar, said the cycad theft had been a "complete disaster for conservation".

Only about 20 percent of the ancient plants, confiscated in the largest cycad haul in South Africa, would take root again, he said.

Some of the plants were more than 500 years old.

Some were "uniquely large and strangely shaped".

Mr Pienaar said at least two rare species, *E. Altensteinii* and *Trispionis*, were among the plants.

The cycads were found at Tholumna near Grahamstown and at another site near the Fish River this week.

A man from Welkom, Konstantinos Giuleas, appeared in the Grahamstown magistrate's court on Thursday in connection

with the theft. He was granted bail of R8 000 and the case was postponed to May 26.

Colonel Pieter Lategan of the Endangered Species Protection Unit said the unit was investigating ANC links with the plunder. The Free State and the Eastern Cape ANC branches had allegedly issued documents authorising the removal, saying the endangered plants were to be used in the reconstruction and development programme in the Free State.

"We will be speaking to some of the government officials in Bisho tomorrow," Colonel Lategan said.

A Free State ANC official said the cycads were actually destined for a new casino in Sasolburg.

Colonel Lategan said his unit was also on the trail of members of a "large syndicate" believed to be involved in cycad operations in Kwazulu Natal, Gauteng and the Northern and Eastern Transvaal.

No one in the government or in the Eastern Cape premier's office could be reached for comment yesterday.

ST 25/3/95

Former regional Environmental Affairs Minister Lerumo Kalako has approved controversial plans for a restaurant and funicular railway at Cape Point. But, his decision has been queried on legal grounds by the Western Cape Regional Services Council and slammed by the Wildlife Society, writes Argus Environment Report JOHN YELD.

Green ire over Cape Point plan

56
ARG 27/3/95

IN one of his last actions as regional Environmental Affairs Minister, Lerumo Kalako gave the conditional go-ahead for a proposed restaurant and funicular railway at Cape Point in the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve.

In a letter dated February 15 to the reserve's owner — the Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC) — Mr Kalako said he had no objection to the proposal, provided certain conditions were met.

These included:

- The internal seating capacity of the restaurant at Cape Point should be limited to 180;
- The existing Homestead site should be used as an educational centre;
- Parking should not be allowed on the approach road to and from the Point site;
- Current employees of the Homestead restaurant should be "positively considered" for employment at the new development at the Point; and
- A team of environmentalists and officials — "put together in an open and transparent manner" — should monitor the development.

The Cape of Good Hope nature reserve is in the proclaimed Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE) and a

permit issued by Cape Nature Conservation is required for any change in land use.

Mr Kalako's decision is an effective approval for a permit, but the RSC has queried with regional Premier Henus Kriel the legality of that decision, on the grounds that environmental affairs' powers have not yet been delegated from the central government.

The Wildlife Society has asked Mr Kriel to rescind his former environmental affairs minister's "ill-considered" decision. The society's Western Cape manager, Andy Gubb, and conservation ecologist Marlene Laros told Mr Kriel in a letter that a number of organisations and individuals had been waiting since August for a decision on the Cape Point issue.

In general, the society supported the conditions set by Mr Kalako, but hoped the authorities would have insisted on integrated environmental management (IEM) guidelines being followed, their letter stated.

There was not yet clarity on the carrying capacity of the Point, the management of the increased number of visitors to the Point, or parking congestion which the new restaurant and increased number of visitors were likely to cause.

No serious consideration had been given to alternative sites for the restaurant, the letter stated.

● Mr Kalako has not responded to a request by Weekend Argus for comment.

Action against ANC official over cycads

BISHO: Eastern Cape Premier Mr Raymond Mhlaba has ordered administrative steps against his protocol aide, Ms Tozie Mazitshana, for her part in the plundering of cycads worth R4 million.

Ms Mazitshana provided Free State businessman Mr Konstantinos Guileas with a letter authorising him to remove more than 300 protected cycads from a site in the Tamara tribal area near the Great Fish River.

The plants were ostensibly destined for the ANC head office in Welkom, or a new casino at Sasolburg.

In a statement here yesterday, Mr Mhlaba said an internal investigation indicated Ms Mazitshana had acted alone and totally without authority.

Matters relating to the issuing of permits or licences to transport protected or endangered fauna and flora were the responsibility of

~~(56)~~ (56) CT 28/3/95
the provincial Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, he said.

The Eastern Cape government, after advising the police of its intention to co-operate fully with the investigation into the illegal removal of the cycads, yesterday arranged for Ms Mazitshana to meet the investigation team.

Mr Mhlaba said police would now focus primarily on certain people in the Free State. — Sapa

emphasises on exports

Free State official 'asked for cycads'

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON — An Eastern Cape government official who authorised the illegal removal of R4m worth of endangered cycads from the former Ciskei yesterday implicated a senior Free State government official.

Tozie Mazitshana, a protocol aide in the office of Eastern Cape premier Raymond Mhlaba, told police she authorised the cycads' removal in response to a personal appeal from a senior Free State government official.

This was confirmed last night by Free State agriculture minister Tertius Delpert, who said he was requested by the official to validate the illegal permit issued by Mazitshana. He refused to assist either in obtaining or validating the permit, he said.

Delpert denied the official was a member of the Free State executive, or affiliated to the Free State's agricultural ministry.

It could also not be established last night whether the official had acted in a personal capacity or on behalf of the provincial government.

The Eastern Cape government, meanwhile, has issued a statement saying Mazitshana acted alone and without the knowledge or consent of the premier or anyone in his office in authorising the removal of the cycads.

A copy of Mazitshana's police statement, as well as a report by provincial government secretary Zam Titus, will be presented to the provincial director-general, Thozamile Botha, today for a decision on appropriate disciplinary steps against her.

"An administrative process has been set in motion to decide on the steps that will have to be taken against her," an Eastern Cape government spokesman, Prince Msutu, said.

This would be done as soon as possible, following a directive from Mhlaba that these steps be "sped up to ensure that officials adhere to the laws of the country and that proper channels and procedures are observed at all times," he said.

Msutu said the government had also requested nature conservation officials to do all they could to minimise damage to the Tamara tribal area, from where more than 300 of the rare and valuable plants were removed.

The cycads meanwhile have been transported to an undisclosed site within the province to be replanted. However, the majority of the plants had only a slim chance of survival, a senior nature conservation official, Jaap Pienaar, said.

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MINISTER RESPONDS TO PUBLIC'S LETTERS

Mountain park
'no solution'

(56) 28/3/95

AUTHORITIES rejected the idea that the parks board run Table Mountain. By **STAFF REPORTERS**

DECLARING Table Mountain a National Park was not a solution to the current management problems of the Peninsula's mountain chain, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

Dr De Villiers said at a news conference he had received many letters from the public calling on him to hand over management of the mountain to the National Parks Board.

He described the issue as "very sensitive".

"The Cape has been involved intimately with Table Mountain over many years. Why should the people from the Cape not retain an interest in Table Mountain?" Dr De Villiers said.

He said the key recommendation of the University of Cape Town's Fuggle Report on Table Mountain — that a new authority be created to counter the fragmented management of the mountain — was being implemented.

"The recommendation that we have not accepted is that the National Parks Board should be in charge for the interim period," Dr De Villiers said.

Regional Finance Minister Mr Kobus Meiring said at the news conference the province and central government could

not take "high-handed" decisions and decide that Table Mountain would be run as a national park.

A public forum will be held in the Civic Centre on April 18 under the chairmanship of Western Cape attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn to appoint an advisory committee.

This committee will help the Department of Environment Affairs and the province with the drafting of legislation relevant to the management of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE).

Meeting

The issue surrounding the management of Table Mountain has generated much debate among local conservationists, with some calling for the National Parks Board to assume control of the mountain until legislation is drafted and adopted by Parliament.

Mr Kriel and Mr De Villiers have also come under fire for refusing to hold a public meeting on the future of the mountain, which would allow proponents of various management ideas to state their cases.

Democratic Party environment affairs spokesman Mr Errol Moorcroft has been quoted as saying the sooner control over the mountain was removed from politicians and vested in an apolitical authority, "the sooner will the integrity of this priceless asset be safeguarded".

Free State official
'asked for cycads'

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON — An Eastern Cape government official who authorised the illegal removal of R4m worth of endangered cycads from the former Ciskei yesterday implicated a senior Free State government official.

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emphasis on exports

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Apology for cycads act 'accepted'

EAST LONDON — Free State housing minister Vax Mayekiso and Eastern Cape premier Raymond Mhlaba met in Bisho yesterday amid allegations that Mayekiso was involved in the interprovincial smuggling of rare cycads worth R4m.

An Eastern Cape government spokesman said Mayekiso had come to the Eastern Cape so that he could "apologise in person to Mr Mhlaba".

(56) B029/3/95
Sources in the provincial legislature said Mayekiso arrived in East London on

Monday and he and Mhlaba talked for more than 90 minutes yesterday. — Sapa.

Mayekiso's office confirmed he knew "at a casual level" Konstantinos Giuleas, the Free State businessman arrested last week while transporting the cycads to Welkom.

Cycad case: Minister ^(S) apologises ^{CF 29/3/95}

EAST LONDON: Free State Housing Minister Mr Vax Mayekiso and Eastern Cape Premier Mr Raymond Mhlaba held talks in Bisho yesterday amid allegations Mr Mayekiso was personally involved in the inter-provincial smuggling of rare cycads worth R4 million.

An Eastern Cape government spokesman said Mr Mayekiso was in the province "to apologise to Mr Mhlaba".

Sources in the provincial legislature said Mr Mayekiso arrived in East London on Monday evening and held talks with Mr Mhlaba for more than 90 minutes yesterday morning.

Mr Mhlaba later said he had accepted the apology.

Mr Mayekiso's arrival followed disclosures that he had personally asked an Eastern Cape government official, Ms Tozi Mazitshana, to issue permits to remove and transport more than 30 tons of cycads from the former Ciskei to Welkom in the Free State.

In a statement, Mr Mayekiso's office confirmed he knew "at a casual level" Mr Konstantinos Giuleas, the Free State businessman arrested last week while transporting the cycads to Welkom.

The cycad row erupted early last week when police, acting on information, arrested Mr Giuleas.

Ms Mazitshana, a protocol aide in Mr Mhlaba's office, told police investigators she issued the illegal permit after receiving a telephone call from Mr Mayekiso asking her to facilitate the removal of the cycads.

Eastern Cape Agriculture Minister Dr Tertius Delpont later confirmed that he had also been approached by a senior official to validate the permit issued by Ms Mazitshana. He had declined to do so. — Sapa

MEC denies cycad link

■ BY BOBBY BROWN

Free State MEC for Housing Vax Mayekiso yesterday denied any involvement in the illegal transportation of endangered cycads from East London.

Mayekiso was implicated by an Eastern Cape government official as having been responsible for requesting the illegal removal of the trees,

worth R4 million.

Tozie Mazitshana told police that Mayekiso had personally appealed to her for assistance in removing the cycads, to which she had agreed.

This was confirmed on Monday by Eastern Cape MEC for Agriculture Tertius Delport, who said he had been requested by the official to validate the permit, but had refused.

(57) *stam 29/3/95*
In a statement yesterday, Mayekiso said he rejected with contempt any suggestions that involved him in the illegal moving of the trees.

He had merely been trying to help a Welkom resident, Konstantinos Guileas, who had approached him for direction to the proper authorities to get permission to transport the cycads, he said.

Mountain: Consensus call

(56) CT 30/3/95

HOPES for a unified body to manage Table Mountain will be dashed unless a proposed committee to draft new conservation laws receives wide support, especially from the ANC, environmentalists said yesterday.

Cape attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn also had to win consensus on the criteria to appoint the 15-member committee, Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment spokesman Mr Lester Coelen said. "Mr Kahn must understand this committee has to

be acceptable to people, including the ANC. Without them, no amount of good work will get one anywhere."

Mr Kahn will chair a public forum on April 18 where the groups involved in the debate on the mountain chain's management will discuss their proposals.

He will then appoint a committee to draft national and provincial laws for Table Mountain and other potential World Heritage Sites.

A spokesman for the Cape Peninsula Conservation Managers'

Key public meetings on future of Table Mountain

□ Khan chairs indaba on how to pare conservation management

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter
and Sapa

PRESENTATIONS on various options for the future management of the Table Mountain chain will be a key feature of a long-awaited public meeting next month.

The National Parks Board, Cape Nature Conservation and University of Cape Town environmental scientist Richard Fuggle are among those being invited to motivate their proposals for the mountain's future at the meeting on April 18 which will be chaired by Cape attorney-general Frank Kahn.

Attempts are also being

made to have the option of a Cape Metropolitan Council nature reserve argued.

The meeting is the first step in a process to select 15 public representatives who will function as an advisory committee to help a government legal team draft new legislation to place the entire mountain chain — essentially the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Area (CPPNE) — under a single management authority.

The committee will also help draft national and provincial conservation laws for Table Mountain and other potential World Heritage Sites.

The process was decided recently by Environmental Af-

fairs Minister Dawie de Villiers and Western Cape Environment Minister Kobus Meiring, following strong criticism at the delay in implementing the recommendations of University of Cape Town environmental consultants in their "Fuggle" report on the mountain's future.

But some green groups are still unhappy about the way in which the process is being handled, claiming it is not in line with accepted public participation principles and hinting at possible protest action.

Mr Kahn said the meeting was an attempt to reach the broadest possible consensus and it would give him a chance to gauge various schools of

thought about the protected area's future.

"This is an area bedevilled by criticism and debate which has only delayed plans at an enormous cost to ratepayers and conservation.

"We agree that no model is perfect. This is a unique opportunity to hear the pros and cons of each model and to get the best result.

"It's an open-minded, open canvas process which sets its own agenda, but it's not a green parliament."

It was up to the participating organisations to "fight out the options among themselves" and he wanted an advisory committee in place within a

month of the April 18 meeting, Mr Kahn said.

"We're adamant to keep this apolitical in all senses of the word. The process must rise above vested personal and professional interests.

"The minister's proposals are flexible and can accommodate most shades of opinion.

"But knowing the bloody-mindedness of the citizens of the Western Cape, I wouldn't be surprised if the meeting degenerated into a dog-fight in which many people — including myself — will be scratched and bitten.

"But this is something I welcome. People are very concerned about Table Mountain, and so they should be."

(57) ARCT 30/3/95

Water pollution

'threat to health'

(56) ST 2/4/95

By TONY LEISEGANG

A THREAT to human health is being posed by seawater at the Waterfront and Cape Town harbour and some areas of False Bay around Muizenberg, according to a number of leading Western Cape experts in the field.

The harbour has been described as the "sewer" of the City Bowl, by both biological scientists and engineers.

"Look but don't touch the seawater," was the advice of Dr Peter Hughes, head of the Centre for Marine Studies at the University of Cape Town.

The warnings were given in the wake of two recent incidents in Cape Town harbour and the Victoria Dry Dock in which thousands of fish died mysteriously.

In another incident this week thousands of sardines died in the Zandvlei estuary, which runs into the sea at Muizenberg.

Scientific tests have so far failed to find a conclusive cause of death and further testing of the Zandvlei fish will be done at the Regional Veterinary Laboratory in Stellenbosch, which has been sent samples of sardines and water.

Dr Hughes has complained that present testing methods are not good enough to pinpoint the culprits.

He is backed up on this by Sea Fisheries head of research Dr Larry Hutchins.

Cape Town port engineer Derek Visser warned that because of the water hazard in the Cape Town harbour area, people wanting to use the sea for recreational purposes should go elsewhere on the Peninsula.

This week several leading scientists called for urgent action and the co-operation of civic authorities to protect and develop the Western Cape's biggest industry, tourism, and residents' health.

At Muizenberg, pollution had struck in what was described as "over-exploitation and over-population beyond our resources and ability to control", said Professor Alec Brown, a marine biologist in the department of zoology at UCT.

"Our waters are sim-

ply becoming unfit for human recreational purposes," Dr Hughes said.

Several scientists and engineers have already met informally to discuss the problems.

Pollution of harbour water would worsen with the onset of winter rains, Mr Visser said.

He blamed stormwater run-off carrying pollutants into the sea from areas of growing squatter habitation, and oil spillages in the harbour.

Previous tests by Sea Fisheries, UCT scientists and others have been described by all parties involved as inadequate because of a lack of funding.

Oxygen depletion was blamed for the two earlier mass sardine deaths, but no tests were carried out for heavy metals or

contamination from sewerage discharge into the harbour and Table Bay, sources confirmed.

No in-depth probe of harbour pollution had been done for at least 18 months.

The scientists argue, and are supported by Mr Visser, that a thorough test of pollution is vital.

Scientists at the Department of Agriculture in Stellenbosch, however, would be able to do such testing. Dr Hughes said that routine "E-coli" tests for sewerage contamination were inadequate as they did not indicate the presence of human viruses in sea water.

Long-term effects of heavy metals in harbour bottom sediments were also not known. Increased use of the port, up a quarter over a year ago, had added increased concentrations of lead, zinc and tin, he said.

SEVERAL major veld fires have swept through mountainous areas of the summer, stretching the region's fire-fighting resources and taxing already stretched fire-fighting operations, including the use of helicopters with water.

Fires — burning of their impact on the land

ALL too often this summer, it seemed, the skies over Table Mountain and other natural areas darkened apocalyptically as thick smoke from major bush fires spiralled upwards.

Great tongues of flame, usually driven by a raging south-easter, leaped metres into the sky as weary fire-fighters battled gamely against the infernos or withdrew helplessly.

"Fire disaster — thousands of hecatres of fynbos destroyed!" screamed the headlines in the media.

But just how accurate were these reports?

Contrary to public opinion, there haven't been more wild fires this season than previously, although the perception is understandable because of the extent of some of the burns.

Also, many of the fires have not been totally environmentally destructive, despite the blackened and seemingly desert-like aftermath, although conservationists are deeply concerned about some burnt areas.

Cape Nature Conservation's Boland manager Greville Ruddock confirmed having to deal with a number of fires in his area this summer season.

"There may have been more numerically, but the critical factor is area, and generally they have been smaller than in previous years.

"For example, we had a very large fire in 1984 which went through 35 000 hectares and in 1991 10 000 hectares were burnt in the Kogelberg.

"The largest this year was in the Kogelberg-Steenbras region which burnt about 3 500-to-4 000 hectares in our area."

Guy Palmer, Cape Nature Conservation's district manager for the West Coast and west Boland areas, said

QUOTE

"We've had a very dry summer. If you look at the long-term rainfall averages, from November to March, they are way down. And late this summer we've had a lot of very strong south-easters. That situation is dessicating the environment and the hot temperatures exacerbate the problem — everything is extremely inflammable."

there had been far fewer fires in his area.

"Last year in our west Boland region there were 34 fires in a four-month period, most caused by negligence and nearly all outside state land.

"Most of those were relatively small and didn't cause any damage to commercial farms or properties, so there wasn't any 'news' value to them."

This season there had been two major fires in his area — including one which burnt about 15 000 hectares in the Groot Winterhoek area, Mr Palmer said.

David Daitz, director of the Cape Town city council's parks and forest branch, said there was no point in merely counting the number of fires.

"We've had two enormous fires in the Steenbras area, the second kept us busy for the whole week.

"Last season we had lots of little fires, but none of them was on that scale.

"Until the beginning of March we thought we'd been having an exceedingly easy fire season, but that perception changed somewhat."

This season's fires had been largely the result of weather conditions, Mr Daitz said.

"We've had a very dry summer. If you look at the long-term rainfall averages, from November to March, they are way down.

"And late this summer

we've had a lot of very strong south-easters.

"That situation is dessicating the environment and the hot temperatures exacerbate the problem — everything is extremely inflammable.

"In these conditions and with the strong winds, you have to get there very quickly to prevent a major fire."

The Steenbras fire was started by lightning, as was one of the major fires in the Groot Winterhoek area.

The second major fire in that area could have been sparked by rocks, dislodged by feeding baboons, tumbling down the mountainside.

Carelessness which had caused last year's fire "debacle" had been largely controlled by extending the fire prohibition area, Mr Palmer said.

"Now anyone wanting to light a fire in this area between about the end of November and April has to apply for a permit, and is immediately guilty of an offence if there's an unauthorised fire on their property, no matter how it starts."

Botanical Society conservation officer Philip Ivey said fire was part of the natural process of fynbos regeneration: "We can't live without it."

But managers had to ensure there was a mosaic of veld ages — the number of years since the veld was last burnt — to allow plants



A FAMILY

that had different cycles to regenerate.

"Protea grandiceps, for example, takes up to 10 years before it sets seed, and quite a few other protea species take three years or more," Mr Ivey said.

It was essential that fire was kept out of areas which had been recently burned.

"They should be protected in whatever way possible, to allow the longer-lived species — particularly proteas — to complete their life cycles.

"But I'm very scared of the mentality which says 'Let's protect the fynbos, full stop'. I'd be happier with money being spent on protecting the edges and people's property," Mr Ivey said.

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(56) - ARG 3/4/95



SIGHT: Firefighters at work in the Western Cape.

Ruddock said it was Nature Conservation to put in "a major effort against a fire that was through young veld.

But the public likes to see lots of action and fires put out, but ecologists say that's not always the best thing — some areas should burn.

In the Boland specifically, we're now surrounded by towns and farms, so it's difficult just to allow areas to burn.

Palmer also said there's the problem of alien vegetation, which spreads after fire.

Palmer said many of the fires in the western area had been "ecologically good" because they came through old veld

that hadn't burnt for up to 40 years.

Certain high rainfall areas could be safely burnt every 10 to 12 years, while some drier areas — such as the eastern sides of the Groot Winterhoek and the Cedarberg and the Swartberg — should only be burnt every 30 to 40 years.

"So there's no hard and fast rules about burning — it often depends on the exact age of the veld and the plant communities there," Mr Palmer said.

"Stereotyped management is very wrong — we have to have as much diversity as possible.

"The mountains are now so insular compared to the way they were in the past that we can't afford to have

large areas of the same veld age — it makes management and recolonisation by plants very difficult, so a mosaic or pattern of burning is what you aim for."

The decision on whether to fight a fire or let it burn depended on a range of factors, Mr Palmer said.

"It depends on the weather, the age of the veld, the topography ...

"It's often much too steep to send people in safely and so you have to rely on features or lines that you can backburn against — rivers and old burns and so on.

"We have very few people available, and so it's important that you don't exhaust your resources on futile efforts."

CORD

SportsDATE

20 YEARS AGO

April 3, 1975: Two Rhodesian entries are accepted for The Argus Two Oceans Marathon bringing the total to 180. The entry deadline was extended by a day.

10 YEARS AGO

April 3, 1985: WP Springbok Tanya Peckham managed to beat Zola Budd's national record of 1 min 08,97 sec in the girls under-19 1500m at the SA junior athletics championships at Stellenbosch.

Bothasig	1	0	1	4	7	0	1 R Gordon (US) Reynard
Lords B	1	0	1	4	7	0	Cosworth, 200 laps, (215.614
Rygersdal	1	0	1	3	8	0	average speed), 2 M Andretti
Bachelors	1	0	1	2	9	0	Lola Ford Cosworth, 200, 3 E
The Spot	1	0	1	2	9	0	paldi (Brazil) Penske Merce
Magpies	7	Bothasig	4,	Rangers	9		Benz, 200, 4 P Tracy (Canada)
Bachelors	2,	Bobbies	K9	9	The Spot		Ford Cosworth, 200, 5 J Viller
Lords A	8	Rygersdal	3,	Settlers	7		(Canada) Reynard Ford Cosw
Lords B	4.	180:	S	Kensley	(RGS)		200, 6 R Boesel (Brazil) Lola
							cedes-Benz, 198, 7 Teo Fabi
							Reynard Ford Cosworth, 198,
							Unser iun (US) Penske Merce

GOLF

Note: Due to the time constraints, no information could be obtained from the following departments/provincial administrations:

- * Department of Education.
- * Department of Finance.
- * Department of Public Works.
- * Provincial Administration: Eastern Cape.
- * Provincial Administration: North-West.

Senator C R REDCLIFFE: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to ask him whether these appointments were made on the basis of affirmative action.

The MINISTER: Mr President, I do not know what the hon Senator means by "affirmative action". However, the directive is very clear. The main aim was to use those posts, which emanate from the time before this Government came into power, to make the Public Service representative. If that is what he understands under affirmative action, yes, that is the case. But for me affirmative action goes even further than that.

Psychological counselling/other services to victims of child abuse

*4. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:

- (1) Whether the State provides any psychological counselling and/or other specified services to the victims of child abuse; if not, why not; if so, (a) what specified services and (b) how many children made use thereof in 1994;
- (2) whether these services are available throughout the Republic; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, (a) why not and (b) where are they available?

S100E

The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) Yes;

(a) social work counselling at the Child Emergency Service, which consists of a toll-free 24-hour telephone counselling service as well as 24-hour social work emergency service. Cases are also re-

ported at provincial welfare departments for social work intervention; psychological and other counselling services are available at some provincial hospitals and schools; and

(b) the toll-free Child Emergency Service reported 622 cases for counselling and other social work intervention during 1994. No national data is available to ascertain how many cases have been reported at provincial welfare departments; information in respect of services at provincial hospitals and education departments is not available;

(2) yes, the Child Emergency Service is a country-wide service. Provincial welfare departments, provincial hospitals and schools are distributed country-wide;

(a) falls away; and

(b) a comprehensive list of provincial welfare offices is not available. Information in respect of provincial hospitals and schools can be obtained from the relevant departments.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Mr President, the Minister for Safety and Security is unable to be here today owing to a family funeral. He requests that this question, as well as Questions 7, 9 and 11 be held over until after the recess, because he would prefer to answer these questions personally. He has raised this with the members who have posed these questions and they have agreed.

*5. Sen E K MOORCROFT—Safety and Security. [Question standing over.]
Hansard 4/14/95 (58)
Nuclear waste from foreign countries brought into the Republic

*6. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

Whether any nuclear waste from foreign countries is currently being brought into the Republic; if so, (a) what waste, (b) what amount of waste is involved, (c) from which countries, (d) why was permission granted to bring such waste into the Republic and (e) where is this waste being dumped in each case?

S102E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

No; (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) fall away.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! Does Senator Minisi have any objections to the fact that his questions have fallen away?

Senator W F MNISI: I am satisfied, Mr President.

*7. Sen C R REDCLIFFE—Safety and Security. [Question standing over.]

Members of SANDF stationed in Umtata

*8. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether any members of the South African National Defence Force stationed in Umtata are ever used to guard non-military premises and/or assist the police in their function; if so, under what circumstances;

(2) whether on any occasion where SANDF personnel were deployed in Umtata they were not issued with ammunition for their weapons; if so, (a) on which occasions, (b) why and (c) who took the decision in this regard;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

S104E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes. Members of the National Defence Force stationed in Umtata are on occasions used to guard non-military premises and/or assist the Police in their functions. Such assistance is given upon receipt of a request from the Police and the approval of the local Joint Security Staff.

(2) Yes. Troops are sometimes deployed without live ammunition. The nature of the assistance given and the threat analysis, determine whether live ammunition is to be issued. Live ammunition is always readily available if needed. It is the prerogative of the officer commanding or his designated representative to take such a decision.

(3) No. I have nothing further to add.

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Importation of live sheep into the Republic

*10. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether he has been consulted by any other Department in regard to the importation of live sheep on a regular basis into the Republic; if so, (a) which Department and (b) what was his response thereto?

S106E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

No.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

Senator E K MOORCROFT: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him whether such a scheme would carry his personal approval?

The MINISTER: Mr President, I have not received any requests in this regard up to now, but neither I nor the department approve of this and we are taking steps to deal with this problem. The real reason for the application is the moving of meat from Australia to South Africa. We think the moving of live animals is a medieval way of transporting meat. The animals should be slaughtered in Australia, after which we can import the meat. That is the basis of our whole argument.

*11. Sen Prof E S MCHUNU—Safety and Security. [Question standing over.]

Institutional arrangements currently underpinning traditional authorities

*12. Sen Prof E S MCHUNU asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

(1) Whether he will make a statement in regard to the institutional arrangements currently underpinning traditional authorities;

(2) whether he has given any consideration to introducing legislation aimed at according due status to the institution of traditional leadership within the constitutional and administrative framework; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S111E

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S111E

SEVERAL major veld fires have swept through mountainous areas of the Western Cape this summer, stretching the region's fire-fighting resources and taxing already tight budgets. In this final part of a two-part series, Argus environment reporter looks at the cost of fire-fighting operations, including the use of helicopters and buckets.

Budgets up in

Cape counts cost of those mountain fires

The chunky blue-and-white, Russian-manufactured M18 helicopter with a 3 000ℓ fire-bucket slung beneath its belly has become an all-too-familiar sight in Cape skies this summer.

The helicopter, on charter to the Cape Town city council and operating from the Newlands forest depot of its parks and forests branch, has been busy.

It dumped a million litres of water on the recent fire around the Steenbras dam, flying 10 hours on each of three days and only slightly fewer hours on several other days during the 10-day fire.

It also flew repeated sorties for three hours during the Lion's Head fire, and has been scrambled to deal with a number of other incidents this summer — including potentially disastrous fires at Trappieskop in the Kalk Bay mountains and at Strandfontein.

Parks and forests branch director David Daitz said the helicopter had been chartered on an experimental basis at a fixed cost of R60 000 a month from January to April and flying time at R7 000 an hour.

"I haven't had the recent costs in yet, but certainly using the helicopter at the Steenbras fire will probably have cost in excess of R250 000," he said.

It is the first time the council has taken the step of having a fire-fighting helicopter on permanent call.

Previously, Air Force Oryx helicopters and ma-

chines from private helicopter companies like Court were hired on an emergency basis — when they were available.

But it was essential to have a stand-by helicopter and critical to ensure that it was scrambled on time, Mr Daitz said.

For example, the recent Trappieskop fire which had been put out with the help of the helicopter could have proved calamitous.

"Because the helicopter was on standby, it could respond very quickly while the fire was still very small.

"There was tremendous potential for a disastrous fire there, particularly because of the high fuel loads caused by the alien vegetation.

"Also, we know there are bergies living on the mountainside there, although we don't know exactly where they are.

"The only other way of controlling that fire would have been by back-burning, and that is a hell of a thing to have to do if you suspect there are people in the bush."

Mr Daitz said he had "no doubt whatsoever" that the use of helicopters was an essential component of fire-fighting in the Western Cape — "but there are a lot of people who need to be convinced."

They include Botanical Society conservation officer Philip Ivey, who said he was not sure that helicopter contracts were a priority for fire-fighting funds.

"Making effective fire breaks and policing the mountain may be a better

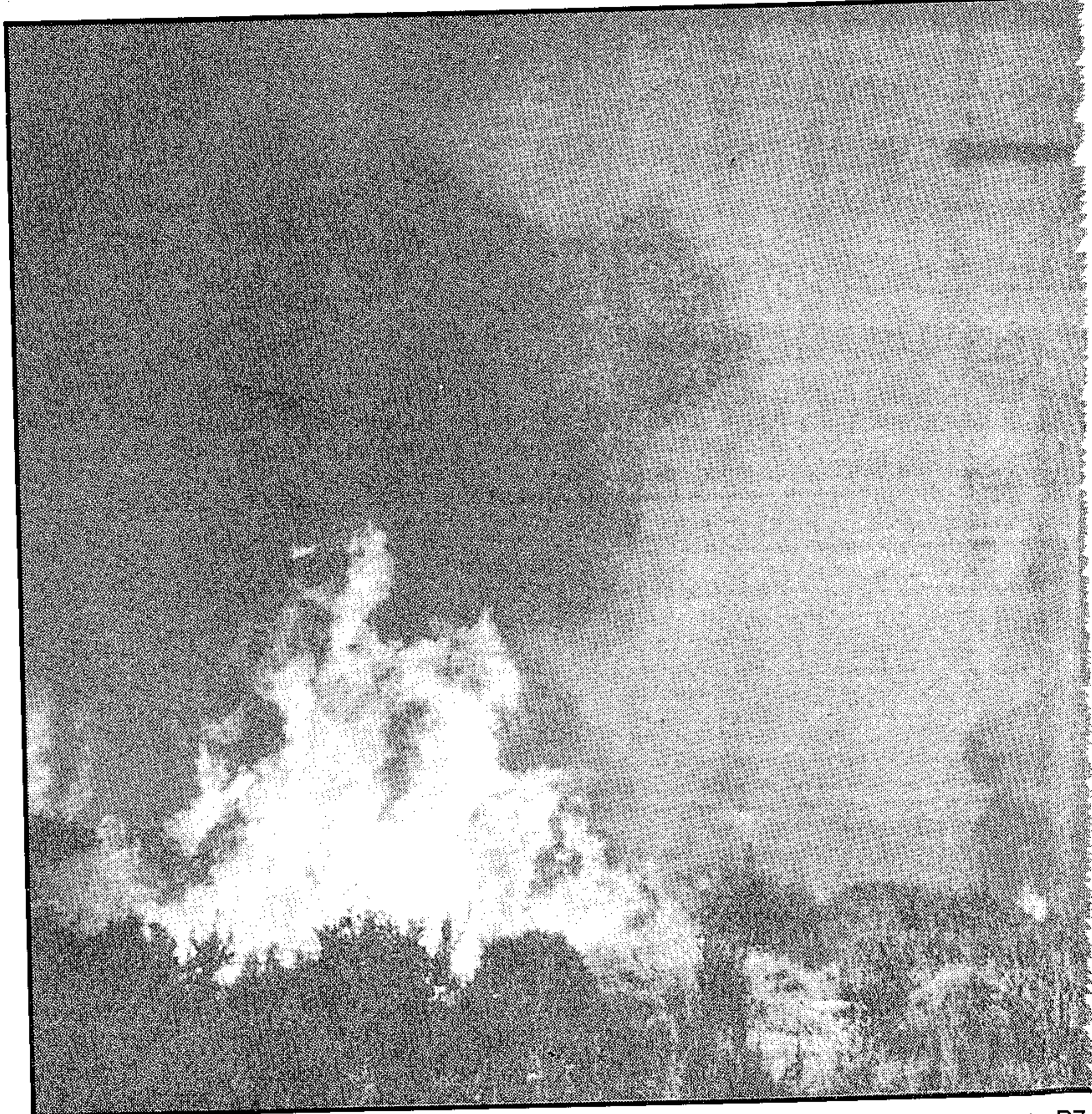
way of spending," he said.

In part, the council should spend more on conservation and vegetation fire-fighting.

"That would reduce the impact," Ivey said.

Cape Town's Botanical Society's conservation officer Philip Ivey said he was not sure that helicopter contracts were a priority for fire-fighting funds.

"That would reduce the impact," Ivey said.



WATER BOMBER: A helicopter like this one dropping water on a recent Cape fire costs R7 R60 000 a month.

Eastern Cape
strained
JOHN YELD
with water



7M12	3K10	8	56.5
6M16	2M15	6	54.5
1M10	1M12	3	54.0
0M14	6M12	1	53.5
2M14	2M12	9	53.5
0K12	9M10	4	51.5
3K12	0M14	5	51.5
0K12	1M12	7	51.5
Spot 5		1800m	
tick 6-5		PA 6	
1K19	4M19	6	58.0

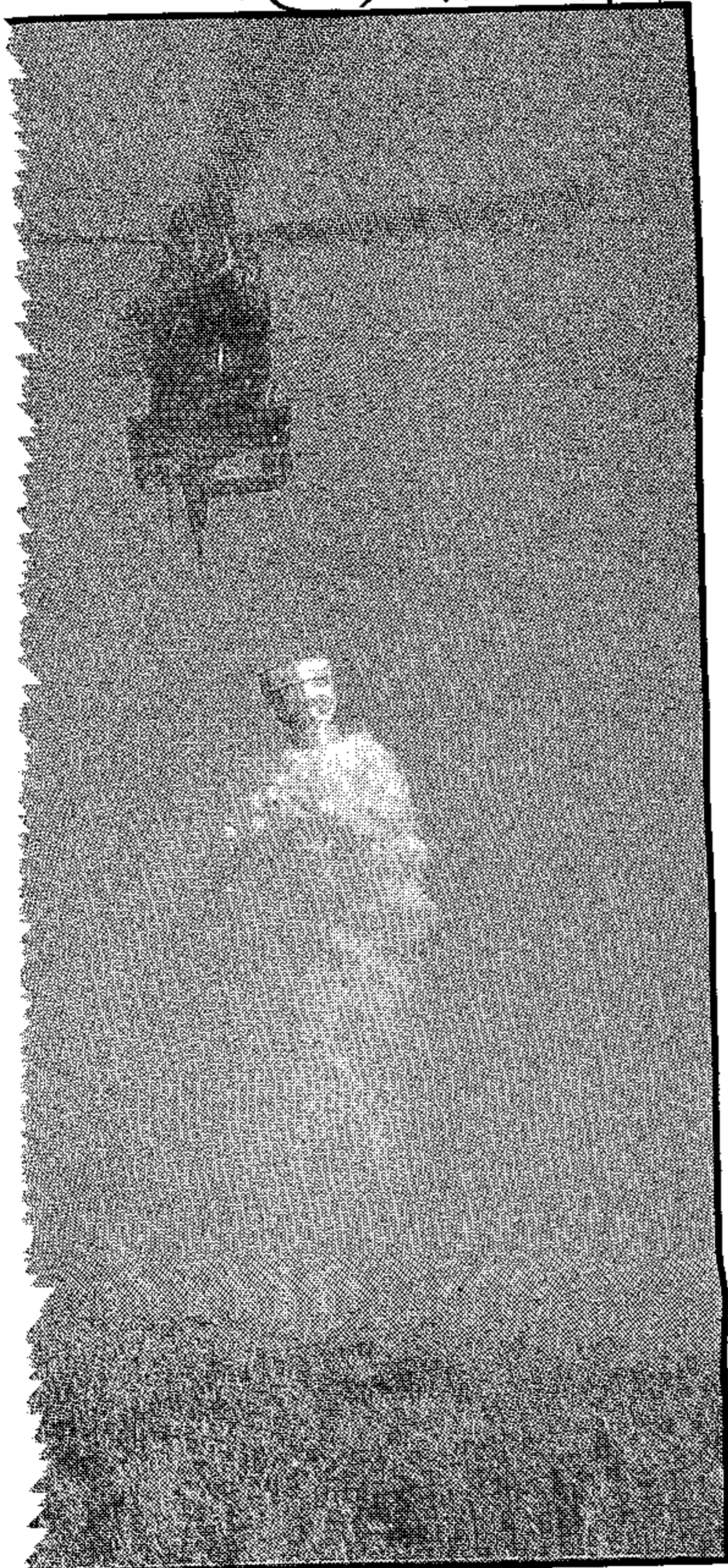
ATHLETICS

Grand Prix Summer Series
Pietersburg
SA unless noted
MEN

Draw for SA Country
Districts tournament
Devon Vale CC
Monday, April 24: Boland v
I/OFS and N Cape, Transvaal
voo, Border/ E Province bye

smoke

(56) ARG 4/4/95



their real effectiveness was in getting to fires quickly while they were still small.

"The cost of a helicopter is cheap compared to what you would have to spend dealing with a major fire."

The weather office at Cape Town airport now produced a fire danger rating that was updated twice a day, Mr Daitz said.

The index was based on meteorological factors such as temperature, wind and humidity, and a prediction for the following day was made at 2pm.

This was updated at 6am on the day.

If the rating was red or orange — the two highest categories — it was mandatory for mountain area managers to call out the helicopter in the event of a fire.

"Even if they think they've got the fire under control," Mr Daitz said.

"I'd rather have it fly half-an-hour's unnecessary time than have it arrive too late."

There had not been a proper controlled burning programme in the council's area of Table Mountain — mainly because of political pressure, but also partly because of budgetary constraints, Mr Daitz said.

"This means that some of the fuel load concentrations, which determine the intensity of the fire, are too high."

However, a controlled burn had been done above Orange Kloof last year and his department intended doing other controlled burns this year.

Mr Ivey said the Botanical Society was anxious to see a much broader fire management plan for the Table Mountain chain.

"We don't feel there's co-ordinated fire management, and we've identified that as a major problem."

Because properties bordering natural areas were most at risk from fires, these owners should pay extra rates, Mr Ivey suggested.

"This is not official Bot-Soc policy, but I believe people should pay for the privilege of living on the edge of nature reserves."

00 an hour flying time plus a fixed cost of

adding money," he

ular, authorities and significantly clearing alien vegetation in the mountain.

ould definitely require threat," Mr

ture Conservator and manager Ruddock believed it would be a financial boon from the province for fire control — like a disaster and should cover

the costs of wildfire control, finance equipment like helicopters and pay for setting up a dedicated fire danger rating system with a central control room and so on," Mr Ruddock said.

"A system like this works very well in the Eastern Transvaal but to implement it requires high-level political input."

Mr Daitz warned that helicopters were not the total answer to fire-fighting.

They could help significantly in major fires but were "no panacea", and

Table 13.2.2: Annual household income categories (all income sources) by race and location (Percentage)

Income Category	African			Coloured			Indian			White			All
	Rural	Urban	Metro	Rural	Urban	Metro	Rural	Urban	Metro	Rural	Urban	Metro	
R0	1.8	2.2	1.9										
R1-R999	4.6	2.4	2.1										
R1000-R2999	11.6	6.4	4.1	2.2	4.4	1.5	0.7	0.7					
R3000-R4999	17.8	14.5	7.8	12.8	5.9	2.9	2.2	2.9	2.9	1.9	0.4	0.7	6.9
R5000-R6999	14.9	8.1	7.0	10.9	7.4	3.2	2.2	2.9	2.9	1.9	0.7	0.7	11.7

Mountain: Names wanted

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A CALL for nominations for 15 people to serve on an advisory committee to help draft new legislation for Table Mountain and the rest of the Peninsula mountain chain will be a key feature of a public meeting on April 18.

Cape Attorney General Frank Kahn, who has been appointed by central and regional government environmental affairs ministers Dawie de Villiers and Kobus Meiring to chair the meeting, said he was determined to make the nomination process as democratic as possible.

ARG 4/4/95
"But we will come to a point

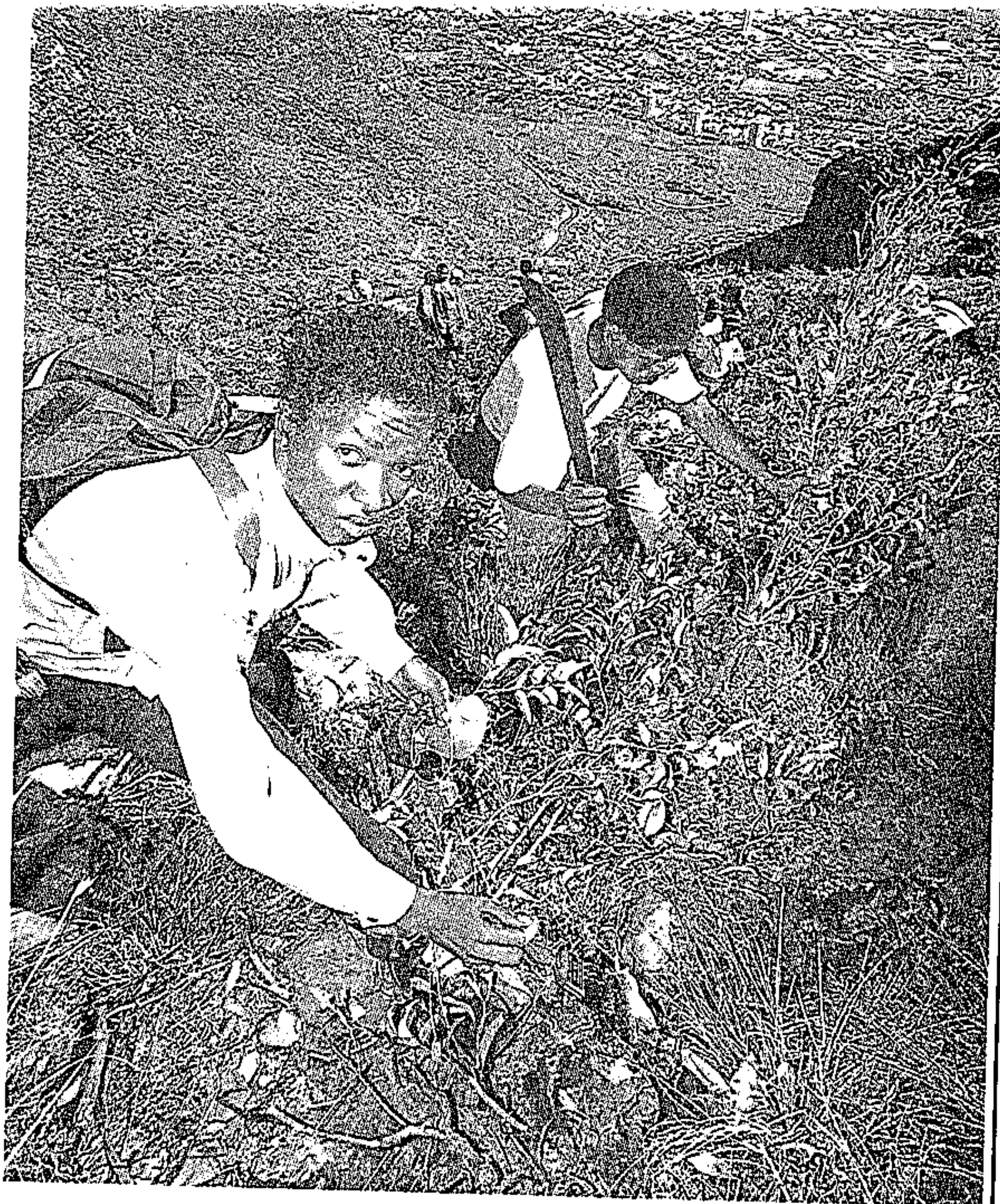
where we have to choose," he said. (56)

The meeting would hear arguments for various models for the future management of the Peninsula mountain chain, such as a national park, a regional nature reserve or a completely new structure, Mr Kahn said.

It would also discuss the criteria for appointing people to the advisory committee — "such as representivity and/or individual expertise".

Written nominations would be called with a three-week deadline, after which Mr Kahn would make a preliminary selection of 15 names.

These would be presented to a public meeting next month.



Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus.

ON THE SLOPES: Alien vegetation on Devil's Peak is being cleared by a team of unskilled workers taking part in a Botanical Society project. They include Tobile Tsoli of Nyanga, seen here painting tree stumps with a herbicide mixture, and Alton Maxathi of Langa wielding a panga.

Council should give up reserves — committee

Environment Reporter (56)

THE Cape Town City Council should hand over its Table Mountain nature reserves to a single management authority responsible for the entire Peninsula mountain chain, the council's health and community services committee has agreed.

A recommendation to this effect was one of several in a report outlining a "corporate position" for the council on the conservation of the Peninsula mountain chain.

The report, adopted by the committee this week, noted that the management of Table Mountain and the rest of the mountain chain had been plagued for many years by the major problem of divided control.

Policy guidelines for the future management of this protected area were formulated by University of Cape Town consultants and presented to Western Cape Premier Hennis Kriel in November.

"The majority of the proposals made by the University of Cape Town regarding the management of the protected area are sound and could be implemented immediately," the report stated.

"However, their proposal to establish a new, autonomous controlling authority under new legislation is controversial ... and does not enjoy the support of all stakeholders."

As the UCT proposals were compiled in the pre-election era and because there were numerous changes in the political and the public arenas, it was essential that these proposals be critically examined against other management options, the report stated, recommending that:

- The health and community services committee endorse a "long-held view" that Cape Town should not be the eventual controlling authority for the Peninsula mountain chain;

- The council commit itself to handing over areas under its control to a single, autonomous authority, "provided that the city is guaranteed representation on the board of such an authority";

- This authority inherit the council's organisational resources for managing nature reserve areas; and

- The nature of this new authority be established by "vigorous public debate".

ARG 5/4/95

(58) ARG. 5/4/95

Motor accident fund more than R4-bn in the red

Political Correspondent

THE multilateral motor vehicle accidents fund (MVA) faces an actuarial deficit of more than R4 billion.

Its operating loss for the previous financial year was R648 million.

Some cases of alleged defrauding of the fund have been handed to the attorney-general for prosecution after investigations by the Office for Serious Economic Offences.

In a report tabled in parliament yesterday, auditor-general Henri Kluever said a new computer system was being installed and would help fund managers check on claims.

Previous investigations by his office had found the system of third party insurance claims lent itself to abuse.

Experience had shown that collusion played an important role in fraudulent and inflated claims.

● In a special report on outstanding financial statements and incomplete audit reports tabled yesterday, Mr Kluever said progress had been made in reducing the backlog.

In the former Cape Province,

43 local authorities and 12 regional services councils had not submitted audit reports by last June.

Among these was Lingeletu West, the former local authority for Khayelitsha. It had not submitted financial statements for audit for three consecutive years.

Factors contributing to reports being in arrears included the inability of smaller institutions to keep to deadlines.

Other factors included financial statements not being submitted in proper form, and "deficient" reports having to be returned.

Strikes, labour unrest and "general indifference" of staff in the former self-governing territories and TBVC states prevented the system from working properly.

Audit staff, especially at senior level, were overburdened.

Legislation could be considered to enable provincial directors-general to take steps against chief executives of local authorities, or to offer assistance.

The reporting situation was monitored monthly.

Parks Board in the black

(56) CT 5/4/95

THE National Parks Board earned R105,1 million in the 1993/4 financial year from visitor services and trading profits, Mr G O Randall of the auditor-general's office reported yesterday.

The board, which is to be restructured soon, also received R50,5m in a grant from the government.

The board's total income amounted to R173,5m and its expenditure totalled R162,8m. Gross trading profit was R23,2m. — Political Staff

Parks Board speaks out on Mountain conservation

THE National Parks Board (NPB) was keen to contribute to the debate on the Cape Peninsula's conservation, but did not want to be involved in the mountain chain's management as proposed by Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers, NPB chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson said yesterday.

Dr Robinson was disappointed that the NPB had been side-stepped as custodian of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE).

Reacting for the first time to Dr De Villiers' plans for the CPPNE, involving new national and provincial legislation, Dr Robinson said public opinion could still persuade Dr De Villiers to change his mind.

Delays

(56)
CT 5/4/95
"The NPB is widely acknowledged as the best authority to look after the country's national and international natural assets."

Delays in setting up a single, representative national authority for the CPPNE were also delaying Table Mountain's declaration as a World Heritage Site, he said.

Dr De Villiers and Western Cape Premier Mr Hennis Kriel recently proposed national and provincial legislation to enshrine potential World Heritage Sites — such as Table Mountain — which would be drafted by experts. The NPB was dismissed as inappropriate for the job.

Western Cape attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn will chair a forum on April 18 on the CPPNE's management. — Sapa

See Page 7

Music to their ears



ACTIVE MUSIC: (From left) Jolene Martin of Kenwyn, Elvis Malgas of Crossroads and Mervyn Miller of Mitchells Plain are delighted to be part of a Music Active programme which will bring music, dance and drama to high school pupils through workshops being held across South Africa.

PICTURE: CLIVE SMITH

Major initiatives to unite city

MUNICIPAL REPORTER

THREE major initiatives are under way to undo the divided character of the city, council executive committee chairperson Ms Nomaindia Mfeketo said yesterday.

Speaking at the plenary session of an All Africa Conference on urban design and environmental planning, she said the initiatives were: Restructuring local government, development of the "Metropolitan Spatial Development

Framework" or land-use guide plan and the Olympic bid.

The Olympic bid would be "the most significant catalyst" for implementing both the RDP and the land-use plan. "We must inject a sense of urgency into rebuilding our city," she said.

Cape Town's local government had been the most fractured of all the country's metropolitan areas.

Years of apartheid planning had resulted in severe physical fragmentation of the city, making

it function in a very inefficient way, she said. The commuter transport system for example, had become dependent on subsidies.

Yet this city, with rich and distinctive natural, cultural and built environments, probably had a higher potential than any other metropole for sustaining a good quality of life for its inhabitants.

The land-use plan was an attempt to unite the city, which would improve its functioning and benefit especially the poor.

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THE National Parks Board (NPB) was keen to contribute to the debate on the Cape Peninsula's conservation, but did not want to be involved in the mountain chain's management as proposed by Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers, NPB chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson said yesterday.

Dr Robinson was disappointed that the NPB had been side-stepped as custodian of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE).

Reacting for the first time to Dr De Villiers' plans for the CPPNE, involving new national and provincial legislation, Dr Robinson said public opinion could still persuade Dr De Villiers to change his mind.

Delays

CT 5/4/95

"The NPB is widely acknowledged as the best authority to look after the country's national and international natural assets."

Delays in setting up a single, representative national authority for the CPPNE were also delaying Table Mountain's declaration as a World Heritage Site, he said.

Dr De Villiers and Western Cape Premier Mr Hernus Kriel recently proposed national and provincial legislation to enshrine potential World Heritage Sites — such as Table Mountain — which would be drafted by experts. The NPB was dismissed as inappropriate for the job.

Western Cape attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn will chair a forum on April 18 on the CPPNE's management. — Sapa

See Page 7

(5) ST 9/4/95

SA's illegal imports a threat to grey parrots

By DIANA STREAK

THE illegal importation of African Grey parrots into South Africa has placed the species under threat.

A report by the wildlife trade monitoring organisation, Traffic, says South Africa imported more than 43 000 African Greys between 1981 and 1993 — 23 000 from 1990 to 1993 alone. Most came from African countries where the birds are rare or banned for export.

From 1990 to 1993 Guinea was reported as the source of over 8 000 African Greys, although a 1991 estimate placed that country's total population of the birds at between 5 000 to 10 000.

From 1987 to 1990 nearly 11 000 parrots were reported imported from Ghana,

despite a domestic export ban from 1986.

The report describes the main import routes through the former Transvaal and Natal provinces, where traders have kept unused import documents and inspections are rarely carried out.

"This situation creates a window of opportunity for document fraud and misdeclaration of cargoes, and could allow illegal shipments to enter and leave South Africa," said David Newton, director of Traffic in South Africa.

"The replacement of four provinces with nine new regions will make control less manageable."

Traffic has called for the inspection of all African Greys and other bird shipments.

Parks Board no to control of mountain

ST 9/4/95

(5b)

THE National Parks Board is keen to contribute to the debate on the Cape Peninsula's conservation, but does not want to be involved in the mountain chain's management as proposed by Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers.

Confirming this, NPB chief Dr Robbie Robinson this week said he was deeply disappointed, however, that the board had been side-stepped as the custodians of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE).

He was confident though that public opinion could still persuade Dr De Villiers to reconsider his plans, which involves new national and provincial legislation to

By CHARL de VILLIERS

be drafted by publicly-appointed experts.

"Besides the premier (Hernus Kriel), who's absolutely adamant that he doesn't want us there, my own feeling is that the minister always talks about consultation and, if there is a strong public feeling favouring one side or another, I'm convinced he will give in."

But Dr Robinson added: "The NPB is widely acknowledged as the best authority to look after the country's national and international natural assets.

"We're prepared to debate our own abilities regarding management options and legislation. The NPB has much experience in contractual parks such as the Richtersveld, and dealing

with complex (conservation situations) such as that at Wilderness, near Knysna.

"Provinces can only deproclaim national parks with a two-thirds majority in the national assembly and senate. National parks are protected by very powerful legislation."

Delays in setting up a single, representative national authority for the CPPNE were also delaying Table Mountain's being declared a United Nations-sanctioned World Heritage Site, said Dr Robinson.

"We've too much work to take part in the (proposed CPPNE) management committee, but we'll take part in the debate about its future.

"Hopefully it will allow us to say how we see the matter, and how existing skills can be best co-ordinated under the NPB. But the game's open."

Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn will chair a forum on the question on April 18. — Sapa.

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Police strike resolved by talks

Ambitious EU-SA pact proposed

(56) (77)

Sowetan 10/4/95

Sowetan Foreign News Service

EUROPEAN UNION FOREIGN ministers are today due to be presented with proposals for an ambitious new accord between Europe and South Africa.

However, tough negotiation lies ahead as some protectionist EU states will be reluctant to offer SA a full range of trade advantages.

The EU's commissioner responsible for South Africa, former Portuguese foreign minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, will be presenting his blueprint for European relations with the new SA.

Partial membership

This involves partial membership for SA of the Lome Convention—the EU's aid, trade and cooperation treaty with 70 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.

It will also involve the maintenance of Europe's Special Programme of aid for SA worth around R555 million this year.

Pinheiro, who will visit SA in May, is also proposing a trade accord with the eventual goal of free trade between Europe and SA.

This is likely to be the most divisive, with many Southern EU states fearful of competition from SA exports, especially in agriculture.

"This opens the door for our case to come to conclusion, although I don't expect a substantive discussion at this EU meeting," said South African Ambassador to the EU Mr Neil Pieter van Heerden.

Van Heerden added that Pretoria did not accept all elements of Pinheiro's proposal and would be seeking to win trade concessions inside the Lome Convention.

Trade rules

This route has been rejected by the commissioner, who argued that world trade rules would not allow South Africa to benefit from the trade aspects of Lome.

"Only 10 percent of our exports to Europe are of agricultural products, but SA is strong in the agricultural export market, and that is a matter of concern to the Southern Europeans," stressed Van Heerden.

EU Foreign Ministers are today expected to instruct Brussels diplomats to study the proposals for negotiations with a full debate planned for the next Foreign Ministers' meeting at the end of May.

Mountain talks open — Kahn

JOHN YELD (56)
Environment Reporter

ARG 11/4/95

THE advisory committee to help draft new legislation for managing the Peninsula mountain chain should operate like a parliamentary select committee, holding open sessions where evidence on various management models could be heard.

This is the view of Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn, who has been appointed by central and regional environmental affairs ministers Dawie de Villiers and Kobus Meiring to establish the committee.

The committee could cross-examine experts, bring out professional reports and even give its own evidence to the joint parliamentary committee on environmental affairs when the

new legislation which it had helped draft was in the committee stage, Mr Kahn suggested.

"It can be a very powerful group. I see it acting as a think-tank, having a professional input into the drafting of this legislation."

The selection process for members of the committee would be as open and democratic as possible, Mr Kahn said.

Next Wednesday, April 12, the Peninsula Mountain Forum — an alliance of organisations concerned about the mountain — is meeting to discuss strategy for participation in the advisory committee.

"We're going in with a very positive attitude," said Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society, one of the organisations in the forum.

Conference targets urban environment

MICHAEL MOON

A NEW reconstruction and development programme (RDP) White Paper, concentrating on environmental issues, was being prepared, Environmental Affairs Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa announced yesterday in Midrand (56) 60 11/4/95

A special committee, including representatives of his department and of provincial authorities, had been set up to prepare the White Paper for comment, Holomisa told a regional seminar on implementation of the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit's Agenda 21 targets for local government.

A 1994 survey on the environmental situation in SA, drawn up by the Canadian-based International Development Research Centre, would be used as the basic discussion document by the new committee, said Holomisa.

The White Paper would include a strong emphasis on the urban environment.

Southern Africa would not create sustainable cities if poverty and inequality were not addressed. The "green agenda" would fail if the "brown agenda" of clean water, sanitation and proper waste disposal were not tackled first, said Holomisa.

"Sprawling cities that reduce the availability of productive agricultural land cannot be allowed. High densities must be

achieved."

Some big cities of the world, such as Athens, were good examples of high density living, but bad examples of planning. "We need cities that make provision for both high density and quality of life. Basic planning approaches inherited from Europe are not acceptable in African situations," he said.

In his opening address at the seminar, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Jeb Brugmann said the Rio summit had called on local governments around the world to establish local Agenda 21 programmes for sustainable development by 1996.

Local Agenda 21 campaigns were already under way in many countries, and yesterday's seminar was the start of the process in southern Africa, and hopefully also in other African countries, he said.

The RDP had to be a priority of local government in SA, and local authorities were asking themselves whether Agenda 21 was compatible with it, said Brugmann.

Environmental Affairs director-general Colin Cameron said it was important that action on environmental matters be taken at a local level.

Call for action on lead levels in Soweto children

(56) (85) (218) CT 11/4/95

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: A co-ordinated metropolitan approach was needed to reduce high levels of lead in many Soweto children, according to local director of environmental health Dr Yasmin von Schirnding.

Dr Von Schirnding said international lead safety levels had been reduced over the last three decades and it was "not known if there is a safe lead level".

While lead levels in the blood of many Soweto children were high, this was not unusual in many parts of the world. However,

while lead levels in one child could have little or no effect, another child with the same levels could be severely affected.

"We need a concerted effort to reduce lead levels," Dr Von Schirnding added. Lead was most prevalent in petrol and in leaded paint used in older homes.

Lead levels were not above safety levels throughout the metropolitan area, but there were "pockets of problems", she said. The metropolitan council was in the process of making a comprehensive assessment of the situation to develop a health policy.



ONE of South Africa's most beautiful and unspoilt tourist destinations is under threat from the proposed construction of a R4-billion steel milling plant at Langebaan on the West Coast.

The plant was planned under the National Party government and endorsed by the current Minister of Environment and Tourism, Dawie de Villiers.

Scientists have warned of major pollution and irreversible environmental damage to the Langebaan lagoon if the construction of the Iscor Corex plant goes ahead.

Iscor's own environmental impact study carried out by the CSIR, states: "There will be pollution of the water system no matter what preventive measures are taken."

Dr De Villiers approved the plan on the recommendation of the Council for the Environment, which Earthlife Africa has rejected as an old "National Party structure".

Earthlife spokesman Tony Barbour said the Council for the Environment should be completely restructured to reflect the new South Africa.

"They just provide a greenstamp for controversial projects," he said.

One scientist who has questioned the value of the CSIR study is Dr Martin Fourie, a groundwater expert who lives

By DIANA STREAK

in Langebaan and has warned of a "Pittsburgh by the sea" if the plant is not relocated.

The Saldanha Steel Project would use about 1,7 million tons of iron ore from Sishen to produce about a million tons of hot rolled steel coils each year for export from a site less than one kilometre from the lagoon.

White dunes and houses at Saldanha already have a permanent pink tinge from the red iron ore dust exported from the ore terminal. Dr Fourie believes this will increase "significantly" if the plant is sited nearby.

'Exceed'

The process will produce about 2 000 tons of foundry dust containing heavy metals each year and "could exceed the legal guidelines for dust within an area of 3 km²" around the steel plant, according to the CSIR study.

In an attempt to control the dust the SSP plans to spray it with a soapy liquid which will probably end up in the lagoon.

A 100-metre tower with a burning flare will be visible from the entire lagoon area and huge dumps of hazardous waste will be sited close to the Club Mykonos holiday resort.

Club Mykonos managing director Don Slade said his company had opposed the rezoning of the site from agricultural to industrial land.

The annual waste produced will include about 38 000 tons of hazardous waste, all of which will be stored on an adjacent site on synthetic linings in an attempt to prevent seepage pollution of groundwater.

Over the plant's expected 40-year life span the waste on the 220 ha disposal site is expected to reach a height of 25 metres.

"We cannot fault the coming of the steel plant to the West Coast but we fault the site," said Dr Fourie.

"We would like it to be moved to a site much further away from the sea where there is not the same inflow of ground water, where the groundwater is at a much greater depth. There are such sites."

The National Parks Board is totally opposed to the development as it would have a major impact on the West Coast National Park.

"The measures which the SSP would use to mitigate the pollution would only reduce the impact from high to medium significance," a spokesman said.

"Is this steel mill in the national interest as it would only create 600 permanent jobs, is it worth the sacrifice?"

By the time the mill ended its lifespan, the lagoon may be ruined, he said.

The effects predicted in the CSIR study include a loss of valuable plants and that tall structures would be a hazard to flamingos and pelicans.

To page 3

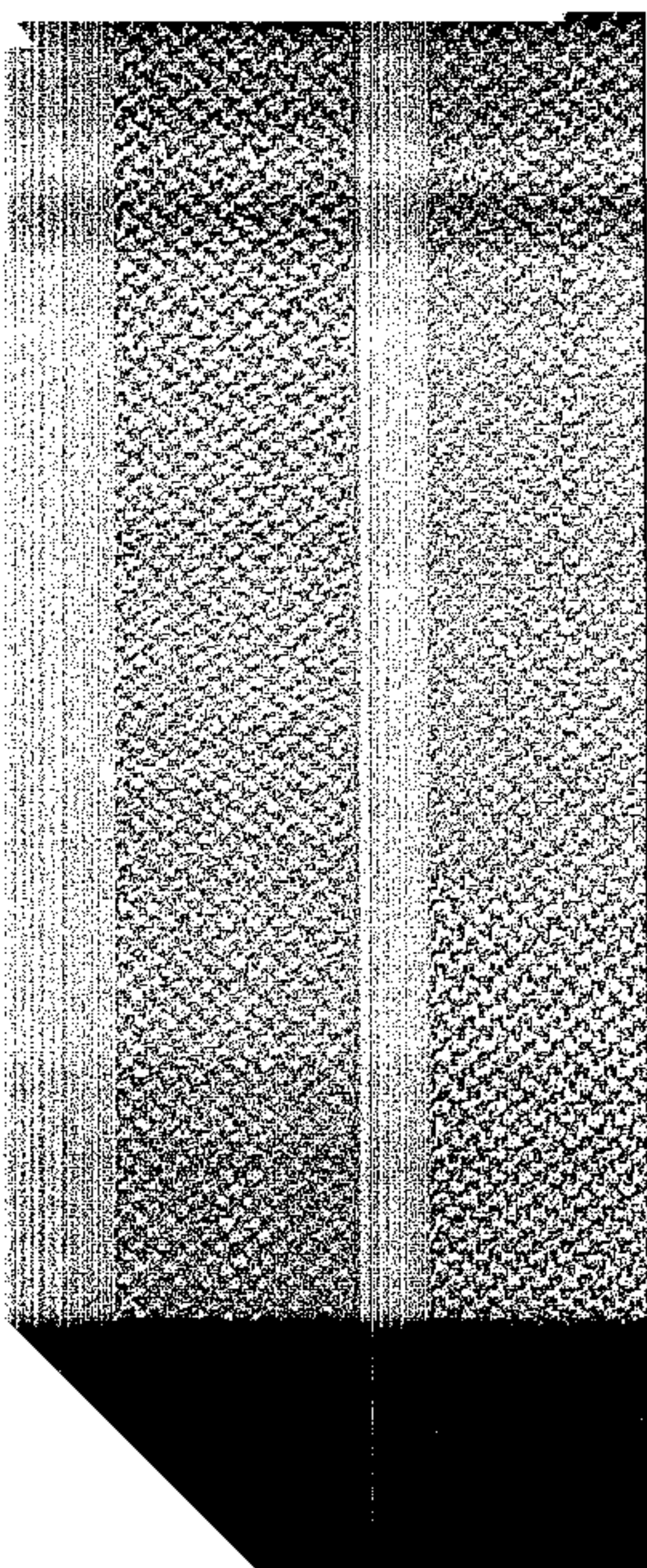
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Planned steel plant a major threat to lagoon, say experts

ST(Cem) 9/14/95

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BLUE LAGOON . . . Dr Martin Fourie, a local groundwater expert, is worried about waste seepage into Langebaan Lagoon from the planned R4-billion Iscor steel milling plant at Saldanha **Picture: TERRY SHEAN**

Pollution fears over planned steel factory

● From Page 1

Dust could also possibly affect the viability of the mariculture industry in Saldanha Bay. A high negative impact on tourism because of the cumulative effects of visual intrusion, dust pollution and increases in traffic could occur, and pollution would create a risk of health problems due to dust.

The study proposes possible mitigation measures to be undertaken by Iscor but some environmentalists are concerned that these will not be carried out.

"Our major concern was that no environmental impact study was done on alternative sites at Sishen, Richards Bay and Port Elizabeth," said Mr Barbour.

The Langebaan Lagoon was one of the most species-rich in southern Africa and was particularly vulnerable to pollution because of poor water circulation, he said.

Despite this, no contingency plan had been made in case of oil spillage at the Saldanha harbour which would be expanded to cope with the increased exports.

The Wildlife Society said there had been inadequate foresight about satellite development spawned by the steel plant.

"There is a lot of concern about related industry, including a cement factory," said society conservation ecologist Marlene Laros.

ST 9/4/95

Rich and fruity Christmas puddings

The optimum maturing period for a Christmas pudding is about two months, some say. But if you're one of those cooks who cannot get into the spirit of things until Christmas Day has almost arrived, don't think a pudding made even the day before isn't going to be good.

Make this rich, fruity treat any time between now and the great day, and enjoy it with a fruit and brandy sauce.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

- 125 g suet
- 125 ml self-raising flour, sifted
- 2 slices white bread — each 1 cm thick
- 5 ml mixed spice
- 3 ml ground nutmeg
- 3 ml ground cinnamon
- 250 ml soft, brown sugar
- 100 g sultanas
- 100 g seedless raisins
- 250 g currants
- 30 g chopped mixed peel
- 50 g dates, chopped
- 100 g almonds, skinned and chopped
- Rind of 1 orange, grated
- 2 eggs
- 200 ml stout

Combine suet and flour in a large mixing bowl. Reduce bread

to crumbs in a food processor and add to bowl together with spices and sugar. Now add following ingredients up to and including the orange rind. Beat the eggs and stout together and stir into mixture. If mixture seems too stiff, add a little more stout.

Cover bowl and leave overnight for flavours to amalgamate. Next day put mixture into a greased pudding basin (1.250 litre capacity), cover with a double layer of greaseproof paper topped by a sheet of aluminium foil, shiny side toward pudding.

Secure these coverings by tying string around the bowl, just below the rim. Place pudding basin on a trivet in a large pot. This is to keep the basin clear of the pot bottom.

Pour in boiling water to reach three-quarters of the way up the sides of the basin, cover and cook for 8 hours. Do top-up water from time to time as necessary with boiling water from a kettle.

Now remove basin and allow to cool completely, remove the foil and greaseproof paper, and cover with fresh greaseproof paper and foil. Store in a cool place.

To serve:

Re-steam pudding for 1 hour, turn out on a heated serving dish, garnish with a sprig of holly or what you will and accompany with the sauce.

FRUIT AND BRANDY SAUCE

- 250 ml water
- 50 ml castor sugar
- grated rind of 1 orange
- grated rind of 1 lemon
- juice of 2 oranges
- juice of 1 lemon
- 60 ml dry sherry
- 60 ml brandy
- 15 ml cornflour slaked in 45 ml water

Combine water, castor sugar and grated orange and lemon rind. Simmer for 10 minutes, partially covered. Meanwhile, combine the orange and lemon juice with the sherry and brandy. Stir the cornflour mixture into the sugar syrup and simmer, stirring until mixture thickens — perhaps 4 minutes.

Remove from heat and whisk into the brandy mixture. Return to heat to warm mixture but do not allow it to boil.
Note: Sauce may be made ahead of time and reheated.



Testing, testing . . . surrounding the SABC's Schalk Vorster, who recorded the Price Tags radio programme on which various Christmas puddings were tasted, are (from left) Lorraine van Vledder, Isabel Jones, Lyndall Popper (Angela Day) and Heinz Brunner. Test results are alongside.

PICTURE: PETER MOGAKI

Well-presented cookbook which could become a classic

Teach Me To Cook

By Marty Klinzman and Corne Small-Smith

Published by Edu-Cook (R24,99)

Reviewed by Lyndall Popper
Rating: *** (useful)

Learner cooks will love the clarity of this new series with each recipe described in steps and illustrated by a series of colour photographs.

The book comes in three language combinations — English/Zulu, Eng-

lish/Sotho.

Cookery expert Marty Klinzman has always been a lucid communicator of her skills, and co-author Corne Small-Smith shows that her qualifications in communication, education and training work well in a book that looks set to become a classic.

Appetising recipes are not all, however — there is information on nutrition, table setting, care and use of household appliances, which make the work, though not overlong, comprehensive.

From the book

AND YELLOW RICE CASSEROLE

(Serves 4)

- 1 chicken, cut into serving pieces
- 3 tablespoons cooking oil
- 2 medium onions, thinly sliced
- 1 cup long grain rice
- 2 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 or 2 teaspoons chopped chillies
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cummin
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 large tomatoes, peeled and chopped

Remove from heat and whisk into the brandy mixture. Return to heat to warm mixture but do not allow it to boil.
Note: Sauce may be made ahead of time and reheated.

with salt and pepper. Heat the oil and fry chicken until golden brown on both sides.

2. Remove chicken to a plate. Add onions to the pan and fry over medium heat until tender, about 10 minutes. Add the rice. Cook and stir for 2 minutes to coat the rice with oil.
3. Add stock to the pan. Add turmeric, chillies, cummin and garlic. Mix well and cook over low heat for about five minutes.
4. Stir chopped tomatoes into the rice. Place chicken pieces on the rice. Add the strips of green pepper

The chicken should be cooked through and the liquid absorbed. Serve hot.

SAVOURY RICE

(Serves 8 to 10)

- 3 rashers bacon, chopped
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 red OR green pepper, chopped
- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1 x 410 g can whole tomatoes, cut up
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon chilli powder
- 1/4 cups water
- 1 teaspoon salt

1. Place bacon in a frying pan. Cook over medium heat until bacon is crisp.
2. Drain bacon on paper towel and save the bacon fat. Fry onion and red pepper in the bacon fat until vegetables are tender, but not brown. Add the rice, cook and stir for 2 minutes.
3. Add tomatoes, water, sugar, paprika and chilli powder or curry powder and salt. Mix well.
4. Bring the mixture to the boil. Then reduce heat. Cover and let the mixture simmer until the rice is

5. Sprinkle with cooked bacon and chopped parsley. Serve hot.

Hint:

Add any left-over, diced, cooked meat, such as chicken or beef, to the savoury rice to make a main dish. Grated cheese can also be stirred into the hot rice mixture for extra flavour.

To order the book:

Send a crossed cheque or money order for R24

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Tourists 'take toll on environment'

56



CT 21/2/95

THE number of tourists in the Western Cape rose by 40% this summer in comparison with the previous year, if calculated by the number of visitors to the extremely popular Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve at Cape Point.

Figures released yesterday show a record 107 000 people visited the reserve in December, 36,8% more than visited the reserve in the same period in 1993. Tourism and conservation officials say

there are having problems coping with the number of visitors and their various languages.

Language problems have led to some Chinese, Japanese and Korean visitors harvesting shellfish, not knowing they are protected.

Conservationists say damage caused by a group of Chinese tourists, who were prosecuted last year for harvesting thousands of shellfish in the reserve, would

take years to repair.

The tourists were fined heavily, a day before they were to fly home.

Inspectors yesterday said that although normal limits on catches applied in the reserve, a "marine organisms permit" had also to be obtained from the reserve authorities.

In another incident, a busload of Japanese tourists swooped on mussels at Buffels Bay. — Sapa

Saldanha impact report out today

CT 28/2/95 (56)

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

Siting of plant main concern

THE Council for the Environment will complete its report on the proposed R3,6bn Iscor steel mill in Saldanha today.

The council's Mr Brian Egan confirmed last night that they would complete their report this morning and convey their findings verbally to Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers tomorrow.

Mr Egan declined to comment on the gist of the report but confirmed that he had spent yesterday "viewing possible alternative sites in the Langebaan area".

It was possible that Dr De Villiers would make an announcement this week.

Iscor managing director Mr Hans Smith said final approval for the mill — which could see Saldanha become a "second Richards Bay" — was expected before the end of March, when the construction tender would be awarded.

"We have done our homework and in spite of objections we are confident we will get the go-ahead."

Iscor is currently adjudicating the tenders and has whittled these down to three or four for serious consideration.

Most of these involve joint

consortiums of local and overseas parties, Mr Smith said.

The planned scheme has met with fairly widespread objections, particularly from environmentalists.

When public objections closed on February 13, 15 objections had been lodged, said Mr Jaco Goodwin, town planner at Vredenburg, who is also responsible for Saldanha.

Most objections had been about the siting of the plant.

Government bodies have until March 6 to lodge objections. The Parks Board has already done so and the only outstanding objection is that of the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Last month Dr De Villiers expressed concern about the environmental impact of the mill and asked the Council for the Environment to study the environmental impact study undertaken for Iscor by the CSIR.

Mr Smith said the new plant

would provide 600 permanent jobs and 4 000 temporary jobs during construction.

"That is the direct impact, but we expect many export orientated secondary industries to set up factories in the area and so avoid massive transport costs.

"I think it is fair to say we are looking at a Richards Bay in the making."

Capital expenditure on the proposed mill, which is to be developed jointly with the Industrial Development Corporation, would be around R3,6bn.

However, total start-up costs, including raw materials, before the mill will be running with a positive cash flow, would be closer to R4,8bn.

"We are satisfied that we have done more than all the necessary preliminary work. We have undertaken a comprehensive study exploring alternative sites as far afield as Newcastle, Sishen and Port Elizabeth, as well as alternative sites in Saldanha, over the past 12 years, and the chosen site is the most suitable."

Mr Smith said they were so confident they would get the go-ahead that they had already placed a R200 million order for an air separation plant with the French company Air Liquide, to be landed by the end of the year.

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'Pollution could force SA into nuclear power'

(S6) (C) MUNGO SOGGOT BD 3/2/95

SA WAS the world's second worst carbon dioxide polluter in proportion to gross national product after China, the Atomic Energy Corporation's Don Mingay said yesterday.

He told a Price Waterhouse business breakfast that increasing worldwide pressure to slow global warming would discourage SA from increasing dependence on coal-fired power stations, which produced carbon dioxide. Instead, it would import hydro-electricity from the Congo.

But there was a "strategic limit" to the amount of electricity a country should import, so it was likely SA would have to consider nuclear power.

Coal-fired power stations currently provided 92% of SA's electricity, while nuclear contributed 5%.

He said China released almost double the amount of carbon dioxide per unit of GNP of SA, while France produced the least, 10 times less than SA.

France sourced almost 85% of electricity from nuclear plants — evidence of the correlation between fossil fuel use and carbon dioxide emissions.

If SA became a signatory to the Framework Convention on Climatic Change — formed to address global warming at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 — it would have to make an independent assessment of the impact of its carbon dioxide emissions on the environment. It would also have to produce plans to address the situation, which would encourage it to look at alternative energy sources.

Most of the increase in global power needed over the next couple of decades would come from developing countries, which unfortunately were least equipped to control energy waste releases.

No government action on nuclear waste ship

(56) WMM 3-9/3/95

As a ship filled with nuclear waste heads for South African waters, environmental groups are concerned by the government's lack of action, writes Inge Ruigrok

DOES silence mean permission? A ship conveying 14 tons of the most concentrated nuclear waste ever transported, including a deadly cargo of bomb-grade plutonium, is likely to sail through South African waters within two weeks — and there is no sign of a coherent government policy on the controversial cargo.

Nations such as the Philippines, Argentina and Honduras have condemned the shipment and banned it from moving through their waters. Portugal has sent a military frigate to track the ship and ensure it doesn't enter its maritime zone.

Yet the South African government has been remarkably quiet. A spokesman for President Nelson Mandela's office, Selby Mbatia, said he recalls that the Japanese government

has given us information about the shipment" but he was not in a position to comment on the matter.

Leon Coetzee, a member of the secretariat of the ministry of environmental affairs, said he knew about the shipment but not its route as "that was a matter for foreign affairs".

"They are supposed to pass the information on to us. The Japanese and French government have kept the voyage secret because they fear sabotage from organisations like Greenpeace. We haven't protested but we closely monitor the case."

But a representative of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Jacques Malan, said the controversial shipment was a matter for environmental affairs. "Foreign affairs is not involved in this issue and we haven't received any request from Japan to ship through our waters. We haven't protested because it's not a political issue."

Senior navy staff officer Commander Stan Slogrove said the navy is monitoring the ship's progress, but "we don't know the route it will be taking. When it comes along our coast, we will watch it closely while it passes through. It is not very likely that the ship will come near our coast. It will go

through international waters."

The government's silence is in marked contrast to the stand adopted by the African National Congress before last year's elections. In June 1992, the ANC's Professor Stan Sangweni said his organisation was committed to a "ban on the global transportation of radioactive material and nuclear waste".

Sangweni told the UN's Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro that "we must be aware that high seas are not risk free and an accident could expose millions of people to radioactive contamination".

At the time, the ANC's branch in the Western Cape condemned the Nationalist government for failing to oppose an earlier cargo of nuclear waste that passed by the Cape on its way to Japan.

A statement issued by the organisation added: "As you probably know, if there is any accident the cargo of each shipment contains enough lethal plutonium to kill all people and animals in southern Africa."

Said Liz Linsell, representative for the Environment Monitoring Group (EMG) in Cape Town: "Like any official organisation the ANC is bound by

what they said until they release another statement and they haven't done that. As a citizen I think I have the right to know." She added it was "not acceptable that the government hasn't released any information yet" especially in the light of a series of protests from other countries about the cargo.

"Greenpeace wrote a letter about the shipment to the South African ministry of foreign affairs in October last year. They never received any reply."

"This means that the government is not open. We had to hear about it through Greenpeace and the international media."

The ship, the Pacific Pintail, owned by British Nuclear Fuels, left Cherbourg, France, on February 28, carrying nuclear waste in the form of 28 "glassified" blocks. According to the EMG, the cargo contains more than 10 times the radioactivity released during the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

A Greenpeace vessel is shadowing the Pacific Pintail. The organisation says the ship is now approaching Madeira and can take three different routes to Japan.

It is most likely the ship will follow a route along the African coastline due to

despread protests from Caribbean and Latin American countries. A similar vessel, the Akatsuki Maru, took this route in 1993. It carried plutonium from France round the Cape of Good Hope, across the Indian Ocean and round Australia, before heading north to Japan.

Japan uses enriched uranium provided by the USA in its nuclear industry. Not having the facilities to separate the used nuclear fuel, it has this shipped to France and Britain for reprocessing. Plutonium is extracted from the nuclear fuel and used in Japanese fast-breeder reactors.

Late this week Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers issued a statement saying that although the shipment was "causing growing concern", it was being conducted under stringent regulations set by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"No conveyance of nuclear material in a manner which would be environmentally hazardous as a result of radioactive radiation will be permitted in terms of this." The minister added that no ship with radioactive material on board could enter a South African port without a permit and that such a document had not been issued.

Dump your poison plans — villagers

(56)
MLR 4/2/95

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Weekend Argus Reporter

SUSPICIONS of hush-hush plans to import toxic waste are growing in spite of official denials.

The dust has still not settled over plans by a private company to establish a toxic waste dump near the picturesque little town of Philadelphia near Cape Town.

Jan Mostert, NG Kerk dominee and convener of the Philadelphia Action Committee has thrown down the gauntlet to Enviroserv, the company that plans to establish a Class H toxic waste facility near the town.

"We reject these plans. We will fight these people to the bitter end. The issue is simply not negotiable. We have appointed legal advisers on our position on this issue.

"Much too little is known about the long-term effects of toxic waste and if even one child gets sick or suffers from the effects of such a dump, it is one too many.

"And we are not letting our emotions run away with us on this issue. Why do they not have such a facility in a secluded spot away from ex-

■ A proposal by a private company to build a toxic and hazardous waste disposal dump near Philadelphia north of Cape Town has been slammed by the community.

isting communities like the Vaalputs nuclear waste dump in the Northern Cape?

"We believe they want it here because it is close to a major harbour and we are concerned about the possibility that the Cape could end up being a toxic waste disposal ground for overseas countries."

Mr Mostert said he was not impressed by the denials from the authorities that this will not happen.

"None of them have actually come out and categorically stated that this will never happen. First World countries are prepared to pay a lot of money to get rid of their toxic waste and we believe there are not enough assurances and checks to prevent us eventually landing up with their waste."

Mr Mostert denied Philadelphia was suffering from a "not-in-my-backyard" (nimby) syndrome. "When it comes to toxic waste we are saying such facilities should not be built in anyone's backyard.

"If a private company, and in this

case a company based in Gauteng, which is obviously in the business to make money, receives the right to construct such a dump near a small town like Philadelphia this will create a precedent.

"Which other little town will be next? Are they not trying to put the dump here because we are only a small community and therefore may not matter as much as larger communities?"

Mr Mostert said the placement of a toxic or hazardous waste dump near Philadelphia would be a serious blow to property prices and development in the town.

"A local developer is making 60 plots available for houses in the area, but who will now buy in Philadelphia if they know they are going to live near a toxic waste dump.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs said there was no possibility that overseas companies would be allowed to dump toxic waste in this country. He said it must be remembered

that a lot of toxic waste is generated locally to produce products that people want to buy and that it has to be stored somewhere.

A spokesman for Enviroserv said talks were ongoing with the Philadelphia community on the possibility of a hazardous waste dump near their town. The company has taken an option on a 30ha piece of land for the dump and intended to apply for a Class H classification.

There was no proposal to dig below the surface level or to create a landfill site. The minimum requirements are that all disposal operations occur above the normal ground surface level.

The spokesman said Enviroserv recognised and maintained a policy of involving all interested and affected parties about the establishment of a facility for disposal of hazardous waste in an environmentally favourable manner.

Asked if the company would cancel its plans if they were rejected by the community, the spokesman said he was not at liberty to speculate or comment on that possibility.

Future fuel: Motor industry gets ready for lead-free petrol

THE decision to introduce lead-free petrol in South Africa later this year will have short-term disadvantages but major long-term benefits.

The advantages are mainly that technologically advanced engines — which can only run on lead-free fuel, and are more fuel-efficient — will now be able to be used in South Africa.

Disadvantages include the higher cost of lead-free petrol, lower octane rating, the cost of the distribution network, and the cost of modifying some cars to run on lead-free petrol.

Some 90 percent of cars currently on South African roads will be able to use unleaded petrol. Of these,

65 percent will be able to use the new fuel without any major adjustments, a further 10 percent with minor adjustments — mainly to the ignition systems at a cost of between R50 and R100.

In older pre-1980 cars, there may be a problem with valve recession, but in most cases this can be overcome by filling the car with leaded fuel once out of every four fillings.

Leaded petrol will still be available for about 15 years after the introduction of unleaded for use in outboard motors, lawnmowers and the like.

Only 10 percent of cars will be incompatible with unleaded petrol — it is unwise to run high-performance and

SHORT-TERM disadvantages which will lead to long-term advantages — that is how South Africans will be introduced to lead-free petrol.
Motoring Correspondent VINCE GILBEY
 attended a forum held by the South African Petroleum Industry Association and the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

modified vehicles on unleaded if they were designed for leaded.

About 80 percent of all new cars manufactured in the world today are based on unleaded engine technology. South African motor companies find themselves having to convert unleaded engine technology to leaded engine technology for local manufacture.

As a signatory to the international General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), it is essential that South Africa comes into line with other world markets.

Production of lead-free fuel is more expensive than leaded fuel but initially it is planned to make lead-free petrol available at a subsidised price — below that of leaded petrol — to encourage its use. A market penetration of at least 20 percent is essential in the first year to optimise the distribution system.

If lead-free petrol is not introduced now, the overall cost in a few years time to the country will be far higher.

When lead-free petrol is introduced, fuel octane ratings will be revised and only two

grades of petrol will be sold inland and at the coast — 95 unleaded and 97 leaded at the coast and 91 unleaded and 93 leaded inland.

The current low standard grade distribution system will be used for the time being.

Leaded petrol is being introduced for technological reasons to allow South Africa to lock into world technology and is not being introduced for environmental reasons — but it will pave the way towards a cleaner environment.

Engines built for unleaded technology have a longer life and require lower maintenance. For example, spark plugs can be replaced at greater intervals and exhaust systems will last longer.

ART 6/3/75

56

Unleaded fuel spells minor changes for SA drivers

STAN 6/2/85

WHAT does the advent of lead-free petrol mean to the South African motorists? Many of the answers were provided at a forum on the subject in Durban last week organised by the SA Petroleum Industry Association and the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Vincent Gilbey reports

The expected decision to introduce lead-free petrol in South Africa later this year will have short-term disadvantages but major long-term benefits.

The advantages are that engines designed to run on unleaded fuel are more efficient and last longer.

Disadvantages include the higher cost of lead-free petrol, the cost of the distribution and the cost of modifying cars to run on lead-free petrol.

About 90% of cars on South African roads will be able to use unleaded petrol. Of these 65% will be able to use the new fuel without any major adjustments and a further 10% with minor adjustments, mainly to the ignition systems, at a cost of between R50 and R100.

In older pre-1980 cars, there may be a problem with valve seat recession, but in most cases this can be overcome by filling the car with leaded fuel once out of every four fillings.

Leaded petrol will still be available for about 15 years after introduction of unleaded for use in such machines as out-board motors and lawnmowers. Diesel vehicles will not be affected in any way.

Only 10% of cars will be incompatible with unleaded petrol and it is inadvisable for very high performance and modified vehicles to be run on unleaded if they were designed for leaded.

Fuel additives are not recommended in today's sophisticated engines as they could disturb the fuel balance.

About 80% of all new cars manufactured in the world today are based on unleaded engine technology, resulting in South African motor companies having to convert unleaded engine technology to leaded engine technology for local manufacture.

This has the effect of increasing the cost of manufacturing while being unable to use the latest technology to increase the efficiency of engines.

For this reason exports are restricted as well. Economies of scale are important if the car manufacturers are to remain competitive and offer cars to their customers at an affordable price. The availability of unleaded fuel will result in savings in production costs.

As a signatory to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, it is essential that South Africa comes into line with other world markets by introducing unleaded petrol to compete internationally.

Production of lead-free fuel is more expensive, but initially it is planned to make lead-free petrol available at a subsidised price below that of leaded petrol to encourage its use.

If lead-free petrol is not introduced now, the overall cost in a few years time will be far higher.

When lead-free petrol is introduced, fuel octane ratings will be revised and only two grades of petrol will be sold inland and at the coast: 95 unleaded and 97 leaded at the coast and 91 unleaded and 93 leaded inland.

The current low standard-grade distribution system will be used for lead-free.

Lead-free petrol is being introduced for technological reasons to allow South Africa to lock into world technology and is not being introduced for environmental reasons — but it will pave the way towards a cleaner environment.

At this stage three-way catalytic converters, as used overseas in Europe, the US and Canada, will not be mandatory and hopefully by the time South Africa decides that a system is required to further reduce exhaust emissions, less expensive technology will be available.

Some manufacturers, though, can be expected to supply their cars with "cats" while those who want can have a converter fitted at an estimated cost of between R2 000 and R3 000.

It is not expected that there will be any major change in fuel efficiency of existing cars but the new generation of vehicle engines are known to be more fuel-efficient.

However, where cars have to be de-tuned to run on unleaded petrol, a 2% decrease in fuel efficiency may occur.

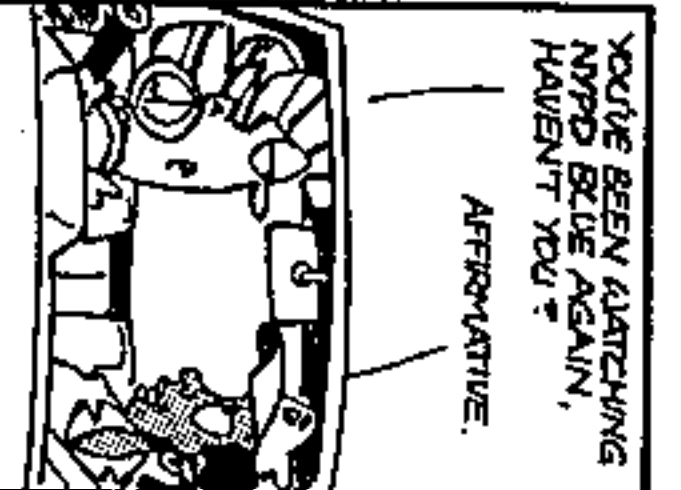
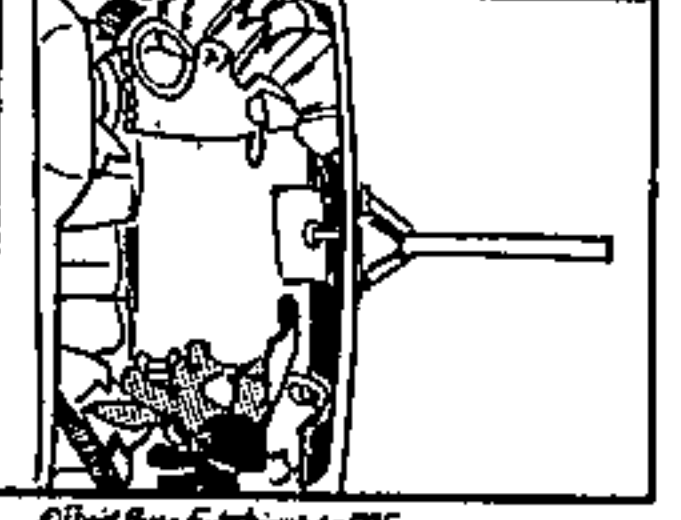
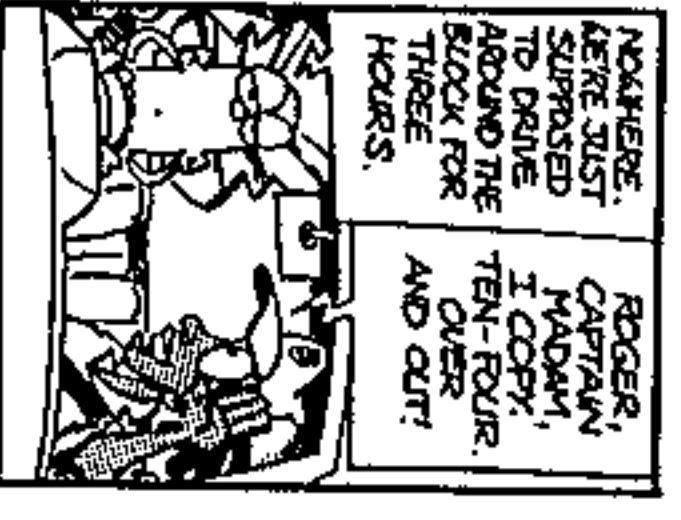
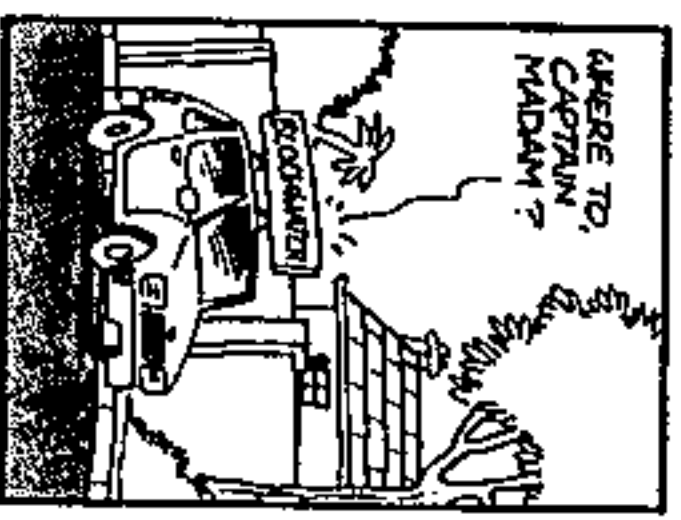
Engines built to unleaded specifications have a longer life than leaded engines and require lower maintenance. For example spark plugs need only to be replaced at greater intervals and exhaust systems will last longer.

In 1991 a co-ordinating committee was established to develop a programme to look into the practicalities of introducing unleaded fuel. The committee included representatives of both fuel and motor industries and other interested parties. The plan was for unleaded petrol to be available from October.

All the implications of the possible introduction of unleaded petrol are being assessed and the Government is expected to take a decision soon.

Should the Government decide to go ahead, however, both the oil and motor industries have already geared themselves up for the introduction of unleaded petrol. They believe the move is all but a *fait accompli*.

MADAM & EVE



By S Francis, H Dugmore & Rico

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Thor mercury probe on cards

Durban — Thor Chemicals, embroiled in the controversial mercury poisoning saga at Cato Ridge near Maritzburg, faces another inquiry.

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Professor Kader Asmal said yesterday after a fact-finding mission that he would call for an investigation into mercury contamination of a spring near the plant.

Outgoing Thor Chemicals managing director Steven van der Vyfer criticised Asmal's decision, saying Thor had never denied the elevated levels of mercury in the spring, and was surprised the issue was being raised again seven years after it had been discovered. — Sapa.

(56) 7/3/95

... Act of Parliament
... was persuaded not to by a psychiatrist and policeman. Police and traffic officials, bottom
... telling him to jump. The man, who agreed to seek psychiatric help, was later led away by a me

Minister wants laws to govern waste control ⁽⁵⁶⁾

MICHAEL MOON

IT WAS high time many proposals and guidelines on controlling waste in SA were turned into law, Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal said yesterday.

Principles such as the "polluter pays" and "cradle to grave" control of waste should be included in such legislation, Asmal said in a speech read on his behalf at a Sandton workshop on waste management.

There should also be incentives — "perhaps in the form of tax benefits" — to entice manufacturers and other generators of hazardous wastes to reduce wastes and work towards "greener" forms of manufacture and clean technology.

"Ideally, waste minimisation and recycling in all their forms should become part of this country's everyday life. If this is not done, we will have failed in our duty and our citizens will have to live with the appalling consequences," said Asmal.

In future there had to be proper zoning of waste disposal sites. Areas suited to the establishment of waste transfer stations and disposal sites should be earmarked and specially zoned well in advance of the planning of new residential areas.

Public participation in waste management decisions was compulsory, he said.

It was obvious that SA's waste management needed attention. It was almost non-existent in many communities, and apart

from health hazards and negative effects on the environment, the situation was demoralising and corrosive of a community's self-esteem, said Asmal.

Duard Barnard of legal firm Duard Barnard & Associates told the workshop it was necessary for the plethora of environmental laws to be rationalised, codified, simplified or streamlined.

However, he warned against undue haste and did not support "supply side" rationalisation in which lawyers formulated laws which they thought people might need. A wiser approach would be to apply existing measures, with problems that become apparent forming the basis for rationalisation of the legislation, said Barnard.

It was inevitable that an important part of waste control would be command and control measures, but Barnard suggested shifting the burden of proof from the state to companies to prove that they did not contravene regulations or cause environmental damage.

He believed the development of economic instruments, to link economically advantageous options to environmentally beneficial options, should be left in the hands of industry.

Mercury probe into water at Thor plant

WATER Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal yesterday ordered an investigation into high mercury levels in a spring at Thor Chemicals' plant in Cato Ridge near Durban.

After a visit to the site yesterday, Asmal instructed officials to conduct a "prosecution test" to determine mercury levels in the spring, the department's KwaZulu/Natal director Joe Hansmann said. Details would be forwarded to the attorney-general for a decision on whether to prosecute.

The water runs into the Mngweni River, a tributary of the Emgeni River.

Hansmann said a test conducted by the

INGRID SALGADO

department last Friday showed mercury levels to be 40 parts per billion of water. Levels above 10 per billion were considered unsafe for human consumption because mercury was bio-accumulative in the body.

Sapa reports that outgoing Thor Chemicals MD Steven van der Vyfer criticised Asmal's decision to launch the investigation. He said Thor had never denied the elevated levels of mercury in the spring and was surprised the issue was being raised again seven years after the contamination had been discovered.

(56) star 9/3/95

Radioactive waste cargo under fire from activists

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

After 13 days of tracking the first shipment of high-level radioactive waste en route from France to Japan, the environmental group Greenpeace has concluded that the ship Pacific Pintail will be sailing around South Africa.

Greenpeace spokesman Damon Moglen said Pacific Pintail had bypassed the favoured Caribbean Sea and Panama Canal route and was heading due south through the Atlantic on a course between Africa and South America.

This means the ship could also be on course to round Cape Horn at the tip of the South American continent and head for Japan via the Pacific Ocean.

Banned

"There can be no doubt that this routing is a response to widespread public and government protest in the Caribbean against the shipment," Moglen said.

More than 30 countries, mainly from the Caribbean, Latin America and South Pacific islands, have banned the ship's transit through their territorial waters, he said.

Peter Mokaba, MP and chairman of the standing committee on environment, issued a statement last week "opposing and condemning" what he said was a "serious threat to life and the en-



Dawie de Villiers . . . no permit issued.

vironment".

He urged the governments of Japan, France and Britain, whose companies are involved in the shipment, to act to dispel doubts by removing the secrecy surrounding the cargo.

Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers also issued a statement to "put the issue into perspective".

No ship with nuclear materials on board may enter South Africa's territorial waters, that is 12 sea miles (20,18km) from the coast, without a permit from the Council for Nuclear Safety.

"No such permit has been requested or issued. From that it can be deduced that the Japanese government does not intend to sail the vessel through South African territorial waters," the minister said.

The owner of Pacific

Pintail is Pacific Nuclear Fuels, a subsidiary of British Nuclear Fuels. It stated that transport of the radioactive waste was being conducted under stringent regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Spokesman Bill Ander-ton told The Star he could not comment on Pacific Pintail's route because of an agreement with the Japanese government.

"The secrecy is necessary for the security of the shipment," he said.

The guardian of public safety for all nuclear materials in South Africa is the Council for Nuclear Safety.

Emotions

Senior manager Sam Parish said the CNS had no indication that the shipment was coming around the Cape or entering South African waters.

Eskom nuclear consultant John Walmsley said: "The hazard, even if the ship catches fire and sinks, is negligible. Anti-nuclear groups are using the shipment to whip up public emotions, but the real objective is to stop the nuclear industry as a whole, and the Japanese use of plutonium in particular."

In a joint statement, Greenpeace and Earthlife Africa said they would be staging a protest against the shipment outside the Japanese embassy in Pretoria at 4.45pm today.

Pollution: Firm may be prosecuted

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — There is a case for prosecuting Thor Chemicals for the mercury contamination of a ground spring feeding the Mgcweni River, says Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry K. J. Asmal.

He made the announcement after an investigation of the Cato Ridge plant but said the decision would ultimately lie with Attorney-General, Tim McNally.

The decision on possible prosecution comes after the closure of a criminal case in which Thor Chemicals was charged with the deaths of two former employees. The company and three senior employees were acquitted on these charges but fined R15 000 for negligence.

The minister said his department would also make a "frank, cogent and full" sub-

mission to those responsible for the establishment and terms of reference of the pending commission of inquiry.

Referring to the department of health and population and development's issuing of a permit in 1989 to burn mercury waste — a practice which ended at the factory only last year — and the fact that the company did not have a permit to store more than 3 000 tons of mercury waste at the Cato

(53) (56)
Ridge premises, he said "this would not have happened today and in future all permits would be advertised".

AKLT 81
Outgoing Thor Chemicals managing director Steven van der Vyver said the company was "not surprised" by the minister's announcement and said: "We have known about this for seven or eight years. We just wonder what took the government so long."

Minister moves on Thor

~~(56)~~ (56) WM 10-16/3/95
Eddie Koch

WATER Affairs Minister Kader Asmal this week instructed his officials to investigate pollution charges against the controversial Thor Chemicals factory in the kwaZulu/Natal Midlands.

The minister's move follows a personal inspection of the factory where at least two workers have died of mercury poisoning and scores of others have been exposed to dangerous levels of contamination.

The departmental probe follows an investigation conducted by Greenpeace International five years ago in which soil samples from a river near the British-owned plant in Cato Ridge indicated that sediment in the river had high levels of mercury contamination.

Paul Johnson, a scientist from Queens College at London University, wrote in his report for Greenpeace that samples taken from the river contained the highest levels of mercury that he had ever observed in the environment and that it posed a serious health hazard to people living downstream from the plant.

The company responded by saying the Greenpeace report was exaggerated and that the mercury in the river was in the form of a heavy metal that could not be ingested through domestic use of the water. Mercury poisoning causes serious malfunctions of the nervous system and sustained exposure can be fatal.

"Now the minister has instructed officials in the department to take

samples from the area and to investigate whether the company is guilty of breaking water pollution controls. Once the departmental investigation is complete he will forward the findings to the attorney general for a decision about whether the company should be prosecuted," said Asmal's spokesman Themba Khumalo.

Meanwhile Thor says it has decided to sue green activist Chris Albertyn and Marc Colvin, a doctor who specialises in occupational health in Natal, for making allegedly libellous statements about Thor Chemicals' health standards.

The company's public relations officer John MacDonald said lawyers had been instructed to file for damages as the pair had made a "litany of unsubstantiated allegations" about the effects of mercury exposure on the health of workers at Thor. He said an amount had not yet been attached to the libel claim but the case would probably be filed in the Supreme Court.

Albertyn replied by saying he "welcomed the opportunity to deal with Thor in court". He said a recent court case, in which Thor was fined R13 500 for negligence relating to the death of two workers from mercury poisoning, had failed to uncover the true extent of occupational hazards at the factory.

"We have a vast amount of information including work conducted by international experts and are looking forward to a legal forum in which this can be presented especially as the recent case did not get to the root of the matter."

Green council backs Iscor steel plant

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE Council for the Environment has given the thumbs-up to Iscor to construct its giant steel processing plant between Saldanha Bay and Langebaan.

The council was asked by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to evaluate the impact assessments of the controversial project.

It said it agreed with the impact reports that, in most cases, possible environmental damage of the steel plant would be insignificant.

Where there was a possibility of a significant impact, environmental management measures could minimise this to a satisfactory level.

The proposed plant, with existing industrial plant already in the

area, would be visually isolated, and the natural beauty of the Langebaan lagoon and the West Coast National Park to the south would not be damaged.

The tourism potential was therefore unimpaired.

Alternative sites were investigated but were found to be potentially more harmful to the environment.

The council, whose response to Dr De Villiers was released yesterday, said the run-up to the steel project had stretched over many years.

Decisions taken in the past and infrastructures established had predetermined the latest developments.

"Investments made in the past based on these decisions, can therefore not be ignored," the council said. *ARCT 11/3/95*

"We conclude that the steel project may proceed on the proposed site on the farm Yzervarkensrug."

The council recommended that Iscor compile an environmental management plan for the construction, operation and maintenance of the plant.

"The implementation of this plan must be carefully monitored in order to limit possible negative environmental impacts to acceptable levels."

The council also recommended that a structure plan for the entire area around the lagoon be compiled, and that this be managed by an expert committee under the leadership of the provincial government and in close consultation with local communities. *(56)*

'Legislation needed to encourage people to recycle waste'

CHARLES KING
Weekend Argus Reporter

THERE is a good chance that South Africa is in danger of "being buried under rubbish" if the government does not urgently do something to increase waste recycling.

That's the view of recycling expert Peter Killick, who believes there is a need for legislation that will encourage South Africans to recycle.

According to Mr Killick, only eight percent of the South African population makes any effort to recycle.

South Africa was far behind her European and American counterparts he said, although legislation in

those countries was not necessarily perfect nor ideal for South Africa.

He cited various reasons for the discrepancy between South Africa and other western countries.

"Most first world countries feel very guilty about their reputation as consumers," he said.

"Many Europeans lead very cozy existences and sorting out their daily recycling is often the biggest excitement in their day."

Mr Killick said South Africans had had more serious problems than waste recycling to worry about over the past few years.

Only legislation would encourage

recycling in South Africa, and there "will probably need to be a cash incentive involved somewhere along the line".

He said waste recycling was high on the government's agenda, and was being studied at a high level.

"But there is no consensus in government on where and how to collect waste and how the process can be managed at grassroots level," he said.

Hanlie du Plooy, spokesman for the government's integrated waste management committee stressed that the Department of Environmental Affairs "supports recycling where and when it is viable" and said al-

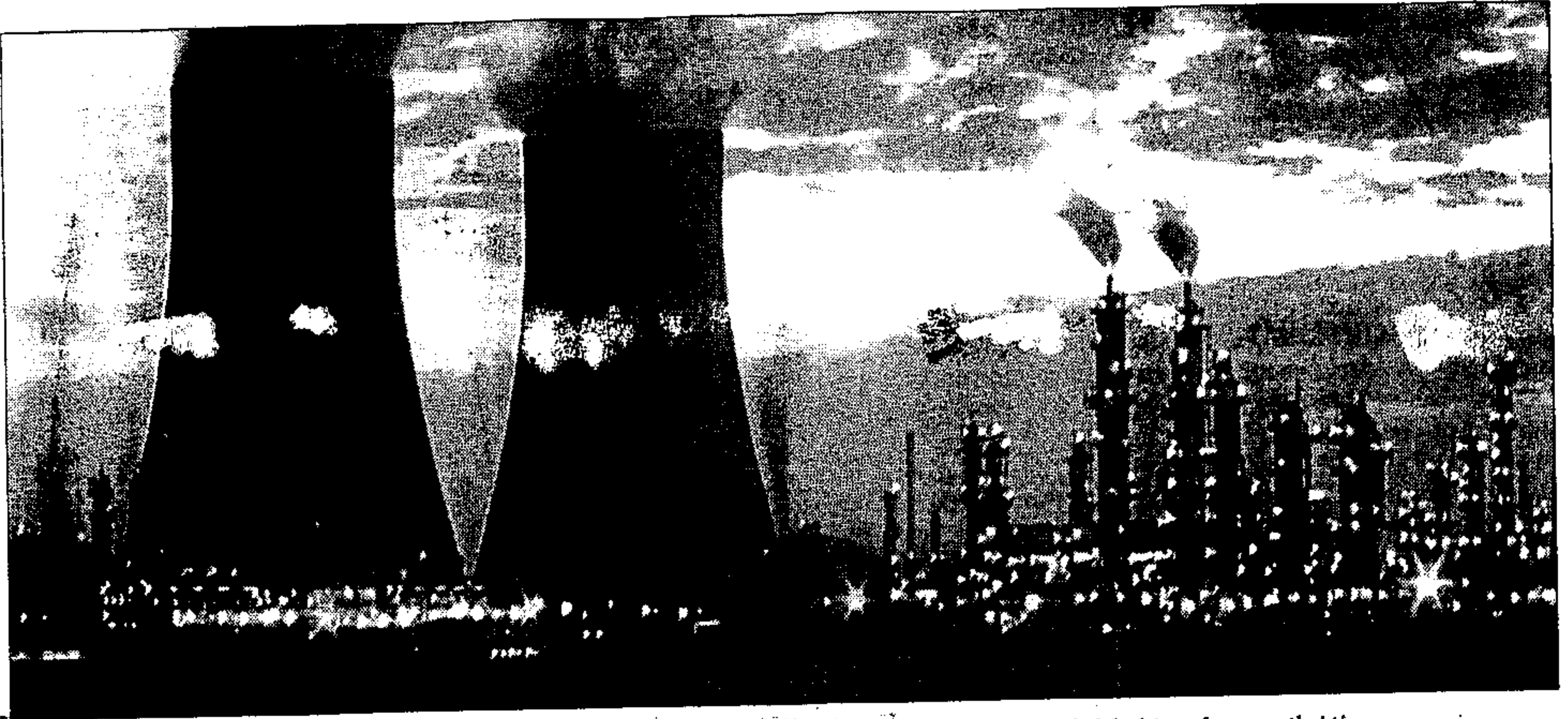
though recycling is high on the agenda "no legislation exists at this stage".

Ms du Plooy said South Africa was a combination of both the first and third world societies and economies, and that policy had to adapt accordingly.

"Whatever happens," she said, "we have to take note of what those at the grassroots want the policy to be, and it is likely that recycling legislation will never be enforced by law".

She hoped the time would come when most of the population would be separating their waste, and then recycling it.

(S2) ARG 11/3/95



STEAMING AHEAD A Sasol oil refinery. Refineries around the country will start producing unleaded fuel in a few months' time

Unleaded petrol 'on sale by October'

CT(BR)15/3/95

(56)

BY DEREK TOMMEY

MINING EDITOR

Motoring in South Africa will soon take a great leap forward into the modern age.

Pending a final government decision, unleaded petrol will be available from the country's oil refineries from the beginning of July.

It should be on sale at all petrol stations by October 1, a Sasol spokesman, Alfonso Niemand, said last night.

Unleaded petrol would be dispensed from 87 octane pumps in the interior, and from 93 octane pumps at the coast.

Local car assemblers will be pleased by the move. It will open the way for the sale here of the latest and most advanced cars produced by the world's automobile industry. Because these vehicles have been designed to run on unleaded petrol, they have, until now, been unsuited to the local market.

Niemand said the industry was

waiting for the government to announce the selling price of unleaded petrol, which costs more to manufacture than leaded petrol.

A parliamentary subcommittee was working on the issue.

Two pricing possibilities exist: imposing a levy on leaded petrol and using the proceeds to subsidise sales of unleaded petrol, or placing a once-off levy on new cars.

A 1c-a-litre levy on leaded petrol would, owing to the much smaller sales of unleaded petrol, enable its price to be reduced by

about 4c — making it 5c a litre cheaper than the leaded variety.

Niemand said that all cars made after 1985 could probably run on unleaded petrol, although they may need a slight retune. The adverse effects of unleaded petrol could be overcome by using leaded petrol in one tankful in four.

Owners of cars which run on leaded petrol need have no fears about not being able to get their favourite brand. Leaded petrol is expected to remain on sale for another 10 years, Niemand said.

TUESDAY
MARCH 14, 1995 ★

BRIEFS

Park should get "trade-off" (5b)

UNLESS the West Coast National Park gained something from the proposed Saldanah Steel project, such as the inclusion of Donkergat, environmentalists would have every justification in opposing the scheme.

"We are particularly concerned by such aspects, as the effect of unsightly buildings, which cannot be mitigated," said DP environmental spokesman Senator E K Moorcroft. "We recognise, however, that there does appear to be some sort of 'trade-off': The inclusion of the military area Donkergat into the park."

CT14/3/95

(56)
CF 16/3/95
Protest over
nuclear cargo

ENVIRONMENTAL groups protested outside Parliament yesterday against a British ship carrying high-level nuclear waste which is believed to be heading towards Cape Town.

Greenpeace International representative Mr Damon Moglen said the vessel, the Pacific Pintail, was carrying half the amount of radioactivity released during the Chernobyl disaster.

He said the South African coast was one of the most treacherous in the world and "a serious accident at sea would put South Africa's marine and land environment at tremendous risk." — Staff Reporter

Nuclear waste: Minister summoned

ARC 16/3/95

□ Asked to explain government's attitude

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has been summoned by the parliamentary standing committee on environmental affairs to explain the government's attitude to the shipment of 14 tons of highly active nuclear waste, now off South America.

This was revealed by committee chairman Peter Mokaba during a protest about the shipment outside the main gates of parliament yesterday.

The waste is being carried from France to Japan aboard the British freighter Pacific Pintail, currently about 400 miles (650 km) off the coast of northern Argentina.

Its route has been kept secret and concerned environmentalists say it might go around the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn — whichever is the "path of least po-

litical resistance".

Yesterday there was a snap debate in the Argentinian parliament about the shipment and the Argentinian armed forces have ordered aerial surveillance.

It is also being closely shadowed by a tug from the environmental organisation Greenpeace.

Mr Mokaba said the multi-party standing committee, which met yesterday, had unanimously condemned the shipment and demanded it be sent back to France.

"Japan and France are putting the Third World in jeopardy... That ship must simply be turned back.

"If we lose this battle now, a lot of toxic waste will be transported through our coastal waters."

The committee had agreed to release a "very strong" statement condemning the shipment, and had decided to call Dr De Villiers to explain what steps the government was taking in this regard.

During the protest, a small group from organisations such as Earthlife Africa, Environmental Monitoring Group and the Wildlife Society held posters and banners with slogans like "Cape Children Say 'No' to Japan's Plutonium", "Pacific Pintail: 'Unsinkable' as Titanic?" and "Our treacherous seas claim 1 000 ships".

Greenpeace International nuclear waste specialist Damon Moglen, who took part in the protest, said there was "tremendous" opposition world-wide.

"The government has not done a good job, and has even misidentified the material in question in two statements. "One has to be very concerned about the secrecy and lack of information."

Judy Chalmers, African National Congress MP and member of the parliamentary standing committee, said the committee had been "extremely concerned".



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.
NOT IN OUR WATERS! Protesters outside parliament demand a 14-ton shipment of nuclear waste, now in the South Atlantic, be kept away from South African shores.

Conservation forum wants debate on options for mountain control

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PROFESSIONAL conservationists involved with the Peninsula mountain chain have added their voice to the call for a public meeting to discuss all possible options for the mountains' future management.

In an open letter, the newly established Cape Peninsula Conservation Managers Forum told Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers they were "extremely disappointed" that he and Cape Premier HERNUS KRIEL had rejected options for the chain's future management other than the main recommendation in the Fuggle report — that a new, independent statutory management body be established.

The managers forum, which has 36 members from eight public authorities "collectively representing possibly the largest pool of professional experience", said they had unanimously agreed the

mountain chain should be placed under a single authority.

But there had been numerous political changes since the Fuggle report was released in the middle of last year, and the forum did not support this report's "very controversial" recommendations for a new statutory body.

"We are concerned that the process you are proposing has omitted the first and most important step — namely, the need for a public forum at which all the viable management scenarios can be openly debated."

It was essential to allow public debate on four possible management options: a Cape Metropolitan Council reserve, a regional reserve managed by Cape Nature Conservation, a national park, or the Fuggle proposal.

"As public interest in the Cape Peninsula mountain chain is extremely intense, it is vital that the process to be followed is properly planned, accepted by

(56) ARG 17/3/95
the public and followed through with full public participation at every stage," they said.

● Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn, who chaired a working group to recommend possible changes in ownership of the mountain chain, has hit back at the Wildlife Society for saying he had not allowed public input in drawing up his report.

Mr Kahn has since been asked by Dr De Villiers and Mr Kriel to chair a public meeting at which an advisory committee will be selected to help draft legislation for the proposed new statutory body.

"Andy Gubb (of the Wildlife Society) is wrong — our report was tabled for public comment for three weeks, and we had another meeting to deal with these comments before it was submitted to Mr Kriel," Mr Kahn said.

"This delayed it for about two months."

(56) BD 24/3/95

Minister says pollution control is inadequate

POLLUTION control mechanisms in SA were inadequate and needed to be modified, Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Bantu Holomisa said in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Government was investigating if and how economic incentives, especially fiscal incentives and penalties, could be utilised for sustainable environmental management, he told delegates to a conference on plastic waste management in the Commonwealth.

There was also a great need to implement educational programmes on the environment, littering and recycling in rural areas and townships, said Holomisa.

SA had no specific code of practice for the handling of plastic waste, but there were stringent requirements for landfill sites. Incineration was not recog-

MICHAEL MOON

nised as an economical waste disposal solution, although cement manufacturers were experimenting with plastic incineration in cement kilns, he said.

He believed new structures like transitional local committees would inculcate a culture of ownership in communities which would help in setting up waste collection and recycling schemes. The RDP would hopefully help establish anti-littering and recycling ethics in rural communities and townships.

SA compared favourably with developing countries in the area of recycling, with 16% of all plastics used, or 105 000 tons a year, being recycled.

The country's return to the international arena meant it could obtain new technology to improve its performance, he said.

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 29, 1995 ★

Sasol to build recycling plant

(56)
JOHANNESBURG: Sasol is to build an R80-million reverse osmosis desalination plant to conserve natural resources and eliminate effluent discharges, the company announced yesterday.

The plant will recover and recycle water from saline effluent dams at Secunda in the Eastern Transvaal for its synthetic fuels plant.

The desalination plant is to be commissioned in October and will process 5 500 cubic metres of effluent a day. ET 29/3/95

It was developed jointly by manufacturers Membratex, the Water Research Council and Stellenbosch University. — Sapa

Secrecy of inquiry could mean a cover-up, says environmentalist

Objection to Thor probe

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Earthlife Africa (Maritzburg), with the support of the grouping of 180 organisations under the umbrella of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF), has asked President Mandela to overturn the terms of reference and proclamation of the commission of inquiry into Thor Chemicals.

A letter to the president by the Legal Resources Centre in Durban has given him seven days in which to strike down Friday's Government Gazette notice, failing which Supreme Court action will be instituted, according to Chris Albertyn, director of the EJNF, which includes the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union as well as Earthlife Africa.

Albertyn said the commis-

COURT action threatened if 'sinister' terms of reference are not scrapped

sion's terms of reference were too narrow and would constitute a secret inquiry.

"The terms of reference of the commission are very sinister. There is an attempt at a cover-up here and South Africans need to know this," he said.

The terms of reference of the commission are:

■ To investigate the history and background of the acquisition of spent mercury catalyst as well as mercury-containing sludge stockpiled by Thor on its premises and to report on the further utilisation or disposal thereof.

■ To recommend the best practical environmental option to deal

with the problem of mercury containing catalyst and/or waste currently present on Thor's premises.

Albertyn said this effectively precluded any investigation into other toxic waste at Thor's Cato Ridge plant, as well as what had happened while all the toxic waste had been there and possible complicity of various government officials during that time.

He claimed that various clauses in Friday's proclamation, which have in the past been standard clauses in commissions of inquiry, could result in the Thor commission being held in secret.

"It is my understanding that these are precisely the secrecy clauses which Mr Justice Edwidge Cameron objected to," he said.

Albertyn claimed that, as not framed, the Thor commission of inquiry would prevent the EJNF

from obtaining access to information given during the hearing which would be crucial to making an informed submission.

"The result would be that those incriminated would be protected from public scrutiny," Albertyn said.

He claimed that the EJNF had been deliberately excluded and prevented from contributing to the drafting of the terms of reference, which was its right under the constitution.

The EJNF has spearheaded a drive for public disclosure of the activities of Thor Chemicals at its Cato Ridge plant for a number of years. This included mercury contamination of the Umgent River and mercury poisoning of workers at the plant.

Earlier this year, Thor Chemicals was fined R10 000 after being convicted of negligence in the mercury poisoning of two workers.

Star 30/3/95

(56)

Greens threaten court action over Thor regulations

By CARMEL RICKARD

ENVIRONMENTAL lobbyists this week warned President Nelson Mandela to withdraw regulations and terms of reference relating to an inquiry into Thor Chemicals or face court action.

The regulations, published in the Government Gazette last Friday, establish a probe into the company's spent mercury stockpile and sludge containing mercury.

Durban's Legal Resources Centre, acting on behalf of Earthlife Africa, wrote to the President on Thursday to say some of the provisions, such as that for secrecy, flew in the face of the Bill of Rights and should be withdrawn.

The centre contends the regulations ignore the right to equality before the law, the freedom of the media, the right to have disputes resolved in independent and impartial forums and the right to access information held by the government.

The government's failing to consult concerned environmental bodies and the decision not to investigate important aspects of the environmental problem posed by Thor infringed the right to administrative justice, the centre

said. The letter complained that Earthlife and other organisations were not allowed to contribute to framing the terms of reference, despite repeated requests and an appeal to the President. It said Earthlife would

go the Supreme Court if the reference terms are not withdrawn within seven days. A new commission of inquiry into Thor should be set up.

Speaking on behalf of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, of which Earthlife is a member, Chris Albertyn said the law professor appointed to chair the commission, Dennis Davis, was "incorruptible". But the regulations were so restricting that little of significance would emerge.

ST 2/4/95

Cheaper way to treat pollution

(56) STAR 3/4/95

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

The best way to clear pollution — a hazard in many SA rivers — is the 80/20 solution, says a recent study funded by the Water Research Commission.

This means that 80% of the pollution can be cleaned up at 20% of the cost of water-borne or individual household sewage and treatment systems.

This approach uses best management practices (BMPs), which would be applied where sources of pollution cannot be isolated and eliminated, such as in squatter and informal camps beyond the capacity of existing infrastructures.

BMPs in river catchments of such areas include diverting the rivers through constructed artificial wetlands. The polluted water would be exposed to sunlight and selected plants, killing off bacteria.

Another BMP would be to divert the polluted water through a sewage works for treatment.



Natural filters . . . rerouting urban rivers through artificially constructed wetlands offers a cost-effective solution to reducing pollution.

PICTURE: ETIENNE ROTHBART

New storage for waste wanted by Koeberg

Political Correspondent

KOEBERG nuclear power station is looking for a new interim storage facility for its waste.

An alternative arrangement is necessary because of the limited capacity of the present temporary store, according to a report by the Council for Nuclear Safety.

Nuclear waste from the plant is stored in casks.

The report said Koeberg had one of the lowest radiation values in the world during maintenance and refuelling.

The annual average dose of radiation to the "most exposed member of the public" was about 0,12 percent of the dose limit in safety standards.

The emergency planning arrangements for Koeberg were extensive, involving several organisations.

There were complex processes to identify rapidly and assess the consequences of an accident.

Development near Koeberg was controlled by the 1981 Atlantis Guide Plan.

This included a limit on population distribution close to the plant, so that emergency plans involving shelter, treatment with iodine and evacuation could be made.

38 NUCLEAR-CONTAMINATED AREAS FOUND

Who will pay to clean up radioactive sites?

A PROBE into radioactive sites raises the question of who is to pay for the clean-up. **BARRY STREEK** reports.

THE Chamber of Mines says it has not yet been determined who is going to pay to clean up radioactive sites in Gauteng and the Free State goldfields.

An investigation into the source of nuclear contamination of a load of scrap stainless steel by Britain in 1993 resulted in the discovery of 38 sites that needed decontamination, the Council for Nuclear Safety reported to Parliament this week.

"The investigation revealed that the source of this particular material was but one of a number of mining and minerals processing activities that were generating contaminated scrap material and that such material had, in turn, been distributed into the public domain in an uncontrolled fashion for years," the council said.

Last night Mr Alan Munro, president of the Chamber of Mines, said it had not been decided who would pay to clean up the contaminated sites.

Eight of them belonged to Palabora Mining Company and were cleaned up at its expense.

At 15 of the remaining 30 sites there were contaminated materials which required removal under controlled conditions.

Waste disposal

Although radiation levels at the 30 sites were low and safety precautions had been taken, there was a question over who would pay for the decontamination and rehabilitation of the sites, as well as the disposal of any waste products.

The mining industry collective-

ly gave R5 million for the matter to be investigated. This had almost been used up and only one site had been cleaned up, according to a Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS) spokesman yesterday.

The spokesman said the principle of polluter pays had been established by the Nuclear Energy Act of 1933.

"We know where the sources are. In terms of the act, we only have to establish the sources to determine liability," he said.

"The crunch is going to come when the money runs out and it's close to that now. There's no decision on where the money for decontamination, rehabilitation and disposal will come from.

"Mining will have to decide whether they are going to fund this, or embark on a legal jamboree," the council spokesman said. — Political Staff, Special Correspondent

CT 6/4/95

(5b)

Thor hearing (56) challenged

ET 7/4/95

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN: An environmental organisation is to take legal action against President Nelson Mandela for alleged violations of the constitution.

Acting on behalf of Earthlife Africa and the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union, the influential Environmental Justice Networking Forum is taking action against the publication of the terms of reference of a virtually secret commission of inquiry into the affairs of the Thor Chemicals company.

Thor's plant at Cato Ridge, near Maritzburg, has been the subject of controversy for some years, particularly over hazardous substances.

Legal papers will be served today, after weeks of representations to two cabinet ministers had apparently failed to have the terms of reference of the commission changed.

Mr Mandela is being taken to

court in terms of section 29 of the constitution, which guarantees every person the right to an environment which is not detrimental to his or her health and well-being, as well as section 24, as the government has, it is contended, failed to provide "lawful and fair administrative and procedural justice".

In a letter to Mr Mandela, the Legal Resources Centre in Durban, on behalf of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum, says it "became aware of the intention of the government to appoint a commission following widespread public disquiet about the operations of Thor and publicity regarding the deaths of Thor workers".

Environmentalists claim they should have been consulted before promulgation of the commission, and that the commission had not been empowered to "inquire into important aspects of the problem", despite evidence about alleged irregularities at Thor.

Toxic dump: New site wanted

CT 10/10/95 (56)

STAFF REPORTER

A WASTE disposal company that aims to build a toxic waste dump along the N7 near the West Coast hamlet of Philadelphia, about 40km from Cape Town, has suspended its application for permission to do so.

But the company, Enviroserv, made this decision last week on the condition that "involved parties" came up with alternative sites for the dump.

Residents of Philadelphia are

up in arms over the proposed landfill site, and have formed the Philadelphia Action Group (PAG) to prevent it being constructed.

According to a letter last week from Mr Christo Kannenberg, director of the Planning Partnership, which conducted an environmental survey for Enviroserv, the waste company suspended the licensing process after "submissions from the tourist industry".

He said "any involved party" was invited to suggest alternative sites "within a radius of five kilo-

metres of the proposed site", which Enviroserv would investigate for suitability for dumping.

Mr Peter Kantor, the PAG's attorney, said yesterday the pressure group "supports the idea of alternative sites", but it had not yet received a copy of the letter and would only formulate a response later.

However, the PAG "regards this as more of a regional issue" and felt the matter had to be aired fully in a forum representative of the Western Cape.

Greens to sue the president

ARG 8/4/95

(56)

Action linked to secret inquiry into Thor Chemicals

NORMAN CHANDLER

Weekend Argus Correspondent

PRESIDENT Mandela is being sued by an internationally linked environmental organisation over alleged violations of the constitution.

The action is because of publication of the terms of reference of a virtually secret commission of inquiry into the affairs of the controversial Thor Chemicals company.

Thor has been embroiled in controversy for several years, particularly over hazardous and dangerous substances.

Legal papers were served yesterday after weeks of representations to two cabinet ministers apparently had failed. This was in regard to allegations by environmentalists and chemical workers about conditions at the plant at Cato Ridge near Maritzburg.

Mr Mandela was given a week, from March 30, to withdraw the notice establishing the commission.

It is thought to be the first time the president has been sued in his own capacity on a constitutional matter.

He is being taken to court in terms of Section 29 of the constitution — which guarantees every person the right to an environment which is not detrimental to his or her health and well-being — as well as Section 24. It is contended the government has failed to provide "lawful and fair administrative and procedural justice".

Acting on behalf of Earthlife Africa (Maritzburg) and the Chemical Workers' Industrial

■ President Mandela is being dragged into the battle between environmentalists and an international chemical giant.



□ NELSON MANDELA: Being sued by environmentalists.

Union, the influential Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) — which is bringing the action — has spelled out to the president its disquiet. EJNF is linked to many international environmental groups.

In a letter to Mr Mandela, the Legal Resources Centre on behalf of EJNF, says it "became aware of the intention of the government to appoint a commission following widespread public disquiet about the operations of Thor and publicity in the media about the deaths of Thor workers".

Environmentalists claim they should have been consulted in advance as to the intention to establish a commission, that the commission has not been empowered to "inquire into important aspects of the

problem" in spite of evidence having been provided about alleged irregularities at the company.

According to the legal papers, the suspected production and sale of the so-called red mercury substance also should have been part of the terms of reference as well as how the substance has been "stored, utilised, processed, disposed of or dealt with in any way".

Other irregularities, the papers say, are the alleged secret hearings of the commission, cross-examination of witnesses to be only at the discretion of the chairman, the prohibition on dissemination and perusal of documents, a virtual prohibition on media reporting of the proceedings and a restriction on access to the premises

where the inquiry is to take place.

Much of this, the papers say, is in contrast to what Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kadel Asmal assured environmentalists would not take place.

According to the papers, it is claimed Professor Asmal gave assurances that all aspects relating to Thor would be investigated, that the inquiry would be open and democratic, that all information would be made available and that overseas experts would have full access.

In a letter dated March 9, Professor Asmal commented he believed the commission provided "the mechanism for an open and democratic process to address the problems".

He also said it appeared that "an incomplete Press release" from Minister of Environmental Affairs Dawie de Villiers's office, issued in December last year, had initially contributed to "concerns on the terms of reference" (of the commission).

Thor Chemicals is part of an international organisation, with headquarters in England. It has subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, other parts of Europe and in the United States.

The South African branch of the company has been embroiled in a controversy relating to the disposal of hazardous and dangerous substances which, environmentalists claim, are in contravention of the Hazardous Substances Act.

The Chemical Workers' Industrial Union is suing Thor in British courts over alleged mercury poisoning at the Cato Ridge plant.

Environmental group poised to sue Mandela over Thor inquiry

NORMAN CHANDLER

A TOP internationally linked environmental organisation says it will sue President Mandela over alleged violations of the constitution.

The action arises from the publication of the terms of reference of a commission of inquiry into the affairs of the controversial Thor Chemicals company.

Earthlife Africa says it will serve legal papers early next week. This development follows representations to two cabinet ministers who, according to Earthlife Africa, failed to explain allegations made by environmentalists and chemical workers about conditions at the plant, situated at Cato Ridge, near Maritzburg.

On March 30 Mandela was given a week to withdraw the notice establishing the commission.

It is believed to be the first time an SA president will have been sued in his

personal capacity on a constitutional matter.

He is being taken to court in terms of two sections of the constitution — section 29, which guarantees every person the right to an environment not detrimental to health and well-being, and section 24, as the Government is held as having failed to provide "lawful and fair administrative and procedural justice".

Unhappiness

Acting on behalf of Earthlife Africa (Maritzburg) and the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union, the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) — the body bringing the action — has spelt out its disgust.

EJNF is linked to many international environmental groups.

In a letter to Mandela, the Legal Resources Centre (Durban), acting on behalf of EJNF, says it "became aware of the in-

tention of the Government to appoint a commission following widespread public unhappiness about the operations of Thor and publicity in the media about the deaths of the chemical firm's workers".

Environmentalists claim they should have been consulted in advance of the promulgation of the commission, and that the commission has also not been empowered to "inquire into important aspects of the problem" despite information having been provided about alleged irregularities at the company.

According to the legal papers, the possible production and sale of the so-called red mercury substance should also have been part of the terms of reference, as well as how the alleged substance might have been "stored, utilised, processed, disposed of or dealt with in any way".

Other irregularities, the

SB Spar 8/4/95

papers say, are the alleged secret hearings of the commission; cross-examination of witnesses to be only at the discretion of the chairman; the prohibition on dissemination and perusal of documents; a virtual prohibition on media reporting of the proceedings; and a restriction on access to the premises where the inquiry is to take place.

Much of this, the papers say, is in contrast to promises to environmentalists from Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal.

The papers claim Asmal gave assurances that all aspects relating to Thor would be investigated, that the inquiry would be open and democratic, that all information would be made available and that overseas experts would have full access to information.

In a letter dated March 9, Asmal wrote that he believed the commission

provided "the mechanism for an open and democratic process to address the problems".

He also said it appeared that "an incomplete press release" from the office of Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Dawie de Villiers, issued in December last year, had initially contributed to "concerns on the terms of reference" (of the commission).

Thor Chemicals is part of an international organisation, with headquarters in England.

It has subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, other parts of Europe and in the United States.

The South African branch of the company has been embroiled in controversy over the disposal of dangerous materials which, environmentalists claim, are on the company's premises outside Maritzburg in contravention of the Hazardous Substances Act.

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Year delay on unleaded fuel?

~~183~~ (56) SPAN 15/4/95
CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

THE date for the introduction of unleaded petrol in South Africa, originally intended to be July 1 at certain service stations and October 1 throughout the country, could be delayed by up to a year by Government reservations about pricing, sources said this week.

A spokesman from the office of the Director-General of Mineral Affairs said he could not elaborate on a potential date for the introduction of unleaded fuel, but denied a rumour that the date had been delayed by about a year.

However, another source in the oil in-

dustry said a potential date of July 1996 had been mooted, subject to agreement being reached on the price.

Although the SA Petroleum Industry Association declined to comment, industry sources said the debate on the price centred on the industry's request for a differential between the price of leaded and unleaded fuel.

It appeared as if the Government initially had no problem with the suggestion of a price differential, but it was possible the Government was waiting for the outcome of the current study into oil industry regulations before making a decision, the sources said.



TOP PET BIRD: More than 500 000 African Greys have been traded in the past 15 years.

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

Our good conservation name in danger

FURTHER evidence that South Africa is not able to control the trade in wildlife within its borders has emerged from the latest report by the wildlife trade monitoring organisation TRAFFIC.

This does not augur well for any application by South Africa to resume trading in species like elephant, says David Newton, director of TRAFFIC, a joint programme of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the World Conservation Union.

Irregularities

"If South Africa is perceived as not being able to control its wildlife trade in general, then proposals to trade in well-managed species like elephant and rhino may not be favoured," he said.

The TRAFFIC report used the trade in African Grey parrots as an indicator of everything wrong in the bird trade in the country.

It revealed serious irregularities and inadequate trade controls and highlight-

(56) SPAN 15/4/95
THE African Grey parrot scandal has put SA's conservation record under scrutiny, reports Science Writer ANITA ALLEN.

ed the inability of various South African authorities to properly implement the regulations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which South Africa has signed.

The report said that from 1981 to 1993 South Africa imported more than 43 000 African Greys — 23 000 from 1990 to 1993 alone.

Most of these birds came from countries where African Greys were uncommon or banned from export. For example: from 1982 to 1987, import permits were issued for 10 000 African Greys from Togo, a country where the species occurs in very small numbers; from 1987 to 1990, 10 700 African Greys were reported as imported from Ghana, despite a domestic ban on exports from that

country since 1986; from 1990 to 1993, Guinea was reported as the source of more than 8 000 Greys to South Africa, although a scientific census in 1991 put that country's population of Greys at 5 000 to 10 000 birds.

Along the main import routes of African Greys through Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu-Natal, the TRAFFIC report found trade controls and procedures were inadequate and inspections rare.

"This situation creates a window of opportunity for document fraud and misdeclaration of cargoes, and could allow illegal shipments to enter and leave South Africa," Newton said. "And having nine new regions makes control less manageable."

South Africa exports about 700 African Greys to international markets declared as captive-bred. But a poll of parrot breeders shows that the number of captive-bred birds is at most between 200 and 300. It therefore appears that many birds declared as captive-bred have been collected in the wild.

"The fact that misdeclaration may be occurring threatens South Africa's conservation reputation. Traders, breeders and the Government need to eliminate mistrust and work together," Newton said. "It is an urgent situation that requires the attention of the South African Government, wildlife management officials and aviculturists."

TRAFFIC, supported by WWF South Africa and the Endangered Wildlife Trust, has called on the Government to:

Inspect all shipments

■ Ensure the physical inspection of all African Grey parrots and other bird shipments immediately upon arrival or prior to export.

■ Develop an integrated permit and information management system linking all national and provincial CITES authorities.

■ Increase monitoring and regulation of captive breeding operations for African Grey parrots and other birds.



GREENIES OF THE WORLD UNITE ... Billies Pamo of Namibia, Kesha Howard of the US, Tashi Phuntsok of Tibet, Collins Machyo of Kenya and Katja Wehrheim of Germany are planting trees in Khayelitsha as part of a Peace Trees International project

Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

ST(CM) 16/4/95 (56)

By YVETTE van BREDA

THEY come from all walks of life, they hail from all over the world and they have a common cause ... planting trees in Khayelitsha's Peace Park, the first of its kind in Africa.

The park will feature a soccer field, an amphitheatre, a special centre for tree dedication and playground equipment.

Among the volunteers who have come to Cape Town to help set up the park are Tibetan Tashi Phuntsok, 36, who has lived in exile since he was three years old. Tashi was piggy-backed to safety by his grandmoth-

World unites to plant trees in Khayelitsha

er across treacherous mountains to freedom in India where they lived in forests populated by wild boars and elephants.

Then there's Billies Pamo "the Bushman" who says he "escaped

the Swapos in Namibia" five years ago and went on to become the top student in his Std 8 class in Kimberley.

The list contains 25 names — and they are all part of Peace Trees International's latest pro-

ject to green Khayelitsha.

With the help of several local and international environmental and community organisations, like Abalimi Bezekhaya, Earthstewards network and Come and Play/Parks and Forests — Peace Trees International brought together 50 young people, half South African and 25 from around the globe, to help green the Cape township.

Tashi is one of 130 000 Tibetans in exile. He works for his government from his New Delhi base. He said he was very pleased to be a part of the project on his first visit to Africa as this was "not only tree planting, it brings people together".

Billies Pamo, 16, said he had not seen his parents since leaving Namibia five years ago.

They lived in huts in the small village of Bagani and during the Namibian elections sent Billies to Kimberley for fear of "the Swapos".

German Katja Wehrheim, 21, who comes from Neuss, near Cologne and Dusseldorf, said Germany did have slums "but nothing like this. We all have toilets and there's no apartheid".

She has been on other Peace Tree projects in the US.

And 16-year-old Kesha Howard who lives in Seattle in the US was expecting to see "animals and stuff" roaming the streets but since her arrival she has been everything but daunted by township life.

The group who arrived on April 7, return to their homelands on April 28.

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Clean and secure cities lie at the heart of Local Agenda 21, a global action plan for long-term human happiness which is now being implemented in South Africa.

The plan stems from a protocol signed by 103 heads of state at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

The aim of Local Agenda 21 is sustainable development under the credo: think globally, but act locally — first at national government level then at local government level and ultimately at individual level.

Since 1992, South Africa has adjusted its national policies in line with Local Agenda 21 and is now embarking on the next phase — local implementation.

(21) (23) (56)

Global plan for human wellbeing

The strength of Local Agenda 21 is that it is not based on elitist green perspectives only, instead there is a strong focus on human well-being.

The official launch of Local Agenda 21 in South Africa, and Africa, took place at a two-day seminar in Midrand last week.

It was a joint venture by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

STAV 17/4/95

Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Bantu Holomisa gave the keynote address and stressed the need to give people a sense of ownership of their environment.

In his opening address, director-general of the department Dr Colin Cameron said: "It will serve little purpose if we manage to cope with the ozone problem while people suffer from the consequences of urban decay and rural destruction."

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives is working with 21 selected municipalities worldwide to design, test and evaluate its plans over the next three years. Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town are part of this programme.

business... money regardless of whether it was safe to do so."
The matter was postponed to May 25.

Radioactive scrap 'is under control'

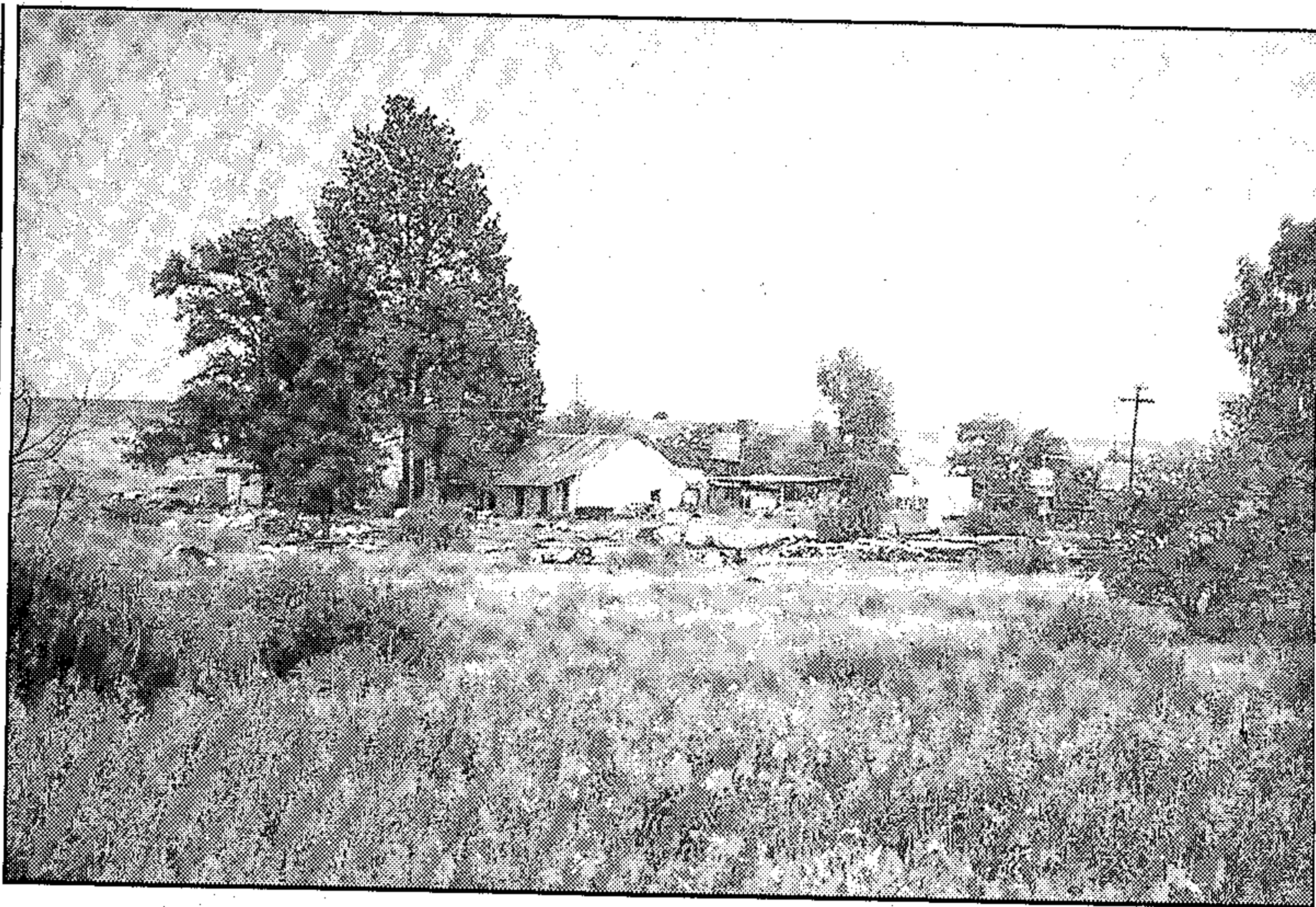
PRETORIA — The entire question of radioactive waste supplied by mines to scrap metal dealers was under control, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said yesterday. Reacting to the furore over a radioactive contaminated dump site next to the Boskop Dam near Potchefstroom in North-west, Botha said the Council for Nuclear Safety had already implemented extensive control programmes to deal with the disposal by mines of all potentially contaminated waste materials. (56)
A public meeting was also held in Potchefstroom yesterday afternoon at which interested parties were briefed.
"There is no need for concern. The council is aware

STEPHANE BOTHMA

of the radioactivity on the site and the necessary measures to identify and isolate the contaminated materials pending its removal and storage in a safe place had already been taken."
Botha added there was no danger to workers on the site or to plants, people or animals on surrounding sites. Tests on the water in the area were conducted over the weekend.
Botha said radioactivity occurred naturally in uranium and gold ores. Mines then conveyed the ore as sludge in pipes or cocopans or handled it with pumps and other equipment, resulting in the metal becoming contaminated. BD 19/4
"When no longer usable, the mines often sell it off to

scrap metal dealers and recyclers," he said.
The Nuclear Safety Act 1993 required all mining operations which involved radioactive ores to be licensed — a process which involved a comprehensive evaluation of radiation hazards and the control programmes to be established.
Pending the outcome of detailed surveys over the past several months, a moratorium had been placed on the disposal of potentially contaminated waste materials, he said.
Some R5m had been made available by the mining industry to conduct investigations and to provide for control measures.
Mining personnel had been trained to monitor radiation from materials in mine salvage yards.

Success tells



No ordinary farm . . . a radioactive dumpsite at Katdoringbos near Boskop Dam was identified in 1993, but funds for a clean-up have run out.

PICTURE: ANTON HAMMERL

Poser over radioactive sites

(56) star 19/4/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

The extent of radioactive contamination as a result of uranium mining activities in South Africa is unknown and might well be much wider than the 30 sites so far identified by the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS).

Attending a public meeting held yesterday in Potchefstroom, where two radioactive sites have been found, CNS general manager Jeff Leaver said: "We do not have a handle on the problem. Until we do it is very difficult for us to say what will be done."

In addition, it emerged that CNS — the public's watchdog on nuclear safety — is virtually toothless. It does not have the staff or funds to

conduct the large-scale investigation required, to liaise with the public or to conduct clean-ups.

"The CNS is required by law to clean up radioactive contamination," Leaver said. "But the State does not supply funds."

Attending the meeting was the scrap dealer whose site at Katdoringbos adjoining the Boskop Dam was found to be the most severely contaminated of all 30 sites so far identified.

He said his life had been made a misery since the radioactive contamination was first discovered.

"I had no idea that the scrap materials I bought from the mines were radioactive," Loutjie Coetzer said. "I know of at least two other dealers in the Potchefstroom

area who have bought scrap from me. Their sites are most probably also contaminated."

Since radioactive contamination by mines was first discovered in 1993, the mining industry collectively has made R5-million available for an investigation into the extent of the problem.

The fund was almost used up and decontamination of even the first site at Katdoringbos could not be completed, Leaver said.

"It is a very much wider problem than Katdoringbos, but the matter is receiving attention. It is not a R5-million job and it's going to take years," Leaver said.

Anglo-American, Gold Fields, Anglovaal and Gengold all operate mines in the area, but the exact linkages to specific

mines could not be established in order to determine liability, he said.

"The mining industry collectively undertook to look to costs for the initial investigation. It has now applied to the State for funds," he said.

Asked to confirm a statement by Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha that there was no danger to the public from the radioactive contamination, Leaver said: "The CNS position is that there is no threshold of safety. The probability of risk increases as the levels of radioactivity rise."

He said soil samples had been taken from the site and the adjoining up and downstream river course. "From our best technical knowledge we do not expect there will be a problem."

Row over West Coast shore access

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A FULL-PAGE media advertisement for a beachfront development scheme on the Shelley Point peninsula at St Helena Bay has been declared "misleading" by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).

Initially, the developer — Gert Joubert of Britannia Bay Developers (Pty) Ltd — did not accept the ASA's findings and referred the issue to his attorneys.

But he later contacted the ASA and agreed to amend his advertisement.

The ASA was reacting to a complaint by the Shelley Point Action Committee, a small pressure group formed to oppose the alienation of state land for private use on the Shelley Point peninsula, and to oppose Mr Joubert's extensive development proposals.

In a letter to The Argus, the action committee said the advertisement for the proposed development contained several quotes which implied that state land being sold to Mr Joubert by Portnet and the Department of Public

Works and Land Affairs had been alienated from general public use for private residential use.

They included the phrases "enter your own secure peninsula", "your secure peninsula village", "beachfront plots", and "no seaside streets".

The advertisement included a drawing showing a double entrance gate in a wall around the proposed development.

There is a security guard standing in each entrance and one has his hand raised as a command to stop.

"This, in our opinion, contradicts the philosophies of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism who promote that coastal state land be utilised firstly for the benefit of the general public and secondly, must not have an adverse ecological and physical impact on the coast line," the action group's letter stated.

The letter said the containment wall, which was well-illustrated in the advertisement, and the numerous references to "private" and "own" implied that Shelley Point was to be an exclusive, private development.

It was believed that it was a condition of approval of the Vredenburg municipal structure plan and also of the sale by Portnet and the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs that public access should not be denied to the seashore area of Shelley Point.

The ASA upheld the action committee's complaint and, in a letter on March 3, told Mr Joubert his advertising had to be withdrawn or amended, "to clearly indicate that the general public will still have access to the seashore."

"The ASA directorate considered the matter and on the available evidence ruled that your advertising is in contravention of Section 11 Clause 4.2.1 in that Advertisements should not contain any statement or visual presentation which directly or by implication, omission, ambiguity or exaggeration, misleads or is likely to mislead the consumer about the product advertised."

"In our view, the Shelley Point advertising is misleading as it implies private residential development on the state land adjacent to the seashore, which is in conflict with the Department of Environmental Affairs standpoint ...

"Please could you furnish the ASA with a written undertaking to this effect by return fax within seven days."

ASA consultant Michael van Dyk said that Mr Joubert had initially declined to give the required undertaking and had referred the ruling to his attorneys.

But last week, Mr Van Dyk said Mr Joubert had agreed to amend his advertising to say that there would be public access to the beach.

"I think that clears up the issue," Mr Van Dyk said.

Action committee spokesman Hugh Willis said they had approached Portnet, which had agreed to re-examine the property transaction with Britannia Bay Developers to ensure that the development company's proposal, as outlined in the advertisement, complied with the sale agreement.

"They (Portnet) are going to come back to me.

"We are not trying to prevent development (at Shelley Point) but to ensure that it is done in compliance with agreements," Mr Willis said.

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"We are not trying to prevent development (at Shelley Point) but to ensure that it is done in compliance with agreements," Mr Willis said.

The main public access to the Shelley Point peninsula — a public road defined as "Inferior Road no 46 over erf 3" — has been closed by Mr Joubert on the authority of the executive council of the Western Cape.

In November, the council approved the rezoning of erven 1, 2 and 3 and the closure of the road.

Conditions for closing the road were that this could be done only "after an alternative road access to the beach at Shell Bay has been provided", and that the closure was subject to the approval of the provincial roads engineer.

In response to a question from The Argus, a provincial administration spokeswoman said an alternative access road was available, via Mr Joubert's "Golden Mile" Britannia Bay development.

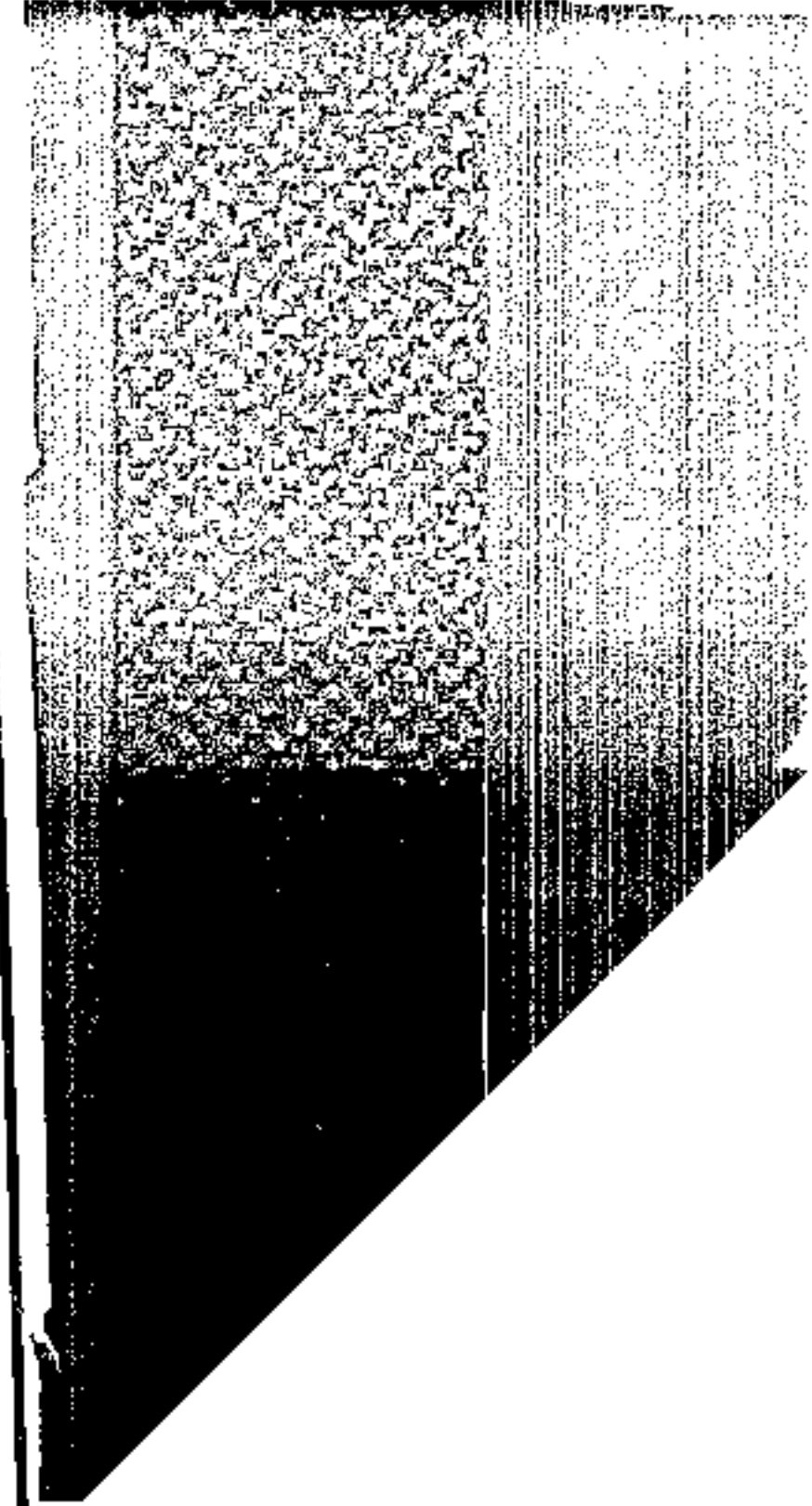
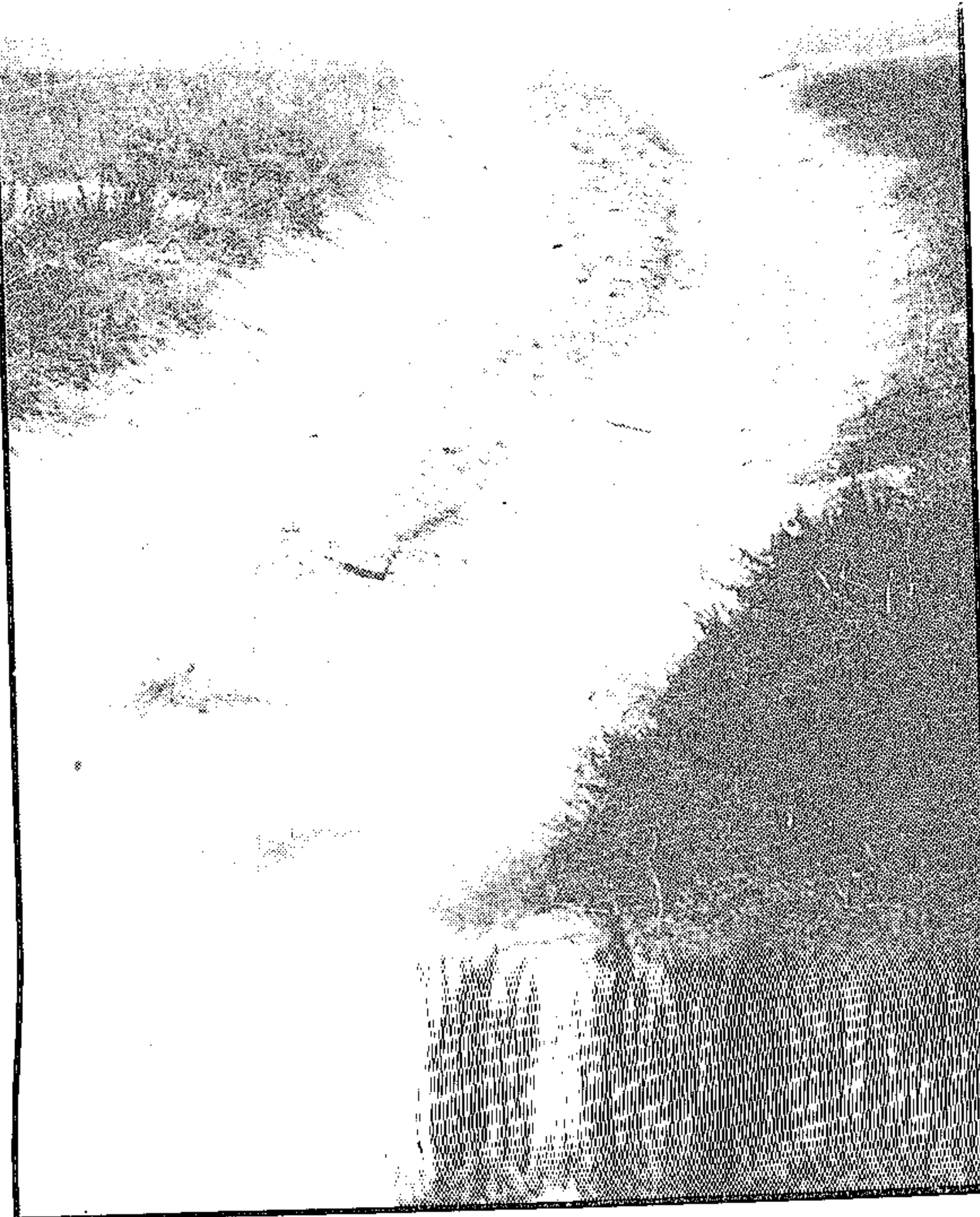
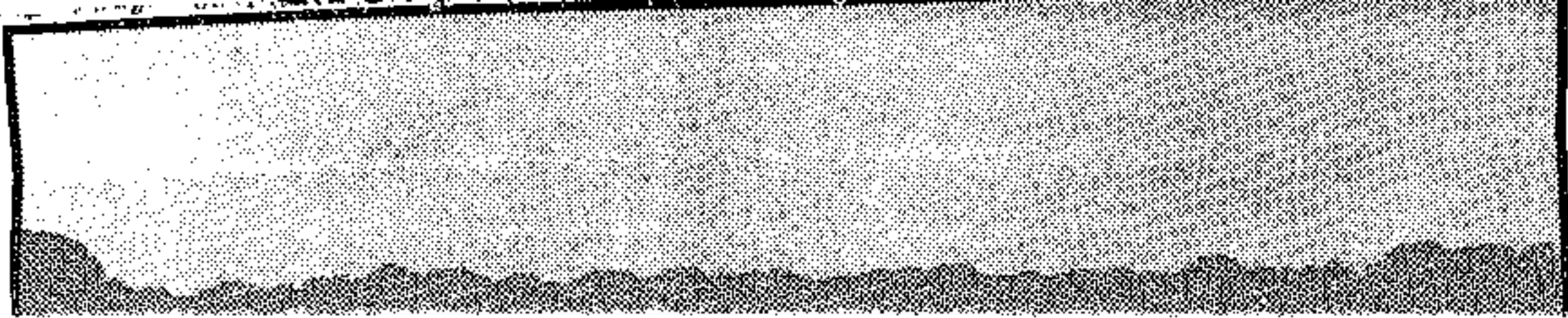
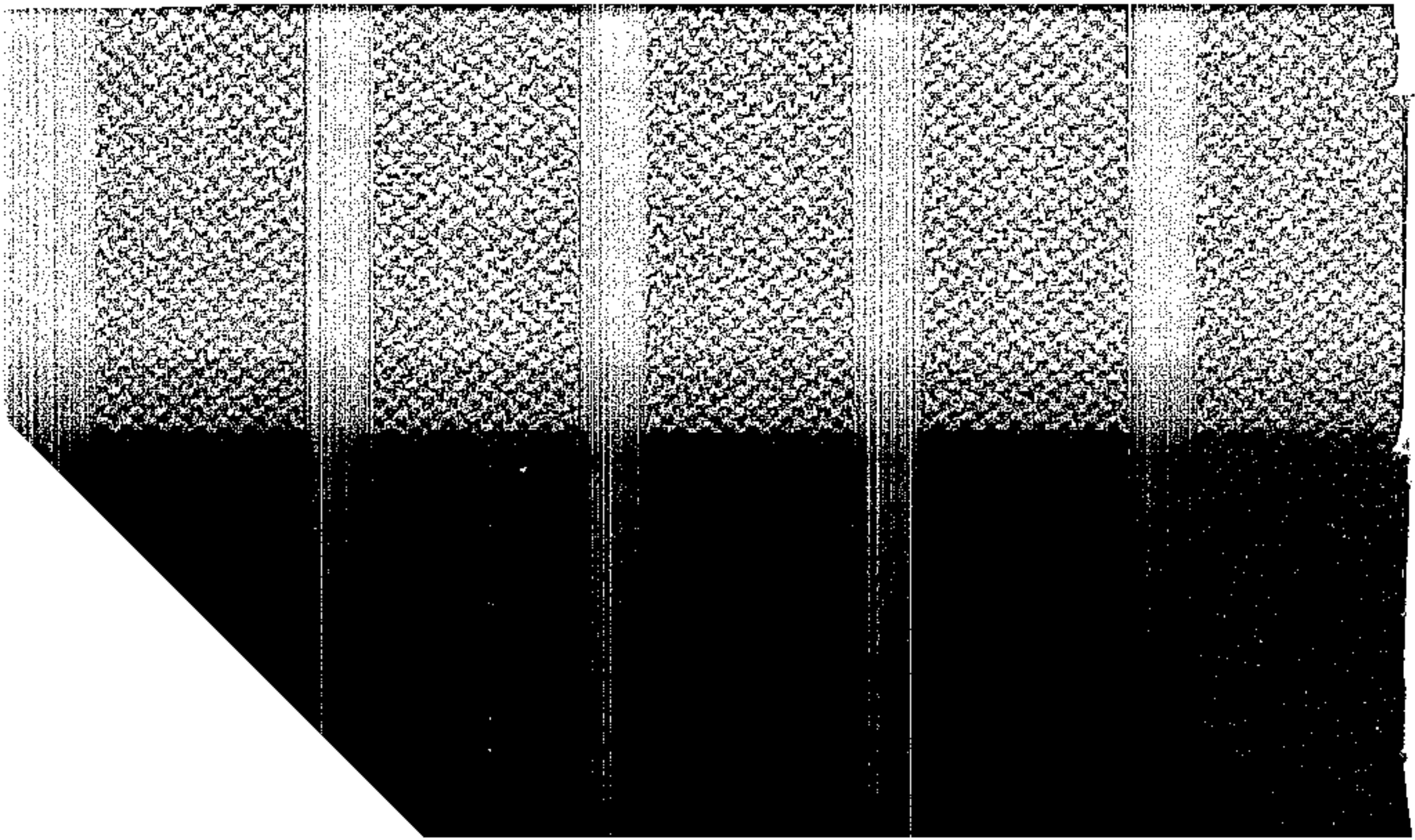
The only access to that alternative road — which is a sandy track through the veld — is through the entrance gates to the "Golden Mile" which have a "security control" sign displayed on them.

● Mr Joubert has not responded to a request for comment.



Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

NOT THIS WAY: The public road to Shelley Point in St Helena Bay — "Inferior Road no 46 over erf 3" — has been closed by developer Gert Joubert on the authority of the executive council of the Western Cape.



20177 This is the other public road to Shelley

(56) 19/4/95

THE GAPPE

The Argi

Peninsula mountain chain — date set for names

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

WRITTEN nominations for 15 people to advise Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers on the best model for the future management of Table Mountain and the rest of the Peninsula mountain chain must be submitted by May 15.

This was disclosed by Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn at a public meeting in the Civic Centre last night, attended by about 200 people. Mr Kahn has accepted a brief by

Dr De Villiers and Cape Premier Hennis Kriel to form an advisory committee which will help determine a future management structure for the mountain.

The committee must either help government legal advisers to draft new legislation for a special Cape Peninsula Heritage Area authority, as suggested by the Fugle team from the University of Cape Town and favoured by Dr De Villiers and Mr Kriel, or come up with an alternative native management model.

Mr Kahn said the 15 names selected would be announced soon after May 15 and he would then withdraw from the process.

The committee would operate in the full glare of publicity, would probably select a chairperson from its own ranks, and would have full powers of co-option, Mr Kahn said.

People agreeing to nomination would have to make a written commitment to serve on the committee, although they could nominate alternatives for when they were unavailable.

able.

Mr Kahn agreed to suggestions from the floor that advertisements calling for nominations be placed in newspapers and that the issue be aired on the radio to ensure the widest possible exposure.

There was an urgent need to select the committee and for it to complete its work before October — the cut-off date for new legislation to go through in the coming session.

Dr De Villiers would continue to implement his plan, "unless he can

be persuaded by the citizenry that there is a more logical alternative".

In a brief presentation Parks Board spokesman Hall-Martin said the "honest sincere interest" in being an of the Table Mountain that the mountain fulfil internationally-recognised a national park.

Johan Neethling of Conservation said they b

tain chain — date set for names of 15 advisers

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be persuaded by the citizens of Cape Town that there is a more attractive, more logical alternative".

In a brief presentation, National Parks Board spokesman Anthony Hall-Martin said the board had "a sincere interest" in being the custodi- an of the Table Mountain chain, and that the mountain fulfilled all the internationally-recognised criteria of a national park. Johan Neethling of Cape Nature Conservation said they believed the

new authority for the mountain should be an organisation "tailored by the Western e legislature for the Western Cape", under umbrella legislation which would give it na- tional and international input.

Businessman Nick Malherbe, whose allegations about the behav- iour in Australia of former regional environmental affairs minister Ler- umo Kalako led to a commission of inquiry, said Table Mountain and Cape Point were two of Africa's sev- en most-visited sites.

Nick Malherbe

Steel project: Cabinet to decide

ANTHONY JOHNSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE proposals for the establishment of the Saldanha steel project were of such importance that there would have to be a provincial cabinet decision on the development, Western Cape Premier Mr Hernus Kriel said yesterday.

Responding to a question from Mr Joe Marks (DP), Mr Kriel said he still had to weigh the pros and cons of the development.

"I have not yet had the time or the information to apply my mind to the issue but as soon as I am in

the position to do so, I will," he told the provincial legislature.

Mr Kriel said the 1973 guide plan involving the building of the railway line from Sishen to Saldanha envisaged that some form of beneficiation of ore reserves occur.

As a result of objections to the latest plan from a statutory body — the Parks Board — he was obliged to consider the matter.

However, the issue was of such importance that the provincial cabinet has to decide on it.

He said the cabinet would also have to decide on the proposed residential development within

CT 19/4/95 (56)

the Rietvlei protected area.

The Minister of Finance, Nature and Environmental Conservation, Mr Kobus Meiring, told the legislature yesterday that according to legal opinion a decision by his predecessor to approve the 360 residential sites inside the protected area was beyond his authority.

This was because the province had only received the powers necessary to make such a decision on April 7 this year, he said.

Mr Meiring said although he now had the power to decide, it was so sensitive the cabinet would have to examine the issue.



WEIGHING UP: Premier Hernus Kriel.

State stalls on unleaded petrol

Oil industry chafes to be given the green light as discussions on a pricing policy for the eco-friendly fuel are delayed

By CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

INVESTMENT EDITOR

Delays in government discussions about a pricing policy for unleaded petrol mean that the fuel cannot be introduced before February 1996 — missing its deadline by four to six months.

Total South Africa's corporate affairs manager, Clarence Keyter, confirmed at the weekend that the introduction of unleaded petrol had been postponed.

"We and the oil industry are waiting for a decision from the government before we can advance plans to launch unleaded petrol.

"But as things stand now it cannot be introduced before February next year.

"Every month that a decision is delayed leads to a further delay in the introduction of unleaded petrol."

Other industry sources said they understood the introduction date had been delayed by a year.

Keyter was answering questions about a recent statement by a government spokesman that a possible delay in the introduction of unleaded fuel, originally scheduled for July 1 at certain service stations and October 1 around the country, could arise from government reservations about pricing of the fuel.

According to recent press reports, there are several pricing possibilities for unleaded fuel, which costs more to produce than leaded fuel and will initially sell in

After 18/4/95 (56)

The most discussed option appears to be placing a levy on leaded fuel, which would make it more expensive than unleaded fuel.

However, the petrol price is a sensitive issue.

In the past two months alone, the price in Gauteng has risen by 11c a litre which, estimates say, will raise the inflation rate by at least 0.5 percent.

The petrol industry has already spent R250 million in anticipation of the introduction of unleaded fuel in South Africa, Keyter said.

Oil companies which introduce unleaded petrol must supply dedicated tanks at depots and service stations as well as dedicated tankers to transport the fuel.

"It is a costly exercise and it cannot happen over a few days," he said.

AFTER THE SHOW



WELL-EARNED REST Anton Post, general manager of the Rand Show, puts his feet up after last week's hectic and successful international event outside Johannesburg

PHOTO JOHN WOODRIDGE

Radioactive contamination from uranium mining may be widespread

CT 19/4/95

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

(56)

or to conduct clean-ups.

JOHANNESBURG: The extent of radioactive contamination as a result of uranium mining activities in South Africa is unknown and may be wider than the 30 sites so far identified by the Council for Nuclear Safety (CNS).

CNS, the public's watchdog on nuclear safety, is virtually toothless. It does not have the staff or funds to conduct the investigation

Since radioactive contamination by mines was first discovered in 1993, the mining industry collectively has made R5 million available for an investigation into the extent of the problem. The fund was almost finished and decontamination of even the first site at Kardoringbos, the most contaminated of all 30 sites, could not be completed, CNS general manager Mr Jeff Leaver said.

Fifteen advisers will help draft legislation on Table Mountain (56)

CT 19/4/95

STAFF REPORTER

A PUBLIC meeting in the city last night agreed that nominations for 15 people to serve on an advisory committee to help draft new legislation for the management of Table Mountain would be submitted in writing within the next 21 days.

The meeting, attended by about 300 people, was convened by Cape attorney-general Mr Frank

Kahn.

The legislation to be drafted will place the whole mountain chain under a single management authority.

Mr Kahn said: "This is a rare opportunity to establish an advisory body which can carry weight. The bickering must stop."

Nominations should be accompanied by written motivations and addressed to The Attorney-General, Private Bag 9003, Cape Town.

Greens blast plan to upgrade Liesbeeck Parkway to 4 lanes

□ 'Council hasn't consulted us'

ANDREA WEISS
Municipal Reporter

CAPE Town's Olympic bid is already running into stormy waters as environmentalists take issue with plans to upgrade the road running next to the green belt on the banks of the Liesbeeck river.

Liesbeeck Parkway is about to be upgraded to four lanes between the N2 and Observatory Road.

This is because the Africa leg of the Atlanta Olympics qualifying rounds for hockey are due to be held at Hartleyvale in October.

The road is already being surveyed and a design is being drawn up for approval, as work must start within six weeks to meet the deadline.

But the Friends of the Liesbeeck are concerned that there has been no consultation until now about the environmental effects of the upgrade on the river and the green belt.

Reacting to their criticism, Clive Keegan, city council representative on the interim steering committee for the Olympics, said it would be "totally unacceptable for a sensitive green-belt area not to be the subject of a comprehensive environmental study before major road improvements are approved".

He said the intention was to establish an independent environmental commission to monitor all aspects of the city's Olympic bid.

The qualifying rounds for hockey probably explained why Liesbeeck

Parkway was being "shabbily treated" in environmental terms, but it did not set a very good example, he added.

City engineer Arthur Clayton said that "quite a bit of conceptual planning" had yet to be done and consultation would have to take place.

But for the road to meet the October deadline, work would have to start in June.

The proposed road was four lanes without a centre island, and with no parking, meaning that the informal parking area on the banks of the Liesbeeck would be lost.

Parking for Hartleyvale stadium also needed to be looked at, he said.

The Friends of the Liesbeeck are also worried that a future plan to extend the parkway to link the road with Milnerton across the N1 will destroy their dream of restoring the Liesbeeck River's link with the Paarden Eiland wetland, and ultimately Rietvlei.

Chairman of the group Edward Tilanus said he had been contacted by the consultants for the upgrade and told they wanted a meeting with his organisation. He said he had been told the river would be affected by the road.

He described Cape Town's Olympic bid as being "flawed from the very beginning", even with regard to the selection of the most suitable South African city for the Olympics.

"I am scared they are going to destroy what makes the Cape attrac-

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Picture: DOUG PRITNEY, The Argus.
OLYMPIC CONCERN: Environmentalist Edward Tilanus at the stretch of the Liesbeeck River Parkway which is about to be upgraded to four lanes.

tive. There is a contradiction between what you hear the city saying and what is happening."

He suggested that the 242 ha of state or council land stretching from Liesbeeck Parkway, across Valkenberg Hospital and the Raapenberg bird sanctuary towards the M5, would make a wonderful "central park" if properly planned.

"There is a glaring opportunity that is being whittled away," he said.

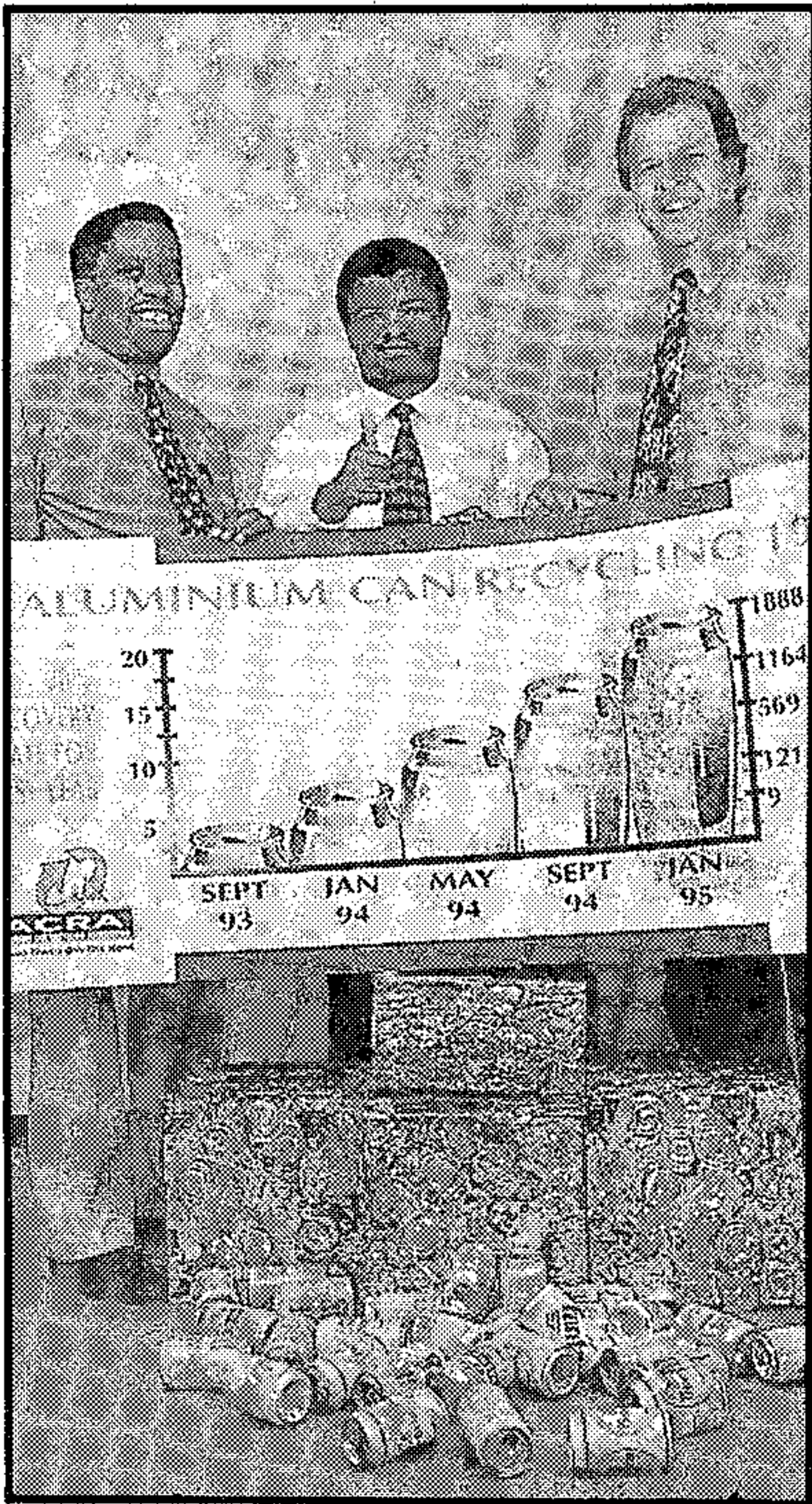
Likely to disappear under tar is a parking area and some of the green belt next to the river, along with an important resting place for "thousands" of Hartlaub and lesser black-backed gulls which ride the thermals

between Robben Island and Strandfontein.

Mr Tilanus said he was worried the extension of the scheme to link Liesbeeck Parkway with Marine Drive in Milnerton, across the Curlemberg goods yard, would harm efforts to restore the Liesbeeck River to its old course past the River Club, through to Paarden Eiland's wetland and Rietvlei.

"What I'm questioning is that this is ad hoc again. To me it smacks of the city council once again not knowing what it is doing."

He claimed that even the Hartleyvale upgrade was a "shambles" with important aspects such as parking neglected.



CAN DO ... ARCA's Andrew Matsapola and Dawie Krugel with Environment Minister Bantu Holomisa

R4m industry thrives on a throwaway line

By DON ROBERTSON

THE informal sector has earned itself R4-million and can claim a world record for recycling aluminium beverage cans.

Dawie Krügel, general manager of the Aluminium Can Recycling Association, says that in the first full year since the introduction of aluminium beverage cans in South Africa, 20% or 1 888 tons were collected for recycling, an achievement unmatched anywhere in the world.

In environmentally-conscious Europe, for example, recoveries in the first year of recycling aluminium cans were well below this, only reaching 27% after seven years.

Between 4 000 and 5 000 people or groups are involved in can collection, a large portion of whom are from the informal sector.

"Some of the more organised collectors are earning as much as R6 000 or R7 000 a month, delivering cans to 240 collection stations around the country or to scrap merchants.

"They visit places such

as sports stadiums, cafes, office blocks and hotels and collect as much as six tons a month. This they sell at R1,50 a kilogram. Scrap merchants, who sort, bale and transport to the collection points can earn more."

Mr Krügel believes there is considerable potential for growth in this "industry" with 80% of cans now merely dumped and not recycled. In 1992, R3,8-billion was paid to members of the public in the US for cans brought back for recycling.

Internationally, 80% of all beverage cans are made from aluminium. In South Africa only 15% of the 3-billion cans used annually are made from aluminium but this percentage is expected to increase in years to come.

"A number of projects have been set up to enable black entrepreneurs to start their own small business collecting and reselling cans," says Mr Krügel.

ST (BT) 23/4/95

6

'No decision' on Saldanha steel project

EUNICE RIDER

(56)

AN irate Western Cape Minister of Planning Mr Lampie Fick said yesterday no decision had yet been taken over the Saldanha steel project planned for less than a kilometre from Langebaan Lagoon — a protected conservation site.

He strongly denied weekend newspaper reports that the controversial project had received the go-ahead. *CT 24/4/95*

He said a decision on whether the agricultural area earmarked for the steel mill should be rezoned to allow the development could be expected in "about a month", and depended on specialist research and the decision of the full executive council of the Western Cape.

"Because the final decision on whether or not the factory plan goes ahead holds such wide implications for the Langebaan and Saldanha areas, and for the Western Cape as a whole, I would like to make it very clear that no decisions have yet been taken and that they will not be taken by me alone."

Mr Fick said an unnamed spokesman for the environment ministry had told local newspapers that unless the Parks Board could come forward with "substantial new information", the steel mill could go ahead.

He said the story was incorrect and misleading.

They're not playing the game, say the Greens

Environment Reporter

"GREEN" issues about Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games have been pushed into the background by vested interests concerned with money and control, say angry environmentalists.

The matter is to be discussed at a public meeting next week, when a strategy will be developed to ensure environmental and social aspects of the bid get top priority.

Convenor of the meeting Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society said the city's bid appeared to be back on track.

"And now in the background we are hearing many concerns being voiced — 'Will Capetonians have to foot the bill?', 'Can the city afford it?', 'Can the environment sustain it?' and 'Should we be aspiring to holding the Olympics at all?'"

The bid was being controlled by powerful people who had a variety of vested interests, Mr Gubb charged.

"The people of Cape Town have all but been excluded from a process which should have included public participation at the broadest level, right from the outset and all the way through."

Two aspects of the bid pro-

cess had been particularly damaging, Mr Gubb said.

"Firstly, the bid was in danger of collapsing around a conflict which appeared to be centred on money and control, with social and environmental aspects apparently being irrelevant.

"Secondly, information has been available to the privileged few only, and the people of Cape Town have had to infer what they can from Press reporting."

Two years ago, environmental fears had been allayed when a handful of organisations had been given a slide show and promised an "environmentally friendly" Olympics, with all the necessary social and environmental impact assessments.

"But ensuring an environmentally friendly, sustainable Olympic bid will take time, years, in fact," Mr Gubb said.

"The environmental organisations are not going to wait any longer for vague promises to be fulfilled.

"They will strive to ensure that Cape Town's environment — in its broadest sense — and the people of the city are given priority consideration."

● The meeting is being held in the hall on the first floor of the Cape Town Civic Centre on Thursday, May 4, at 6 pm.

(5b)
ARC 25/4/95

PROJECT 'COULD BE TICKETS FOR LAGOON'

Steel mill: New protest (56)

OBJECTORS to the siting of the Saldanha steel project are threatening to go to court. **EUNICE RIDER** reports.

A GROUP of scientists and conservationists opposed to the development of the controversial Saldanha steel project near Langebaan Lagoon — a protected conservation site — demanded yesterday that the issue be re-opened for objections.

The group members, who do not yet wish to be named as they say that politically the issue is extremely sensitive, said they would consider taking court action unless the Minister of the Environment, Dr Dawie de Villiers, re-opened the issue for public objections.

They claimed interested and

affected parties had been falsely led to believe the area earmarked for the proposed mill was already rezoned from agricultural to industrial and that this was borne out by a CSIR specialist report, when in fact the application was still being investigated by the Western Cape Minister of Planning, Mr Lampie Fick, and Western Cape Premier Mr Hernus Kriel.

"Saldanha Steel (owners of the proposed steel mill) has already ordered materials for the development, as if the project were a fait accompli," said a spokesman.

The new opposition body said it enjoyed "wide and growing sup-

port" to have the issue re-opened for public opinion because many people who would have lodged objections had they known the matter was still open, had felt there was no point in doing so.

Factories

The group also felt that a second environmental impact assessment on the extensions to the harbour — which is to be dredged and blasted to deepen it — was an integral part of the steel project, and the results might affect the decision of the Council for the Environment and the minister to permit the development to proceed.

A UCT marine biologist with a master's degree and who is com-

pleting his doctorate, said yesterday he was distressed that the CSIR's environmental impact reports on the proposed mill it did not take into consideration the effects of other factories, such as cement and steel product factories, that would mushroom up around the steel mill.

"The steel mill is just the key to the door of heavy industry for the Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon area.

"Once there's one massive factory in the area it will not be possible to stop others, and because environmental impact studies are not required by law, there is no guarantee that they will bother with them. It will be tickets for Langebaan Lagoon."

CT25/4/95

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Kriel deluged with protests over Iscor plan

□ 'Don't make another mistake' — plea
AUG 25/4/95

Environment Reporter

A BARRAGE of letters objecting to the proposed Iscor steel mill on the edge of Langebaan lagoon near Saldanha Bay has arrived on the desk of Western Cape Premier Hennis Kriel.

The letters, from all over the country and including at least one from a foreign visitor, express concern about pollution and a detrimental environmental effect on the popular lagoon. C Simerie of Langebaan asked what would happen to the town and its inhabitants if the steel processing factory was given the go-ahead. "I feel it's unjust that the inhabitants of Langebaan should be exposed to pollution ..."

"Think of our families and children, all the sicknesses that we will be exposed to. We can't allow this to happen to Langebaan."

Regular Langebaan holidaymaker M Geldenhuys of Riebeeck West said the lagoon was used for several water sports, "to say nothing of its sea life".

"I don't think it's such a good idea to construct such a factory near Saldanha ... Please think again and investigate whether there's not possibly another solution to this issue." Paul Williams of Welgemoed said there was "plenty of suitable land" a few kilometres inland.

"No steelworks, however modern, is clean or suitable to be placed near a residential or holiday area.

"We already have Koeberg, Mossel Bay and the refinery at Milnerton. Don't make another mistake."

Dutch visitor J A Hendriks of New Arnhemdam said the proposal was frightening and she would not recom-

mend tourists to the area if the factory was allowed to be built there.

C M Brink of Krugersdorp said the factory would definitely damage the environment and cause pollution.

"Leave Langebaan as it is — a pleasure to the eye!" Mrs Brink said.

Truida Nolte, no address given, said she was a concerned conservationist who knew the West Coast well.

"I would like to remind you that future generations will hold us responsible for decisions made affecting this country's natural beauty.

"The short-term economic benefits will be heavily outweighed by the long-term environmental damage."

Mary Lyhne of Newlands appealed to Mr Kriel not to "destroy" Langebaan's beautiful environment.

"Think of the birds, animals, air and people. Save this paradise for our grandchildren — and yours," she wrote.

First-time visitor Lisa Lyhne of Troyeville said she had been delighted by Langebaan's natural beauty and bird-life.

"So it was with shock and dismay that I learnt of Iscor's plans. This is an area to cherish and protect, and I urge you to reconsider the decision.

"Future generations will be denied the beauty of this place and will judge you harshly."

Gina Jarman of Langebaan Road told Mr Kriel tourism was worth "much more" than the steel mill could generate and that he would always be associated with the decision.

She quoted Edmund Burke: "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."

DP leader calls for snap debate Premier will visit foreign steel mills

Political Correspondent

CONTROVERSY over Iscor's proposed R4-billion steel plant at Saldanha has prompted a request for a snap debate in the Western Cape legislature.

The request was made to Speaker Willem Dorman yesterday by Democratic Party leader in the province Hennie Bester.

Mr Bester believed the level of public concern about the development warranted a debate of "urgent public importance".

"There is serious public concern that the siting of the plant could have an extremely negative impact on the environment."

He said the area in the immediate vicinity of the proposed plant "consists of a national park, which includes a wetland area, with important international significance, and is a major tourist attraction".

In debate last week, Nationalist legislator Antoinette Versfeld called for the strictest possible environmental conditions being imposed on the project, if it were approved.

Earlier in the week premier Hennis Kriel said a decision on the plant was so sensitive it would be taken by the full provincial cabinet.

Ms Versfeld said that while she appreciated the need for development in a region crying out for jobs and investment, she was deeply worried about its impact on the environment.

Environment Reporter

WESTERN Cape Premier Hennis Kriel will visit steel plants in Europe during his coming trip to see what environmental impacts the proposed Iscor steel processing plant at Langebaan lagoon is likely to have — if it gets the nod.

This was disclosed by regional Minister of Agriculture, Tourism and Planning Lampie Fick.

Mr Fick was reacting to reports that a spokesman for national Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers had said the controversial plant close to the West Coast National Park would be approved unless the National Parks Board came up with "substantially new information".

Mr Fick said the proposed plant had not been approved, and that a decision would be taken collectively by the regional cabinet.

The ground earmarked for the steel plant is zoned agricultural and is subject to a rezoning application.

Mr Fick said the application and objections were being considered by an evaluation committee.

"Because the final decision about the construction of this plant has such wide implications for Langebaan and for the Western Cape as a whole, I will not take a decision on the rezoning on my own but will refer it to the full executive committee of the Western Cape parliament." This would be in about a month.



GIVE PEACE A CHANCE! Part of the enthusiastic crowd — wearing appropriate T-shirts — at yesterday's opening of the peace park.

Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus.



Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Well, not quite, but the top of the ladder of a playground slide is a new — and high — experience for five-year-old Nomphele Jeyi. The slide is one of several pieces of equipment installed in Khayelitsha's new International Peace Park. Lending a reassuring hand to Nomphele is Winston Coe of the University of the Western Cape's environmental education centre.

Green peace in Khayelitsha

□ *World effort to create park*

Environment Reporter

BEATLE John Lennon, one feels, would have approved.

In the name of peace, people from all parts of the world have joined hands to transform a "desert" wasteland plot in sand-blasted Khayelitsha into a green oasis that includes playground equipment for children, a football field, basketball court and an amphitheatre.

The international peace park was officially opened in the township's A-section yesterday.

By the time it's finished, it will have more than 5 000 trees, shrubs and groundcovers.

About 80 percent of the trees are indigenous — including wild olives, karee trees, milkwoods and waterberries — and the rest are fast-growing exotics.

The park was created by a coalition involving 19 environmental organisations and authorities, more than 70 donors, Site A residents and 50 young people from all parts of the world, recruited from the international Earthstewards Network.

"It's fantastic" said Dave Golding of Abalimi Bezekhaya, the Catholic Welfare Bureau's township greening initiative which helped organise the park.

"It's been a process, and there've been some very special moments."

The project also had some problems, Mr Golding said.

"Because when you work in groups your energy is a bit scattered — it's sometimes a bit difficult to co-ordinate, and also this project has brought

"But looking at the park now, it feels fantastic.

"Yesterday evening there was this little guy, just sitting on a bench, gazing out into the distance, while the rest of the place was buzzing.

"It was totally alive — that's what this is all about."

Collins Machyo, a 25-year-old volunteer from Kenya, said working on the peace park had been "memorable".

"To see people meeting like this and exchanging ideas — it's very exciting," he said.

"It's a living testimony which will be a model to future generations, and I'm looking forward to working on more such projects, especially in Africa.

"They're really necessary, especially in the less privileged communities like the one here in Khayelitsha."

Stephanie Do from Vietnam heard about the project from a co-worker.

"I really wanted to get involved," the 29-year-old said.

"I also do a lot of community work and I want to bring this concept to Vietnam because of the history of the war there and everything — it's like South Africa, because it's also now beginning to open up to the world."

Auroasha Pouyet, a 22-year-old from Tamil-Nadu in south India, said desertification was one of the world's biggest problems, and that greening projects helped to combat this.

"And through peace and trees and youth we can bring all the cultures together — we can create a world culture," she said.

As John Lennon said, all we need to

Businessmen pay steel mill protesters

CT 26/4/95

(56)

(56)

EUNICE RIDER

ABOUT 200 protesters, mostly unemployed, yesterday demonstrated in the city in favour of the proposed Saldanha Steel mill in Cape Town — and their transport costs, lunch and posters were provided by the Saldanha Afrikaanse Sakekamer.

Saldanha councillor and a representative for the protesters, Mr Aubrey Coetzee, said the protesters were unemployed people from the area who did not wish to see the Saldanha steel project moved to another town.

Environmentalists, concerned with pollution of the Langebaan Lagoon which is less than a kilometre away from the proposed development site, are opposed to the controversial project.

Mr Coetzee said Saldanha and Vredenburg businessmen in favour of the proposed R4-billion steel mill, and the Afrikaanse Sakekamer, had paid for the three buses in which the protesters came to the city, "and even gave us lunch-money to come to town today".

"They want us to show the people in Cape Town that we



RENT-A-DEMO: About 200 protesters, many unemployed, yesterday demonstrated in favour of the proposed Saldanha steel mill. Expenses were paid by Saldanha's Afrikaanse Sakekamer. **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

want steel in Saldanha," Mr Coetzee said.

The protest took place in front of the CPA building.

Saldanha Afrikaanse Sakekamer chairman Mr Hennie Griesel yesterday admitted that the body had "organised the

protest as part of an effort by our community and the Saldanha-Vredenburg business sector, to state our position".

(56) (1844)
BN 26/4/95

Steel mill rezoning still undecided

CAPE TOWN — The planned construction of Iscor's steel mill at Saldanha Bay was still on schedule even though the Western Cape provincial government had not yet taken a decision to rezone the proposed site, an Iscor spokesman said this week.

In terms of the feasibility studies, construction was scheduled to start in mid-1995. Western Cape planning minister Lampie Fick said yesterday a decision on the rezoning to industrial land from agricultural land was likely "in about a month".

Provincial government sources said environment minister Kobus Meiring would broach the rezoning issue during his department's Parliamentary budget vote today.

The rezoning of the proposed site for the steel mill

EDWARD WEST

— to be situated less than 1km from the Langebaan Lagoon — has drawn environmental concerns from parties such as Club Mykonos and the Langebaan municipality.

The National Parks Board denied reports that it had objected to the estab-

lishment of the steel mill, saying it had not yet formulated its stance.

The Iscor spokesman said the group had had to place a substantial product order for the proposed plant so that the project could qualify for the section 37E accelerated depreciation write-offs on capital projects.

FEARS FOR UNIQUE LANGEBAAN MARINE RESERVE

West Coast split over Iscor mill

CT 13/4/95



ISCOR'S proposed steel mill between Saldanha and Langebaan may create jobs at the expense of the environment: **EUNICE RIDER** reports on the controversy.

TWO close-knit West Coast communities, Langebaan and Saldanha, are split down the middle over Iscor's proposed development of a R4-billion steel plant — less than a kilometre from the Langebaan Lagoon and right between the two towns.

Langebaan residents feel strongly that the lagoon — a wetland of international significance supporting the only marine national park in SA — will be polluted, property values will fall and the atmosphere of their holiday village irreparably damaged.

But Saldanha residents 10km away feel the town, already host to a massive iron ore dump and various large factories, will never be a tourist destination and may as well be fully industrialised.

Saldanha Afrikaanse Sakekamer chairman Mr Henne Griesel said

the Saldanha business community was "very positive" about Iscor's Corex steel mill development.

He had "heard 100 stories about how the lagoon will be polluted ... but with development comes growth".

He said Iscor had given "undertakings and assurances" that they would monitor the possibility of polluting the lagoon.

A spokesman for the West Coast Peninsula Transitional Council (Saldanha, Vredenburg and St Helena Bay area) said Iscor had gone out of its way to please residents who were unhappy and the area was now very satisfied.

A Saldanha builder who did not wish to be named said the Corex development "would help an awful lot" in the creation of jobs in the area.

"There was fear that outsiders

would be employed instead of people from Saldanha and Vredenburg — this is what happened when the harbour was built in the 1970s," he said. "But (Iscor) have undertaken to employ as many South Africans as possible."

Senior Saldanha librarian, Mrs Hanneke Strydom said a recent information exhibition had evoked "mixed" reactions.

"Those who are not worried about the shortage of jobs here are the ones who are complaining," she said.

But Mr Louis Penzhorn, Sea Harvest managing director, disagreed.

He said his company opposed the development because it posed a pollution threat to Saldanha's new mariculture industry — mussels and oysters are grown in the area by major fishing companies.

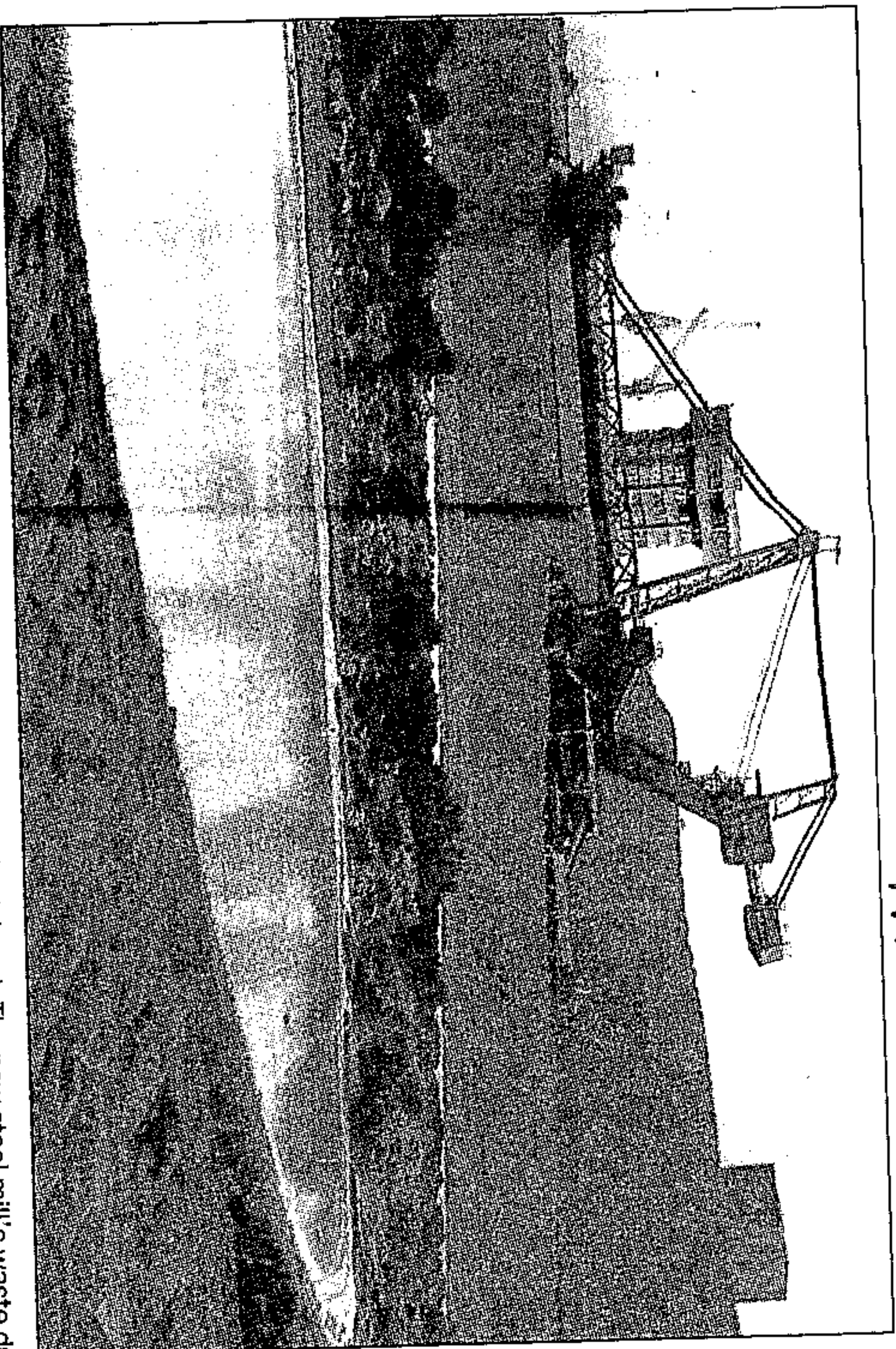
"The mariculture industry ultimately provides more jobs to the locals than the steel mill could," he said. Between 400 and 500 people would be employed at the steel mill, while the relatively new mariculture industry already employed about 200 people.

"We expect to employ many more people as this industry takes off in the next few years," he said. Langebaan residents are also opposed to the development —

here the town council, the National Parks Board representative, shopkeepers, residents and an estate agent all feel the present siting of the factory will damage the lagoon, and the town, irreparably.

A determined protester is retired groundwater scientist Dr Martin Fourie, also a member of the Langebaan Transitional Council, who says the site is right on a direct groundwater flow line to the lagoon, which will be polluted "with catastrophic consequences".

He said the preliminary environmental impact report commis-



EYESORE: The 12-metre-high iron ore terminal dumps now at Saldanha (above). The new steel mill's waste dumps are expected to be twice as high, at 25m (six or seven storeys). The graphic above shows where the development will be situated, less than a kilometre from the lagoon. It will be visible up to 20km away

stoned by Iscor had "made my hair stand on end".

He claimed the CSIR had told Iscor that no matter what precautions they took, they would be polluting the lagoon.

"It's not even going to create a lot of jobs ... Once the mill is up and running they intend to keep a staff of only 590 people, and a lot of those will be technical experts from other areas and overseas."

He said the Langebaan Transitional Council and most residents were against the development.

He was also beginning to draw support from environmental and marine experts at UCT, and he hoped they would get the mill site moved or the development stopped altogether.

Mr Otto Von Kaschke, warden



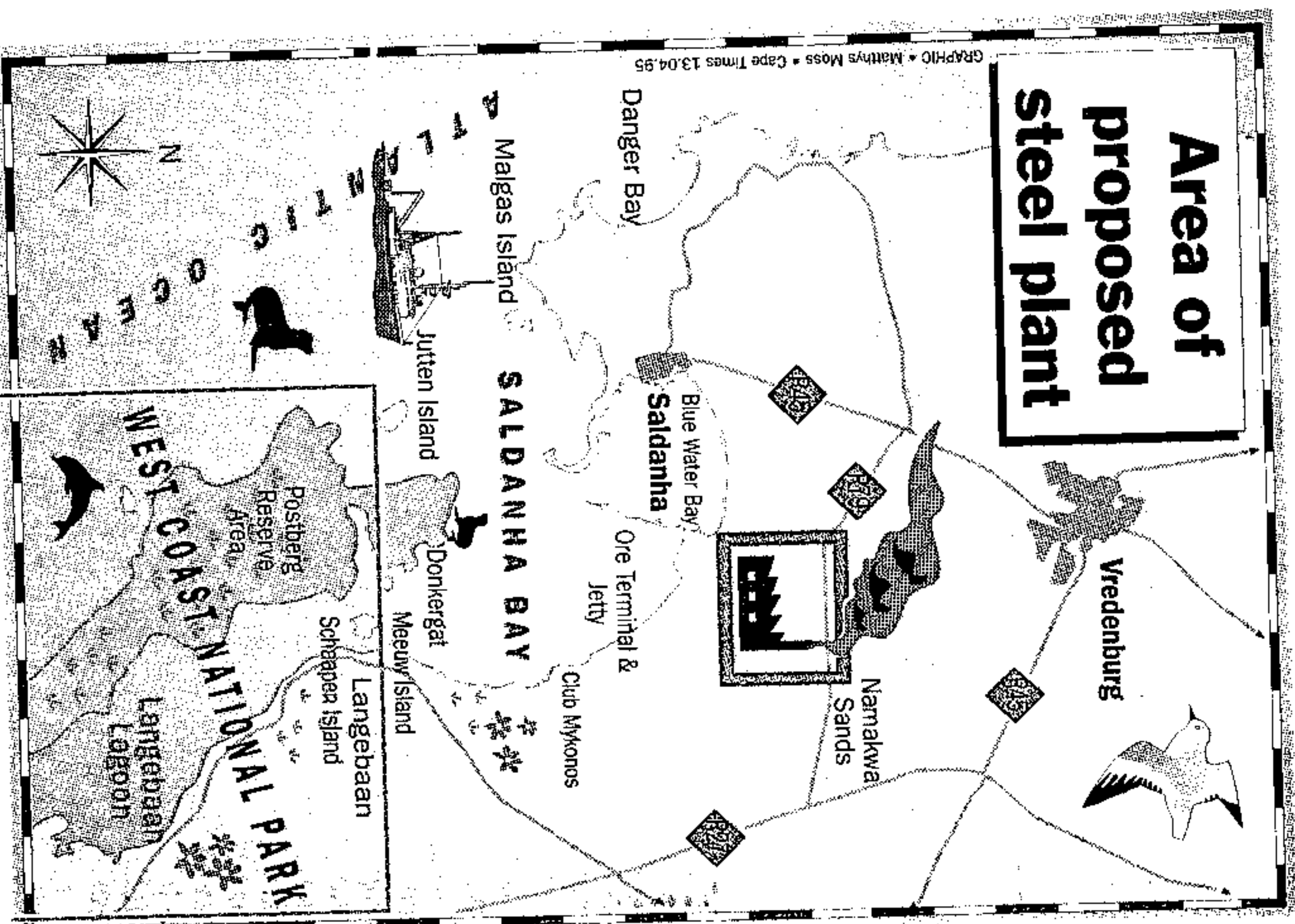
OPPOSED: Groundwater scientist Dr Martin Fourie.

of the West Coast National Park, the country's only marine national park, said yesterday he questioned the advisability of developing the steel mill on the site identified because it was a "dangerous" 900m from the lagoon.

He said the National Parks Board was not opposed to development, but did not want the mill placed so close to "a wetland of international significance".

"We question whether Iscor gave alternative sites proper consideration or whether they simply discounted them as being too costly. Pure economics is not always the answer," he said.

The Western Cape had a tremendous future in tourism because of the peace and tranquility of the area, but "heavy indus-



AREA OF PROPOSED STEEL PLANT The new steel mill's waste dumps are expected to be twice as high, at 25m (six or seven storeys). The graphic above shows where the development will be situated, less than a kilometre from the lagoon. It will be visible up to 20km away

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

try and the associated industries which will pop up as a result will affect tourism negatively."

Langebaan caté owner Mrs Aysha Dalwai said she welcomed new jobs, but 600 once the mill was running was "very little".

Effluent

"I am worried about the lagoon. Iscor have made promises to look after it but that remains to be seen," she said.

Mrs Erna Hills, a Langebaan estate agent, was afraid property prices might be adversely affected by an unsightly steel mill and industrial effluent. The mill will be visible over 10 to 20 km away.

She said she recently finished a deal on a small plot at Church-

haven for R350 000, but the buyer called her to cancel as soon as he heard about the development.

Langebaan town clerk Mr Floris Brand said the town council felt the development site should be further inland because of the possibility of polluting the lagoon.

The council had lodged its objections to the rezoning of the area, but Iscor had responded that they felt they had addressed complaints adequately and made provisions to prevent pollution.

Iscor say they are "as green as anyone else" and have committed themselves to following all Langebaan Council conditions and CSIR recommendations to minimise environmental effects. They insist no other sites for the plant are economically viable.



WORRIED: Estate agent Mrs Erna Hills shows where the steel plant will be sited. She is worried property values will fall. **PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR**

Govt looking at legislation to curb emissions

(56) Stan 26/4/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Concentrations of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide is at a 160 000-year high with the steepest rise in the global temperature occurring in the last decade, delegates at a southern African conference on climatic change in Pretoria were told on Monday.

"If no action is taken to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, and the present link between greenhouse gases and increased temperature persists, the earth could heat up by 0,2deg C a decade.

"Over the next century this would mean a warming of up to 5deg C," Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dr Dawie de Villiers said in his opening address.

He said the figures had been confirmed by the the British Meteorological Office's Hadley Centre and the Max Planck Meteorological Institute in Hamburg.

De Villiers pointed out that South Africa was the greatest producer of greenhouse gases on the African continent and with the extra requirements of development, this production would increase rather than decrease in the short term.

He hinted that legislation dealing with climatic change now being drafted could include penalties for greenhouse gas production above certain limits, taxation of energy consumption, a road fuel duty and an energy saving trust, which could be considered as a source for financing the basic energy needs of the less privileged.

The UN's Framework Convention on Climatic Change, which South Africa has signed, was the best long term hope of dealing with changes to the environment as a result of human activity, Dr Francois Hanekom, deputy director-general of the Department of En-

vironmental Affairs and Tourism said.

South Africa's draft legislation on climatic change to bring it in line with the international convention would be finalised by the second half of 1995, he said.

"Many may feel that policy progress is slow. Others feel that there is a lack of information and costs are exorbitant.

"Uncertainty about potential change does not diminish the risk, it merely makes it more difficult to assess," Hanekom said.

He pointed to mounting evidence of record extremes in weather being experienced across the globe and called on governments to "act now and not to wait for further evidence".

Hanekom, who was one of South Africa's delegates to last month's Berlin conference on climatic change, said the so-called Berlin Mandate was a step in the right direction.

According to this agreement, signatories agreed in principle that emissions of greenhouse gases should be reduced after 2000.

They agreed to draw up a protocol setting targets for reductions and a timetable for achieving the goals within the next two years.

According to the International Panel on Climatic Change, which assesses data and recommends strategies, scientific models suggest that a 60 to 80% cut in emissions is necessary simply to stabilise current carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

The purpose of the three-day conference at the CSIR is to review research being conducted by local and international scientists as part of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, to assess the relevance of the research for southern Africa and to shape future directions for South Africa's scientific inputs.

RESTAURANT, FUNICULAR RAILWAY IN RESERVE

Development at Cape Point gets go-ahead

TO THE POINT: Provincial Environment Minister Mr Kobus Meiring has given the assurance that development at Cape Point will not be an eyesore, **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE provincial cabinet has given the go-ahead for the development of a controversial R4,6 million restaurant and funicular railway in Cape Point Nature Reserve.

Mr Kobus Meiring said in his maiden speech on his environment portfolio yesterday that the cabinet had approved the scheme on condition the final, detailed building plans are submitted to him for approval and an environment officer is on duty during the entire construction phase.

The development includes a curio shop, take-away outlet and information office.

Mr Meiring said the Point was a development node on the edge of a prime conservation area and that siting a restaurant at the point would protect the more pristine areas of the reserve from development.

The proposed restaurant will be sited below the level of and partially under the existing parking areas overlooking False Bay.

It will have indoor seating for 200 and be able to seat another 100 people on a paved area outside.

The restaurant will not be visible when one enters the parking area and the roof will form a pedestrian precinct.

Mr Meiring said the roof of the curio shop would resemble a rocky outcrop when seen from the parking area.

"The funicular station, refreshment outlet and information office will be on the parking area in place of the existing kiosk under a concrete slab that will have a overhang to provide protection for visitors in bad weather. Its upper surface will be landscaped and planted so that it blends into the natural land-

Mr Meiring said.

Another 150 parking bays will be built on both sides of the main road approach to the point in addition to the existing 100 bays.

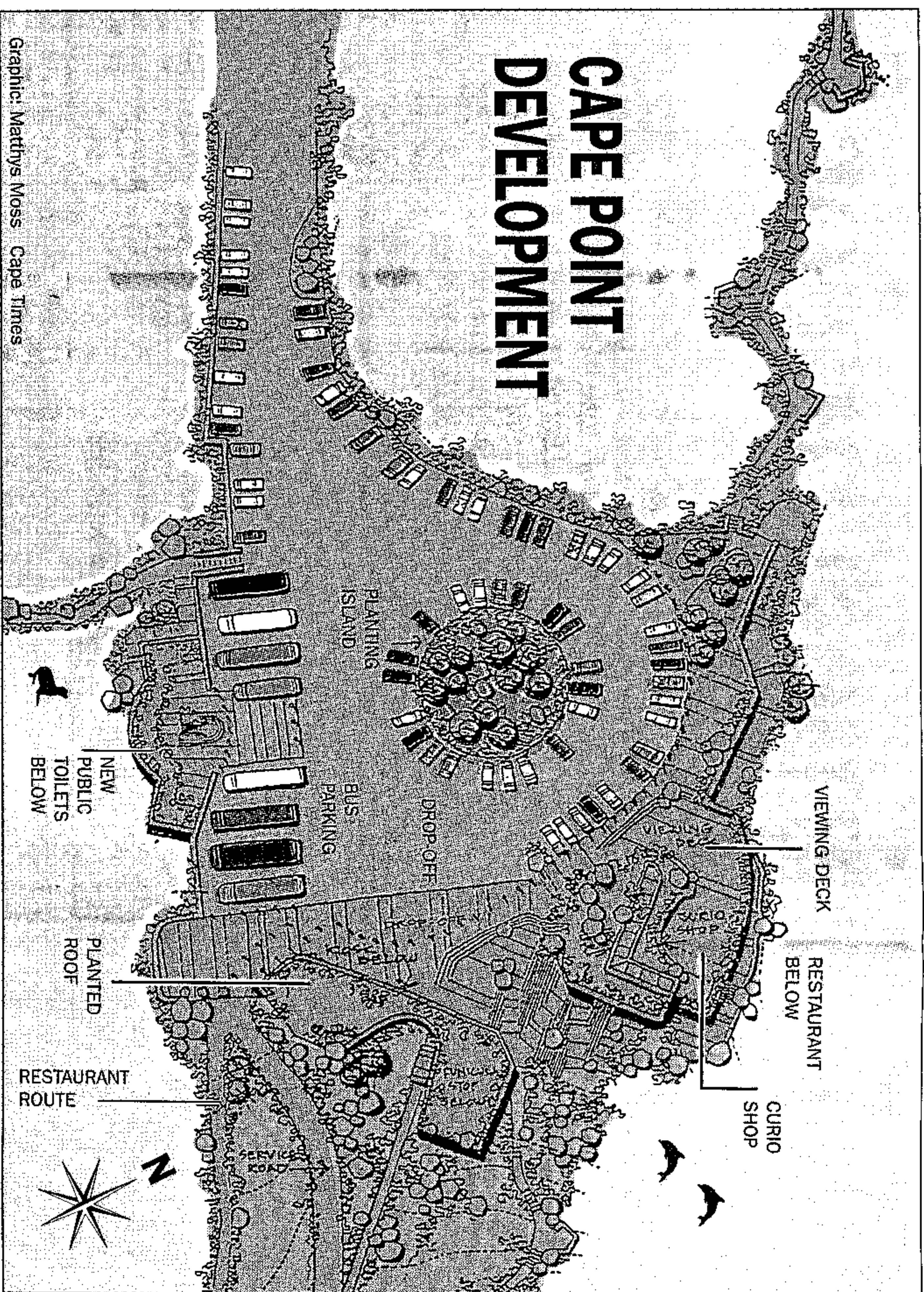
Mr Meiring said public fears that the new facilities would lead to congestion at Cape Point were unfounded.

"Cape Point is far from suburbia and cannot be reached without paying the entrance fees. It can almost be said with certainty that once the novelty has worn off, very few people will go to Cape Point merely to see the restaurant or the funicular," he said.

The Wildlife Society's conservation ecologist, Ms Marlene Laros, said yesterday that Mr Meiring's conditions of approval were "weak".

"The conditions are to do with the construction of the restaurant development only. There is nothing to do with the carrying capacity of Cape Point or with limiting numbers of people or the size of the restaurant," Ms Laros said.

CT 27/04/96



Graphic: Matthys Moss Cape Times

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: The above graphic shows the development proposal approved by the Western Cape cabinet. The development includes a R4.6m restaurant and funicular railway.

Kalako 'went beyond powers'

MELANIE GOSLING
STAFF REPORTER

FORMER regional Environment Minister Mr Lerumo Kalako had acted beyond his powers last year when he approved Transnet's controversial proposal to build a complex of 360 houses on the banks of Rietvlei lagoon within a protected natural environment.

This was said in provincial parliament yesterday by current regional Environment Minister Mr Kobus Meiring.

"He was really not in a position to do it. That authority was still with central government. Province only got the necessary powers (to approve such a development) on April 7 this year," Mr Meiring said.

He said no decision would be taken on the Rietvlei development without full cabinet approval.

Milnerton municipality wants to expropriate the area currently owned by Transnet to incorporate it into the Rietvlei nature reserve.

Mr Meiring said the decision for expropriation lay with the Minister of Local Government, Mr Piet Marais. (56) CT 27/4/95

"For the development to go ahead, the Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism, Mr Lampie Fick, would have to take a decision on the application to amend the guide-plan and to agree to rezoning," Mr Meiring said.

Meiring hints Rietvlei land may be expropriated

Environment Reporter

APPROVAL by former regional Environmental Affairs Minister Lerumo Kalako for Transnet's controversial housing development on the banks of Rietvlei lagoon is *ultra vires* (legally unfounded), according to his successor Kobus Meiring.

And Mr Meiring hinted to journalists that Milnerton Municipality's proposal to expropriate Transnet land to complete its Rietvlei nature reserve could find favour with the provincial cabinet.

Transnet wants to build 360 houses on a section of its property on the northern banks of the lagoon in exchange for donating the rest to the reserve.

In his budget speech to the

ARCT 27/4/95 (56)
provincial parliament, Mr Meiring said the municipality's application to expropriate Transnet's property for incorporation into the reserve had dragged on for a year.

Three cabinet ministers were required to give formal approval for Transnet's proposal.

"But the people there (at Milnerton) feel very strongly about Rietvlei and that it should be developed as a nature area ..."

In a media briefing before his speech, Mr Meiring said he had been taken on a site visit to Rietvlei last week.

"I must say I was again impressed by this absolute natural wonder we have right on our doorstep."

No 'hidden
agenda' about

Table Mountain

(56) ARLT 27/4/95
Environment Reporter

ANY meaningful proposals for the future management of Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain will be considered, says regional Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring.

In his budget speech, Mr Meiring said there was "no hidden agenda" in the appointment of Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations for the mountain's future management.

"We are open to any meaningful proposals which will ensure that this wonderful and valuable asset will be conserved as a unique natural phenomenon."

They had been criticised for not accepting the recommendation that the National Parks Board manage the mountain chain as an interim measure, Mr Meiring said.

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Protests 'may sink mill'

ET 27/4/95

(56) (1874)

PLANS for a R5 billion steel mill at Saldanha are in serious danger of being scuppered because of delays caused by protests against the project, Iscor confirmed yesterday.

Spokesman Mr Neels Howard said negative publicity had already caused a costly three-month delay.

Although Mr Howard conceded further delays "can sink the project", he would not be drawn on how much time would have to pass before this became a reality.

And yesterday Iscor's largest private shareholder, Mr Ian Moultrie, publicly rejected managing director Mr H J Smith's contention that shifting the proposed site inland would affect the company's competitive advantage.

The revelation came via the DP's Mr Hennie Bester, to whom Mr Moultrie sent a copy of the letter in which he berated Mr Smith for "seriously underestimating both the logic and the passion of your critics, and the long-term costs of ignoring them".

Iscor has threatened to move the mill elsewhere if they are

forced to relocate to another proposed site 10km away. The current site is near the iron ore quay.

Reading the letter in the Western Cape legislature, Mr Bester quoted Mr Moultrie as saying that even if resiting cost R100 million, three percent of the total estimated R3,64 billion capital cost, "competitive advantage would not be materially affected".

International

Speaker after speaker objected to omissions in the CSIR's environmental impact study which supports the current siting.

These included Iscor's intention to double the million-ton a year output of steel within five years, the Ramsar Convention's declaration of Langebaan as a wetland of international importance and Saldanha being the country's top mussel cultivation centre.

Both Mr Bester and his NP colleague Mr Ryno King were sceptical of Tuesday's pro-Iscor "rent-a-crowd" protest, saying half the

desired 600 jobs would go to highly trained overseas specialists.

Replying, Mr Lampie Fick, Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism, said he had appointed former UCT Environmental Evaluation Unit head Dr John Raimondo to assess the CSIR impact study.

Mr Fick and Premier Mr Hennis Kriel will visit similar steel mills in the US, Canada and Europe next week. Mr Fick and Dr Raimondo would also meet several environmental groups.

The full Western Cape cabinet will take the final decision before the end of May.

● Regional Environment Minister Mr Kobus Meiring said yesterday it was "vital" the Western Cape did not lose the factory.

He said: "It is not every day a province gets the chance for such a worthwhile industry which will create all sorts of other job opportunities ... We must be careful not to let Iscor slip out of our hands — but I'm not saying the factory should be at Saldanha." — Staff Reporters, Political Staff

**'Vital for
economy
of the
West Cape'**

ARG 27/4/95

Environment Reporter

ISCOR'S proposed R4 billion steel plant is vital for the Western Cape economy, although it does not necessarily have to be built on the Langebaan lagoon-edge site presently proposed, says regional Finance and Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring.

And the Wildlife Society says the brief to the environmental consultants who managed the plant's impact assessment process was too narrow.

In his budget speech yesterday, Mr Meiring said the major problem was that the environmental impact assessment had been done simultaneously with planning for the steel project.

"There are therefore still several outstanding environmental aspects.

"It is therefore necessary that more studies are done about the impact of the project before we can in any way take a decision.

"The possibility must be investigated of another suitable site in that area which, although more expensive, may have less impact on the environment."

Mr Meiring told journalists there was no "quick fix" solution, but that it was essential for the plant to be built in the Western Cape.

"It's not every day a province gets an opportunity like this," he said.

In a statement, the Wildlife Society's Western Cape manager, Andy Gubb, and conservation ecologist Marlene Laros, said the process of involving the public when considering alternative sites for the plant had been almost non-existent.

The brief had not included the environmental assessment and evaluation of sites at Sishen, Richard's Bay, Port Elizabeth, Saldanha and Newcastle.

These had been evaluated on the cost to Iscor only.

The brief had also not included a detailed assessment and evaluation of alternative sites within the greater Saldanha area — with full public involvement — or an assessment of the cumulative impacts of the industrial complex which would develop if the steel project was approved.

Point development gets final clearance

Environment Reporter

THE proposed restaurant and funicular railway at Cape Point has been given the go-ahead by the Western Cape cabinet — provided an environmental officer is on permanent duty during the construction period.

This was announced yesterday during the budget speech of provincial Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring, who said the decision had been unanimous and that final plans for the new complex would have to be sent to him for approval. (56)

At a media briefing before his speech, Mr Meiring said the controversial project — which has been strongly opposed by some environmentalists — had been under investigation for nearly five years.

He and Cape Nature Conservation officials had recently visited Cape Point to check the situation. ARG 27/4/95

"I was very impressed with what's been done on the Atlantic Ocean side of the parking area.

"It's been extremely well done and if they can duplicate that with the restaurant complex on the False Bay side, I think it will be very acceptable," he said.

Planning for the funicular railway from the parking area to the top of the Point was "ecologically very well done".

"I feel very strongly about the balance between conservation and development," Mr Meiring said.

A Cape Metropolitan Council conservation officer would be stationed at the site for the duration of construction, "to ensure no unnecessary environmental damage is done, and that if any is caused to ensure that it is rectified".

Parking along the main road to the Point at peak times could be handled acceptably, and would be developed in small nodes separated by "islands" of fynbos or rockeries to break the visual line of parked cars.

Fears that the new facility would cause unacceptable congestion at the Point were unfounded, Mr Meiring said.

Steel mill is 'unlawful'

AKU 28/4/95

56

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Weekend Argus Reporter

A PROMINENT Cape Town attorney has threatened to interdict the Western Cape regional government from rezoning land at Saldanha on which Iscor plans to build its controversial steel mill.

In a letter addressed to the office of Herms Kriel, premier of the Western Cape, Tinus Slabber of Tinus Slabber and Associates points out "it would be unlawful to allow a rezoning (of the land in question), which will result in a serious nuisance to neighbours."

Mr Slabber, who is a Langebaan property owner, acts on behalf of himself

■ A Cape attorney together with several groups of concerned Langebaan citizens intends to seek an urgent interdict to prevent the rezoning of land at Saldanha which would open the way for the multi-million rand Iscor steel project.

and other concerned groups and individuals who own property or live at Langebaan.
In his letter to Mr Kriel Mr Slabber further points out rezoning would contravene section 29 of the constitution, which states unequivocally that all citi-

zens are entitled to an environment which is not detrimental to their health or well-being.

"It is thus our intention, unless we receive appropriate undertakings from yourselves, to seek an urgent interdict to prevent you from approving the applications."

In a separate letter to Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa, Mr Slabber writes that it was clear from the Council for Science and Industrial Research environmental impact report on the steel mill site that there would be both groundwater and steel-dust pollution from the proposed mill.

He writes: "Contrary to earlier reports it now appears the property you

intend using for the steel project has not yet been zoned for that purpose.

"I hereby advise you that myself and other concerned parties intend applying for an urgent interdict in the Supreme Court should you proceed with the proposed steel plant in the proposed area or a similar location."

Mr Slabber goes on to say that the steel mill would have a detrimental impact on its neighbours. His said members of his family were extremely sensitive to dust pollution and suffered intensely from allergies and sinus problems — problems which would undoubtedly be exacerbated by the steel plant.

"Your pollution of the groundwater and the Langebaan Lagoon will detrimentally affect my enjoyment and the

health and well-being of my family and other citizens.

"The nature of the project will have a severe impact on the entire area including vegetation, tourism and general ambience. This is a pristine environment which you will disturb."

■ Earlier this week provincial Environment Minister Lampie Fick announced that respected environmentalist John Raimondo would take another look at the CSIR's environmental impact assessment. Mr Raimondo will advise Mr Fick on the adequacy of the report and on how to address any shortcomings he may find.

The provincial cabinet has until the end of May to make a final decision on the issue.

Thor mercury waste probe to start soon

Business Staff

THE Cabinet appointed four-member commission of inquiry into standards of treatment of mercury waste at the Thor chemical plant in Cato Ridge is to invite written evidence as the first step in its probe.

Thor Chemicals was fined R13 000 in February last year after Mercury waste killed two of its employees and injured another 28. ARG 29/4/95

Francis Petersen, a senior lecturer at the Cape Technikon and a member of the probe, told Weekend Argus the request for written evidence would be advertised in the press.

The probe, whose appointment was recently confirmed by President Mandela and his two deputies, would visit the Thor plant as soon as possible, Mr Petersen said.

The commission is chaired by Dennis Davis, professor of commercial law at the University of Cape Town, and the other members are Williams Winn, of the University of Natal and the University of the Witwatersrand's Andrew Crouch.

The commission's brief was to study Thor's methods of dealing with mercury and to test whether the company's methods of disposing with mercury waste were adequate, Mr Petersen said.

If Thor's measures were

found to be lacking, the commission was expected to propose new methods of dealing with the substance in a safer and more environmentally sound way.

The four-man team's objective was not to assess whether there should be further punitive measures against Thor, he said.

Mr Petersen said the commission included members with extensive technical experience, but it was still possible that foreign experts would be invited to join the probe.

Some observers have labelled the outcome of the Thor Chemicals case as "a cover-up" and a "sham".

Environmental Justice Network Forum spokesman Chris Albertyn questioned why "when the State had expert evidence on hand to prove their case of culpable homicide, they agreed to drop the charges".

But Thor Chemicals plans to take legal action against Albertyn and other environmentalists for making repeated accusations of toxic waste importation which it strongly denies.

Thor spokesman John MacDonald said yesterday the company's lawyers were formulating a lawsuit.

The company also plans to phase out its mercury operations over a period by the end of 1996.

Cycad man suspended

THE Free State premier, Patrick Lekota, this week suspended his provincial housing minister, Vax Mayekiso, pending the outcome of a corruption investigation.

Mr Lekota called Mr Mayekiso into his office and read him the riot act after a filling station dealer in Batokeng, near Welkom, handed him documents suggesting the controversial minister was using his office for personal gain.

All Mr Mayekiso would say about his suspension when contacted this week was: "I don't want to wrestle with the premier in the media. I will contest it within the ANC."

Mr Mayekiso was implicated earlier this year in a scandal involving the illegal sale of protected cycads, a matter currently being investigated by the ANC's disciplinary committee.

At the centre of the latest storm is JRN Motors — a BP-owned dealership in Batokeng. The business has been boycotted by members of the African Black Taxi Organisation of Central SA, who claim the dealership should be handed over to them.

The trouble began after the taxi association asked Mr Mayekiso to mediate in talks aimed at wresting the dealership from its owner, a Mr Nkomo.

Mr Mayekiso arranged meetings between the taxi association, Mr Nkomo and BP at his Welkom offices in his capacity as a constituency MP, and a deal was eventually hammered out.

As part of the deal Mr Mayekiso undertook liability for R50 000 in guarantee money should the taxi association fail to honour its commitments.

Unhappy with Mr Mayekiso's role, Mr

By RAY HARTLEY
Parliamentary Correspondent

Nkomo cried foul to the premier, handing him three documents, one of which apparently referred to "Mr Mayekiso, trading as JRN motors".

This led Mr Lekota to suspect that his colleague could be gaining from the transaction.

Elvis Malakoane, secretary-general of the taxi association, said BP had refused to go ahead with the deal unless the association could find about R50 000 in guarantees to back up its finances.

But, he said, Mr Mayekiso stood to gain nothing because the taxi association would end up as the sole owner. "It was guarantee money, not working capital," he said.

The dealership had previously belonged to the taxi association, but BP had taken it back after the association had a "directors' dispute", Mr Malakoane said.

At the time BP had made it clear that the dealership would be handed back to the association as soon as it could guarantee its ability to run it. In the meantime, Mr Nkomo had ended up as the dealer.

Mr Malakoane said Mr Nkomo had become reluctant to hand over the dealership once Mr Mayekiso's guarantees had provided the necessary backing.

Mr Mayekiso is believed to be seeking a discussion on the suspension by the ANC's Free State executive committee at its next meeting.

Mr Lekota's spokesman, Mary Kodisang, confirmed that Mr Mayekiso had been suspended over a property deal in Batokeng.

ST 30/4/95



Blasting Kriel and his surrogate forces

IN TROUBLE... housing minister Vax Mayekiso

Saldanha citizens battle steel giants

(56) ST 30/4/95
By DIANA STREAK

A TOP Cape Town lawyer is taking on Iscor and Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel in a bid to halt construction of a R4-billion steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

Mr Tinus Slabber, who owns property at Langebaan, said he and other concerned residents would apply for an urgent interdict in the Supreme Court should Iscor proceed with the proposed steel plant.

In a letter sent to Iscor, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), Voestalpine Industrieanlagenbau GmbH, Hoogovens Technical Services Iron and Steel BV, he said no one was entitled to cause a nuisance to his neighbours.

They would be detrimentally affected by "the nuisance caused" through dust and ground water pollution, the letter said adding that the health of neighbours would suffer.

He said that, according to Section 29 of the Consti-

tution "all citizens are entitled to an environment which is not detrimental to their health or well being".

A copy of the letter was sent to the Office of the Premier of the Western Cape Provincial Government which faces legal action if it approves the site's rezoning from agricultural to heavy industrial.

Mr Slabber told the Sunday Times the interdict would delay the project by at least a year and the case might end up in the Constitutional Court.

Even if the land is rezoned it would not mean the plant could go ahead and if rezoned as industrial, it would not mean they could "do something beyond the pale," he said.

"They can't get away with dumping thousands of tons of dust all over."

Mr Slabber said the nature of the project would have a severe impact on the entire area, including vegetation, tourism and its general "ambience".

Saldanha: Iscor faces legal action

RONALD MORRIS

ET 215195

(56)
(12/12)

A CITY lawyer who owns property at Langebaan has threatened to seek an urgent Supreme Court interdict to stop the Saldanha Steel Project.

In a letter to Iscor, Mr Tinus Slabber said it was clear from the CSIR's environmental impact report that dust from the plant would result in pollution exceeding the legal guidelines, increasing the risk of health problems.

The plant would also pollute ground water, affecting Langebaan Lagoon, the conservation area and sea water.

Mr Slabber has also sought an undertaking from Western Province Premier Mr Henus Kriel that he would not approve Iscor's application for a rezoning of the land.

R21m for anti-pollution programme: SFF

Association, the company which manages South Africa's strategic crude oil stocks on behalf of the government, has put aside R21 million for a social responsibility programme designed to combat oil spills in the Saldanha Bay area.

~~(44)~~ (56)
CT(BR)2/5/95

Manuel backs Iscor plant at Saldanha

□ *But lawyer to try to stop it in court*

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TRADE and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel has come out firmly in favour of Iscor's proposed R4 billion steel processing plant on the shores of Saldanha Bay, saying environmental concerns have been taken into account.

But a Cape Town lawyer has told Iscor he will apply for a Supreme Court interdict to stop the project.

He may also apply for an urgent interdict against the Western Cape provincial government to prevent it granting Iscor's rezoning application for the site.

And in another development, a prominent firm of attorneys acting for "certain landowners in the Langebaan-Saldanha area" hand-delivered a letter to Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel saying Iscor's rezoning application had not been advertised as required, and that they reserved their rights.

Asking for an urgent response, the lawyers said: "We respectfully contend that the rezoning application cannot be properly considered until and unless it has been properly advertised."

In an interview, Mr Manuel said he was aware the proposed site had yet to be rezoned, but he "certainly supported" its being built there.

He had been involved in considering other sites and there was a "pretty serious" cost factor involved.

"We looked at the costs of the plant overall and also went through the environmental issues with a fine-toothed comb.

"All things being equal, I think the Saldanha site is the most advantageous."



Trevor Manuel

APR 3/5/95
The issue of possible groundwater pollution — one of the major environmental objections — had been considered, Mr Manuel said.

"You already have very extensive handling of iron ore on some porous ground and I don't think there will be any change in the permeation of porous ground and resulting pollution.

"Unsightliness is still an issue because it (the new plant) will have a fairly high tower, but I think it's not going to make a substantial difference."

There would be "a fair amount of landscaping" and much of the proposed plant would be hidden behind sandbanks.

The flame would be brought down to ground level and would be effectively invisible from the tourist areas to the south and east.

"So certainly we've not been unmindful of the environmental concerns and I'm still opposed to

kaolin mining in the Cape Peninsula, for example."

Mr Manuel said he had encountered a "very interesting response" on the West Coast to the proposed plant, outside party political affiliations.

"There seems to be a class difference. To poor people, the plant offers opportunities for acquiring training and skills and the wealthier people are clearly displaying the 'Nimby' (Not in my backyard) syndrome.

Major shareholder Ian Moultrie had written to Iscor managing director Hans Smith saying a re-siting cost of even 3 percent would not materially affect the company's competitive advantage but Mr Manuel said one had to take a long-term view because it was an export business.

"One has to look at overall costs. In a highly competitive market — with China and Russia and others — 3 percent could make a fairly substantial increase down the line.

"Iscor has a particularly good bottom line at the moment, but you have to evaluate the longer-term effects on what you're producing."

In a letter to Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation, attorney and Langebaan property owner Tinus Slabber said the proposed plant would cause dust and water pollution and have "a severe impact on the marine life, bird life and the ecology in general ...

"I hereby advise you that (I) and other concerned parties intend applying for an urgent interdict in the Supreme Court should you proceed with the proposed steel plant in the currently proposed or similar location."

Mr Slabber said an application would delay the project.

Call to Kriel on Saldanha steel site

~~(56)~~ (56) CT 4/5/95

OPPONENTS of the Saldanha Steel project near Langebaan Lagoon sent Western Cape Premier Mr Hennis Kriel a lawyer's letter yesterday calling on him to extend the date for objections.

They claim the original call for objections was not properly advertised.

In the letter attorney Mr R Marcus said he was acting on behalf of landowners in the area who were opposed to the rezoning of the earmarked site from agricultural to industrial to allow the proposed development to go ahead.

He said his clients' objections to a steel mill on the proposed site were based on existing environmental impact studies, as many of the necessary scientific studies had not yet been completed.

The CSIR's report focused only on the impact of the steelworks and not on the impact of ancillary or satellite industries.

Its failure to consider a "worst case scenario" made the report "seriously deficient".

Although much emphasis had been put on job creation, this

could be misleading, as the steel project could force the closure of the mussel-growing industry, which would mean a loss of jobs.

A meeting at UCT on Tuesday night felt there were a number of matters the report had failed to take into account.

Apart from secondary industries springing up there would be an increase of up to 100 vessels a year visiting Saldanha Bay.

The Berg River would be strained to supply enough water to cool the mill.

The capacity of the plant was to be doubled in five years.

Groundwater

Mr Keith Wiseman, a CSIR environmental managing and planning scientist, said it was possible for steel dust to settle on a car 10km away, but most of the waste would be non-hazardous and none would be toxic.

The groundwater flow moved only two metres a year and would take 500 years to reach the bay. — Staff Reporters

~~SEISHINE~~
~~(1844)~~
Sea Harvest objects to mill
(56)

CAPE TOWN — CG Smith's trawling and seafood processing company Sea Harvest, which today announced a solid increase in its half-year earnings, has objected strongly to the proposed siting of Iscor's steel mill in Saldanha Bay.

Chairman Eckhard Kramer said at the release of the interim results yesterday that the blasting and excavation needed to build the plant would seriously affect Sea Harvest's mussel farm operations.

Sea Harvest lifted earnings 26% to 23,2c (18,4c) a share to end-March after

EDWARD WEST

improved hake catches and firm local and international demand.

Turnover increased 15% to R180,9m. Operating profit was R35m. Pre-tax profit was R39,9m, while taxation amounted to R16,8m (R12,5m). Attributable profit was 26% higher at R23,2m. The interim dividend was lifted to 8,5c (7c) a share. **BD 5/5/95**

Satisfactory earnings growth was expected in the second half, provided the traditionally good winter catches materialised.

'Iscor steel mill in Pretoria a big pollutant'

Environment Reporter

AN Iscor steel factory in Pretoria, which uses the same Corex technology that is planned for the controversial Saldanha Bay steel plant, causes "tremendous pollution" and many problems.

This was one of the viewpoints at a seminar on the proposed Saldanha steel plant at the University of Cape Town this week.

Saldanha Bay property owner Mike Wright said engineers had told him that emission levels at Iscor's Pretoria West plant were "shocking".

He asked why this information had not formed an essential part of the environmental impact report of the proposed plant by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Keith Wiseman, project manager for the impact report, acknowledged "information gaps" in the report and said there was "a lot of uncertainty" about some of the environmental issues.

But the proposed plant would have air quality and groundwater monitoring systems, he said.

UCT zoology department head George Branch said the argument that tourists would not come to Langebaan lagoon

if the steel plant was built was a "dead duck".

They would visit the area irrespective of whether the plant was built there or elsewhere.

But criticism that the impact assessment had not taken account of attendant development in the area — such as the need to enlarge the iron ore jetty and dredge the lagoon — was "very fair", Professor Branch said.

"If you don't do that, you are failing in your job."

UCT marine scientist Neville Sweijd said there would be much greater development in the Saldanha-Vredenburg area if Iscor's plant went ahead.

"Everyone tends to focus specifically on the (steel) factory — that is the fundamental error of the whole thing ...

"How do we know that the cumulative impact of all these industries will not damage the environment? We don't know."

Mr Sweijd said the economic figures for the plant had not been scrutinised independently.

"We feel that has to be done before the go-ahead can be given."

This concern was echoed by Tony Barbour of Earthlife Africa, who said all the economic calculations were "in-house".

ART 45105

56 (7/29)

13

Ecology 'losses' (56) could cost SA over R40 b

ARG 6/5/95

Weekend Argus Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA is over-estimating its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by as much as 10 percent or R40 billion because it does not take into account the costs of pollution and the depletion of natural resources, according to World Bank experts.

Any savings which can be made on this substantial environmental account would significantly boost the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

Speaking at a recent conference in Pretoria, Dan Archer of the BP Chair of Environmental Policy and Management at Natal University's Institute of Natural Resources, said World Bank analysts estimated that up to 5 percent of the total GDP would be gobbled up by pollution and a further five percent lost to the depletion of resources.

He said pollution costs included lost productivity due to sickness caused by air pollution, for example.

"If your forests are declining, then the returns from your forestry industry also will decline. If your topsoil is being lost at the rate of millions of tons a year, then agricultural production will decline. The GDP will be affected."

Professor Archer hit out at a recent announcement by Deputy Environment Minister Bantu Holomisa that US\$10 million (R36 million) of World Bank money would be spent by central and regional governments on compiling an environmental policy "white paper".

He said the money could be put to better use "setting targets and objectives and putting in place timeframes by which we can assess our progress".

All players — including business — should be involved in the "action plan", he said.

13

Heavy prices help keep out lead pollution

(56) AN ecological disaster awaits South Africa if the international lead price declines and battery imports continue to rise.

Although South Africa has one of the most effective recycling programmes in the world for used batteries, suppliers might no longer feel obliged to recycle scrap lead if the prices fall below R1 400 a ton, says Louis Laubscher, managing director of First National Battery.

First National recently opened a lead-smelting plant in Benoni which will recycle batteries returned from various outlets and remove scrap batteries from uncontrolled areas.

At present, the industry sells about 3-million batteries a year, with a similar number of returns. The industry is under a legal obligation to recycle batteries, but importers are not part of this recycling chain and feel no need to ensure that batteries are disposed of in a controlled environment.

"As soon as this happens, we will have scrap batteries, lead and acid strewn across the country, on

By DON ROBERTSON

dumping grounds, in water supply channels and in residential areas," says Mr Laubscher.

He says the current price of lead is about R2 100 a ton and that it costs between R1 600 and R1 700 a ton to recycle.

"In the present market conditions, it is lucrative for us to recycle scrap batteries since the lead price is high. Even if we recycle more lead than we need, the excess can always be used up due to market growth."

However, he says that if the price should fall, it will be uneconomical to recycle used batteries that were not originally part of First National's production chain.

Mr Laubscher supports the introduction of legislation to force importers to take back their spent batteries for sale as scrap on the open market.

First National will use about 8 000 tons of recycled lead this year for grid and spine manufacture. A more pure form of lead is used for oxide manufacture.

ST(BT) 7/5/95

Staff call for head of Parks' boss

(56) ST (CM) 7/5/95

By CHARL de VILLIERS

A GROWING rift between top-ranking National Parks Board officials and N P B chairman Naas Steenkamp recently erupted in calls for his resignation, sources close to the country's premier conservation organisation disclosed last week.

The N P B's six directors and chief executive Robbie Robinson told Mr Steenkamp he should relinquish his position at a recent meeting, sources confirmed on Friday.

Discontent has centered on Mr Steenkamp's management style, which N P B staffers described as "meddling", "authoritarian" and not befitting a non-executive chairman.

Ructions in the organisation coincide with lagging efforts to reconstitute the N P B curatorship in line with the Interim Constitution and shed its image as an apartheid-era leftover.

Differences in management style erupted openly over the Saldanha steel mill controversy when Mr Steenkamp publicly repudiated an N P B official for speaking out against the R3,6-billion Iskor project.

Dr Robinson, who opposes the siting of the mill near an internationally-recognised wildlife site and national park, nearly re-

signed as result of the incident.

Mr Steenkamp subsequently gagged N P B top-rankers from making any statements about the Iskor project without them first being cleared with him.

According to one account of the executive challenge to Mr Steenkamp, he had asked N P B directors if he should carry on as chairman. Their reply was a unanimous "No".

Approached on Friday, Mr Steenkamp confirmed tensions between the N P B curators and its executives, but denied a rebellion.

He declined to respond to independently-verified claims that the N P B leadership wanted him out as chairman.

Admitting there was a "degree of tension", he said this only occurred between the curators and the professional staff who ran daily affairs.

Responsibility for the day-to-day running of the 16-park organisation was delegated to the professionals, but they had to execute

the policies set by the board.

In such a situation, friction was inevitable between strong-minded and committed people, said Mr Steenkamp.

Parliament's slow handling of the National Parks Board Amendment Bill was not helping matters.

The Bill allows for an 18-member, expanded N P B curatorship representing nine non-political provincial representatives. The balance will be chosen from public nominations by the Minister of Environment Affairs.

Prospects for the Bill being legislated by May 31, when Mr Steenkamp's N P B position lapses, dimmed when the Senate Environment Committee on Thursday referred it back to the Senate for debate this week.

Mr Steenkamp, who has urged a rapid transition to a legitimate board, said he was finding it increasingly uncomfortable to work under an old-style body.

The board would be meeting on May 22 to discuss "the norms of corporate governance" in the interface between curators and executive.

It would also try to reach a position on the Saldanha issue.

Western Cape communities will get a welcome economic and environmental boost during the next few months as the regional government releases funds for projects in its Clean and Green campaign. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD was at the announcement by regional Roads, Transport and Public Works Minister Leonard Ramatlakane.

R7-m for clean Cape

AR 5/8/95 (5)

STAGE one of the Western Cape government's Clean and Green campaign — an intensive three-week clean-up of major roads in the metropolitan area — is well under way, and stage two involving 25 environmental projects costing R7 million starts soon.

The projects, organised and managed by community and non-government organisations, include recycling depots, environmental education, the removal of alien vegetation, slope stabilisation, community gardens and greening through tree planting.

The campaign is in line with the government's reconstruction and development programme, and is based on the alleviation of poverty through job creation.

The biggest single allocation in stage two is R1,6 million to the Laguna Co-ordinating Committee for the restoration of 20 parks in Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga.

The work will include the supply and fitting of equipment, fencing and greening.

A second project managed by this committee — a general clean-up and promoting environmental awareness in all Cape Town's black townships, including Khayelitsha, will get funds of R424 000.

The organisation Kerle will get R652 650 for a general clean-up of eight areas in Khayelitsha and the creation of parks.

This project includes an environmental centre, braai areas, an amphitheatre and nursery.

A grant of R581 950 goes to the Botanical Society and the Villiersdorp Civic Association for the eradication of alien vegetation in the Kommissiekraal stream watershed.

The vegetation is posing a serious threat to the water supply of the nearby residential area.

An amount of R348 000 has been given to the Tsoga Environmental Resource Centre in Langa for its clean-up operation and greening programme.

The Fairrest Cape Association will get R473 600 to establish recycling depots in areas which include Khayelitsha, Lavender Hill, Elsies River and Wallacecde.



YUKI This is the type of mess on the verges of metropolitan Cape Town's roads being removed during the first phase of the regional government's Clean and Green campaign. This scene was photographed at Fisantekraal station between Durbanville and Kraaifontein.

- Other projects and funding include:
- R150 000 to the Cape Town City Council to remove alien vegetation on Devil's Peak;
 - R70 000 to Zille Shandler Associates to plant 10 000 deciduous fruit trees throughout the Western Cape;
 - R150 000 to Trees for Africa for general greening of the Cape Flats (particularly Khayelitsha);
 - R150 000 to the Cape Metropolitan Council for clearing alien vegetation from the banks of the Disa River in Hout Bay;
 - R116 500 to the Quaker Peace Centre for community gardens in Khayelitsha; and
 - R90 360 to the Catholic Welfare and Development Bureau for alien vegetation and fynbos harvesting to assist the local community at Redhill near Simon's Town.
- At a media conference to announce the launch of the campaign, Mr Ramatlakane said the total cost estimate was R7,06 million, and it was estimated 8 113 jobs would be created for a period of four months and two weeks.
- Although the jobs created will be short-term in nature, it is hoped that some workers will be absorbed on a more permanent basis by the emerging local authorities.
- "The income generated on the project will provide a well-earned short-term relief for the unemployed during this period while permanent employment prospects are sorted out."

GREEN SCENE
John Yeld

*Stumbling
our way
towards the
Olympics*



IT'S a fine line that separates winners from losers in the Olympic Games.

Mere millimetres in some cases, hundredths of a second in others.

And while the winners often go on to achieve personal wealth based on their performances at the Games, how many of the losers are remembered?

It's an obvious point, but perhaps one environmentalists should ponder as Cape Town bids to host the 2004 Games.

There were some important points that emerged from last week's meeting in the Cape Town Civic Centre about the bid and its environmental implications.

The most significant was the timely reminder to the bid committee that environmental issues are critical to its success.

As one of the speakers pointed out, Sydney has made no secret of the belief that its successful bid for the 2000 Games was, in a major part, dependent on its environmentally friendly proposal.

Another speaker noted that there are three legs to the modern Olympic movement — sport, culture and the environment. Trip on one of those and you're out — as surely as a sprinter with acute hamstring trouble or a high diver with vertigo.

And the bid manual of the International Olympic Committee spells out the necessity for not only consulting, but actively involving, non-government organisations and environmental groups in the development process. If that constituency is not in favour of the bid, it's another false start.

As Ed Tilianus of the Friends of the Liesbeek charged, Cape Town City Council has already stumbled, if not actually tripped, on its way to the starting blocks.

Not only was a major development — the upgrading of Liesbeek Parkway — scheduled for "fast-tracking" without a proper environmental impact assessment, but environmental organisations haven't been kept fully in the picture.

**&
YOUR
EARTH**

'PROPHETS OF REASON MUST SPEAK OUT'

Anti-hunting groups threaten conservation

HUNTING, vital to Africa's economy and the conservation of its environment, is under threat from animal rights groups.

MELANIE GOSLING reports.

ANTI-HUNTING groups are a threat to conservation in Africa, scientists at a UCT symposium heard on Friday.

If they succeed in shutting down overseas markets for trophies and wild animal products, vast conservation areas will revert to cattle and goat farming, with devastating impact on the natural environment.

Urging scientists to become "prophets of reason" in the debate on wildlife utilisation, World Wildlife Fund in South Africa head Dr John Hanks said: "Anti-hunting groups must be made aware that it is their activities which constitute a far greater threat to bio-diversity conservation in Africa."

Hunting had become an inte-

gral part of the tourism industry, earning significant foreign exchange and employing many people. African governments were under enormous pressure to deal with poverty and could not afford to pay the \$200 (about R720) per square kilometre needed annually to maintain protected areas with endangered species.

Bio-diversity

"Consumptive use programmes, with the benefits going back to local communities, are the only viable alternative for income generation to conserve Africa's bio-diversity," Dr Hanks said.

Dr Jon Hutton, of Zimbabwe's Africa Resources Trust, urged scien-

tists to become lobbyists to regain their influence in decisions on wildlife utilisation.

He said at the last meeting of CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species), SA had put forward a contentious and important proposal to downlist the elephant and white rhino to allow limited trade.

Collusion

"There was not one scientist, wildlife manager, activist or lobbyist to support your government."

He said SA stood at a fork in the road. One route led to collusion with the West, particularly the US, which would see the option of elephant culling stopped.

"The other route ends in regional leadership on these issues. I am not optimistic that SA will take this latter route."

258/5/95

(56)

'Base policy on science'

MELANIE GOSLING

STAFF REPORTER

(56) 278/5/95

SCIENTISTS, who fear they are being sidelined by animal rights movements and the radical green lobby, have sent an open letter to the ministers of environment affairs in all Southern African states stressing the need for governments to base wildlife utilisation policies on scientific principles.

The letter is the result of a symposium held here on Friday, attended by over 300 scientists, who outlined the considerations governments should include in developing environmental policy.

The symposium discussed the danger of allowing emotions to cloud judgment in issues such as hunting and culling, and stressed the need to distinguish between value judgments and scientific statements.

Dr Jon Hutton, of the African Resources Trust in Zimbabwe, said "animal cultists" were driving governments to make political decisions that ignored scientific opinion. This included decisions on whether to cull elephants and seals and whether to trade in ivory.

"Realpolitik dominates decisions that involve the killing of animals. Scientists and wildlife managers are being pushed aside and their place is being taken by NGOs skilled at working with the media and even more skilled at interacting with the government," Dr Hutton said.

The symposium was organised by the Southern African Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Scientists, the Southern African Wildlife Management Association and the Marine Science Society of Southern Africa.

Anti-hunters 'greater threat than hunters'

ARG 8/5/95 (56)

□ *Top conservationist warns lobbyists*

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ANTI-hunting lobbyists are a much greater threat to the conservation of Africa's rich natural heritage than hunters, says one of South Africa's leading conservation experts.

John Hanks, chief executive of the South African branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature, was speaking at a symposium at the University of Cape Town on "The conservation of Southern Africa's wild living resources: exploitation, sustainability and ethics".

The symposium was organised jointly by the Southern African Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Scientists, Southern African Wildlife Management Association and the Marine Science Society of Southern Africa.

Dr Hanks told more than 250 delegates that the distinctly Western view of the ethics of using wildlife — a form of "cultural imperialism" — had to be questioned against the realities of Africa.

Twenty-nine of the world's 36 poorest countries were in Africa south of the Sahara, where an estimated 325 million people lived in conditions of absolute

poverty with an annual income of less than \$100 (R370).

"Each government is under enormous pressure to deal with the social problems each country faces associated with this poverty, including urban influx, poor health and educational facilities, a lack of clean water, massive unemployment and Aids."

Environmental degradation — ranging from deforestation to desertification — was widespread and increasing.

It was therefore not surprising that not a single African government — with the exception of South Africa — could afford to pay anywhere near the \$200 (R740) per square kilometre per year needed to maintain protected areas which contained valuable endangered species, Dr Hanks said.

Most governments allocated less than five percent of this recommended amount.

The only viable alternative to generate income for conserving Africa's biodiversity (all species of fauna and flora) was "consumptive use" programmes in and around protected areas, with benefits going back to local communities.

But such programmes — including hunting — had become

emotive issues dominated by cultural imperialism.

"The distinctly Western anthropolarity of the ethics of using wildlife must be questioned against the background of the realities of Africa, and this is nowhere better illustrated than with the anti-hunting lobby," Dr Hanks said.

Killing animals for sport was undoubtedly unpalatable to many people and opposition to it was growing.

But hunting as a form of consumptive use of wildlife had a vitally important role to play in conserving Africa's biodiversity.

It had become an integral part of Southern Africa's tourism industry, earning significant amounts of foreign exchange and creating many employment opportunities.

"Increasingly, private landowners are moving from cattle to wildlife ... and this move often stimulates the rehabilitation of degraded, transformed habitats to the benefit of many other species.

"To stop hunting would result in many farmers moving back to cattle or some other form of agriculture, and this would cause a loss of biodiversity."

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BD 8/5/95

Langebaan resort planned

(285) (189A) (56)

THE National Parks Board planned to develop a resort complex at the Langebaan Lagoon near Saldanha Bay despite the possibility of Iscor building a steel mill less than 1km from the lagoon, board acting CEO Dick Parris said at the weekend.

The lagoon, which forms part of the West Coast National Park, has been designated a wetland of international importance. Iscor's plans have raised a storm of objections from environmental groups.

Parris said the board had not established to what extent the steel plant could detract from the area's scenery. However, as other structures, including a harbour, were already visible from the lagoon, it could not be regarded as pristine.

Iscor was awaiting approval of its construction plans from the Western Cape government.

If the plans were accepted, government would have to rezone the proposed site for the mill from agricultural to industrial.

The mill's proximity to Langebaan

INGRID SALGADO

would have a negative effect on the lagoon. It was certain to cause pollution, Parris said. However, building the plant could be in the best economic interest of the Western Cape.

About 4 000 jobs would be created during its construction period, and another 600 permanent jobs would be generated. The board would finalise its position on the mill towards the end of the month.

The existing parks board site at the lagoon, Langebaan Lodge, would be demolished to make way for the new development. The dilapidated lodge, which had been too costly to maintain, had been closed.

The board would develop a jetty, restaurant, and picnic and boating facilities at the lagoon, and planned to establish family accommodation units and an information centre in the town of Langebaan. The final product would be more in keeping with traditional national parks facilities.

Meanwhile, the Northern Cape government has urged Iscor to con-

sider siting the plant at Sishen, a source of iron ore.

The province needed to create wealth and employment, and new technology favoured the siting of steel plants near their material source, the premier's office said.

"As we do not have highly sensitive parks and lagoons like Saldanha, it is conceivable that the steel plant in the Northern Cape would have much less adverse environmental impact. Furthermore, the location ... will cost less in environmental control."

The Campaign for St Lucia last week said the planned plant would endanger the Langebaan wetland system. This could be avoided by placing the steelworks in a less ecologically sensitive place.

Government should not make a decision on the plant until the Ramsar convention — to which SA was a signatory — had investigated.

□ Sapa reports the Water Affairs Department has been ordered to report to Minister Kader Asmal on the effect the proposed steel mill will have on water resources in the area.

'PROJECT EFFECTIVELY FUNDED BY TAXPAYERS'

Tax break for Iscor mill

CT 9/5/95

(56)

(15/14)

ISCOR will get an estimated R1 billion tax break for the building of the Saldanha steel mill. Report by **EUNICE RIDER, FRANÇOISE BOTHA** and **RONALD MORRIS**.

A R1 BILLION tax incentive is believed to be behind Iscor's haste to build a steel mill less than a kilometre from the Langebaan Lagoon.

In a circular to shareholders on March 3, Iscor said its shareholding was expected to cost R745 million. The remaining 50% share would be taken up by the Independent Development Corporation (IDC).

Tax credits of more than R1bn were expected in terms of section 37e of the Income Tax Act. Other funding would be provided by IDC project loans, import credit loans and local bank loans.

An income tax expert said last

night that in terms of section 37e Iscor could deduct the full amount of any expenditure for building costs and machinery. Normally this amount would be written off at 5% per annum over 20 years.

This means Iscor would receive an approximately R1bn assessed tax loss upfront from the government before building on the site even started.

The project is in effect being funded in the short-term by taxpayers' money, saving the company substantial amounts and reducing their effective tax rate to below 35%.

A spokesman for Iscor said: "A requirement to qualify for section

37e was that the company had to place an order for manufacturing equipment before the end of January 1995."

It was not correct that the project would be funded by taxpayers' money. Iscor would fund its 50% shareholding with the money raised by its recent R1,3bn rights issue, the spokesman said.

Equipment

Mr Ben Nel, managing director of Saldanha Steel, said yesterday the company had qualified for the "expense incentive scheme" when it was able to show that it had placed orders for the necessary equipment before the scheme was dropped by the government in January.

Equipment worth R160m had

already been ordered from around the world and was due to arrive in the middle of next year, he said.

Mr Nel said the equipment would be kept on the Saldanha site. Iscor has applied for it to be rezoned from agricultural to industrial use.

He reiterated earlier threats that the project would be "cancelled altogether" if the development was not allowed to go ahead on the site already earmarked.

Steel was a low profit business and the project would lose its competitive advantage over imported steel if environmentalists and Langebaan residents tried to force them to relocate 10km inland.

"We will not be forced to move ... we will cancel the project altogether. We cannot be more flexible on that aspect," Mr Nel said.

'Don't copy St Lucia error'

□ *Ecologist warns on Saldanha plans*

(56) ARG 9/6/95

Environment Reporter

DON'T make the same mistakes at Saldanha Bay that were made during the St Lucia dune-mining controversy, says top ecologist Alan Heydorn.

Iscor is planning to build a R4 billion steel producing plant at Saldanha.

Dr Heydorn, an estuary specialist and consultant to the World Wide Fund for Nature (South Africa), said it would be tragic if the same mistakes were made again.

The government could not arrive at a valid decision about Iscor's proposal without an overall planning document for the area.

"Sadly, as was the case with the St Lucia mining controversy, the debate raging over Saldanha is concerned with individual aspects of Iscor's proposals, rather than with the all-important wider regional, economic, social and environmental implications over the next 20-30 years."

Key questions included

whether there was sufficient water available to sustain the proposed steel mill and associated industries, he said.

The Berg River — the only major source of fresh water for the proposed industry — was already heavily used.

"It's known there is a disconcerting tendency for increasing brackishness of borehole water drawn from the Berg River flats along the lower reaches of the river before reaching the sea at Laaipek," said Dr Heydorn.

"The consequences of such mineralisation of groundwater as a result of over-extraction of water from the river system are extremely serious for the agricultural and fishing industries of the region."

Another key issue was whether climatic conditions were suitable for industries producing substantial volumes of air emissions.

There was a distinct danger

of air pollution and fall-out over Langebaan village, the lagoon and its ecologically important mud flats, and the West Coast national park.

"This adds a serious dimension to the concerns expressed by local communities over the unsightliness and health risks of air pollution."

An in-depth investigation was needed that exceeded the scope of Iscor's impact assessment report, commissioned from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, said Dr Heydorn.

"There is no dispute over the powerful arguments for further industrial development along the West Coast.

"But, it is logical that these arguments must be coupled to the most careful consideration of suitable areas for such developments, if existing economic activity is to be augmented rather than harmed.

"The attraction of Saldanha

to Iscor is understandable, but the existence of other, natural resource-based economic activities such as tourism, agriculture, commercial and recreational fishing or mariculture simply cannot be wished away.

"Nor can the ecological and aesthetic sensitivities of a truly unique geographical feature such as Saldanha Bay and Langebaan lagoon be denied."

Meanwhile, the property owner adjoining the site of the proposed steel mill says he will not be affected by the development and that the steel producer is "sensitive and responsible".

Charles Banks of Olifantskop farm said he was "undoubtedly" the largest landowner in the area and the most affected by Iscor's proposal.

He believed recent protests about the plant were based on ignorance of the geography and demography of Saldanha Bay and the coastal environment of

Langebaan Lagoon.

"The existing industrial infrastructure of Saldanha and Vredenburg to the north can, by no stretch of the imagination, be labelled a tourist or eco-sensitive destination, while Langebaan and its wetlands and nature areas to the south form an ecosystem and recreational area in need of protection."

Such protection was provided by the "Spreuval" dune-fields between what were two distinctly different and separate geographical areas.

"We are only six kilometres away from Namaqua Sands (industrial project) and cannot even see it," said Mr Banks.

"Iscor will be next to that, and we will not only not notice it, but the prevailing winds eliminate any other effects. Pollution and visual and other impacts to us are nil.

"Langebaan is another six kilometres in the opposite direction, so if we are not affected, how can anyone else living there be?"

R1BN CREDIT IS 'TAX EXPENDITURE'

Saldanha: 'Public has right to know'



ET 10/5/95

OPPOSITION to Iscor's planned steel mill project near the Langebaan lagoon is mounting, as legal and environmental experts cast doubt on the scheme. **EUNICE RIDER** reports.

LAW professor, tax lecturer and Future Imperfect television personality Professor Dennis Davis said yesterday the public had a right to know, before construction began, how much tax-payers' money was being spent on the Saldanha Steel Project.

He was responding to claims that Iscor would get about R1 billion or more in tax credits for the building of the controversial steel mill at Langebaan Lagoon.

Prof Davis, a member of the Katz Commission and economic adviser to the ANC, said the Section 37 (e) tax credits were a "tax expenditure" and the public had a right to know how their money was being spent. The Saldanha project qualified for the credits just

days before their scrapping at the end of January.

Dr Allan Heydorn, a coastal ecologist and consultant to the World Wide Fund for Nature (SA), said the government was not capable of making a "valid" decision to rezone the site from agricultural usage to industrial until an in-depth investigation, exceeding the scope of the CSIR's environmental impact assessment, was conducted.

Dr Heydorn said that a "properly quantified" prediction of the water requirements of the industrial node proposed by Iscor, over at least 20 years, was required in order to assess meaningfully whether adequate fresh water was available.

"Without such an assessment it

will not be possible to determine whether the development will be to the advantage or disadvantage of the existing agricultural and fishing industries and hence to the livelihood of those involved.

"The attraction of Saldanha to Iscor is understandable, but the existence of other natural resource-based economic activities, such as tourism, agriculture, and fishing, simply cannot be washed away.

Wetland

"Nor can the ecological and aesthetic sensitivities of a truly unique geographical feature such as Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon be denied," said Dr Heydorn.

He urged Iscor to take be more "flexible" on the siting of the proposed mill, so near the "globally significant lagoon wetland" of Langebaan Lagoon.

Iscor: Talks on costs of siting plant inland

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ARG 10/5/95

□ ... despite tough public statements

Environment Reporter and Own Correspondent

THE cost of moving Iscor's proposed R4 billion Saldanha Bay steel plant inland away from Langebaan Lagoon is being discussed with Spoornet and consultants, in spite of hard-line public statements by top Iscor officials.

At least twice recently, Iscor's top management have stated they will cancel the project rather than move it inland at Saldanha or to one of the other sites originally mooted: Sishen in the Northern Cape, Richards Bay, Newcastle or Port Elizabeth.

The Northern Cape still wants Iscor to build the new plant at Sishen, but premier Manne Dipico has become embroiled in a public row with the steel producer over possible reduced rail tariffs.

Alwyn Rautenbach, manager: Saldanha special projects for Spoornet and Portnet, said yesterday they were involved in discussions with Iscor and consultants appointed by regional minister Lampie Fick about transport costs for alternative sites in the area.

"We are not talking about

tariffs to the Eastern Cape or Northern Cape.

"They (Iscor) talked to us about that in the beginning and we had a whole series of discussions, until Iscor decided to place the plant at Yzervarkensrug (at Saldanha).

"I was in Pretoria recently and we have discussed the whole issue again with the people appointed by Mr Fick — John Raimondo and Andrew McLintock.

"They (the consultants) are looking at the price structure as outsiders and at the cost of moving the proposed plant away from the sea about 10km to 14km."

Last week, Mr Dipico said Iscor had told him at a meeting in January it would reconsider siting the plant if it could obtain rail tariff reduction of 50 percent guaranteed for 15 years.

Eskom had also indicated to him a willingness to talk about tariff reductions for power for the proposed plant.

But when he returned to negotiate with Iscor, it had reneged on the agreement.

In response, Iscor managing director Hans Smith said Mr

Dipico had discussed the question of reduced rail tariffs of his own accord.

He confirmed that Spoornet had formally offered a five percent reduction on finished products only, and not coal or iron ore.

"In the light of this it was obvious that further discussions were futile as the offer negotiated and the proposed conditions were miles apart," Mr Smith said.

Mr Dipico said the 50 percent reduction over 15 years asked for by Iscor was unreasonable, and it was a demand that could never be met by Spoornet.

His government — "like any other province" — needed to create employment opportunities and wealth that would contribute to the total economy of the country.

"In particular, the Northern Cape wants to establish industries that add value to the minerals in that province.

"To this extent, the provincial government is doing whatever it can to persuade Iscor to reconsider its decision to site the proposed Hot Rolled Coiled Steel Plant in Saldanha Bay.

Counting cost of pollution

BO # 10/5/95
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SAMANTHA SHARPE

SA COMPANIES faced potentially huge damage and third party injury as a result of inadequate pollution and environmental insurance mechanisms, according to attorneys Goldman, Judin and Werner.

Goldman, Judin and Werner attorney Michael Judin said most SA companies had not included pollution in their policies. The alarming increase in pollution damages claims were causing losses for insurance companies and corporates regardless of whether or not they were involved in polluting or hazardous industries.

"A similar scenario in the US has generated exorbitant premiums, causing manufacturers to either dump and camouflage their hazardous waste or limit their range to products that are insurable," he said.

The insurance industry would have to start providing protection for polluters who had become liable through events beyond their control, he said.

ABOUT-TURN ON SALDANHA

Sakekamer now in favour of steel mill site

ET 11/5/95 (56) (18/14)

LANGEBAAAN's Afrikaanse Sakekamer is now in favour of the siting of the proposed Saldanha Bay steel mill — and a R1 bn tax break is on offer. **EUNICE RIDER** reports.

THE Langebaan Afrikaanse Sakekamer yesterday joined the Vredenburg and Saldanha Sakekamers in stating that they were "pleased" with the controversial siting of the Saldanha steel mill, planned for 950m from the shore of the Langebaan Lagoon.

Until late last week the Langebaan Afrikaanse Sakekamer, under the chairmanship of Mr Steve Ferguson, was outspokenly opposed to the siting of the mill.

It was also revealed this week that there would be a R1 billion tax break for the project if it went ahead on its present siting.

"Following an historic meeting, ... the Afrikaanse Sakekamers of Vredenburg, Saldanha and Lange-

baan are pleased with the choice of this area for the construction of the most modern steel plant in the world.

"We are satisfied that, given the nature of the above-mentioned plant, and in the light of the latest technological developments, the level of pollution caused by the Saldanha steel project will — if any — be minimal," the statement said.

The statement was signed by the chairmen of all three chambers of commerce.

According to an environmental impact assessment — commissioned by Iscor and conducted by the CSIR — the lagoon will definitely be polluted, and in the worst

case scenario there would be ore pollution for 18km around the site.

A week ago, Mr Ferguson was opposed to the "unacceptable" siting of the mill near the shore of and on a groundwater line to the lagoon.

He said Langebaan's neighbouring towns were "in effect asking us to sacrifice tourism to Langebaan" by not opposing the siting of the controversial development.

Mr Ferguson, who is also on the Langebaan transitional town council, said workers in Langebaan's local population needed work but "about 90%" are opposed to the present siting of the mill.

Mr Ferguson could not be reached to comment on why the Langebaan Afrikaanse Sakekamer had changed its mind.

Steel mill digs in to lagoon site

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WILLEM STENKAMP
Weekend Argus Reporter

SHAREHOLDERS of Saldanha Steel, the company that plans to build a R4 billion steel mill near Saldanha Bay, will be advised not to go ahead with the project if the company is told to move the mill to a site further inland.

Bernard Smith, executive chairman of Saldanha Steel, was adamant that moving the mill to an alternative site 10 km inland would cost the company its competitive edge in the international steel market.

In that case he would feel obliged to advise shareholders not to invest in the project, said Mr Smith.

It is estimated that moving the steel mill to an alternative site about 10 km inland would cost Saldanha Steel more than R50 million a year over the next 10 years.

Mr Smith said these costs would lose the company its competitive edge in the international market.

But he refused to disclose the estimated profit margin of the proposed mill, saying Saldanha Steel was a private company and

■ Saldanha Steel, the company planning the controversial R4 billion steel project near Saldanha, is playing hardball on pleas to move to an alternative site 10 km inland to lessen the danger of pollution to the sensitive Langebaan lagoon.

he was not prepared to disclose these figures to the benefit of competitors.

This makes it difficult for independent analysts to evaluate the exact impact the added cost of moving the mill inland would have on the profitability of the scheme.

Meanwhile, concern is growing among environmentalists that the relevant authorities may already have made up their minds to give the go-ahead to the project in spite of growing criticism.

Environmental sources believe the fact that Saldanha Steel ordered some equipment for the proposed plant as early as January this year may be an indication that the company had received assurances that it would be allowed to go ahead with the

project in spite of criticism.

(The company is owned jointly by Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation.)

The fact that some officials, including the Western Cape Premier Henus Kriel and regional Planning Minister Lampie Fick, are visiting comparable steel plants overseas to investigate the environmental impact, is seen by some as "window dressing".

Iscor officials' rigid line on the move to an alternative site is also perceived by some as an indication that the company has little doubt that the project will be passed as proposed.

The Western Cape regional government is to consider a rezoning application for the site from agricultural to industrial at the end of this month.

When asked about the groundwater pollution risk from the plant, Alex Holmes, spokesman for Iscor, admitted that some hazardous material would indeed be produced on the site.

"If any specialist report proved to us that the mariculture (mussel farming) industry was in any danger from the storage of this waste, we would then be prepared to move this waste to another site," he said.

Board firm on culling issue

56

span 13/5/95

ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

FACED with an international call for a boycott of the Kruger National Park, the National Parks Board is standing firm on its 28-year-old policy of culling elephants to protect the biodiversity of the overall system.

"Culling does not mean killing," said Dick Parris, NPB director, operations.

"To protect the system, we have to remove a certain number of animals each year.

"As a first option we will translocate elephants and waive our R10 000 to R15 000 purchase price per animal provided it is to public-owned lands within South Africa.

"Find us the money for the transport and relocation costs and we will do this," he said.

He added that the NPB was translocating about 50 animals this year from the cull quota of 300 animals.

This would be at NPB expense because the animals were going to national and public parks in South Africa.

Parris was reacting to a statement by Dr Steve Smit, director of Falcon (Front for Animal Liberation and Conservation of Nature), and Bill Jordan, chairman of the UK-based Care for the Wild, which threatened to call an

international tourist boycott of Kruger if this year's cull went ahead on May 15 as planned.

"If you are going on a safari holiday, choose a destination that treats its wildlife with compassion," a Care for the Wild international news release said this week.

The animal rights organisations claimed it had offered to donate the full cost of translocating 160 elephants of this year's cull.

But the NPB was insisting on the full purchase price rather than letting the animals go to private reserves free of charge.

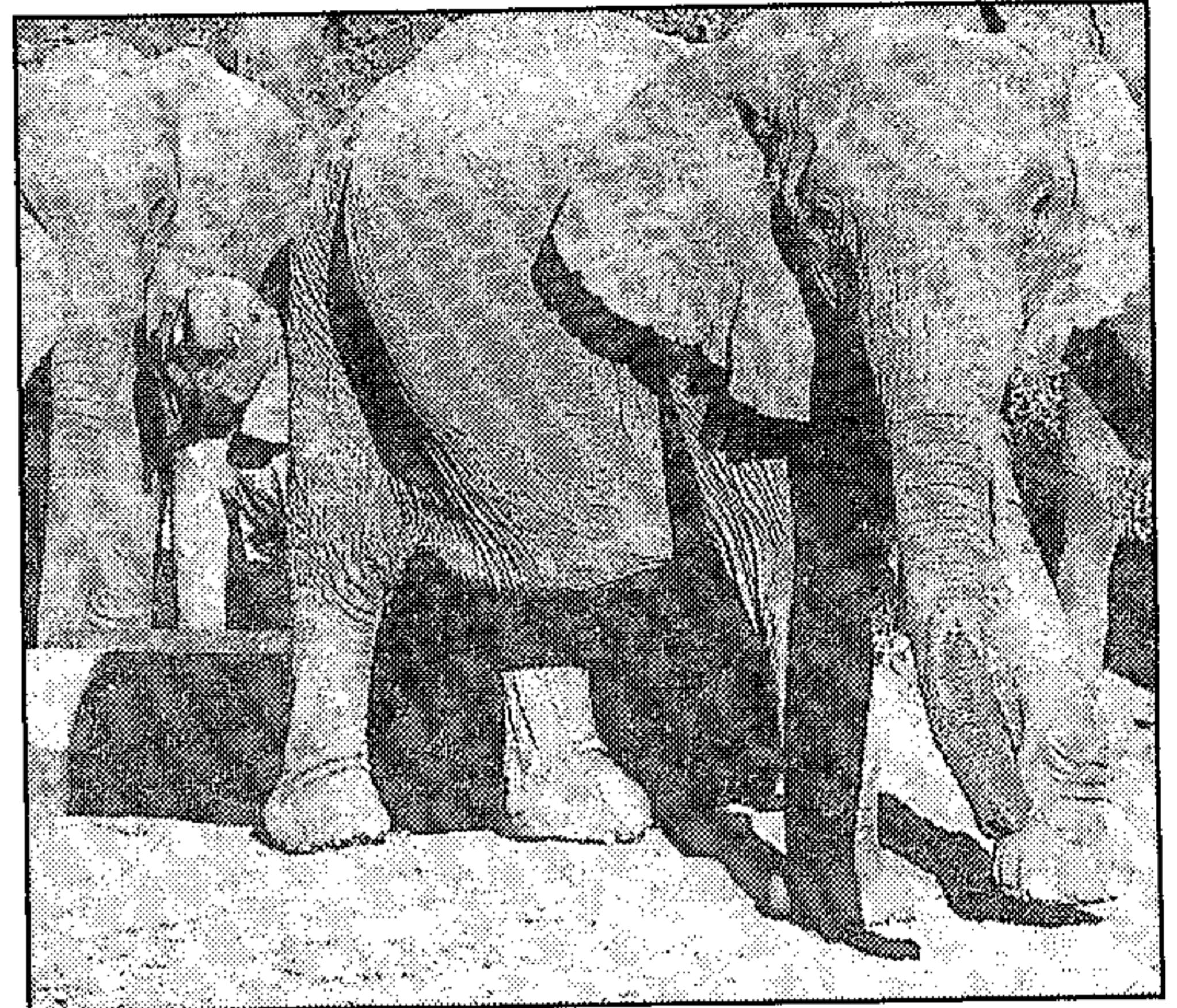
Asked for details of parks willing to take animals, Falcon spokesman Mandy Crerar said that if the NPB waived its purchase price, Thukela Private Game Reserve in Zululand, which received translocated animals last year, would take another 40 elephants this year.

She could not give any other examples.

In reply, Parris said no firm offer had been received from anyone.

"NPB executive director Dr Robbie Robinson is overseas at the moment. Everywhere he goes, people say 'don't kill the elephants, we will give you money'. But not one cent has yet been committed.

"The matter of donating ani-



OVERSTOCKED: Only 50 elephants are to be translocated this year from a cull quota of 300.

mals free of charge to private reserves involves the issue of the NPB's mandate," Parris explained.

"We hold these assets on behalf of the people of South Africa and have no right to give animals away for nothing, especially where they could then be hunted.

"We are in the business of wildlife management, not anti-cruelty."

"In that case," the Falcon statement said, "the animal-caring public holds the lives of these elephants in their hands. An immediate fax or phone call to NPB could save an elephant's life."

"Every year it has cost Kruger

Park thousands of rands to cull elephants — we offer them a humane alternative that would save them money and ensure worldwide acclaim."

Parris pointed out that the only reason why the cull operation ran at a loss was because of the international ban on trade in ivory, elephant hides and meat.

The NPB had nothing to fear — or hide — from its South African stakeholders, said Parris.

"The Falcon/Care for the Wild's position of saving animals is Eurocentric, and has nothing to do with wildlife management," he said.

Iscor shareholder wants mill moved

56 (56) ST 14/5/95

A MILLIONAIRE who holds the largest private shareholding in Iscor has claimed that the corporation has inflated potential costs of moving a controversial steel mill project in an attempt to avoid doing so.

Ian Moultrie supports moving the Saldanha Steel Project from the ecologically sensitive Langebaan wildlife sanctuary. He says Iscor should evaluate alternative sites and submit its findings to public scrutiny.

The 50-year-old retired businessman says the project may be suppressing figures which would back "green" arguments for the move.

Mr Moultrie says he wants the project to flourish — but not where Iscor wants it. He also questions Iscor's haste in wanting to get the project running at the disputed site.

Critics want the R3,6-billion steel mill moved from its planned site, less than a kilometre from the lagoon area, to other Iscor-owned land 10km further inland.

They say the mill will cause pollution, be a blight on the environment and attract large-scale industrial development near a wetland of international importance and in sight of

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

the West Coast National Park.

Iscor's environmental study found the site was suitable provided the visual impact of the plant was minimised. Mr Moultrie says the corporation seems to think the environmental problems can be solved "with a coat of paint".

Shifting the project would entail a R53-million capital cost and an extra R50-million rand a year in operating costs, which Iscor says is too expensive.

The Western Cape provincial government must decide by May 31 whether to allow the site to be rezoned from farming land to industrial use.

Bernard Smith, Engen chief and executive chairman of the project, has indicated that he intends to start preliminary work soon, possibly by June 1.

The project, relying on state-of-the-art Corex technology, is expected to earn South Africa R1,6-billion a year in foreign exchange. It will turn cheap but high-grade Sishen iron ore into 1,23 million tons a year of hot-rolled coil for export.

Iscor shareholders can look forward to a relatively high 12 percent projected internal rate of return a

year, according to a report by stockbrokers Ivor Jones, Roy and Co.

"We have to ensure competitiveness. Additional annual running costs of R50-million will jeopardise the robustness of the project in the volatile world steel market," Mr Smith said.

But Mr Moultrie says Iscor has presented at least four different sets of costing figures to back its claim that the move is too expensive.

"Mr Smith says the extra costs would lose the company its competitive edge, but he won't divulge the profit margin because it might benefit competitors. More likely it will benefit the environmentalists.

"We deserve to know what the change in return will be if R50-million a year is added to the cost, if it is indeed that much," Mr Moultrie said.

Mr Smith said he did not know where the 12 percent figure came from, but it assumed a uniform steel price in a fluctuating market.

Mr Moultrie said the slump in the steel industry gave Iscor time to consider environmental reports.

The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Professor Kader Asmal, has ordered an urgent reassessment of the project's potential affects on water resources.

'Greens' dominate nominations

(5b) CT 15/5/95

GREENS will be strongly represented on an advisory committee on the Cape Peninsula mountain chain to be established by Cape attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn after nominations close today.

Few of the people so far nominated for the 15-person committee have any association with tourism and economic development, according to the organisations already involved.

They are concerned that without the participation of such individuals and bodies the funds necessary to properly manage conservation and policing will not be made available.

The committee will advise on provincial and national legislation to create a single management body for the mountain chain and examine various models.

Many feel that either Cape Nature Conservation or the National Parks Board should be entrusted with the task, while most want the chain to be declared a world heritage site. Nominations close at noon today. — Sapa

'SHORTCOMINGS IN ENVIRONMENT STUDY'

ET 15/5/95 (56)
(185A)

Saldanha: No decision

CONTROVERSY: The Western Cape government will evaluate the consequences of the Saldanha Steel project before a decision is made, **CHRIS BATEMAN** reports.

SHORTCOMINGS in the CSIR environmental impact study for the proposed Saldanha Steel plant included the lack of a cost assessment for moving the plant 10km inland and the local impact of satellite industries, independent evaluator Dr John Raimondo told the Western Cape government.

Provincial Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Minister Mr Lampie Fick made this statement on the eve of his departure for an in-depth study of two waterside steel mills in Canada and the US.

Mr Fick appointed Dr Raimondo to redress these shortcomings and to assess the figures

which Iscor is using to justify its reluctance to move the site.

Mr Fick said Dr Raimondo, while lauding the CSIR report for its work, had criticised the narrow terms of reference his colleagues were given to work with.

Another oversight in the terms of reference was the lack of a study on the visual impact of the 400Kw power line from Koeberg which the mill would need.

Dr Raimondo is the former head of UCT's environmental evaluation unit.

Central to his investigation is Iscor's claim that an inland shift would cost them R50 million a year in production costs which

would make them uncompetitive in the world market.

Dr Raimondo's final report will be made to the central objectors, such as the World Wildlife Fund, lawyers for local farmers and Iscor under Mr Fick's chairmanship on May 25. "We need more clarity before the cabinet can take any decision at the month's end," Mr Fick said.

Interdict

Several farmers have threatened to bring an interdict preventing a decision on rezoning the land from agricultural to industrial use while environmentalists fear lasting damage to the wetlands which form one of the world's last refuges for rare migratory birds.

Mr Fick said he did not detect any "softening" of Iscor's threat to move to another province if their present shoreline site was not approved. Iscor had given him an overview of the world steel markets which helped him realise how competitive it was.

"It's complicated, there are only four mills manufacturing steel from raw ore with some 70% of North America's mills using scrap from the motor industry. The local process from raw ore would be much cleaner."

He denied having any position on the issue and said Trade and Industry Minister Mr Trevor Manuel's support for the project indicated the government's 50% investment. "But there's no way any government will prescribe to the Western Cape," Mr Fick said.

Study to combat Cape Town's pollution

A TWO-year scientific study has been launched to discover the exact cause of the "brown haze" of pollution that lay over Cape Town. (Sb) BD 15/5/95

The brown haze began to appear in the past decade and was being blamed for a number of health and environmental problems. Energy Research Institute director Prof RK Dutkiewicz said the haze was possibly responsible for exceeding the

KATHRYN STRACHAN

health standard for atmospheric particles.

The study was expected to provide the information needed to target the source and control pollution levels.

The haze occurred each year between April and September in cold and windless conditions when pollutants were poorly dispersed and were more damaging.

Ruling on Saldanha pollution 'this week'

CAPE TOWN — Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal was likely to decide on the findings of a departmental inquiry into the possibility of water pollution at the site of the planned steel mill at Saldanha Bay this week, a spokesman for the minister said.

He said the minister carried the ultimate authority on any matter that might pollute water. The Minister had received several reports from individuals and organisations criticising the siting.

The Western Cape provincial government still has to decide on the rezoning of the proposed site from agricultural to industrial. A number of individuals and organisations have threatened legal action if the plant goes ahead at the site.

Saldanha Steel reiterated on Friday that to move the plant 10km inland would add an additional R50m a year to operating costs. "It's not that we want to sound inflexible, but there is no flexibility," Saldanha Steel CE Bernard Smith said.

Meanwhile, JSE analysts polled for their opinion on the heated environmental debate over the siting of the plant were divided between the job creation and economic

benefits and the concerns of environmentalists. However, they noted that the environmental debate was taking place before construction started.

"In most developed countries the environmental debate takes place before a sod is turned," one said.

Some analysts questioned the timing of the expected commissioning of the plant in relation to the international steel demand cycle, though Smith said it was impossible to accurately predict demand cycles over the 25-year life span of the plant. An analyst questioned the political consequences of government providing half the equity for the plant.

"Is it government's role to be involved in one company? If so, why not others," he asked. Another commented that without government involvement the capital cost of the plant would have been prohibitive.

Saldanha Steel, which will be a 50%-50% joint equity venture of Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation, was the last company in SA to receive the Section 37E accelerated depreciation allowance.

EDWARD WEST

BD 15/5/98

56

Mountain body: Few nominations

(56)
STAFF REPORTER

CT 16/5/95

THE number of nominations for the new Table Mountain advisory committee had been disappointing, Western Cape attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn said yesterday.

He had received only about 25 nominations for the the 15-member committee by the deadline.

He said he did not want to prejudice anyone who may have posted their nominations before the closing date and would still accept those posted before noon yesterday.

"I will announce the members of the committee probably at the end of next week. I would like to consult the nominees first in order to be satisfied that they can do justice to being on the committee. I want a strong commitment from them that they will be able to put in a good day's work because this is essentially a working body," Mr Kahn said.

The new committee will advise on provincial and national legislation to create a single management body for the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CPPNE), or make recommendations about another option such as a national park.

● Nomination for representatives on the Board of the National Botanical Institute closed yesterday.

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dr Dawie De Villiers will appoint the fifteen new members once he has gained cabinet approval.

Waste-tech closes Gauteng units

Kathryn Strachan

56

SA's leading waste management company, Waste-tech, has been forced to close its hazardous waste and medical waste disposal business in Gauteng following threats of criminal prosecution by the Germiston city council.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal late yesterday negotiated with town clerk Anton Kruger temporary reinstatement of the Margolis landfill site.

The Minister said hazardous waste was piling up and there was a distinct possibility of danger to the public.

Last year the council was granted an

interdict against the acceptance of hazardous waste at the site because of public pressure and complaints about the smell.

However, Waste-tech, by agreement with council officials, continued to accept hazardous waste. The arrangement was withdrawn yesterday.

Waste-tech MD Ken Bromfield warned that his company's forced withdrawal from the industry could result in pollution of the region's rivers. National, provincial and local authorities had been briefed on the possible consequences of Waste-tech's closure, he said.

BD 17/5/95

Continued on Page 2

Waste-tech closes units

Continued from Page 1

At least 70% of SA's industrial hazardous waste is produced in Gauteng, mainly on the East Rand.

The company managed more than 50% of the province's industrial waste.

Waste-tech's R12m state-of-the-art site at Chloorkop, completed two years ago, has not been able to open because of community protests. The company is awaiting

recommendation of a committee appointed by the Kempton Park council to consider the future of the Chloorkop site.

Bromfield said the company would continue to operate its non-hazardous sites in Gauteng and the full range of services at its operations in KwaZulu/Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape.

Asmal said he had told the town clerk a long term solution to Waste-tech's problems had to be found as soon as possible.

No funds for environment in Gauteng budget

(56) ~~56~~ Star 17/5/95

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

The Gauteng budget has no money for environmental protection even though the function forms part of the portfolio of Sicele Shiceka, MEC for Development Planning, the Environment and Works.

During yesterday's debate on the budget items which comprise Shiceka's portfolio, parties across the board stressed that only lip service could be paid to the environmental function unless it was

adequately funded.

The standing committee endorsed Shiceka's department's plea to Finance MEC Jabu Moleketi for additional funds to set up an environmental directorate.

"We believe that this request is not unreasonable in that the roll-over (from the last financial year) does exist, which is from this department and therefore should be used for this department," committee chairman Musa Myeni told the House.

"We can't run this most industrial province in Africa without a budget for the environment," he argued.

Failure to protect the environment would result in:

- Long-term adverse effects on the health of the population from pollution.
- A reduced ability to compete in international markets and to attract appropriate foreign investment.
- Continued inequity.
- The sustainability of the RDP being undermined.

During the debate Shiceka announced the launch of a new course, to be run in conjunction with Wits, to address the critical shortage of personnel qualified to implement development programmes.

The aim was to have 120 people complete the course, the Development Management and Facilitation Programme, each year. Candidates would be selected from the public service, local government, non-governmental organisations and community groups.

SA aims to cut gas emission

(56) 0718/5/95

SOUTH AFRICA, which emits about 300 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year, wants to ratify the UN Convention on Climate Change which aims to control the emission of greenhouse gases globally.

The Department of Environment said the country was ranked as the 18th highest producer of greenhouse gases in the world.

SA is a signatory to the convention, which came into force in 1994, but has not yet ratified the convention. — Staff Reporter

Saldanha residents 'fired up' over Iscor steel plant

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter
DETAILS on the chemical composition of waste water from Iscor's proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay were not given to the team doing the environmental impact assessment, in spite of several requests.

This means the potential threat to groundwater in the

area — one of the key environmental issues of the proposal — has not been assessed and does not form part of the environmental impact assessment report by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

This is one of the points in a separate report by University of Cape Town marine scientist and Ph D candidate, Neville

Sweijd, which will form part of a full-scale objection by a group of Langebaan area property owners.

Mr Sweijd said he presumed data on raw materials, effluents and emissions had been supplied in good faith by Iscor to the relevant specialists who contributed to the impact assessment report.
“(But) I feel independent ver-

ification of this data is required.”

“I have reached this conclusion since learning that Keith Wiseman, project manager of the environmental impact assessment, could not obtain data regarding the chemical composition of waste water, despite several requests.”

The CSIR report concluded that groundwater pollution

would occur, despite precautions taken.

“Since no data on the composition of the 200 000 litres a day of effluent were supplied, despite several requests by the CSIR, the potential threat is unassessed.”

“In other words, the effect of groundwater pollution cannot be assessed given the data supplied, and any conclusions

drawn from the supplied data are preliminary at best.”

Also, because the cumulative impact of further development — such as secondary industries and the enlarging of the harbour — had not been addressed, the CSIR's environmental impact assessment was “conceptually flawed at the most fundamental level”, Mr Sweijd said.

Claremont attorney Richard Marcus, who is representing several property owners in the Langebaan area, said they would meet this weekend to pull together all information about the proposed steel plant and its possible effects.

This would be consolidated into a single report which would be sent to the decision-makers.

Mr Marcus has already told Western Cape Premier Hennis Kriel that the property owners believed the rezoning application for the proposed plant was not properly advertised, and that they reserved their rights in this regard.

Mr Kriel has responded by saying the issue has been referred to his Minister of Development Planning, Lampie Fick.

Waste water
ARC 18/5/95

(57)

ANITA ALLEN
SENCE WRITER

Reopen dump site temporarily - Asmal



pite attempts by
er Affairs Minister
er Asmal to resolve
hazardous waste dis-
l crisis yesterday, no
sion has been taken
open one of only two
ips in Gauteng.
arlier this week Ger-
on City Council gave
ce to Waste-tech, the
pany which manages
Margolis site on the
it Rand, that all dis-
al of hazardous waste
l to cease.
Waste-tech serves
re than 2 000 clients

and disposes more than
half the hazardous waste
produced in Gauteng.

Asmal held discussions
with Germiston town
clerk Anton Kruger and
issued a statement that
the Margolis dump could
be reopened on an emer-
gency short-term basis.

"The proposed tem-
porary solution could en-
tail the emergency rein-
statement of the medical
waste incineration facili-
ty and, secondly, the re-
opening of the Margolis

landfill site in the short
term," Asmal said.

However, Germiston
deputy town secretary
Kees Verhage told The
Star there was no legal
way of reversing the Mar-
golis decision except at a
meeting of the manage-
ment committee, which
would take place today.

The issue was on the
agenda, he said.

In the interim, Waste-
tech has given notice to
its clients that it has no
option but to withdraw
from the hazardous

waste disposal business.

The company has in-
vested about R10-million
in the construction of a
state-of-the-art hazard-
ous waste landfill site at
Chloorkop, which lies un-
used following public pro-
tests. The site should
have opened in July 1993
but is bogged down in
legal proceedings which
began 18 months ago.

A spokesman at As-
mal's office said an emer-
gency meeting to discuss
long-term solutions to the

hazardous waste problem
would be held in Cape
Town today. The Chloor-
kop dump site would de-
finitely be part of the dis-
cussions, he said.

"If a decision on open-
ing the site cannot be
taken, then alternative
hazardous waste sites
will have to be found," he
said.

Waste-tech managing
director Ken Bromfield
said the company was
delighted that the minis-
ter realised the conse-
quences to industry of

the Germiston City Coun-
cil's decision.

"A long-term solution
needs to be found, otherwise
the waste industry will be
in a mess for years to
come," Bromfield said.

Rod Ball, president of
the Institute of Waste
Management, said his or-
ganisation had been fore-
casting the crisis for a
long time.

"The matter must be
taken up by Minister
Asmal. We would like an
audience with him, which
we have tried to arrange,
but have not had any suc-
cess at this point," Ball
said.

Nov 18/5/95

Council to decide on waste problem

Kathryn Strachan

BD 18/5/95
The fate of Waste-tech's hazardous waste and medical waste disposal business in Gauteng is to be decided at a meeting of the Germiston City Council's executive committee today.

Waste-tech had to close its operation earlier this week after threats of criminal prosecution by the council. However, there was a temporary reprieve on Tuesday when Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal negotiated with town clerk Anton Kruger temporary reopening of the Margolis landfill site in Germiston.

(56)
The Minister said hazardous waste was piling up and there was a possibility of danger to the public.

However, the final decision remains the prerogative of the council.

Waste-tech MD Ken Bromfield said it was "unfair and unreasonable" to expect the council to make a decision in the national interest. The council had to balance the interests of the public, who have complained of the smell, with the interests of the company and the environment.

He blamed much of the controversy on the lack of a hazardous waste policy at national or local level.

National body 'urgently needed' to monitor environment laws

CT 19/5/95

(5b)

POLITICAL STAFF

SOUTH AFRICA urgently needed a national, independent monitoring body to cover all aspects of environment legislation, Eastern Cape ANC MP Mrs Val Viljoen said yesterday.

"We can have the best environmental legislation in the world, but this is meaningless unless there

is efficient monitoring and unless detection is followed by sufficiently punitive measures," she said during the National Assembly debate on the Environmental Affairs vote.

The whole area of pollution control was fragmented and covered by different departments. With an overall picture likely problems could be anticipated.

Pollution tax?

OT 19/5/95

DEPUTY Environment and
Tourism Minister Mr Bantu
Holomisa said in the debate on his
department's budget vote yester-
day that industries might be taxed
on their greenhouse gas emissions.

Reuter, The Telegraph plc

NEW TURN IN SALDANHA STEELMILL ROW

IsCOR 'to cut Gauteng jobs'

CT 19/5/95

CONTROVERSY over the Saldanha steelmill intensifies with the suggestion that higher profit, at an overall loss of jobs, may be the main motivation. **CHRIS BATEMAN** reports.

ISCOR'S admission that it intends downscaling its Vanderbijlpark steelmill with a loss of 3 910 jobs in favour of the controversial proposed Saldana steelmill was so "extraordinary" that it virtually forced Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers to order a probe.

This was said yesterday by Mr Alistair van Huysteen, a lawyer representing three Langebaan lagoon property trusts and the Citizens Review Group — which consists of

academics, lawyers and landowners opposed to the R4,6-billion Saldanha project.

Langebaan has been declared a wetlands of international importance by the Ramsar Convention because of its crucial role in the global migration of many rare and endangered bird species.

Mr Van Huysteen was speaking on the eve of a meeting today between Water Affairs Minister Professor Kader Asmal and some of the country's leading marine scien-

tists, biologists and the Langebaan marine culture industry over expected ecological damage.

He said the revelation of the overall loss of jobs — contrary to IsCOR's claims that it would actually be creating more jobs — in circumstances in which an entire ecosystem was threatened, demanded that Dr De Villiers fulfil his legal obligations, under the Environmental Conservation Act, to appoint an inquiry if the environment could be seriously endangered.

Yesterday's bombshell came from an interview with IsCOR's executive director, Mr Kevin Robertson, due for publication

today in SA Mining magazine, in which he admits the direct link with Saldanha in the three-to-five year downscaling of Vanderbijlpark's operations.

He also reportedly admits that the expected R1,6bn annual forex income from Saldanha is the "same income (as Vanderbijlpark) ... but not the same profit (Saldanha's being higher)".

Ms Zolla Rumble of the CRG said it appeared IsCOR were closing down their Vanderbijlpark mill and moving it to Saldanha because of tax benefits and the major investment by the IDC, which meant the taxpayer had a very direct interest.



KEY MAN: Water Affairs Minister Prof Kader Asmal, a key man in the steel mill controversy.

Mill 'no threat to environment'

CT 19/5/95

56 (1995)

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

It was unlikely there would be sufficient environmental damage to the Langebaan Lagoon ecosystem to warrant informing the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Ramsar Convention, Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

He also said it was possible for a national park with increasing tourism potential to co-exist with a busy industry harbour town without harming the environment.

Dr De Villiers spoke about the steel project during debate on his vote in the National Assembly.

He had received several requests asking him to inform the secretariat of the convention that the Langebaan Lagoon ecosystem would probably be adversely affected by the steel project.

"However, information at my disposal regarding the possible environmental impact of this development is not sufficient to warrant such a step. The matter is being monitored. If and when further facts become available, they will immediately be brought to the attention of the secretariat."

IsCOR would have to guarantee that its operations would not undermine "the exceptional ecology of the Langebaan Lagoon".

Steel mill: Minister 'has no jurisdiction'

~~12/11~~ 56 ~~20/11~~
Political Correspondent

ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers says he has no jurisdiction over whether the Saldanha steel project will go ahead.

He was asked in the senate by Errol Moorcroft (DP) whether he had given permission for the project. ARG 17/5/95

"I have no jurisdiction with regard to this matter," Dr De Villiers said in a written reply yesterday.

He said an application by VKE Consulting Engineers, on behalf of Iscor, for the rezoning of farmland on the West Coast for industrial purposes was being considered by the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape.

● Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Pallo Jordan has ordered a probe into the restructuring of Telkom.

He told the national assembly he had ordered Telkom's board to look into options "of totally transforming the company into a world-class, customer-driven company".

Replying to a question by Kobus Jordaan (DP) about whether Telkom was to be privatised, Dr Jordan said a dimension of its transformation would be the restructuring of Telkom's equity.

"The process of identifying suitable opportunities for equity restructuring is guided by the board, in close liaison with myself, relevant cabinet committees and other significant stakeholders.

"The process of identifying an adviser will be transparent and will involve competitive bidding."

Dr Jordan said he would make a statement on the issue "in due course".

Government under fire for inaction on smog

(56)
Political Correspondent

THE government has come under fire in the senate for its failure to take action against the smog problem in Cape Town and other cities.

Replying to the criticism, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Bantu Holomisa told the senate that a major conference was planned for next month to discuss integrated pollution control.

Metropolitan forums, like the one set up in Durban when a community complained about pollution from a refinery, should be set up, he said.

Mr Holomisa was speaking yesterday in a senate debate on photo-chemical smog.

In reply to questions, Mr Holomisa said photo-chemical smog monitoring was done in

ARC 19/5/95
co-operation with local authorities.

Nitrogen dioxide and ozone concentrations in Cape Town exceeded accepted levels two to five times a year.

The problem, caused by Cape Town's unique topographical conditions, was being investigated.

James Selfe (DP) said South Africa contributed to global pollution out of proportion to the size of its population or its industrial development and this was likely to increase.

The country generated 332 tons of carbon dioxide pollutant a year, he said.

The Department of Environmental Affairs had been given powers this year to set policy on preventing pollution, but Minister Dawie de Villiers had failed to do so.

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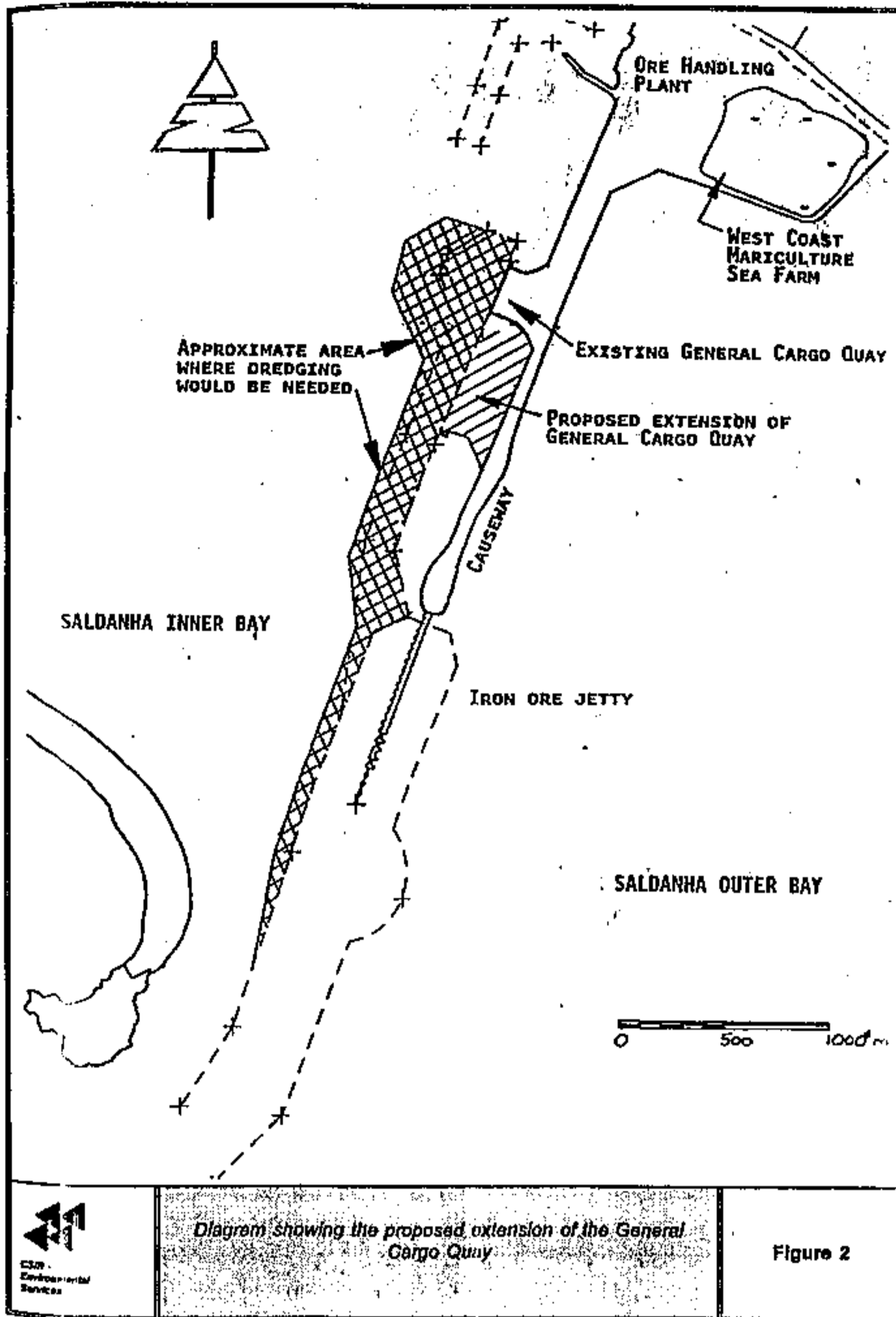


Diagram showing the proposed extension of the General Cargo Quay

Figure 2

INTO THE BAY: A graphic illustration of proposed extensions to Portnet's general cargo quay at Saldanha Bay. The extensions will be required if Iscor's Saldanha steel project gets the go-ahead.

Saldanha Bay harbour assessment under way

Environment Reporter

A MAJOR impact assessment of Portnet's proposal to increase its general cargo quay at Saldanha Bay — partly because of Iscor's proposed new steel plant nearby — is underway.

The study by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was commissioned because of concerns raised during the impact assessment for the proposed steel plant.

The present general cargo quay is 250 m long and used mainly for the export of lead, copper and zinc concentrates.

Portnet's proposal includes enlarging the quay by at least another 250 m, to allow two ships to be berthed at the same time, and possibly by as much as 500 m.

The extension will require deepening and extending the navigation channel along the quay to allow two or three ships to berth alongside at the same time, and for ships to pass other ships already berthed.

The proposed extension will allow ships of up to 60 000 tons to use the quay instead of the present 30 000 ton limit.

Blasting will probably be necessary to remove rocky outcrops on the sea floor.

The draft scoping report, which identifies concerns and possible impact of the proposal, states that the

Namatwa Sands beneficiation plant at Saldanha will bring the use of the general cargo quay close to capacity.

Potential impacts identified and which should be addressed in the final impact assessment report of the proposed extension include:

- Risk of an unacceptable impact on the ecology or mariculture industry in Saldanha's inner bay;
- Risk of pollution from accidents due to the effects of increased shipping activity in the bay;
- Risk of pollution from illegal or accidental discharges and spillages;
- Impact of dredging on water circulation, sedimentation and beach stability in the inner bay;
- Impact of dredging activities on boating, sailing and other recreational activities in Saldanha Bay;
- Risk and possible impact of pollutants in sediments;
- Options for the disposal of excess dredged material;
- Risk of cross-contamination of products and materials on the cargo quay;
- Risk of water pollution due to spillages, overflows, stormwater runoff and other sources;
- Possible dust impact, such as from unloading coal; and
- Risk of losing marine archaeological artifacts.

'3 900 jobs will be lost with Saldanha plan'

ARC 1915/95

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

OBJECTORS to Iscor's proposed R3,6 billion plant at Saldanha Bay have accused the steel giant of misrepresentation, saying that far from creating jobs the project will mean a nett loss of about 3 900 jobs in its overall operation.

This is because the proposed Saldanha plant, which will provide about 600 new jobs, will replace the hot rolled coil operation at Iscor's huge Vanderbijl Park plant with the loss of 4 500 jobs.

The accusation came during a press conference yesterday by the Citizens Review Group, which is strongly opposing Iscor's plans.

The group released advance copies of an interview with Iscor executive director Kevin Robertson in SA Mining magazine, published today.

The article says rationalisation at Vanderbijl Park, Iscor's flagship operation, meant that "some 4 500 jobs will be lost to attrition or transfer".

The article describes Iscor's claim that Saldanha's hot rolled coil exports will earn R1,6 billion in exports as "almost a sleight of hand", as most of that is currently earned at Vanderbijl Park.

It quotes Mr Robertson as conceding: "It's the same income we're looking at, but not the same profit."

Review group member Neville Sweijd said Iscor's whole justification for the Saldanha plant had been new job creation and support for the reconstruction and development programme.

"This just flies in the face of those claims."

Lawyer Alastair van Hyssteen, acting for the Citizens Review Group, has called on Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers, regional premier Hernus Kriel and regional minister of agriculture, tourism and planning Lampie Fick to appoint a board of inquiry.

Holomisa proposes air pollution tax.

56
BD 19/5/95
Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — Deputy Environment Minister Bantu Holomisa yesterday suggested that taxes could be imposed on "the larger users of energy" because of SA's international commitments to reducing greenhouse gases.

Speaking in Parliament, Holomisa said the Framework Convention on Global Climate Change compelled SA to reduce its emission of greenhouse gases.

"We will have to look at solutions, such as environmental resource economics, which may lead to levies and taxes on the larger users of energy."

Holomisa stressed in an interview that his proposal was exactly that and that it could be rejected.

But SA's air pollution was the 18th worst

in the world and clearly something needed to be done.

If stricter measures were going to be imposed, levies could be used as a last resort, he said.

The worst offenders appeared to be industries that utilised oil and coal.

One of the main causes of the pollution was outdated equipment which was itself a consequence of sanctions.

Another cause was the incapacity of the department to monitor air pollution levels and the inadequacy of old environmental impact studies.

These issues and suggestions on how to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases would be discussed at a conference on a National Holistic Policy on Integrated Pollution Control for SA due to be held next month, he said.

Iscor defends new plant

~~18/11/95~~ (56) BD 19/5/95
Edward West

CAPE TOWN — About 4 500 jobs would be lost at Iscor's Vanderbijlpark steel works with its R3,5bn downsizing during the next eight years, irrespective of whether the planned steel mill at Saldanha Bay was built or not, Iscor MD Hans Smith said.

He was responding to allegations last night by environmental groups which claimed that the job creation and foreign exchange earning arguments being touted as reasons to build a new plant in Saldanha Bay were "nothing more than red herrings".

Attorney Alisstair van Huysteen, who represents three land trusts in the Saldanha Bay area, said: "Contrary to suggestions that the plant is going to bring substantial new jobs, there

is instead going to be a substantial loss of employment in Vanderbijlpark."

The proposed plant in Saldanha Bay was expected to create 600 permanent jobs and about 4 000 jobs during construction.

Van Huysteen appealed to Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers to constitute an independent board of inquiry into the environmental aspects of the proposed Saldanha plant, as the existing environmental impact study had been called into question.

Smith said the downsizing of Iscor's production to 5-million tons from the current 6-million tons was essential. "The tonnage is already costing us money — it's simply too expensive to produce." He said 1 500 jobs would be lost at Newcastle this year.

'Iscor upgrade no link to Saldanha'

By BRONWYN LITTLETON

Iscor plans to modernise and upgrade its Vanderbijlpark operations, but denies that more than 4 000 jobs will be lost or that the plan is linked in any way to its proposed Saldanha steel operation.

In a statement yesterday, Iscor managing director Hans Smith said the decision to upgrade the Vanderbijlpark operation had been taken long before the company decided to go ahead with the controversial Saldanha mill.

News reports yesterday said the company planned to downgrade the Vanderbijlpark operation in favour of developments at Saldanha. This would be at the cost of 4 000 jobs in the Vaal Triangle, the reports said.

"The one has nothing to do with the other," Smith said, adding that decommissioning two of the blast furnaces at Vanderbijlpark was logical as the plants had "reached the end of their economic life".

This would result in "a more balanced utilisation of downstream facilities, together with a significant reduction in fixed cost".

Star 20/5/95

The workforce would be reduced from 16 000 to about 14 000 over the next five years.

"Nobody is going to be retrenched. The reduction in the workforce is through natural attrition," he said.

Yesterday's news reports came in the midst of an environmental row over the Saldanha project.

The reports emerged after a Citizen's Group Review meeting in Cape Town at which the group released an interview in SA Mining magazine with Iscor executive director Kevin Robertson.

According to the interview, operations involving over 1-million tons of hot rolled coil steel would be phased out at Vanderbijlpark.

Review of study

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal met top scientists yesterday to discuss the effect that the new plant would have on the water supply to the Saldanha region and also the effect this would have on the Berg River system, which supplies water for much of the Cape Town metropolitan area.

After the meeting, Asmal ordered a review of Iscor's environmental impact study.

'Iscor to profit at public's expense'

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

ISCOR is set to make R700-million a year from its controversial Saldanha Steel Project — but at the expense of 3 900 jobs, no new valued-added exports and R1-billion in taxpayers' money to boost its profits.

So says Iscor's biggest private shareholder, Ian Moultrie, who this week accused the iron and steel giant of widescale deception in its defence of the project's proposed site near the environmentally sensitive Langebaan lagoon.

Iscor is adamant that it will not move, saying even a 10km shift inland will add R50-million to annual operating costs and compromise the project's robustness when world steel prices dip.

It has refused to say how it works out the extra costs. Critics like Mr Moultrie believe Iscor is inflating its figures to justify staying at the site.

"Iscor has misled government, public and shareholders," Mr Moultrie says. "There will be no extra foreign exchange, no extra exports, no extra jobs. One billion rand of taxpayers' money is being used to improve one company's profits.

"This isn't free enterprise, it's plunder."

Mr Moultrie's remarks follow this week's bombshell disclosure that Iscor planned to cut back its ageing Vanderbijlpark operation, shed 4 500 jobs and move its hot-rolled coil production to Saldanha.

Mr Moultrie says the project will merely replace Vanderbijl's existing export capacity. It will employ just 600 people.

Iscor says the project's exports will still earn about R1,6-billion in foreign exchange — but with lower costs and higher profits.

In other developments this week:

● Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal ordered a comprehensive probe into the project's possible effects on water resources, but said there was not overwhelming evidence of likely pollution.

● Critics demanded that Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers set up an inquiry, and

● Independent environmental consultant John Raimondo said he would present his findings to the Western Cape Planning Minister, Lampie Fick, on Thursday.

Mr Fick has to decide by the end of the month if he will rezone the site.

Meanwhile, the project's chairman, Bernard Smith, refused to confirm or deny Mr Moultrie's calculations.

"This sort of calculation is never given out."

ST 21/5/95

Parks Board meets on mill

CHRIS BATEMAN

THE National Parks Board's curators meet this morning, under the chairmanship of former Gencor director Mr Naas Steenkamp, to decide their position on the increasingly controversial R4,6 billion Saldanha Steel Project at Langebaan.

This was confirmed last night by Mr Steenkamp, who angrily rejected rumours linking the Parks Board's lengthy silence with his historical personal ties with Iscor managing director Mr Hans Smith and Saldanha Steel's chairman Mr Bernard Smith.

"I was a director of Gencor. I have not been offered a position of any kind by any person — with rubbish like that you're spoiling my evening," Mr Steenkamp said.

Parks Board chairman Mr Robbie Robinson publicly objected on environmental grounds last month to the current siting of the

new steel mill. The Parks Board reacted quickly, saying this was not the official standpoint.

Mr Steenkamp said yesterday the Parks Board had found itself in the position of having seemingly taken a position on the topic without having met to consider any proposals or having taken any decisions.

Consultant

It was reliably learned last night that environmental consultant Dr John Raimondo had whittled down by R3 million Saldanha Steel's claim that moving their current site 10km further from the harbour's edge would cost them an extra R50m per annum.

He is also believed to have considered favourably the Saldanha Steel-owned Langeberg Farm (inland across the R27 coastal road) as an alternative site — but to have found no fundamental envi-

ronmental objections to the current site.

A former head of UCT's environmental evaluation unit, Dr Raimondo will deliver his appraisal of the limited Saldanha Steel-commissioned CSIR environmental impact study this Thursday. He could not be reached last night.

Thursday's meeting will be chaired by provincial Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Minister Mr Lampie Fick, who commissioned Dr Raimondo.

Besides objections to the cumulative effect of relatively small contaminated water discharges, environmentalists say dredging, extension of the harbour quay and 60 000-ton tankers in the harbour, plus secondary industry, will eventually kill the highly sensitive Langebaan Lagoon.

The lagoon hosts several endangered migratory species as well as a thriving marine culture and fishing industry.

AFCT 225/156 (1899)

Nonsense — Dawie does have jurisdiction

ARL 22/5/95

(56) (1871)

YES, Dr De Villiers, you *do* have jurisdiction!

Conservationists, environmentalists, politicians and — particularly — lawyers have been astounded by the response of South Africa's Environmental Affairs Minister to a question in the senate by "green" watchdog Errol Moorcroft.

The Democratic Party senator asked the minister whether he had given permission for Iscor's controversial hot rolled coil steel plant (it sounds like something that can do serious damage to your teeth!) at Saldanha Bay.

His written response was: "I have no jurisdiction with regard to this matter."

Nonsense.

South Africa's revised Environment Conservation Act has been on the statute books for several years now and — on paper, at least — it is a tough document. Not only does it give the minister wide powers to act in instances when environmental degradation occurs or threatens, but it imposes an obligation on him (or her) to act.

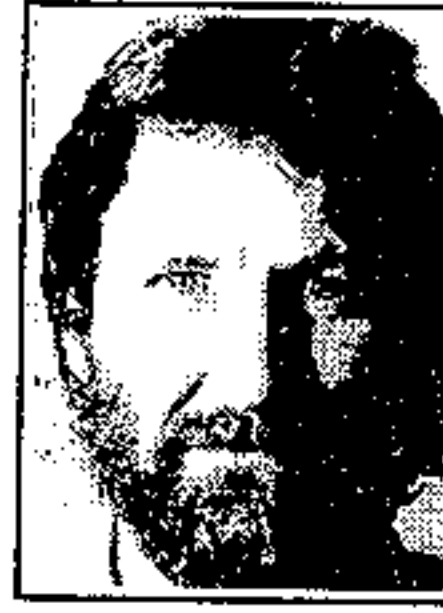
This is not a legal column but, given the seriousness of the issue at hand, it's worth looking at the Act in some detail.

Section 31A states:

"Powers of Minister, Administrator, local authority or government institution

GREEN SCENE

John Yeld



where environment is damaged, endangered or detrimentally affected — (1) If, in the opinion of the Minister ... any person performs any activity or fails to perform any activity as a result of which the environment is or may be seriously damaged, endangered or detrimentally affected, the Minister ... may in writing direct such a person —

"(a) to cease such activity; or

"(b) to take such steps as the Minister ... may deem fit, within a period specified in the direction, with a view to eliminating, reducing or preventing the damage, danger or detrimental effect."

Pretty clear, even to non-lawyers.

And there's not only that — Dr De Villiers has ready waiting for him regulations that allow him to declare limited development areas, where proposals such as Iscor's steel plant would be banned. Surely Langebaan (although admittedly

not necessarily the existing industrial area) would be a prime candidate.

All that's required is the political will to put these regulations into place — something that seems to be lacking.

Whether Iscor's proposed plant *will* actually cause severe environmental degradation is a moot point.

Also, in fairness, Dr De Villiers appointed the Council for the Environment to review the CSIR's environmental impact assessment report of the project. The council gave it the thumbs-up.

What Dr De Villiers should have done was to appoint a board of investigation — as provided for in Section 15 of the Environmental Conservation Act.

Fortunately, his colleague — Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal — has stepped in and done the job for him by ordering a review of water-related issues.

Dr De Villiers may well be right in suggesting it's unlikely the proposed steel plant will cause major damage to the Langebaan lagoon.

But, given the system's importance, he should have ordered a separate, independent inquiry to set the public's collective mind at rest.

And, at the very least, he should acknowledge his legislative powers to act when necessary — then use them.

Call on government to protest at Japan's 'scientific' whaling

Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa should protest vigorously against Japan's "scientific" whaling in the Southern Ocean whale sanctuary when the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meets in Dublin later this month.

This is the message to the government from veteran marine conservationist Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action Group.

In an open letter to Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers, Mrs Rice said it was essential that the commission's existing moratorium on commercial whaling be retained.

"There are still numerous issues relating to this morato-

ARCT 22/5/95
rium that remain unresolved — not least the inefficient methods which are still being used to kill whales and the suffering to these animals which such methods cause.

"I trust our commissioner will vote against the lifting of the moratorium should such a vote come about."

The Southern Ocean had been declared a whale sanctuary last year and South Africa had supported this move, Mrs Rice said.

In spite of this, and against the advice of the IWC's scientific committee, the Japanese government had issued permits — the eighth time since the moratorium became operative — to allow up to 330 minke whales to be taken this

(56)
season from Antarctic waters south of Australia and New Zealand.

Both Australia and New Zealand had made official protests to Japan, and Chile had also released a statement of concern.

"It was regrettable that South Africa could not have done likewise and supported these southern hemisphere states," Mrs Rice said.

"It is my hope that the present South African government will continue to view commercial whaling as unethical, unnecessary and as an operation which has no conservation value whatsoever, and that the commissioner will vote accordingly," Mrs Rice concluded.



ECOLOGICAL JEWEL: Langebaan lagoon on the West Coast is an environmental and tourism showcase. Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal has ordered a further probe into whether effluent from Iscor's proposed steel plant will pollute it.

Iscor steel mill is 'reconsidered'

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — The potential development of downstream industries around the site of the proposed Iscor steel mill in Saldanha Bay had forced the Water Affairs and Forestry Department to reconsider its initial approval of the steel mill, Minister Kader Asmal said on Friday.

Asmal said the department's regional officers had initially indicated their approval of the plans to establish the Saldanha Steels plant. *B022/5/95*

"It is only recently that the issue of downstream industries has been raised. Saldanha Steel had yet to apply for permits for the control of industrial effluent and for the establishment of a solid waste disposal site," said Asmal.

On Friday Asmal met the CSIR, which carried out a study of the environmental effect on the site, and representatives from organisations such as Sea Fisheries, the World Wildlife Foundation, National Parks Board, Mariculture Association and the University of Cape Town to discuss the environmental effect of the plant.

Asmal said further studies would be required before a final decision could be made. The following would be considered: a review of the ecological water requirements of the Berg River, the use of water resources east of Saldanha to replenish the Berg River, monitoring committee to check on the plant's performance and the need for further physical planning for the region.

Asmal said the region was depressed and the community was eager to have the plant established as soon as possible. However a balance between environmental conservation and economic development would have to be achieved, he said.

Inkatha men allegedly informers for C10 unit

Stephane Bothma **BD 22/5/95**

PRETORIA — Senior Inkatha officials were paid informers of the now defunct Vlakplaas C10 unit, a former C10 member testified in the Transvaal Supreme Court on Friday.

Key State witness in the Eugene de Kock murder and fraud trial Chappies Klopper testified that prominent Inkatha officials received payment for information supplied to C10 under fictitious names.

The Inkatha officials' identities were not disclosed. Klopper was responding to questions by defence advocate Flip Hattingh SC.

De Kock, the former C10 commander, has pleaded not guilty to 121 charges including murder, fraud, theft, attempted murder, assault and the illegal possession of weapons and explosives.

In a preliminary indictment served on De Kock late last year the State alleged that the former policeman had supplied firearms, hand grenades, ammunition and homemade bombs to "prominent" Inkatha members since August 1990.

Although these charges have not appeared on De Kock's final indictment, sources at the Transvaal attorney-general's office earlier said investigations into the Vlakplaas-Inkatha connection relating to train and other violence on the Reef continued. De Kock could still be charged with these alleged crimes.

The preliminary indictment stated that some of the hand grenades supplied to Inkatha by C10 had been used in 53 separate terror attacks throughout the country.

Role of Bank debated

Adrian Hedding **BD 22/5/95**

CAPE TOWN — While all political parties have agreed the constitution should enshrine the SA Reserve Bank's impartiality and independence, the degree of the Bank's independence continues to worry constitution-makers, Constitutional Assembly discussions on Friday indicated.

At the centre of the debate is the specific relationship between the Finance Minister and the Bank's board of governors.

Section 197 of the interim constitution states the Bank shall exercise its powers and perform its functions independently "provided there shall be regular consultation" between the minister and the Bank.

The ANC has argued, however, that this phrasing gives the Bank too much leeway to determine broader monetary policy issues.

More than regular consultations, the Bank and the Minister should concur on decisions before they are implemented, the ANC said. It proposed that decisions should, therefore, be made "in consultation with" the Minister.

This was rejected on Friday by legal advisors to the Constitutional Assembly.

In a document put before the assembly the advisors said the change would "effectively neutralise" the independence of the Bank and was therefore unconstitutional.

The ANC explained that it had not intended to compromise the "operational independence" of the Bank but wanted more ministerial involvement in the institution's longer-term "goal independence".

"The Bank should be free to exercise its powers and functions without ministerial intervention but within broad policy objectives or guidelines determined by the Bank 'in consultation with' the Minister," the ANC said.

The legal advisors said such a formulation, "while a purely political matter," could be included without affecting the constitutional principle which protects the Bank's independence.

They suggested a new formulation: "The Bank shall discharge its powers and functions with due regard to a policy framework determined in the interest of the maintenance of effective public finance and administration by the Bank in consultation with the said Minister."

The ANC withdrew the entire report on the Bank, which was tabled but not discussed.

The chairman of the committee dealing with the report, ANC MP Rob Davies, said the proposal needed further discussion.

He described the issue as the last outstanding matter to be resolved before multi-party consensus could be declared on the way in which the new constitution should deal with the Bank and its role in government and the economy.

Hazardous waste buildup averted

AN EMERGENCY arrangement to avert a buildup of hazardous waste of crisis proportions in Gauteng was agreed upon on Saturday at a meeting called by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal **BD 22/5/95**

The waste buildup could have led to illegal discharges of hazardous waste into sewer systems and onto the veld, eventually leading into the Vaal River, which is already low and supplies the bulk of Gauteng's water, a spokesman for the Minister said.

He said the waste, including medical waste, had been building up for some time and posed a potential hazard to the public.

Asmal flew to Johannesburg after calling the meeting of provincial and national government representatives, local authorities, waste disposal experts and other organisations.

The meeting agreed to recommend the waste disposal company Waste Tech restart and upgrade two incinerators at the Margolis waste site in Germiston as a temporary measure.

The site has been inoperative for some time due to a Supreme Court order following public objections. The Minister insisted the site be closed by the end of the year.

The meeting agreed to make arrangements for careful waste monitoring and compilation of a register of medical waste. — Sapa.

● See Page 8

The Berg River is over-exploited as a water source and severely stressed ecologically, says University of Cape Town freshwater ecologist Brian Davies. He is concerned the proposed Iscor steel plant and associated developments will consume substantial volumes of water from the river and its environs. He's asked for a full assessment of regional water needs before a decision is taken — something Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal agreed to last week. Environment reporter JOHN YELD looks at Professor Davies's report.

Saldanha mill: Years of silence

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ARG 22/5/95

AN EXHAUSTIVE investigation of the Western Cape's water resources has been under way for about five years, but the people involved were not told about Iscor's planned steel plant at Saldanha Bay, or the associated development, said Brian Davies of the University of Cape Town's Freshwater Research Unit.

Last week he released his comments on Iscor's proposal in an open letter *The implications of the development for the water resources of the region*.

He pointed out that he had been intimately involved in the review of the region's water resources — the "Western Cape System Analysis" — by the Department of Water Affairs.

This had been undertaken over half a decade and had involved scientists, research-

ers and engineers. It had yielded a wide variety of "invaluable" documents.

But nowhere during the exhaustive process of research and analysis had there been "any hint" or mention of Iscor's Saldanha proposal.

"In the light of the fact that the Iscor project is in advanced stages of planning — and must have been in the planning stage for at least two years, if not much more — I find the silence disturbing insofar as many of the recommendations and decisions that I have been involved in now appear to be compromised, particularly those associated with the Berg River Basin," Professor Davies said.

Before there could be any sensible assessment of Iscor's proposal, key questions about the water issue needed to be answered.

These included:

● How much freshwater will be consumed by the plant daily and annually?

● How many and what type of satellite industries are envisaged and what are their water requirements?

● What are the water requirements of the necessary infrastructural developments that will occur?

● How many people will enter the region to settle and find employment and what are their water requirements?

● What will meet these water requirements and in what form — new reservoirs, heightening existing structures, inter-basin transfers, groundwater exploitation, and so on?

● What are the socio-economic implications of such water-resource developments. For instance, what will the impacts be on irrigation farmers in the region?

The primary problem already facing the Berg River was over-abstraction, Professor Davies said.

Because the river flowed through increasingly arid

country, existing developments upstream had already substantially lowered the mean annual run-off.

The situation was already serious, and with further abstractions likely — such as the proposed Skuifraam Dam and the Iscor plant and associated developments — there were grave dangers of irreversible damage to the lower sections of the river.

"In short, the ecological problems of the Berg River are complex, to say the least," Professor Davies said.

"I urge that any decision to allow the proposed steel mill development at Saldanha be delayed until accurate and comprehensive water consumption estimates have been ascertained, the water supply situation has been assessed, the ecological implications have been researched fully, and the amount — and adequate disposal — of wastes has been calculated and appropriate systems designed to deal with such problems."

Move steel mill inland, suggests ~~the~~ parks board

APR 23/5/95

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

IT is "virtually certain" that unchecked development in the Saldanha Bay area will have a harmful impact on the internationally important Langebaan lagoon and the West Coast national park, says the National Parks Board.

In a statement after a special board meeting yesterday to resolve a row between senior staff members and board chairman Naas Steenkamp over Iscor's proposed steel plant, the board said the "most pleasing" solution would be for the plant to be moved away from the bay and the lagoon.

Such a move would not lose the important socio-economic advantages of the project.

"Such placement of the nucleus of further industrialisation would draw development away from a precious and sensitive national and global asset.

"Saldanha steel project and the authorities are urged not to abandon this option without further consideration."

The board said the West Coast national park was a key component of the Vredenburg-Saldanha-Langebaan area and its economic future.

The board was also the custodian of a wetland, Langebaan lagoon, of international importance, registered under the Ramsar Convention.

While the structure plan for the region earmarked the proposed steel plant site for heavy industry and storage, it also highlighted conservation of the natural environment as of central importance to the development of the region.

"Although the EIA (environmental impact assessment) report provides some comfort in regard to certain impacts that are described as being probably minimal at the regional scale, the National Parks Board has little doubt that unchecked incremental development will bring with it the virtual certainty of harmful impact on the lagoon and the West Coast national park."

It would be appreciated if the hon member would consider furnishing me with further particulars of specific traditional leaders, whereafter I will be pleased to supply him with any information at my disposal.

Contamination of hospital wards by striking health workers

246. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Whether any investigation has been held into allegations that striking health workers contaminated wards in certain hospitals recently by spreading bacteria; if not, why not; if so, who was in charge of the investigation;

(2) whether any confirmation of such deliberate contamination of health facilities was found; if so, (a) at which hospitals, (b) who was responsible for this deliberate contamination, (c) what specified bacteria were used in each case and (d) what were the consequences of this action;

(3) whether any staff members responsible for this action have (a) been dismissed, (b) faced disciplinary action and (c) been charged with any criminal offence; if not, what action has been taken against those responsible; if so, what are the relevant details;

(4) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

Hansard 23/5/95 N499E
The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

(1) Yes. An investigation is being carried out by the South African Police Services.

(2) Yes.

(a) Madadeni Hospital.

(b) It is alleged that various categories of staff were responsible for the contamination.

(c) Specific bacteria could not be identified as bags of bacteria which were cultivated in the hospital laboratory for diagnostic purposes were taken from the waste area and thrown into the wards.

(d) No loss of life or infection of patients. The contaminated areas were im-

mediately evacuated and a firm was employed to clean and sterilise the areas. The areas were utilised within ten (10) days after the contamination.

(Reply to paragraphs (3) and (4) not furnished by Department.)

Amending of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, 1965

253. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether he intends introducing legislation aimed at amending the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, 1965 (Act No 45 of 1965), so as to provide for (a) stricter regulations governing the control of air pollution and (b) economic incentives to the industry to reduce emissions; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

Hansard 23/5/95 N506E
The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

No.

(a) Provisions have been made in the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act to enforce more stringent requirements as and when it becomes necessary.

(b) The investigation into an integrated Pollution Control Policy for South Africa which is presently being conducted by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism will address this aspect in detail. Should it appear that incentives are needed, the appropriate measures will be considered.

Geological surveys conducted in Intisizwa mountain range

263. Mr G O M DOIDGE asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

(1) Whether any mining and geological surveys have been conducted in the Intisizwa mountain range; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, with what results;

(2) whether any mining rights in this area have been granted or sold to any South African mining houses; if so, when;

(3) whether the granting of these mining rights will result in (a) any benefits for

local communities in the area and (b) the creation of jobs for persons living in these communities; if not, why not; if so, (i) in what manner and (ii) when;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N533E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes. As I indicated during last year's session of Parliament, the Council of Geoscience has launched a two-year airborne magnetic and radiometric mapping programme over the entire Transkei, including the Intisizwa area. The project had to be spread over a period of two years because the costs exceeded the Council's entire magnetic mapping budget. The results of this survey will be available towards the end of 1996.

The platinum-nickel deposits occurring in the Intisizwa Complex are associated with pyrothite. Because the latter is magnetic, this mapping programme will provide an indication of the possibility that the mineralisation may extend beyond the region where it is presently known. This project will also contribute to future water prospecting in the Transkei for rural water

supply and is a demonstrable contribution by my Department to the RDP.

Additionally, the R2.5 million study may also shed some light on the distribution of radioactivity in the Transkei and it could contribute to understanding the high incidence of oesophagus cancer which is endemic in parts of the Ciskei—another contribution to RDP objectives. Lastly this data will help to define new exploration targets in Transkei and Ciskei as well as contributing to solve urbanisation problems in that part of South Africa—also RDP contribution.

(2) Two major South African mining companies, Gemmin and Randgold Exploration, have been prospecting in the relevant area since 1988/1989. Both prospecting companies have spent a considerable amount of money to date, in an attempt to locate mineral deposits. Both companies have renewed their Prospecting Leases to 1997.

(3) The prospecting activities will not result in immediate benefits to local communities. However, a different picture will emerge in future, should the companies be successful in locating economically viable mineral deposits.

(4) No.

National Parks Board slams

steel mill siting

CT 23/5/96

MELANIE GOSLING

THE National Parks Board (NPB) has strongly opposed Iscor's controversial steel mill at Saldanha Bay, claiming that it was a "virtual certainty" that increased industrialisation of the area would harm the lagoon and West Coast National Park.

The statement comes after months of official silence from the board on the controversial steel plant, following an initial disagreement when its chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson nearly resigned because of a split over its stance.

In April Dr Robinson was reprimanded by NPB chairman Mr Naas Steenkamp for slating the proposed siting of the mill.

Mr Steenkamp said yesterday the board's stand was the consensus of both the board and its directorate who convened a special meeting in Pretoria yesterday to formulate an official stance on the issue.

He said the plant should be sited away from the lagoon to draw development away from a "precious and sensitive national and global asset".

"The board is the custodian, for the people of South Africa and for the world, of this wetland of international importance," he said. It had a duty to ensure that the environmental integrity of the site was maintained.

"The board has little doubt that the unchecked development will bring with it the virtual certainty of harmful impact on the lagoon and West Coast National Park," Mr Steenkamp said.

He said the environmental impact assessment had provided "some comfort", but the board was not satisfied that the impact of the industrialisation which would follow the erection of the steel mill had been considered holistically.

Mr Steenkamp said the board acknowledged the social and economic advantage the steel plant would have for South Africa and also that technically the board had no jurisdiction to block approval of the project.

Parks board rejects Saldanha project

Mduduzi ka Harvey

51

12/11/95

The National Parks Board strongly opposed Iscor's Saldanha steel project because of the environmental effect it would have, although it acknowledged the social and economic advantages of the plant, board chairman Naas Steenkamp said yesterday.

BD 23/5/95

He said the board had limited jurisdiction in the area and could not block the approval of the project, but it felt that the

West Coast National Park was a key component of the Vredenburg-Saldanha-Langebaan area and its economic future.

As the custodian of the park, a wetland of international importance registered under the Ramsar convention, the board was an interested and affected party with a duty to maintain the integrity of the site.

For the RDP to be served optimally, economic activities could not be pursued exclusively. It was essential that the siting of the proposed plant did not affect the area's tourism potential.

BA soars as traffic hits new highs

LONDON — British Airways (BA) raised annual profit 16,8% after carrying a record amount of traffic and despite heavy provisions for its partner USAir, the company reported yesterday.

Pre-tax profit amounted to £327m for the year to March from £280m the previous year despite provisions of £125m for problems at USAir.

Before this exceptional item, pre-tax profit rose 61,4% to a record high of £452m.

The results were in line with forecasts by analysts who had expected profit of between £450m and £475m.

Profit had risen because the airline had carried a record number of passengers and a record amount of freight. The number of passengers carried rose 8,8% to more than 35,6-million people, the airline said.

Chairman Colin Marshall said BA had led the airline industry out of recession and towards profitability. — Sapa-AFP

World Enviro Day festival in Kokstad

(56) STAN 23/5/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Thousands of people representing major religions, spiritual and faith groups will be converging on the small Eastern Cape town of Kokstad to celebrate World Environment Day on June 5.

Sponsored jointly by the South African chapter of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-SA) and the Gold Fields Foundation, it will be the first time in this country that mainstream and traditional leaders, as well as conservationists and educationists, will share one platform.

This will be one of many major activities being planned country-wide to commemorate the United Nations Environmental Programme's (UNEP) World Environment Day, which this year is being launched internationally from South Africa.

The Kokstad festivities will culminate in an interfaith church service led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Sunday June 4. In addition, the Anglican Diocese of Umzimvubu will be opening a major conservation-oriented religious training centre.

Tutu will be affirming the 1986 Declaration of Assisi, Italy, when the WWF gained the partnership of the world's religious communities. In that celebration, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews and Muslims, with environmental leaders, all declared their commitment to faith and Earth-

keeping.

With the help of 29 Anglican parishes in the Eastern Cape, the WWF is preparing to feed 10 000 people.

Speakers will include Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Kader Asmal and Dr John Hanks, chief executive of the WWF.

"As with the Assisi conference, we hope this event in Kokstad will start a major partnership between WWF-SA and religious and spiritual groups," Hanks said.

The international theme for World Environment Day this year is: We the People — united for the global environment. The local theme is "Diversity Is Life".

The highlight of the UNEP festivities is the Global 500 Awards to individuals and organisations worldwide which have contributed to solving global environmental problems. Nominations are made by governments throughout the world, and laureates will receive their awards at a gala dinner at the State Opera House in Pretoria on World Environment Day on June 5.

Details of events, symposiums and international conferences in Gauteng can be obtained from the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism at telephone (012) 310-3583, fax (012) 322-2682; or Barbara Schreiner, at the Gauteng Environmental Directorate, telephone (011) 820-0402, fax (011) 873-8112.

(a) R6 450 million.

(b) R1 000 million.

- (2) No, according to the latest actuarial valuation report the member and employer contribution rate to pension funds which, in the case of the Government Service Pension Fund is 29% of salary, is sufficient to fund the current benefits vest and to contribute to improving the funding level.

Legal/illegal minibuses-taxis in the Republic at 31/01/95

*9. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Transport:

- How many (a) legal and (b) illegal minibuses-taxis were estimated to be operating in the Republic as at 31 January 1995 or the latest specified date for which information is available?

N545E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (a) According to the national computerised Permit Administration System (PAS), the total number of legal minibuses-taxis in the Republic, as at 31 January 1995, is 70 000. This figure however excludes the number of legal minibuses-taxis of the former TBVC states and self-governing territories. A legal minibus-taxi in this case is defined as a minibus-taxi with an operating permit and a valid certificate of fitness.
- (b) The Department of Transport can at present not give an accurate indication of the number of illegal minibuses-taxis in the Republic. The Department does, however estimate the number of illegal minibuses-taxis to be between 40 000 and 50 000. This figure does not include the illegal minibuses-taxis of the former TBVC states and self governing territories.

*10. Mr J A RABIE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 1 on 29 June 1994, (a) the Organisation for African Unity and/or (b) South Africa

was or is in any way involved in efforts to restore peace in Burundi; if not, why not; if so, in what way?

N550E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

In its capacity as a member of the Organisation of African Unity's Mechanism for the Prevention of Conflict, Management and Resolution, South Africa is a member of a Special Committee of four countries currently engaged in negotiations with the Government of National Unity of Burundi. Negotiations were held with the Burundi National Security Council on 12 April 1995. It is anticipated that negotiations with the President of Burundi, the Prime Minister and the leaders of all political parties will be held during a follow-up visit to Bujumbura at the end of May 1995.

The aim of the negotiations, coordinated by the Secretary-General of the OAU, is the prevention of a resumption of conflict and to seek ways by which the OAU and the international community can assist Burundi in its own planning to effectively bring reconciliation and a lasting peace.

The other members of the Special Committee are Tunisia, Egypt and Mauritius.

Restoration of democracy in Nigeria

*11. Mr J A RABIE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

Whether South Africa has taken any steps with a view to promoting the restoration of a democratic government in Nigeria; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

N551E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Yes. Following the arrest in June 1994 of Chief Moshood Abiola, President Mandela visited Abuja during November 1994 to make representations to the Nigerian Head of State, General Sani Abacha, for the release of Chief Abiola.

Shortly after the arrest and detention on 12 March 1995 of General Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigerian Head of State from 1976-79 and the only military leader so far to have handed over power to a civilian government in that country, the Department of Foreign Affairs issued a press statement in which it expressed the Government of National Unity's

concern over reports of arrest of prominent personalities and expressed the hope that those arrested or detained would be properly charged or released as soon as possible and if charged, be afforded the opportunity of a free and fair trial.

Early in April 1995, President Mandela sent Archbishop Desmond Tutu to Abuja as his emissary to once again make representations to General Abacha for the release of Chief Abiola and General Obasanjo in particular.

Corporal punishment at schools

*12. Mr B P BUNTING asked the Minister of Education:

Whether, with reference to the reply to Question No 18 of 5 April 1995, he will consider prohibiting the imposition of corporal punishment at schools; if not, why not; if so, when?

N552E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

In reply to the Question to which reference has been made, the Minister of Justice stated that legislation had been prepared for the abolition of corporal punishment as a sentencing option, in order to bring South Africa into line with other civilised countries. The Minister of Justice stated further:

"In addition to the element of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punishment referred to in section 11(2) of the Constitution (Act 200 of 1993), I believe that corporal punishment also has a *brutalising* effect on both the person who metes out the punishment and the one who receives it."

I concur with this view, which has clear implications for the continuance of corporal punishment as a legal means of discipline in schools. There is a strong *prima facie* case that corporal punishment of students in schools contravenes both section 11(2) of the Constitution and articles 19(1), 28(2) and 37(a) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

It is noteworthy that article 28(2) of the Convention requires States Parties to

"take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention".

Article 379(a) requires State Parties to ensure that

"No child shall be subject to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

The new Education Policy Bill, which is currently being drafted, will therefore include suitable provisions to abolish corporal punishment of students in schools and other educational institutions. I trust Parliament will give unqualified support to these provisions once they come before this body.

The Department of Education will work with the provincial Departments of Education and appropriate stakeholder organisations in order to prepare for the outlawing of corporal punishment in schools and other educational institutions, and ensure that students, teachers, principals and parents are able to consider jointly the codes of conduct and disciplinary sanctions which are appropriate in a free and democratic society based on fundamental rights and the rule of law.

(56) New Iscor plant

*13. Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:†

- (1) Whether he gave approval for the establishment of a new Iscor plant in the vicinity of the Langebaan Lagoon; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what factors did he take into account before taking this decision;

(2) whether he or his Department considered Sishen as a possible location for the establishment of this plant; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

Hansard 24/5/95 N553E
The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

- (1) There is no legal requirement that projects of this nature have to be approved by the Minister of Trade and Industry or the Department of Trade and Industry. My Ministry and the Department of Trade and Industry actively promote new investment and job creation and encourage South African industry to improve their international competitiveness. The siting of an industry is the

choice of the industrialist, subject to zoning and other laws and regulations.

(2) However, the project has been examined by my Department in the context of environmental impact, Provincial industrialisation, industrial polarisation, mega project investment versus job creation, upstream versus downstream industrial activity, state financing and project evaluation through the IDC, balance of payments considerations and national technological upgrading aspects.

I am aware that Saldanha was selected from a number of possible sites on the basis of a number of criteria, one of which related to economic feasibility.

Alternative sites which we raised with the IDC, a shareholder in both Iscor and Saldanha Steel, included Sishen and Port Elizabeth. Iscor's intention to establish the plant at Saldanha is based on business considerations.

Removal of cycads from former Ciskei to Free State

*14. Dr W A ODEENDAAL asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism†

(1) Whether he or his Office has investigated reports that a certain political party, the name of which has been furnished to his Office for the purpose of his reply, derived any financial advantage from the removal of a number of cycads from the former Ciskei to the Province of Free State; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings;

(2) whether any bodies have investigated the removal of these cycads; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what bodies and (b) when will such investigation be completed;

(3) whether any members of the Executive Council of the Free State Legislature were involved in the removal of the cycads; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: N554E

(1) No. In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Nature Conser-

vation is the responsibility of the Prov-
inces.

(2) The hon member is referred to my reply on his Question No 7 of 3 April 1995.

(3) It is a question that lies within the Free State legislature and must be put to the responsible member of the Executive Committee.

SA participation in foreign sports meetings

*15. Mr G M Carelse asked the Minister of Sport and Recreation:†

(1) Whether he has recently said that South African sports teams participating in foreign sports meetings, do not necessarily have to be chosen on merit; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION: N582E

(1) Since my appointment as Minister of Sport and Recreation I have on many occasions publicly expressed the view that something has to be done to make South Africa's national and provincial sports teams more representative. I have pointed out that it is an embarrassment for me to explain to the sports community at large why whites dominate in the composition of our national and provincial sports teams. Simultaneously I have also repeatedly pointed out that it serves no purpose to include black athletes in teams merely as a form of tokenism. I firmly believe in merit selection. However, I have sounded a warning to South African sport to get their house in order with regard to creating development opportunities for disadvantaged athletes. It is an unacceptable situation for me that some sports types seem to be only paying lip service to the concept of sports development. I am convinced that should some of our athletes from the disadvantaged sector of our community be given an opportunity to play in provincial sides, they will soon earn their rightful place in

national teams. This process should be actively implemented.

(2) No.

Olympic Games in 2004: Minister involved in decisions

*16. Mr G M CARELSE asked the Minister of Sport and Recreation:†

(1) Whether he was in any way involved in deliberations regarding the decision that was taken by the Cape Town city council on the Olympic Games in 2004; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION: N583E

(1) My Department and I were not involved in the decision taken by the Cape Town City Council to become contenders to bid for the 2004 Olympic Games.

Cape Town, together with Johannesburg and Durban were contenders in the nomination process conducted by the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA). The purpose of this process was to enable NOCSA to identify the South African city to officially bid to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

(2) No.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission: appointment of chairperson/members

*17. Mr D M BAKKER asked the Minister of Justice:†

Whether he or his Department has approached any persons with a view to the appointment of the (a) chairperson and/or (b) members of the proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission; if not, why not; if so, (i) what are their names in each case and (ii) who decided that such persons be approached?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: N584E

(a) and (b) No. In terms of clause 8(2)(a) of the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Bill, 1995, the chairperson and members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commis-

sion shall be appointed by the President in consultation with Cabinet.

(1) and (ii) Fall away.

Sewerage system in Alexandra/Republic: hazard to public health

*18. Mr T C NTSIZI asked the Minister for Health:†

(1) Whether the sewerage system in (a) the Alexandra township and/or (b) any other area in the Republic poses a hazard to public health; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, to what extent in each case;

(2) whether she or her Department intends taking any steps in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: N586E

(1) (a) and (b) Yes, there are also many other areas and especially smaller settlements in the Republic where sewerage systems pose a serious threat to public health, mostly due to the fact that these systems are either antiquated or they have not been designed for the large number of people they have to cater for. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is presently addressing the problem with every means at their disposal. A list of these areas with the extent of the problem in each case is available at the Department of Health.

(2) Although the Department of Health is not vested with the authority or of function to provide or upgrade sewerage systems, the Department is liaising closely and in an advisory capacity with appropriate authorities who are vested with such functions. A permanent working group with representation from the Department of Health and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has already been established for this purpose.

Prisoners involved in amnesty announced by the President

*19. Col N G RAMAREMISA asked the Minister of Correctional Services:†

(a) How many prisoners are involved in the amnesty which was announced by the Presi-

Environment award winner

By Ruth Bhengu

56

MARINE conservationist Ms Nan Rice of Fish Hoek in the Western Cape won R10 000 and walked off with the prestigious Audi Terra Nova Award this week. The award, which was presented at the historic and breathtakingly beautiful Robben Island, is aimed at increasing awareness of environmental issues and generating support for people who are working to conserve natural resources.

Rice was one of four finalists who

Sowetan 24/5/95
had done outstanding work in conservation with very little resources.

Mr Mike Mkhize of Briardene, near Durban, was awarded a special achievement certificate and R5 000.

Five years ago, Mkhize started a small-scale clean-up campaign in his community. This project has grown into a thriving community conservation programme with an office manned by 9 volunteers, a recycling depot and a tree nursery.

The awards were presented by environmental patron Dr Ian Player.

Pik pumps for unleaded petrol

(483) (56) (BR) (PCT 25/5/95)

By CLARE GEBHARDT

ECONOMICS EDITOR

The government is determined to find ways of making it economically viable for oil companies to introduce unleaded petrol next year, says Pik Botha, the minister of mineral and energy affairs.

Botha said the need for South Africa to introduce unleaded petrol had been obvious for some time. Experts estimated the country would save about 2 percent of its fuel consumption in 1996 and 13 percent by 2005.

Botha told a National African Federated Transport Organisation (Nafto) conference at the weekend that this was because engines designed for unleaded petrol were more fuel efficient.

Since the international motor industry was almost exclusively producing vehicles which used unleaded petrol, South Africa would only be able to export vehicles able to use unleaded petrol.

"It is the only way in which South Africa can keep pace with the latest technology in the motor industry."

Botha said the use of unleaded petrol would also reduce sources of atmospheric lead — catalytic converters to reduce polluting exhaust

fumes could only be used with unleaded petrol.

South Africa would be able to benefit from the economies of scale which made engines using unleaded fuel less costly than those using leaded fuel.

"At the same time, if the supply and distribution of unleaded fuel is to be economically viable, it must enjoy a market penetration of about 20 percent when it is first put on the market," Botha said.

A problem was that unleaded petrol cost more to produce than leaded petrol.

The original idea was to tax leaded petrol more and unleaded petrol less, to make unleaded petrol 6c cheaper.

"But this was perceived as compelling leaded petrol users to subsidise unleaded petrol users."

The less well-off might put the cheaper unleaded fuel in their vehicles which would in some cases damage their engines.

Botha said the cabinet had agreed to the introduction of unleaded petrol but preferred a pricing arrangement which would not involve leaded petrol users subsidising unleaded petrol users.

About 65 percent of vehicles in South Africa would be able to operate on unleaded petrol.

Iscor's intention 'a business decision'

BARRY STREEK

ET 25/5/95

56

ISCOR's intention to establish a steel plant at Saldanha Bay was based on business considerations, Trade and Industry Minister Mr Trevor Manuel said yesterday.

He was aware Saldanha Bay was chosen from a number of possible sites based on a variety of criteria, one of which related to economic feasibility.

There was no legal requirement that projects of this nature had to be approved by the Minister of Trade and Industry or his department, he said in reply to a question tabled in the National Assembly by Dr Willem Odendaal (NP).

He said his department promoted new investment and job creation and encouraged South African industry to improve their international competitiveness.

Backing for Iscor plant 'under strict conditions'

Environment Reporter

ISCOR'S proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay will not create unacceptable levels of air, water and land pollution, and the project can now proceed under stringent environmental conditions and effective monitoring.

This is the essence of a report by environmental consultant John Raimondo to regional planning minister Lampie Fick, released today during a meeting of about 100 interested and affected parties at the Western Cape provincial building.

The meeting, chaired by Mr Fick, got off to a lively start with repeated interruptions and heckling of Dr Raimondo.

At one point an annoyed Mr Fick remarked: "You're a guest in my house and won't you please now abide by the rules?"

Dr Raimondo was appointed by Mr Fick to review the environmental impact assessment report by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR),

ARC 25/5/95

(5) (187A)
following widespread public criticism of Iscor's proposal.

Mr Fick has to recommend to the provincial cabinet whether the steel manufacturer's rezoning application for the property for the plant should be accepted.

Dr Raimondo said there were two options for the decision-makers: a strategic assessment involving further studies — which would take between six and 12 months and involve further costs — or applying stringent conditions of approval so that all the significant risks were carried by Iscor.

"Each has certain implications, but essentially, due to the current stage of the project, I have followed the latter option."

Dr Raimondo said the CSIR report clearly identified the most important potential impacts.

"It's a good report and quite extensive, but it makes it clear that there are shortcomings. I support its recommendations."

Mountain committee named

Exciting blend — Kahn
(56) ARG 25/5/95

Environment Reporter

CAPE Attorney-General Frank Kahn has named the 16 people who will serve on a committee to report on a management structure for the Peninsula's mountains.

He has described the list of names as "an exciting blend of expertise and representivity".

The committee will help government legal teams to either draft new legislation to manage the mountains or recommend an existing structure such as a national park or provincial reserve.

Mr Kahn was asked by national and regional environmental affairs ministers Dawie de Villiers and Kobus Meiring to draw up the committee.

The members are:

Peter Blignault — land surveyor, experienced mountaineer and holder of a Ph D from the University of Cape Town in the management of mountain areas;

Paul Britton — senior landscape architect in the Cape Town City Council's parks and forests branch and intimately associated with the management of the Table Mountain and Silvermine nature reserves;

Mark Callaghan — planner, formerly with the Western Cape Regional Services Council and now independent, and architect of several planning initiatives in the southern Peninsula.

Lester Coelen — committee member of the Mountain Club of South Africa and convenor of its mountain rescue section;

Richard Cowling — internationally acclaimed botanist and director of the University of Cape Town's Institute for Plant Conservation;

Alida Croudace — landowner of a private nature reserve at Redhill and chairwoman of the Redhill Landowners' Conservation Group;

Andy Gubb — manager of the Western Cape branch of the Wildlife Society and who

has a M Sc in botany;

Farieda Khan — award-winning environmentalist based at the University of Cape Town's environmental evaluation unit and co-founder of the Green Coalition (a network of community and environmental organisations);

Joan Hemming — Constantia councillor on the Cape Metropolitan Council and former journalist and marketing and advertising executive;

Ian Macdonald — conservation director of the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa and a former chairman of the Wildlife Society's Western Cape branch;

Vuyiswa Magobolo — a former co-ordinator of the Green Coalition, at present working in the land development unit at the University of the Western Cape;

Abri Meiring — an advocate by training, current Botanical Society chairman and a marketing executive with Old Mutual, nominated by the Cape Chamber of Business;

Mvuso Walter Msimang — managing director of the SA Tourism Board (Satour);

Johan Neethling — chief director of Western Cape Nature Conservation;

"Rams" Rammutla — the National Parks Board's director: marketing and communications and a former director of Bophuthatswana's national parks; and

Marie-Lou Roux — Stellenbosch-based conservationist and secretary of the Still Bay Conservation Trust.

Mr Kahn, who was helped by advocate Tessa Heunis of his staff, said: "We've gone into this carefully and they ought to be a viable committee — I'm quite excited."

Mr Kahn's role is now complete and he will not be involved in the committee's deliberations.

The committee has been asked to have its report ready by October and its meetings are expected to be open.

Angry fishermen

blaze away at seals

(56) ARG 25/5/95
Environment Reporter

FRUSTRATED fishermen are blazing away illegally at seals as the annual snoek run continues off the Atlantic seaboard.

Marine inspectors, who had no boats available yesterday, asked the police water wing to investigate.

Seals are protected and may not be killed or injured without a permit, but fishermen — who lose some of their catch to the marine mammals — are ignoring regulations and shooting indiscriminately at them.

"The shooting and the noise of gunshots — it's unbelievable. It goes on the whole time," said Llandudno resident Georgina Hudson.

"It's been going on for the past week or so but today they were particularly close in, off the wreck (of the Romelia).

"It's really very upsetting."

Veteran marine conservationist Nan Rice said illegal shooting of seals was a continual problem and she had asked the marine inspectors at Hout Bay to intervene yesterday.

"This is absolutely appalling. There's just no control," an angry Mrs Rice said.

"These people are taking firearms out to sea and firing wildly — it's like Annie, get your gun, and it's only a matter of time before someone gets killed."

Gauteng waste collection resolved after discussion

25/5/95 (27) (56)

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Full medical waste collection and incineration services have been resumed in Gauteng, following arrangements brokered by national and provincial authorities to resolve the crisis.

Waste-tech, the company which runs one of only two privately owned medical incinerators in the province, received the necessary permit to recommission its plant at Rietfontein yesterday.

It also received written permission from the Germiston City Council (GCC) to resume incineration.

Under the terms of the agreement, Waste-tech will upgrade its spare incinerator at Rietfontein, to comply with requirements published in January this year. Once the spare incinerator has been installed, the existing unit will also be upgraded.

Waste-tech said it was once again offering a full medical

waste disposal service to its customers in Gauteng. However, it was still unable to offer landfill disposal services for other classes of hazardous waste.

Waste-tech withdrew from the hazardous and medical waste disposal business last week, following threats of criminal prosecution by the GCC if any further hazardous waste was disposed of on its Margolis landfill site in Germiston.

Waste-tech has indicated that it will re-enter the hazardous

waste disposal business in Gauteng only if a permanent solution can be found. This means that an alternative landfill site would have to be made available to replace Margolis which is due to close in December.

Waste-tech's hazardous waste landfill site at Chloorkop, Kempton Park, was completed in July 1993. It has not been commissioned because of rezoning hearings which have been ongoing for 18 months but have failed to reach a decision.

SA hoodies up for 'green' awards

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Six South African organisations and individuals have been named among the twenty-seven Global 500 laureates who will be honoured for their contributions to the environment this year.

The laureates are nominated by governments around the world for the prestigious award of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

They will receive the award at an international gala function on World Environment Day on June 5 in Pretoria, which President Mandela will be attending.

The six South African organisations and individuals are:

■ Robert Dyer, a member of the Wildlife Society and the driving force behind a school conservation project in the Umhlathuzana Catchment in KwaZulu-Natal. The project aims to plant veg-

etation on the banks of catchment rivers, remove alien plants, educate user groups to conserve top soil, establish conservancies in the catchment and to uplift standards of local communities.

Dyer has established a nursery on school grounds, and repaired degraded river banks along 87km of the Umhlathuzana River. He holds monthly meetings with local communities to identify problems and works on joint solutions.

■ The Green Machine Nature Conservation Club at Sunridge Primary School, Knysna. The club is managed by pupils in one of the most underprivileged sections of our society.

The club organised workshops for youth addicted to narcotics as well as a soup kitchen for the hungry, set up a project to exchange food parcels for recyclable materials, it created an indigenous park on grounds of the

school and helped other schools in the area to do the same.

It also launched a campaign against waste and to encourage recycling not only in local communities but at businesses in the area, which were asked to sign a pledge to recycle office waste paper.

■ Humphrey Bheki Myula is a young community builder who created the Soweto Thabisong Youth Club, which raises awareness of environmental problems and their solutions.

Through paintings, drawings and sculpture, the young environmentalists of the township have put art at the service of the environment and vice versa.

A park has been created around the youth centre, which has become a recreation area for the local community.

■ Second Creek Environment Project at John Bissecker Secondary School, East London. A

few years ago, Second Creek squatter camp was a wasteland of garbage, beset by political strife and unemployment.

Today the shacks have been painted, the grounds are spotless and a communal vegetable garden dominates the area.

The transformation is largely due to the work of the pupils who formed the Second Creek Environmental Project in 1991.

The group conducts first aid courses and holds regular *in-vivo* clinics to educate people on environmental matters and to involve people in enhancing their environment.

The project won the Department of Education and Culture's environment competition in 1991 and in 1992.

■ Trees for Africa (TFA) is the only national greening organisation in South Africa and facilitates community-owned projects. Funds are raised from cor-

porations, organisations and individuals to assist in greening projects in rural areas. It has planted more than 300 000 trees to date throughout the country and promotes education, training and youth development through workshops, tree planting, nursery and vegetable garden projects.

TFA was the runner up in the 1995 Conserva Award of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

■ Robert Filmer is a diabetic who suffered renal failure and lost his eyesight. Being blind has made him acutely aware of the inaccessibility of nature to handicapped people.

He has written numerous articles on the subject and appeared on various radio talk shows, and has organised two camps for blind people, and initiated nature trails for the blind and disabled.

(57) Saw 25/5/95

No deal on disposal site, says minister

Susan Russell

(56)
BD 25/5/93
GAUTENG environment minister Sicelo Shiment had agreed to the reopening of the Margolis hazardous waste disposal site in Germiston and accused disposal company Waste-tech of trying to blackmail government into giving the go-ahead.

Speaking at the Gauteng launch of World Environment Day on June 5, Shiceka emphasised that no agreement on Margolis had been reached at a meeting between government officials, Germiston community representatives and Waste-tech this week.

He said it had been Waste-tech which had "hammered the point" and the company had "in a sense tried to blackmail" government.

The minister announced he would convene a meeting involving all tiers of government within the next three weeks to thrash out a plan to deal with hazardous waste in Gauteng.

Margolis was closed last week after public pressure forced the Germiston city council to enforce a Supreme Court interdict granted last year banning Waste-tech from accepting hazardous waste at the site.

Waste-tech MD Ken Bromfield was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Launching Gauteng's environment day programme under the slogan "Our environment — more precious than gold", Shiceka said disparities in wealth and access to natural resources had to be eliminated if people were to be unified around environmental issues.

NOW MINISTER MUST CHOOSE

Conditional approval for Saldanha mill

56

CT 26/5/95

THE LANGEBAAN steel mill has been given a conditional go-ahead by an environmental consultant, provided stringent conditions are met. **CHRIS BATEMAN** reports.

ENVIRONMENTAL consultant Dr John Raimondo yesterday gave Saldanha Steel's R4,6 billion steel mill at Langebaan a strictly conditional "green light", saying it would "not create unacceptable levels of air, water or land pollution".

He said Western Cape Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Minister Mr Lampie Fick would have to choose between stringent conditional rezoning of the current site or postponing a decision until he had further detailed studies.

Mr Fick hired Dr Raimondo, the former head of UCT's environmental evaluation unit, to assess the shortcomings of a CSIR study

commissioned by Saldanha Steel.

His proposals were accepted by Saldanha Steel chief Mr Bernard Smith, who said the cyclical nature of the international steel market made additional costs "very relevant" and that another three to four months' delay would cost between R10 and R20 million.

Mr Smith accepted a proposal that his company pay for a joint environmental trust to monitor daily pollution levels and also agreed to sign a contract that he would lock the doors of his plant if it polluted the area.

Addressing a four-hour seminar of all major role players, Dr Raimondo laid down the following

conditions under which he said approval for the rezoning and go-ahead could be granted:

- No hazardous wastes to be disposed of, or stored for long periods on the site;

Risk assessment

- Ground water monitoring, investigating the use of modern desalination equipment to reduce the hazardous nature of the final effluent and a risk assessment of the potential for ground water to pollute the marine environment;

- Assessing additional options to reduce demands for fresh water;

- Hiring a professional landscape architect, and

- Mounting a publicity campaign to explain the project and promote the area.

Iscor backs plant plan

Political Correspondent

ISCOR told the trade and industry ministry its decision to site its plant at Langebaan was based on business considerations. (1899) (56)

Minister of Trade and Industry Trevor Manuel said this in the national assembly in reply to questions by Willie Odendaal (NP). ARG 26/5/95

Asked whether he had approved the Langebaan Iscor plant, Mr Manuel said there was legal need for his ministry or department to do so.

"My ministry and the De-

partment of Trade and Industry actively promote new investment and job creation and encourage South African industry to improve its international competitiveness," he said.

The project had been examined by the department with regard to:

- Environmental impact;
- Mega-project investment versus job creation;
- State financing;
- Balance of payments considerations; and
- National technological upgrading aspects.

THE CAPE

Stop, wait, look: Cabinet urged to walk softly round Saldanha

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

DO NOT approve Iscor's R4,7-billion Saldanha Steel Project until alternative sites in the area have been thoroughly assessed, the National Parks Board and Western Cape Nature Conservation have told the provincial cabinet.

Also, the original May 31 target for the provincial cabinet's decision on a rezoning application by Iscor is likely to be extended, although regional Planning Minister Lampie Fick said they still needed to decide "soon".

These were among the points to emerge from a lively information meeting attended by about 100 people in the provincial building in Wale Street yesterday.

The meeting was called by Mr Fick to hear submissions about the proposed steel plant and the results of a review of the CSIR's environmental impact assessment of the proposed plant by independent consultant John Raimondo.

Dr Raimondo found that, provided conditions and mitigations proposed by himself and the CSIR were met, the direct activities of the plant would

not create unacceptable levels of water, air and land pollution.

"The minister will need to decide if these recommendations are acceptable and if the conditions can be enforced."

In response to a question, Mr Fick said the provincial cabinet would not be swayed by the fact that Iscor had already ordered equipment costing hundreds of millions of rands for the plant.

The investigation was still in progress and there was no deadline for a decision, Mr Fick told journalists after the meeting.

"We have clarified a lot of perspectives and fresh detail on the issue today."

"An alternative site is a key issue and that will have to be investigated."

"But a decision has to be taken, and we want to do that soon because we don't want to be an indecisive government. We can't get away from our responsibility to govern."

Western Cape Nature Conservation chief director Johan Neethling said at the meeting his department had told the regional cabinet it could not

support Iscor's rezoning application.

The CSIR's impact assessment had not dealt satisfactorily with all the potential negative impacts.

"It is thus our considered opinion that the cabinet is not in a position of being fully informed to be able to take a rezoning decision."

National Parks Board chairman Naas Steenkamp said he had a "full mandate" to raise four major concerns about the proposal, including the lack of adequate consideration of an alternative site.

"Surely we need greater satisfaction that every alternative has been explored and dismissed before we start looking at the prospect of mitigatory measures? We do not have satisfaction on that score yet."

Iscor had conceded that heavy metals could pollute groundwater, and there was a good case to be made for all hazardous waste on site to be removed to a class one waste disposal site elsewhere.

"Without that guarantee (to remove the waste from site), the National Parks Board will continue

to oppose this very strongly.

"If it were guaranteed, it would solve a host of problems."

The proposed plant would have a visual impact, Mr Steenkamp said.

"There's no gainsaying the fact that the sense of place is going to be affected ... we believe there may be a case for cladding (of the 100 m Corex tower)."

Saldanha Steel Project chairman Bernard Smith said the steel industry was highly cyclical by nature.

"The prices are up the one year and down the next, and the difference is quite significant."

This was why the R50 million extra for moving to an alternative site was crucial.

"This is not a goldmine and won't make consistent profits. What happens in the downturns?"

Half of the estimated R4,7 billion cost would be borrowed.

"That is hard currency that has to be repaid. We have to be in a position to meet the downturns in the business."

56) AR4 26/5/95

Lively heckling as report released

Consultant backs Saldanha steel plant

SAW 26/5/95

(56) ~~56~~

Cape Town — Iscor's proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay would not create unacceptable pollution and the project could proceed under stringent environmental controls and effective monitoring, an environmental report claims.

The report, by environmental consultant John Raimondo, was released yesterday during a meeting of about 100 interested and affected parties at the Western Cape provincial building.

The meeting, chaired by Regional Planning MEC Lam-

pie Fick, got off to a lively start with Raimondo being repeatedly interrupted and heckled.

Raimondo was appointed by Fick to review the environmental impact assessment report by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research following widespread public criticism of Iscor's proposal.

Fick has to recommend to the provincial cabinet whether the steel manufacturer's rezoning application for the plant should be accepted.

Raimondo said there were two options: a strategic as-

essment involving further studies, which would take six to 12 months and involve further costs, or the application of stringent conditions of approval so all significant risks were carried by Iscor.

"Each has certain implications but essentially, due to the current stage of the project, I have followed the latter option."

Raimondo said the CSIR report clearly identified the most important potential impacts. "I support its recommendations," he added. — Sapa.

B1 26/5/95
**Iscor project
gets go ahead**

CAPE TOWN (Sapa) — Iscor's proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay would not create unacceptable pollution and the project could proceed under stringent environmental conditions and effective monitoring, an environmental report released yesterday said.

Environmental consultant John Raimondo released the report during a heated meeting of about 100 interested and affected parties at the Western Cape provincial building.

Raimondo was appointed by the province to review the environmental impact assessment report by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research following widespread public criticism of Iscor's proposal.

He said there were two options: an assessment involving further studies, which would take six to 12 months and involve further costs, or applying stringent conditions of approval so all significant risks were carried by Iscor. "Each has certain implications but I have followed the latter option." — Sapa.

CARL

(Reg)

8,125% Mortgage
7,5% Mortgage

PAYMENT OF OF TR

Payment of debt
1 January 1995
the holders of the
at the close of
as follows:

8,125% Mortgage
R100 each at R
7,5% Mortgage
each at R3,75 p

For the purpose
holders, the debt
register of debentures
10 June 1995
inclusive.

Cheques in payment
Johannesburg on

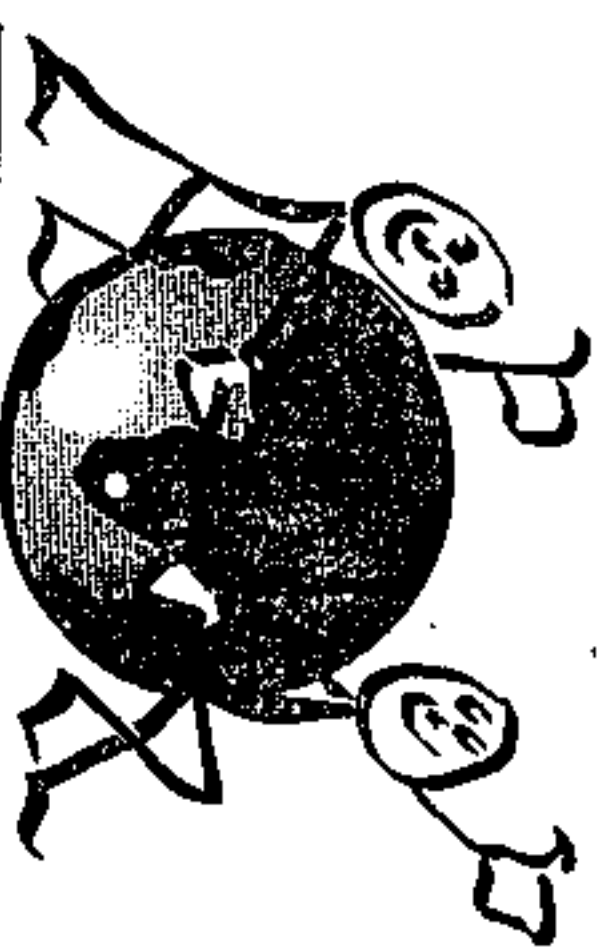


Secretar

Anglo A

Johannesburg
26 May 1995

Earth — more precious than gold



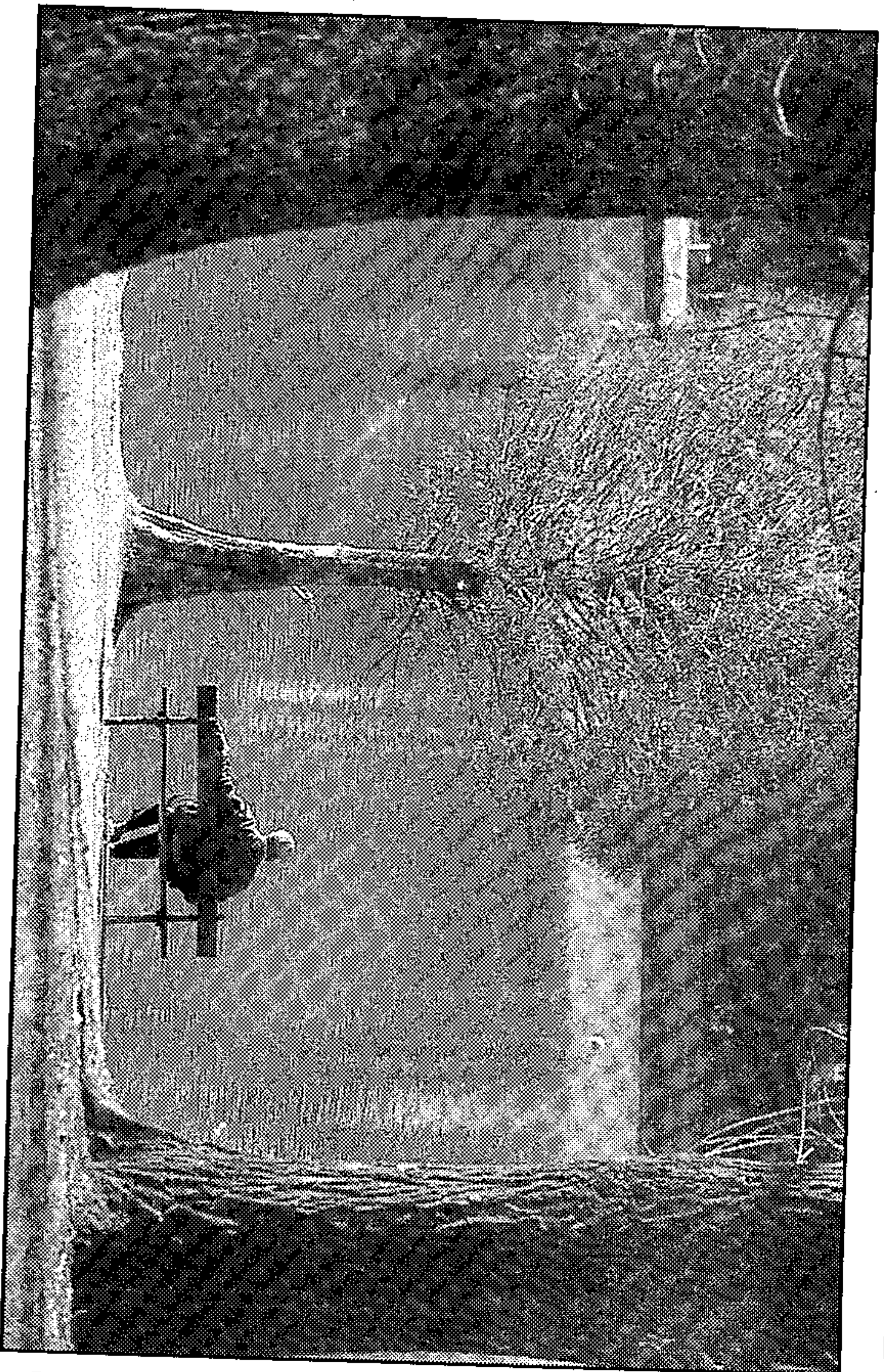
World Environment Day GAUTENG

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

"Our environment — more precious than gold" is the theme the Gauteng Directorate of Environment has chosen for its World Environment Day celebrations.

Each year, the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) chooses a country to host World Environment Day. This year, for the first time, the celebrations are being launched from South Africa.

Hundreds of international guests will be attending the



Unep festivities. The highlight is the Global 500 Awards. Six South Africans will be among laureates from 21 countries who will receive awards.

At the launch yesterday of a two-week programme of provincial events, MEC for Development Planning, Environment and Works, Sicele Shiceka, said the

theme emphasised specific environmental issues facing the province.

Highlights of special events in Gauteng over the next two weeks include an international environmental film festival, a Mardi Gras and street procession in Pretoria, and a massive clean-up campaign in Sharpe-

ville. Everyone is asked to wear green ribbons on June 5, World Environment Day.

A special Gauteng Environment Day logo and T-shirt have been designed.

The international theme "We, the people, united for the global environment" and the national slogan "Diversity is life" are de-

signed on a poster which is available free of charge from the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism.

Details of events in Gauteng and information on the logo and T-shirts can be obtained from the Gauteng directorate, telephone (011) 820-0401, fax (011) 873-8112.

Reflections on the environment . . . June 5 is World Environment Day. Gauteng will celebrate this event with a local slant. The focus will be on healthy urban environments — more precious than gold, which is worthless without a healthy planet and healthy people.
PICTURE: JODI BIBER

(51)

Janet 26/6/95

We've got the biggest, fastest, heaviest, tallest and smallest. (Animals)

World Environment Day is just about upon us. South Africans have quite a lot to shout about

In case you don't have it in your diary, let me remind you: in just over a week's time it will be World Environment Day.

This is the day on which politicians and industrialists will say pompous things about caring for the environment while, in point of fact, most of them don't give a damn.

The day has caught on globally - mainly because in Europe and the United States the public is deeply concerned and politicians are forced to take notice.

South Africa's theme this year is "diversity is life" - in other words "variety is the spice of life". In fact, variety is the key to sustainability - and sustainability is the buzzword in today's environmental debates.

Take a rain forest with its massive diversity of plant and animal life.

In an experiment in the 1970s, a scientist placed a cover over a giant Amazon tree and released a cloud of insecticide.

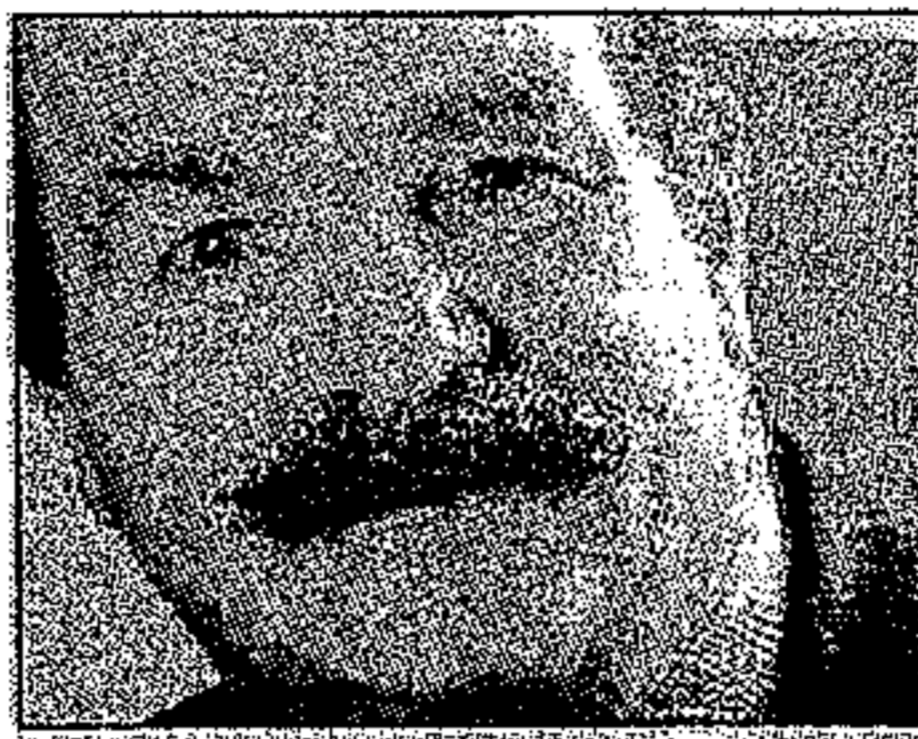
Entomologists have still described only a fraction of the new species which fell out.

It caused biologists to update the estimated number of animal species on earth from three million to at least 20 million - mostly insects.

The Amazon is probably the most stable ecosystem on earth - because of its massive diversity of interdependent plants and animals.

Everything in the forest has a role and everything that dies returns its nitrogen to the forest floor from where the plant life

BACK TO EARTH



**JAMES
Clarke**

takes it up to feed more animals ...

Nobody needs to irrigate the Amazon, yet it produces hundreds of tons of growth per hectare a year.

Nobody needs to fertilise it or spray it.

But where the forest has been cleared and planted to crops, the only creatures left are those able to live off the crops.

Farmers have to spray against a zillion pests.

There is no natural compost because the crop is removed - so the farmers have to apply nitrogen fertilizer.

And, because forest soils are usually shallow, they quickly erode and the lands are abandoned.

South Africa is a singularly fortunate country.

No country in the world has, size for size, such diversity. Not even the two biggest countries combined (Russia and Canada) can equal the number of plant species that we have - at least 22 500.

Take just ericas (fynbos). Europe's northern regions, scraped bare by the last Ice Age which ended only 10 000 years ago, has two kinds.

(57) sfon 27/5/95
South Africa, its last Ice Age being 200 million years ago, has 650 species of erica. That is the secret of South Africa's diversity, the fact that its plants have had 200 million years to evolve while Europe's have had only 100 centuries.

Spice of life

We have more than 800 species of birds.

Included are the world's largest bird, the ostrich, and the world's largest flyer, the kori bustard or gompou.

We have, off the coast, the world's largest mammals - the whales.

We have the world's largest land mammals, the elephant.

And, (after the two species of elephants - the other being in India) we have two of the world's five species of the second largest land mammal - the rhino.

And the third heaviest land mammal - the hippo.

And the fastest, the cheetah; and the tallest, the giraffe; and the smallest (several species of shrew).

We have four of the world's seven sea turtles.

We have 850 species of butterflies.

Several years ago, I was asked by *Reader's Digest* to write about "the kingfisher" - the article to be based on an American article of that title.

I wrote back asking "which one", because we have 10 kinds.

In the United States or Britain you can speak of "the swallow" and everybody knows what you mean - here we have 15 species.

In Europe you can say you've seen an eagle and everybody will know which one - here you could mean any one of 14.

We have every reason to celebrate diversity in South Africa on June 5.



LITTLE BIG HORN: Colonel Piet Lategan stores a skull and horn for the day they will be used to convict a poacher

PHOTOGRAPH: ANTON HAMMERL

Star 27/5/95 (57)

Police drive to take poachers head on

By **BRONWYN LITTLETON**

Police are moving a large anti-poaching operation into KwaZulu-Natal following the discovery last week of a black rhino and her calf, which were shot dead in the Hluhluwe reserve.

The mother's fresh and bloody horn was sold to undercover police. The calf's horn was left untouched.

Two men were arrested allegedly trying to sell the horn and a third was arrested during a follow-up operation. An Endangered Species Protection Unit (ESPU) team flew to the reserve during the week.

There they found the two dead rhinos and an AK-47 they

believe had been used for the poaching.

The ESPU has decided to move a large-scale operation into KwaZulu-Natal.

They would reinvestigate all the poaching cases over the past four years to try to establish whether there was a link, said ESPU head Colonel Piet Lategan.

Meanwhile, the unit faces transfer from its home at Vlakplaas, near Pretoria, once used as a base for alleged police hit squad activities. Police commissioner George Fivaz announced the transfer recently as part of a complete break with the past image of the old SAP.

Lategan is dismayed and is

not sure he will ever find as suitable a home. Even the farm's strong-rooms, which once apparently housed secret caches of weapons, now make perfect safes for storing confiscated animal products.

Lategan explained this week that the unit was also expanding into operations investigating transgressions of the accepted norms of toxic waste dumping and radioactivity.

Two members of the unit have been invited to attend a course at the Undercover School run by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, but they need about R20 000 each to go and the unit has been unable to raise the money.

'CONSIDERABLE TENSION' OVER SALDANHA PROJECT

Mill splits Parks Board

CT 28/4/98

56

~~57~~

STANCE: The Parks Board is still undecided about the Saldanha steel mill siting. **EUNICE RIDER** reports.

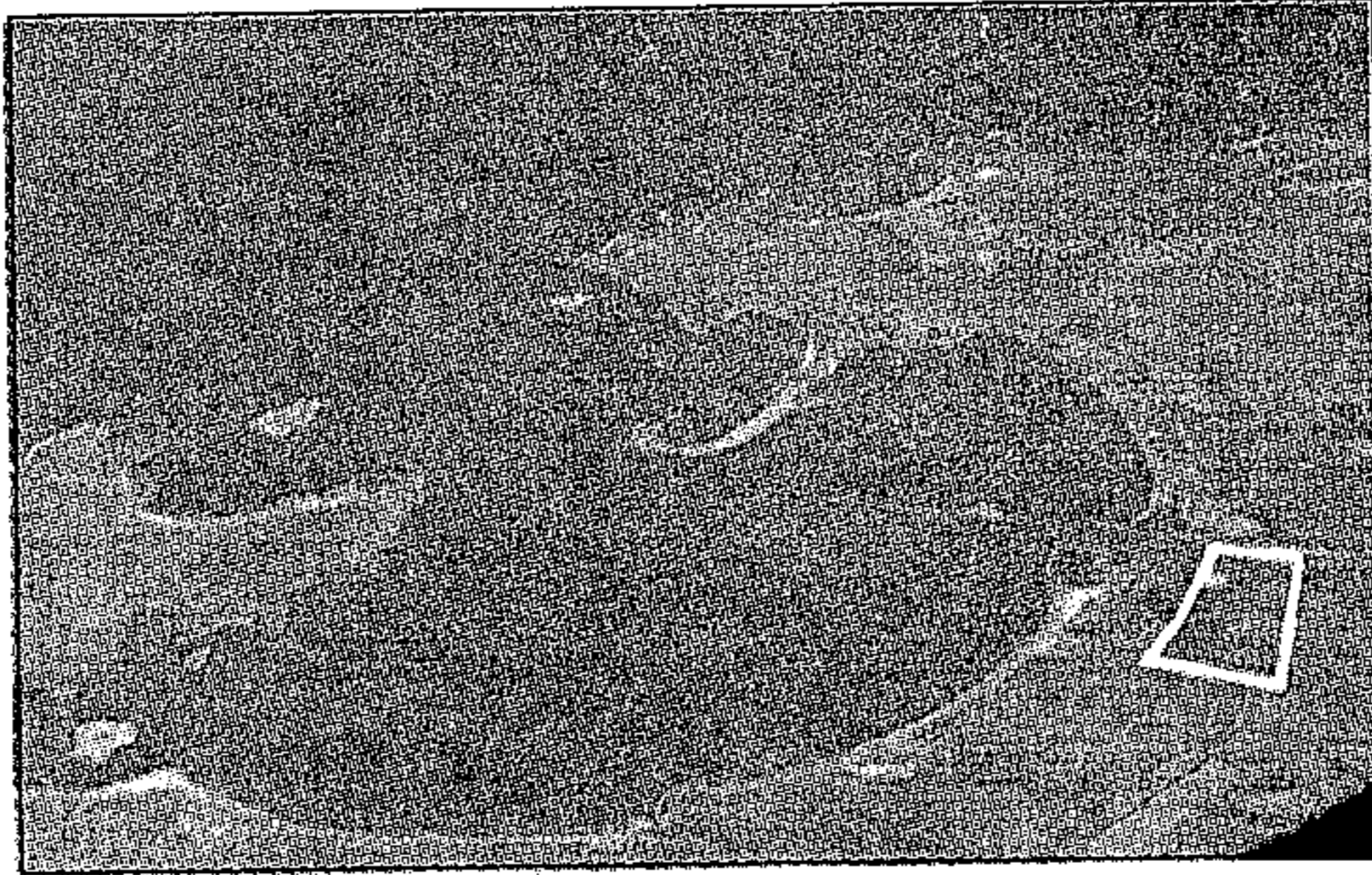
NATIONAL Parks Board chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson nearly resigned this week because of a split in the board over its stance on the planned Saldanha steel mill.

Confirming this in a telephone interview Dr Robinson said there were "considerable tensions" between himself and NPB chairman Mr Naas Steenkamp over the siting of the proposed mill.

He said he had been reprimanded by Mr Steenkamp for slating the proposed siting of the mill less than a kilometre from Langebaan Lagoon and on a direct groundwater line to the lagoon.

As the chief executive he had always been authorised to make press statements and had not felt it necessary to consult the board before stating his position on an ecological issue.

Dr Robinson dissociated him-



THE SITE: The white square marks the proposed site of the steel mill.

self from speculation that casino licences for Langebaan and Club Mykonos were being "horse-traded against keeping quiet on the steel mill development".

This speculation was raised last week by a group of scientists, professionals and landowners opposed to the steel mill.

Dr Robinson said the Langebaan Lodge, a hotel owned by the

NPB, had been approached many times by casino developers wanting it to offer casino facilities. The NPB had always refused because it felt casinos were "inappropriate".

The board had now decided to replace the building with a resort "more in line with other NPB holiday accommodation".

Following Dr Robinson's recent press statements that the establish-

ment of a steel mill on the proposed site would harm the environment, Mr Steenkamp issued a statement stressing that the NPB had not yet taken an official stand on the issue.

He also said NPB director of marketing and communications Mr Rams Ramutla had been speaking out of turn when he said the board was "totally opposed" to the project.

Mr Steenkamp said the impact the mill might have on the West Coast National Park and its surroundings had to be "very seriously considered" before the board could take a stand, and that the views expressed by Dr Robinson were his own.

Meanwhile, the head of the Western Cape Branch of the SA Wildlife Society, Mr Andy Gubb, has also opposed the mill in an open letter to Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers.

The society was concerned that Dr De Villiers had agreed to the project on the advice of the Council for the Environment.

Mountain team to produce blueprint

ST 28/5/95

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

(56)

OLD rivals in the tussle for Table Mountain have been included in a new committee which will draft a blueprint on the conservation management of the world-famous landmark.

The inclusion of Cape Nature Conservation (C N C) Chief Johan Neethling and National Parks Board (N P B) communication boss Rams Rammutla may raise eyebrows, but he has chosen a "damn good committee", Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn said this week.

The 16-member committee will work in public and has until October to decide who will inherit control of the 29 000 ha Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

Authorised by Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers, Premier Hernus Kriel and regional Conservation Minister Kobus Meiring, the committee also has to guide state law advisors on legislation to enforce their proposals.

C N C wants provincial control of the C P P N E as a unique Western Cape asset, while the Parks' Board believes it is best suited to take over the area in partnership with local stakeholders.

Dr De Villiers has cited the officially-commissioned Fuggle report in support of national legislation to protect local World Heritage Sites and provincial laws to manage them.

Meanwhile, the C P P N E management advisory committee will be reconstituted under newly-devolved provincial powers to cater for management continuity until a new authority is in place.

Mr Kahn says he received 50 nominations and the 16 names he picked were final.

"They're written in stone. I can't have these people subject to bun-fights."

Other committee members are: Peter Blignaut; Paul Britton; Mark Callaghan; Lester Coelen; Richard Cowling; Alida Croudace; Andy Gubb; Joan Hemming; Farieda Kahn; Ian Macdonald; Mvuyiswa Magabole; Abri Meiring; Mvuso Msimang; and Marie-Lou Roux.

Right to healthy environment entrenched in

DO environmental concerns triumph over economic benefits, or do these represent conflicting social interests which have to be weighed in the balance?

Acting on your own behalf or in the public interest, you can challenge any government decision to proceed with a project on the basis that it threatens to violate our Section 29 Constitutional right to an environment not detrimental to our health or well-being.

The Constitutional or Supreme Court judges will then have to perform a social cost-benefit analysis and reduce conflicting interests to a common denominator of social values.

The fact that aesthetic values and the conservation imperative might outweigh cold steel and hard economics is a sign of our times.

Just think back to the days of Koeberg, or the Milnerton refinery, when notions of public participation, transparency and environmental impact assessments were alien.

As a contribution to the recent Attorneys' Friendship Week, during which attorneys around the country reached out to the public, environmental law specialist PETER KANTOR discusses THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS *PKC 29/5/95* (56)

There are enormous tensions between short-term economics and society's interests in continued enjoyment of a healthy environment.

The reconstruction and development programme (RDP) has to produce jobs, houses and many other tangible results quickly, which are more essential needs than aesthetics.

On the other hand, in an open and democratic society based on freedom and equality, perhaps there are some things valued too highly to do without, like a healthy and self-sustaining natural environment for future generations.

The importance of Section 29 is that environmental costs are factored into the social cost benefit analysis.

Most environmental hazards are preventable, given the right standards, enforcement, technology, and public will.

The oil of the Apollo Sea need not have landed at Clifton, and the brown haze over the city in winter is not an immutable fact of life.

We do have laws to protect our environment — for example, relating to water and air pollution control, land use zoning, nature reserves, control of hazardous substances, resource conservation, and many more — but we lack the resources for effective enforcement, and the laws need to keep pace with development.

We require effective national and provincial co-ordination of the protection of natural resources, the control of pollution, and land use and planning, if we are to stand a chance of passing on our planetary inheritance to future generations intact. But this costs money, time

and effort.

Take waste disposal, for instance. In terms of Section 20 of the Environment Conservation Act, no person shall establish or operate any disposal site without a permit issued by the Minister of Water Affairs. His department is applying a set of technical minimum requirements, which are still being refined, in assessing permit applications.

These requirements also take an integrated environmental management (IEM) approach. For example, they require the participation of interested and affected parties in the development of the proposal, thorough feasibility studies, and environmental impact assessments. A lack of public support could constitute a fatal flaw affecting the feasibility of a proposed site.

At present there are about 1 600 waste disposal sites in South Africa, but up to 95 percent of them are illegal in that they do not operate under permits, usually because they would not comply with the minimum standards.

It costs a good deal to collect, transport safely and dispose of waste (both general and hazardous).

South Africa has an abundance of open space, and we can learn a lot from the American "mega site" concept — conveying non-recyclable waste to remote areas by rail (which is far cheaper than road) to relatively few but large, well-constructed and environmentally safe sites.

The benefits could be numerous, but such a proposal would require intensive research entailing high short-term costs and low short-term yields, and it would need co-ordination on a provincial and national scale.

Our Section 29 right requires more pro-active planning from our government.

Constitution

ARC 29/5/95
*Iscor-type
development
not best
for growth*

**GREEN
SCENE**

John Yeld



WORDS, words, words ...

Much has been written and even more spoken about Iscor's Saldanha Steel Project, and it's a fair bet that still more will assail ear and eye before a final decision is taken on this controversial proposal.

It's probably true to say that many of those who've been vociferous in protesting about Iscor's planned mini-steel mill are not properly informed about the issue.

It's equally true that some of them are living in a fool's paradise, unwilling to accept the harsh realities of Africa's poverty and unemployment and the ravaging impact that these are having on the continent's once splendid natural environment.

But what is not true is that there is only one way of dealing with this problem: Through old-style "economic growth", based on the ever-increasing and non-sustainable consumption of natural resources, irrespective of the cost to the natural environment.

That is the scenario being sketched by some commentators: That "economic growth" is required to alleviate the twin problems of unemployment and poverty on the West Coast and that, as such, Iscor's steel plant should be welcomed with open arms. And if it trashes the very special natural environment of the Langebaan Lagoon and the West Coast national park a bit ... well, that's the price you have to pay.

The mistake is assuming that industries like steel plants and cement factories are the most effective means of achieving economic growth and concomitant job opportunities and wealth.

Such industries are essentially short-term options, and, significantly, they are neither the only nor the best options.

It is now widely recognised that economic development, as opposed to growth, based on the sustainable utilisation of natural resources (not mining), offers the only realistic prospect of wealth creation and improving the overall quality of life.

Langebaan Lagoon and the Saldanha Bay area are prime candidates for such development, based on the sustainable use of their natural resources through industries like tourism and mariculture.

If South Africa is to prosper in the long term and its people are going to pull themselves out of the quagmire of poverty and unemployment we will have to develop an economic mind-set acknowledging that an unspoiled, naturally productive environment is not just a selfish dream of wealthy whites living in an economic time-warp.

As they say, when last did anyone see a tourist in Vanderbijlpark? And can you recall ordering a Richard's Bay oyster?

Saldanha Bay study

flawed, say greens

ARG 29/5/95

Environment Reporter

FUNDAMENTAL flaws in the environmental impact assessment of the proposed Saldanha Steel project make it ineffective as a decision-making tool, and the authorities should delay a decision until they have sufficient information.

So says the environmental group Earthlife Africa, which wants decision-makers to realise that Langebaan lagoon is an asset of national and international importance.

An Earthlife statement said: "The current haste to take a decision on the future of the steel mill is being driven by the impact that a delay will have on Iscor's profit margins."

Shortcomings in the environmental impact assessment by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research included:

- It did not consider alternative sites, which was widely recognised as an impact assessment function.

(56) (11/11/95)
● The proposed steel mill would double its capacity just six years after being commissioned, but these aspects were not covered in the assessment.

- It did not assess the secondary impact associated with the proposed mill.

- It did not assess the cumulative impact.

- It did not adequately assess the impact on "sense of place" and the compatibility of land uses.

The impact assessment was "fundamentally flawed" and, in its current state, could not be used as an effective decision-making tool.

"In the interests of broader society and the environment, we therefore call on . . . relevant government ministers to delay their decision until such time as sufficient information has been collected to make an equitable and environmentally sound decision."

Iscor: Minister faces court bid

Environment Reporter (56) (100)

A LANGEBAAN property owner is bringing an urgent Supreme Court application today to order Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to appoint a board of investigation to review Iscor's proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay.

The application was scheduled to be heard at 2 pm.

The minister can appoint a board of investigation under Section 15 of the Environment Conservation Act.

Papers have also been served on the provincial government, which is considering a rezoning application from Iscor. ARU 30/5/95

This application is for a temporary interdict restraining the province from approving the rezoning until the application for the order to Dr De Villiers has been resolved.

— The adviser shall not be obliged to contribute to any pension, medical aid or unemployment insurance fund.

— The adviser will receive 2.5 days leave per month and 3.33 days sick leave per month.

(3) No.

(4) Not applicable.

CSIR: studies into Saldanha steel project

107. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether all studies recommended in the specialist reports of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in respect of the Saldanha steel project have been undertaken; if not, why not; if so, (a) when will the results be made available for scrutiny and (b) what are the further relevant details; *HANSARD 30/5/95*
- (2) whether any studies have been undertaken to evaluate the cumulative pollution that may be generated by the steel mill and its satellite industries; if not, why not; if so, (a) when will the results be published and (b) what are the further relevant details?

SS204E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) No. Some are being addressed but not all. The balance will be commissioned by the developer if rezoning is approved.

(a) The results of the aspects that are now being addressed will be available at the end of May 1995 for public scrutiny and comments.

(b) The specialist reports refer to the following aspects that should also be addressed:

Processes within the vegetation and the location of specific populations of vegetation should be determined.

These aspects will be addressed in the environmental management plan that will be compiled for the development.

The effects of possible dust pollution.

Studies covering the effects of possible dust pollution are presently being undertaken as part of the investigations covering the proposed extensions of the harbour facilities.

Water supply and ground water.

Not yet further addressed.

Effects of transport and traffic.

These aspects are also being addressed as part of the investigations covering the proposed extensions of the harbour facilities.

The possible cumulative effect.

Not yet resolved satisfactorily and will be considered by the provincial administration.

(2) Please refer to the previous point. Due to the uncertainty with regard to the exact nature and extent of possible satellite industries, it would be very difficult to assess that effect at this stage.

SALDANHA STEEL PROJECT

STUDIES RECOMMENDED IN THE SPECIALIST STUDIES OF THE CSIR

** Appendix 2: Specialist Study of Vegetation*

— "Models to explain the processes operating within the vegetation will need to be determined." (p 12)

— "The location and extent of populations of rare and endangered species will need to be determined via ongoing field studies over the period of at least one year (all four seasons), but preferably longer." (p 12)

** Appendix 4: Specialist Study of Air and Dust Pollution*

— "It is recommended that an ambient monitoring network for dust together with an anemometer be installed at an early date to provide before and after data." (p 45)

— "It is recommended that a more detailed follow-up study be undertaken to confirm the present findings and introduce the effects of changes made subsequent to the original assumptions." (p 45)

** Appendix 5: Specialist Study of Groundwater*

— "The aquifer hydraulics should be determined and leaching studies undertaken in order to calculate expected travel time and the effect on the groundwater quality. Basic modelling of the groundwater flow rates and directions should take place to identify areas which could be impacted." (p 12)

** Appendix 7: Specialist Study on Screening of Traffic Impacts*

— "A materials transportation management plan needs to be prepared by SSP." (p 22)

— "A feasibility study on the upgrading of the rail crossing/intersection incorporating the pipe conveyor system is required urgently." (p 23)

** Some of the specialist studies recommend an ongoing monitoring programme (which should begin prior to the main construction activities to obtain background data) and an annual environmental audit, as well as a concomitant Environmental Management plan and mitigation programme, to provide an early warning of possible degradation of the environment.*

Legal attempt to stop Saldanha rezoning

CT 30/5/95

(189A) (56)

CHRIS BATEMAN

AN URGENT interdict was being prepared yesterday to prevent Western Cape Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Minister Mr Lampie Fick from rezoning land in favour of the controversial R4,8 billion Saldanha Steel mill — and to force an independent judicial probe.

The interdict was drawn up by Mr Alastair van Huyssteen on

behalf of his family's Wittedrift Trust, which believes the matter must be properly investigated by an independent board in terms of section 15 (1) of the Environmental Conservation Act.

The Wittedrift Trust, several top conservationists, the National Parks Board and the Western Cape's own Department of Nature Conservation all oppose the scheme on its present site and suggest further environmental probes.

However environmental consultant Dr John Raimondo, who vetted a CSIR environmental impact study commissioned by Saldanha Steel, has given the mill a conditional green light.

They also fear that Mr Fick's mind is "already made up", something he strongly denies.

Yesterday Mr Fick confirmed being served interdict papers and said he would not be in a position to decide before June 13 as he was

still studying Dr Raimondo's recommendations. His lawyers would oppose the interdict on these grounds.

Mr Van Huyssteen said his interdict would ask the Western Cape government to hold back a decision until the court had decided on whether a board should be appointed by Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Dawie De Villiers and, if appointed, until this board had completed its probe.

The hon the Minister also referred to the nominal value versus the manufacturing costs, which include the value of the metal. The Reserve Bank sells the coins to the banks and loses a considerable amount on each coin sold.

We have an extremely modern mint which was taken into use a few years ago, and 70.5% of its capacity is allocated to the manufacture of these coins. There are plans to mint 409 million 1c coins this year, the current financial year. This constitutes 33.9% of the capacity. The loss on that for the Reserve Bank, in rand value, is R19.2 million.

With regard to the 2c coins, of which 229 million are to be minted and which will take up 19% of the capacity, the loss is R14.9 million; for the 5c pieces, of which they want to mint 213 million and which will take up 17.6% of the capacity, the loss is R13.4 million. The total loss for the Reserve Bank to place these coins in circulation is R47.5 million for one financial year.

Instead of using more than 70% of the production capacity of a modern mint facility to produce coins at a loss, I submit that these facilities should be used to produce coins of a high value on a contract basis for other countries. The Reserve Bank has told me that there are many opportunities to tender for such contracts. Such contracts can naturally also enable us to export South African metal in a refined form. Time expired.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I urge hon members to converse quietly, because I am having difficulty following the speeches being made.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Speaker, I first of all want to register our objection to the fact that I was informed at 12:30 this afternoon that we have a two-minute slot to speak in this debate. That is not a great deal of time if one is going to make any serious contribution and do a bit of reading up as to what one could be saying. I suggest that something should be done about this. I want to ask the Minister of Finance to reduce the salary of the Government Whips to 1c each before we abolish the 1c coin.

With regard to the question of discontinuing the coins, there are various factors which need to be taken into account, as has been mentioned by the previous speakers, such as the costs, the convenience and the inflationary effects on consumer prices, particularly as far as the poor are concerned.

If we go back 20 years—the hon member Dr Alant has even gone back further—we see that nobody argued then that we should have a 1/4c coin, a 1/2c coin and a 1/3c coin, which is what the value of our coins are now compared with what they were 20 years ago. There is also the fact that inflation is about 1% per month, which means that if there are certain increases, they are quickly overtaken by inflation in any event.

I believe that while there may be a strong case for doing away with 1c and 2c coins—that is worthy of investigation—to do away with the 5c coin at this stage would be wholly inappropriate and would send out the wrong signals altogether. I might also say that as one gets older, it becomes very difficult to read the inscriptions on the 1c and 2c coins.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The hon member used less than his allocated time of two minutes.

*The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Speaker, the hon member Dr Alant is entirely correct when he says that the value of the 10c piece is only worth half a cent today. Of course there is another way in which we can solve this problem. We can simply divide everything by five. We can say that R10 is now R2; then we keep the coins. The scrapping of the coins is thus not the only way in which to solve that inflationary problem.

†The hon Mr Ken Andrew touched on another subject which I was going to raise. A factor that makes us think of looking at the coins is, firstly, the constitutionality of language. At the moment, only English and Afrikaans appear on our coins, so we have to look again at the whole issue of languages on our coins.

Secondly, we have had a number of complaints about the sizes of our coins. As the new designs will be put forward from 1996 onwards, we have asked the Reserve Bank to do a comprehensive analysis for us, not only as to whether we should have 1c, 2c, or 5c coins, or should continue to mint the 1c, 2c and 5c coins, but also with regard to the size of the coins as well as their appearance.

*I now come to the cost and profit of the Reserve Bank. If we make fewer coins the cost per coin is just as much or more as a result of the overhead costs and the fixed costs involved. If we therefore stop minting 1c, 2c and 5c coins it does not mean that the Reserve Bank will really make more money. The cost per unit of the other coins simply increases. At this stage they do not have a capacity

problem so there is no need to stop the production of those units. In addition to that, they have already been successful with tenders for overseas companies, as was the case fairly recently with regard to South America. There is no capacity problem preventing them from applying for further tenders. There is therefore no immediate need to get rid of the coins.

*Dr T G ALANT: Mr Speaker, during my previous contribution I gave three reasons for the scrapping of the coins. I would like to elaborate on the fourth reason which the Minister only touched on. That is the effect on the cost of living. My research has shown that where such steps have been taken in other countries, it had no measurable effect on the cost of living. One cannot always compare circumstances in one's own country with the circumstances in another country with regard to the scrapping of coins, but if the process of the rounding off of prices for cash sales across the counter is not exploited and we do not consistently round off upwards only, it should also have no measurable effect on our cost of living.

The Minister said that the concept of the 1c coin will naturally remain present in the monetary system, so that if one pays by cheque or by credit card one will still pay to the nearest cent. The Minister, an old banker, will know that every month one will also be able to see on one's monthly statement how far one is in the red, for example, to the nearest cent. It will thus still be to the nearest cent. Contributions in cash sales will just be rounded off.

The hon the Minister said that a change in the monetary system was also a possibility, by dividing everything by five, for example. One will naturally have to decide whether the majority of people in the country are going to understand if one has a 10c coin and one says that everything must now be divided by five and it is then 2c. It is just a bit difficult for the average man to understand. The Minister must consider whether it would not be best simply to withdraw the smaller coins.

The hon the Minister said further that the cost per unit would rise if the small coins were withdrawn, but I think it is in fact going to be advantageous, because if one withdraws the small loss-causing coins, one can then mint coins of a high quality on contract for countries abroad. When I was the Deputy Minister of Finance, there were already a number of opportunities to tender for such con-

tracts, particularly where one could also use one's own metal. The unit cost of coins of a high quality therefore does not necessarily have to increase.

I therefore ask the hon the Minister to give attention to this matter. I think it is essential that the Minister should give attention to this matter now. In those days we did not want to pursue the matter under the previous dispensation, because there was too much consultation about the process which preceded the election and it could have become a political football. However, the time is now ripe to give attention to the issue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr Speaker, allow me to thank the members for their very valuable and constructive inputs regarding the issue we are looking at. May I just remind the House that I am not an old banker, but a banker of long standing. [Laughter.]

I really do not have much more to add to this. I indicated in my opening remarks that we wanted to look at this issue on a comprehensive basis. We want to look at it in relation not only to scrapping, but also to size and language. When dealing with coins, we are dealing with a population of which a section is illiterate and a number are blind, and we then do not consider changing these coins too often, or even scrapping some of them. When we consider this issue, it must be done based on a comprehensive analysis, and then as seldom as possible.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I would like to appeal to hon members that we may create the impression to the outside world that we, as members of Parliament, are not interested in small change. However, I would appreciate it if we could give the speakers an opportunity to address the House without being interrupted.

Debate concluded.

Discarded motor car, truck, tractor tyres
3. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether any measures have been taken or are to be taken to deal with the accumulation of used and discarded motor car, truck and tractor tyres; if not, why not; if so, what measures?
N701EJINT

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, the hon member asked whether effective measures had been taken to deal with the accumulation of used

(56) Hancock 31/5/95

tyres. The answer is no. The fact is that scrap tyres are a serious environmental threat if they are not disposed of in an acceptable manner.

There are confirmed reports of tyre fires polluting water sources for periods in excess of 15 years. Unfortunately the majority of this pollution takes place in our underprivileged areas, where the community uses this polluted water for domestic purposes. This form of pollution has serious long-term effects, not only on our scarce water resources, but also on people, and must be prevented. In addition, serious air pollution is caused by tyre fires. In South Africa we cannot afford pollution of our scarce water resources, and additional air pollution is equally unacceptable.

The department is aware of this problem. At present the only commonly available method of disposing of scrap tyres in an environmentally acceptable manner is, of course, landfilling. However, when whole, intact tyres are disposed of in a landfill, a void is created. This void is usually filled either by water or air and, as a result of a natural microbial reaction, spontaneous combustion could result. Tyres that have been disposed of in a landfill cannot be compacted and over time migrate to the surface of the landfill. Therefore, many landfill operators are unwilling to accept whole tyres.

The problem could be solved by cutting the tyres into quarters. This would assist disposal at landfill sites, reduce transport costs and render scrap tyres more acceptable, also as a fuel. However, there is a cost involved in cutting the tyres. The total cost of cutting tyres into quarters is R3,00 to R4,00 for a motor car tyre and approximately R8,00 for a truck tyre. The person or organisation wanting to dispose of the tyre is at present liable for the payment of this disposal cost. The result, of course, is that there is a financial disincentive in making use of this method of disposal.

An acceptable method must be found to discourage the illegal dumping of tyres. Legislation to deal with this matter could be considered. I believe it should be made an offence to dump tyres unlawfully as well as to have substantial quantities of scrap tyres on a property unless one is authorised to do so as a registered car dealer or retailer. [Time expired.]

Mr M F CASSIM: Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Minister for the manner in which he is approaching this entire issue. I have a very ghostly tale to

tell about tyres that surfaced from below. If I had to rephrase Shakespeare, it would go as follows:

The time has been that when the tyres were out, the issue would die, and there an end. But now they rise again with 80 000 tons to add to the annual store.

That is the whole problem. We have a situation where eight million tyres are scrapped in this country on an annual basis. Let us look at this over a ten-year period. We are then looking at ten times that amount and, projected forward, one would begin to realise what a huge mountain of tyres we could end up with.

What this Government should do, is to encourage pyrolysis. However, instead of pyrolysis, there is a paralytic, and that is the whole burning issue here. This paralytic adds to the problem of burdening this beautiful country of ours with pollution. It is polluting our waters.

The Minister is quite right. There is the problem of spontaneous combustion. Tyres are put into organic dumps, and a temperature of up to 100 degrees centigrade is generated in these dumps, which is the flash point for methane gas. Methane combusts spontaneously at that temperature.

Discarded tyres, therefore, indeed create a very serious problem. I would like to ask my colleague Mr Johnny de Lange to do what the Americans do. There is an amnesty day in the United States. On this day one can actually bring one's discarded tyres to central points and they will be disposed of. That would be a useful start in South Africa. The issue of tyres that are accumulating is so serious that it warrants legislation.

In our country we have 80 different Acts that cover the question of pollution and waste management, but there is not one single reference to the disposal of tyres. How can we accept this attitude of neglect and allow the problem to build up to a point where it will become simply too costly and expensive to deal with the tyre problem?

In the USA tyres are also used for clean fuels, and oils, gases and a number of other components which could be useful. In fact, rubber crumbs could be used by the Minister of Transport as fillers and extenders on road surfaces. [Time expired.]

Mrs B M NZIMANDE: Mr Speaker, hon members, I am happy that the hon the Minister has actually agreed that nothing is being done about

discarded tyres. This constitutes a health hazard. We have to remember that section 29 of the Constitution grants us the right to an environment which is not detrimental to our health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is a matter of great concern that nothing is being done about the discarded tyres and motor cars that are lying around. Right now the whole country is engulfed by an uproar about the soaring crime rate. Some of the crime schemes are hatched in those discarded motor cars. There are no plans to deal with this matter in a manner that would not be hazardous to the communities.

We have to know that in other countries legislation has been put in place to guard against the health hazard posed by tyres. In this country we have only one piece of legislation that touches on tyres, and it deals with the tread of a tyre. There is no other legislation in this regard.

We really need to think of how tyres can be recycled and used effectively. There are different strategies that could be utilised. I am thinking, for instance, of a logistical strategy with regard to the collection of tyres. One must take the ecological factors into consideration. There should be no adverse effect on the environment. Economically, tyres could be used in a cost-effective manner by generating products of commercial value. There is also the technical side. Discarded tyres could be used for other rubber materials in new products. There could even be political gains, in that there could be co-operation with local authorities in regard to the collection of tyres and by ensuring that a health hazard to the communities is not created.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, I thank the two hon members who made some valuable suggestions as to how the discarded tyres could be used. When I responded to the hon member's question in this regard by saying no, I did not mean that the department was neutral about this problem. Indeed, we are seized with this problem. Alternative methods will have to be found to deal with it, and some of the measures suggested will have to be encouraged.

Mr Cassim referred to other countries. As a point of interest, Scandinavian countries and I believe also some states in the United States forbid the disposal of tyres in landfill sites. The department is at present seriously considering ways of resolving the problem. Therefore I appreciate the hon Mr Cassim's having raised the issue here. The

problem has been investigated by the national committee for recycling in the tyre and rubber industry and also by the department, and we are considering a number of possible solutions.

These include, firstly, the re-use and recycling of tyres. Almost all tyres without a steel core can be reused for a number of purposes, such as doormats, bakkie mats, mining bags, etc. Secondly, scrap tyres can be used as fuel. Cement manufacturers can use scrap tyres effectively as fuel in their cement cones. Scrap tyres can replace 20% of the coal which is being used for fuel at present. The kilns have to be adjusted in order for one to use these tyres as fuel, but it is a viable proposition. However, as in the case of all the other methods, there is a cost involved. In this case it will amount to approximately R1,00 per tyre. Cement manufacturers currently have problems with a reliable supply of sufficient tyres in order continuously to sustain a kiln. [Time expired.]

Mr M F CASSIM: Mr Speaker, the Minister is absolutely right. The cement manufacturers in this country would be quite happy to take all the tyres they could get to fire their kilns. There is no law in place in this connection, however, although I would be quite happy to introduce a private member's motion in this respect, so that we could inject some degree of haste into this matter. The cement manufacturers would take up all the available tyres tomorrow if supplies were plentiful.

My colleague whispered in my ear that when he went to Tanzania he found that they were making shoes out of old tyres there. The list is endless. Tyres can be used for dock fenders, shoe soles, mats, packaging, rubber crumbs, a source of chemicals, carbon black, oils or gas by means of controlled pyrolysis, fuel for generating steam, and so on and so forth. What is missing is one ingredient, namely a law. The only law with reference to tyres on our Statute Book deals with the depth of tyre treads. Apart from that, tyres and statutes are completely separate in this country.

How do we bring about some haste? I know that the Minister is not directly responsible for this, but the Deputy Minister is. I would like to interact with him. I would like to suggest that if there is pyrolysis and not pyrolysis on their part, we could probably help. This is an issue that the whole of Parliament should be concerned about.

At the moment, for example, in the Cape Town municipal dumps, it is found that only 10% of all

tyres are returned. There is a great mystery as to what happens to the eight million tyres discarded annually in this country, because eight million tyres are manufactured here annually. If we could put some kind of legislation on the Statute Book, we could . . . [Interjections.] Oh, the hon member Mr Leon wants to use them for necklaces. I would suggest that there are more profitable purposes. We could use tyres for RDP purposes. I believe we need to move as speedily as possible in regard to this matter.

I would like to thank the Minister for responding to this issue. I appreciate that the department may have been active in this regard. The tyre manufacturers and the rubber industry itself are beginning to realise the gravity of the problem. All of us now know that the problem exists.

We do not want a mountain of tyres outside in front of Parliament. These days everyone is protesting. Will Parliament act only when somebody drops a whole pile of tyres in front of the building? I would like to appeal that this matter should be dealt with as expeditiously and speedily as possible. [Interjections.]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The wheels have not come off in the House!

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, I have indicated to the hon member that I am not averse to the idea of legislation. However, I believe one must only legislate once one has tried all other options. We do not want a country that is governed by legislation from A to Z.

I know that the main problem in this regard is again that of the cost factor. To overcome the problem of funding the disposal of discarded tyres, I am quite sympathetic to considering the imposition of some kind of small voluntary levy. If the industry would approve the imposition of such a small voluntary levy on the manufacture and even importation of tyres and casings, this levy could be imposed at the point of manufacture or importation in the case of imported tyres and casings. The levy could be used to cover the cost of reducing and disposing of discarded tyres and would represent a reasonably small addition to the user's bill. The fund could also be used to promote alternative uses for discarded tyres, as was suggested here this afternoon.

I thank the hon member for raising this very important issue in this debate.
Debate concluded.

Income tax/consumption tax

4. Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Finance: Whether any consideration has been or is to be given to the replacement of income tax and other forms of tax with a consumption tax; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N703E.INT

***THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Mr Speaker, when Dr Botha asks a question, one should be cautious. When he requests an interpellation, one should be careful.

The issue of consumption tax which Dr Botha has raised, is a very complex and wide-ranging issue. I am sure that instead of a 15-minute interpellation, we could have a debate of a few hours on the whole issue.

The theory of course looks very simple, and very nice. Why do we not rather tax people on what they spend and consume than on what they earn and save? It seems wrong that people should be taxed on what they save and what they earn. I would imagine that this is fine for countries with a high per capita GDP, generally First World countries. When one deals with a country with the inequalities of South Africa in terms of income, social distribution and savings levels it is a different matter. We have one of the highest genn coefficients in the world. One just wonders whether it would be the right strategy to follow to move to a consumption tax only.

I am told that our consumption is 60% of our GDP. Making a ready rule-of-thumb calculation, if our GDP is around R500 billion, our consumption is around R350 billion. To get the tax that we need, if it is all consumption-based, we will have a VAT or GST, or whatever one wants to call that particular tax, of 50%. That gives one a tremendous incentive for tax evasion and tax avoidance, especially if one then wants to collect all that consumption tax at the point of consumption. I believe we need a mix, especially in a country with the distortions that we have. I believe we need a mix, not only between income and consumption tax, but also between corporate and private tax.

As the economies of the First World become more sophisticated, we find that the tax burden seems to shift a little to the private individual. In South Africa we are already struggling with this enormous problem of First and Third World economies. We already have a very high contribution by the private individual and a decline in the contribution of the corporate sector.

I just do not know if we would consider a consumption tax in its entirety at this stage. I do not know what it would do to the tax burden of the individual and what it would do to the whole image of investor-friendliness which one would like to project to the rest of the world. I am told that if we were to do this, we would be the first country to move to a consumption tax only. I do not think we would like to inspire potential investors with being pioneers on this particular issue.

***Dr W J BOTHA:** Mr Speaker, one of the Bothas of whom the hon the Minister should be careful, has already left. There is only one left, who is sitting here on the right, but he is not there very often! [Laughter.]

It is true that we are a country with great differences. There are great differences between income and expenditure, and this is also relevant as far as taxes that are levied is concerned. When one leaves school, one is accustomed to receiving a cup or a certificate for an achievement. However, when one finds oneself in the harsh adult world, one promptly finds out that one is penalised for being a little different, if one earns more than other people, or if one works overtime. This is the shock which many young people experience.

A rate that would be approximately 50% has been mentioned. We know that at present VAT is 14%. We know that one pays tax every time one fills up with fuel. Someone calculated that the hidden cost associated with the price of a product is in the region of 20% as far as tax is concerned. This already brings us to 34%.

This entails a different, friendlier way of collecting tax. I am not saying it is a perfect way, but when I have paid tax, I want to know that I have finished doing so. When I purchase a property or possess anything else, I do not want to keep wondering what the tax collector is going to do with this once I am dead, because he certainly follows one from the cradle to the grave! He

simply never finishes with one! When all those taxes have been added it comes to 50%.

If one pays 50% at the cash register, one knows that one has finished paying. Then one can do what one pleases with the money that is left. At least one knows one is not going to be taxed on savings or investments. Then one could start a business, because one knows exactly what the tax is going to be.

The case that I want to make is that we are in fact already paying a rate of 50%, if everything is added up. Now the Katz Commission is trying to find more ways in which to collect money! One of its instructions is to take a look at the "retirement industry, including pension and provident funds". Even when one has finished working, the receiver is still peering over one's shoulder. We should go and take a look at what is happening in America. [Time expired.]

***THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! According to my list the hon the Minister of Finance is the next speaker. I do not think Mr Chiole is the new Minister of Finance! [Laughter.]

***THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Mr Speaker, one does not only pay tax upon one's retirement. One also pays tax when one is dead, because there is estate duty as well, which the hon member has not mentioned!

I concede to all the points which the hon member Dr Botha has raised. He made very constructive inputs, and I suggest that he should submit his proposals to the Katz Commission for further investigation. One of the instructions of that commission is to ensure that we maintain a sound balance between revenue and consumption.

What I have discovered in the few months during which I have been sitting in Parliament, is that one can only implement economically what is politically acceptable. This is an aspect to which one will have to give very careful consideration. We will have to talk to and consult with different interest groups before we take such a step.

I know that at present there is a movement in America which feels strongly that all tax should be changed into consumption tax. Their department is at present giving serious consideration to this matter.

I will not allow South Africa, considering all the changes that we have undergone, and particularly in view of the fact that we are making an effort to build confidence among local as well as overseas

Cape Point construction starts

□ New restaurant complex 'should be ready by Christmas'

FALL 31|5|95 (51)

Environment Reporter

THE new restaurant complex in the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve at Cape Point will be "fast-tracked" during the winter months and should be completed by Christmas.

But the funicular railway from the parking area to the look-out point at the old lighthouse will probably take longer.

So says construction company Concor, which has promised to exercise "extreme care" during building operations.

Cape Metropolitan Council chairman Willie van Schoor turned the first sod during a ceremony this week to mark the start of construction.

This follows recent approval for the project — which has evoked strong opposition from some environmentalists — by regional Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring. Mr Van Schoor said Cape



ARTISTS' IMPRESSION: This is what the northern profile of the complex, which faces out across False Bay, will look like.

Point was the fifth most popular tourist attraction in South Africa and attracted 450 000 visitors last year.

"Tourism is the lifeblood of the Western Cape and tourist

numbers will be increasing dramatically from now until the year 2000 — whether we like it or not.

"The council is mindful of its important role in protecting our natural heritage, and I can say with confidence that this development is aimed at leaving the reserve in its natural state as much as possible, without compromising the Point's scenic qualities."

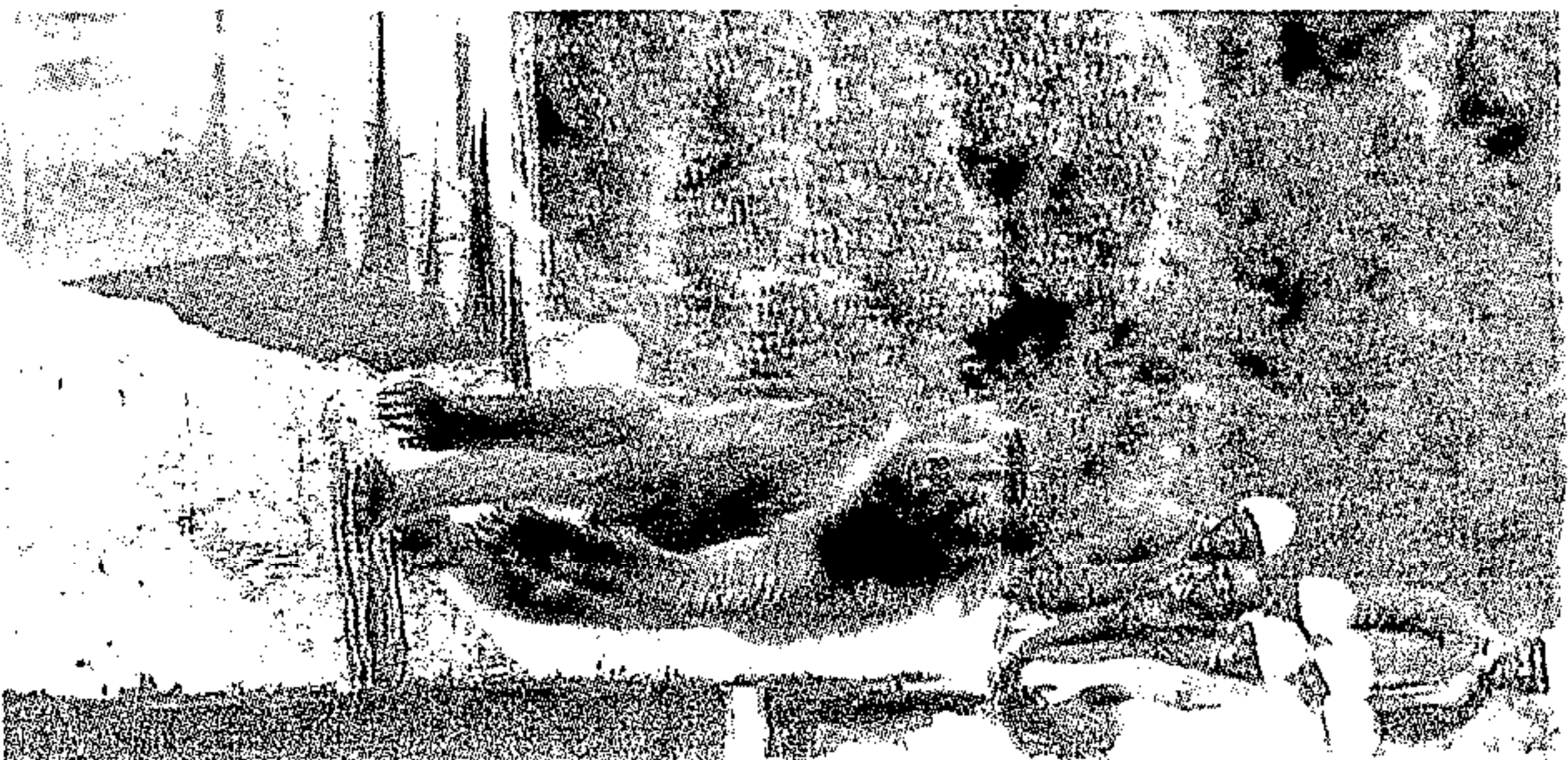
Project manager Wynand Dreyer said the new restaurant, curio shop and refreshment kiosk would probably be open for the Christmas holiday season, but the funicular was unlikely to be ready.

"Long delivery items such as electronic safety controls and the passenger cars make it difficult to accelerate the timing on this system."

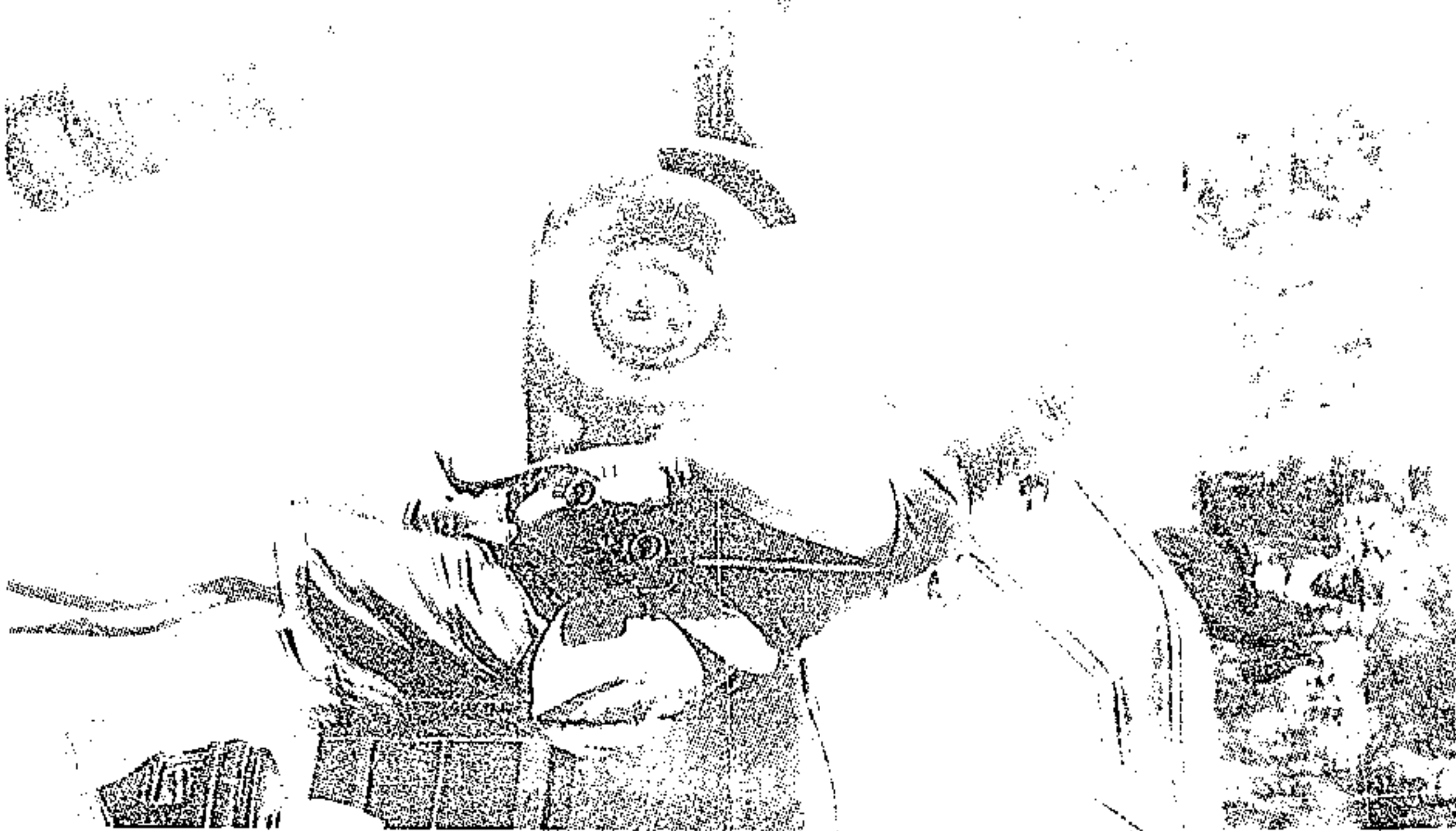
Referring to the environmental impact of construction, Mr Dreyer said extreme care would be exercised in all aspects of the contract and that the construction team would take its responsibilities "very seriously".

"We have a highly competent, professional team, designing with minimum impact on the environment in mind."

Visitors to the reserve were invited to comment on construction and could contact Ms Campbell at 461 1118/9. Mr Dreyer said



WATCH THE BIRDIE! Watch your back at Cape Point. Baboons can be extremely dangerous and aggressive — and should not be fed.



WATCH THE BIRDIE! A tourist at Cape Point takes a close-up shot of a baboon. Baboons can be extremely dangerous and aggressive — and should not be fed.

Langebaan trust applies for interdict on Iscor

Supreme Court Reporter

AN application in the Supreme Court to interdict the authorities over the controversial proposed steel mill at Saldanha has been postponed to June 13.

The application is by the three trustees of the Wittedrift Trust which owns property on the Langebaan lagoon and is directed at, among others, regional Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Kobus Meiring, the Western Cape Premier Hermus Kriel, Iscor and municipalities on the West Coast.

The merits of the case were not discussed but the trust is seeking a court order forcing the Minister to appoint a board to investigate the proposed mill and its influences on the surrounding area.

It also seeks an order preventing the rezoning until the investigation is complete.

The Minister, the Premier and Lampie Fick, the regional Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism, have given an undertaking not to give a decision on the rezoning of the land before the case goes to court again next month.

AKG 315195

In papers, one of the trustees, Aastair van Huyssteen, said he regarded the application as urgent because "an asset of national and international importance is at stake".

"The dilemma is that the rezoning process stumbles along without the advantages of a investigation in terms of the Environment Protection Act."

Mr Justice Foxcroft was on the Bench and Dawid de Villiers, QC, and Lance Burger appeared for the trust. The respondents have not yet replied.

YOU WILL! DR LOWER LIQUOR



'Links need
Diplomatic Correspondent
SOUTH Africa is looking it
up its international co-o-
the investigation of crimin

full-time duty during a state of emergency and, where applicable, informer fees.

Repeal of National Key Points Act

*7. Mrs G N M PANDOR asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether he intends introducing legislation aimed at repealing the National Key Points Act, 1980 (Act No 102 of 1980); if not, why not; if so, when?

N629E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

No. I do not intend introducing legislation during this session aimed at repealing the National Key Points Act, 1980 (Act No 102 of 1980).

Professor Tertius Geldenhuys of the Law Faculty of UNISA has been requested by the National Defence Force to study and make recommendations regarding the Act. Any draft proposals to either amend or repeal the Act will in all probability only be laid before Parliament next year.

Tax concessions: donations to educational sector

*8. Mrs I MARS asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether tax concessions are only being granted in respect of donations to the educational sector; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (2) whether he has given consideration to similar tax concessions being granted in respect of duly registered and approved welfare organisations; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,
- (3) whether he will give consideration to any representations in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N630E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Tax concessions in respect of donations consist mainly of two categories. On the one hand, the Income Tax Act contains extensive tax concessions in that any receipts and accruals and consequently also all donations received by approved religious, charitable and educational institutions are exempt from tax.

On the other hand, the deductibility of donations from income is limited mainly to donations to the education sector. As a general rule, donations by individuals and companies to universities or colleges, tertiary institutions and educational funds established for schools which provide secondary education beyond the sixth standard, are, in terms of section 18A of the Income Tax Act, deductible for tax purposes. I think this is the section that the hon member really had in mind. Donations by companies to certain special funds to be used for educational or training purposes in respect of primary and secondary education also qualify as a tax deduction. These deductions are, however, limited to the greater of R500 or 2% of the taxable income in the case of individuals and 5% of the taxable income in the case of companies.

- (2) One of the major problems currently being experienced in the application of section 18A is that the system is being increasingly abused by reason of the fact that some schools are partially converting their school fees into deductible donations. Since this problem cannot be satisfactorily overcome, other possible alternatives will have to be considered.

In the interim report of the Commission of Inquiry into Certain Aspects of the Tax Structure of South Africa, the tax concessions in respect of donations were dealt with in detail. The Commission noted that the RDP White Paper (paragraph 7.6.6) states that the Government strongly favours the establishment of co-ordinating bodies for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which should be substantially independent of the Government. The body could be recognised by the Government and could perform the role of an accreditation body and only institutions or organisations which are approved by the body could qualify to be considered for exempt status and consequently that donations to them be tax deductible. The purpose of the co-ordinating body would be to exercise control over NGOs. The Commission recommended that if such a co-ordinating body was established it should be a requirement for exemption or

tax deduction that the NGOs be registered with this body.

- (3) Tax concessions very often open the door for inefficiencies in the allocation of resources. Consequently, well-targeted support through the expenditure side of the budget may by and large be preferable. The Ministry of Finance will not make any representations itself as the responsibility for designing and recommending an appropriate welfare system, within which an idea like that raised by the member needs to be assessed, is that of the Minister of Welfare. Representations with regard to alternatives which will eliminate abuse of the current system of tax concessions, will always be considered.

Household waste: generating of electricity

*9. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: (56)

Whether he intends introducing legislation making provision for household waste being used for generating electricity without adding to the gases emitted into the atmosphere by other processes; if not, why not; if so, what is the policy in this regard?

Hansard 31/5/95 N631E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

No legislation regarding the use of household waste to generate electricity is envisaged at this moment. Research on the economical viability and environmental impact of such a venture in South Africa would be required. According to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs such a process is at the moment not economically viable. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism will be examining numerous waste management options as part of its project to develop an Integrated Pollution Control Policy.

Key questions that may be asked about the aims of a "waste to energy" process are: Will it reduce the use of coal; will it reduce the amount of municipal waste for dumping; will it reduce air pollution and will it generate cheaper electricity?

The use of coal will be reduced to a certain extent and by implication less waste will have to be disposed of. Potential for air pollution will

be a function of the actual process used to convert waste to energy. An indirect benefit could be a reduction in the amount of methane gas which is produced in waste disposal sites. Methane is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect. Generation of electricity will, however, not be cheaper due to the erection costs of waste to energy plants and the relatively low energy value of the waste in comparison to coal (9 Gigajoule/ton versus 30 Gigajoule/ton).

Mr M F CASSIM: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, will he set in motion public hearings so that we can delve into this topic in greater detail?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, research in the use of energy and more appropriate sources of energy is being done under the auspices of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs. I think the hon member should perhaps direct his question to that department, which will be able to inform him as to various research projects into the sourcing of cheaper energy, particularly in rural areas.

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Mr Speaker, the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs has requested that Question 10 stand over until next week owing to the fact that both he and the Deputy Minister are abroad.

*10. Mr C W EGLIN—Foreign Affairs. [Question standing over.]

The MINISTER OF HOUSING: Mr Speaker, I request that Question 11 stand over until the return of the Minister for the Public Service and Administration. [Question standing over.]

*11. Mr K M ANDREW—Public Service and Administration. [Question standing over.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has expired. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 199(3) of the Standing Rules for the National Assembly.

Divorced women: pensions/grants

*12. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:

Whether any adult women who do not qualify for social pensions or grants on the grounds of age, disability or maternity are being paid pensions or grants because they are divorced; if

Gauteng earmarks land for major game reserve

Michael Moor

(SB) BD 31/5/95

THE Gauteng government was planning to establish a major game reserve north of Pretoria in the Rust de Winter/Leeuwkraal area, development planning, environment and works MEC Sicelo Siceka said yesterday.

The new reserve would be a joint ecotourism venture between the province and local communities, and formed part of Gauteng's land reform programme due to be launched at the weekend.

A 50 000ha area in the north-east quadrant of the province had been earmarked as a pilot project for the provincial land reform programme, for which R35m had already been allocated, said Siceka.

The reserve would be one of several planned "economic nodes" aimed at uplifting local communities and at giving them a stake in the areas they lived in.

"At present Gauteng has no major wildlife tourist attraction and we believe such a facility is necessary for overseas visitors to this part of the country," said Siceka. The planned reserve was about an hour's drive from Johannesburg.

Local communities would be involved in all planning and, in addition to receiving a share of tourism proceeds, would provide all labour and supplies at lodges.

The pilot project included parts of the Wonderboom, Cullinan and Bronkhorstspuit magisterial districts.

About 30 000 people lived in the district, mainly in informal settlements, and unemployment was between 80% and 85%.

Feasibility studies on the reserve would be completed by the end of this year and a two-year time frame for completion of the project was "realistic", said Siceka.

Action on mill project delayed

CHRIS BATEMAN
AND EUNICE RIDER

CT 31/5/95

AN URGENT application against the rezoning of land earmarked for Iscor's controversial R4,8-billion Saldanha Steel mill project at Langebaan Lagoon was postponed in the Cape Supreme Court yesterday to mid-June.

In an affidavit to the court, attorney Mr Alastair Morrison van Huyssteen, who is one of three trustees of the Wittedrift Trust which owns land in the area, said the provincial authorities had agreed not to decide on the rezoning till June 14 and they had therefore agreed to postpone the application to June 13.

The eight respondents in the matter include the Minister of the Environment and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, the Premier of the Western Cape, Mr Henus Kriel, Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Mr Lampie Fick, the National Parks Board, Iscor and Saldanha Steel.

Meanwhile, a former Iscor project manager for the upgrading of the Vanderbijlpark steel works, Mr

Hans Esser, said yesterday he was opposed to the proposed project.

In a letter to Mr Tinus Slabber, a lawyer representing objectors, Mr Esser suggested that the steel be manufactured at Sishen, thereby reducing complex transport problems, and the end-product be railed to Saldanha for export.

Monitoring

Mr Esser says even with modern technology for the plant's air filtration mechanism, the proposed site will "nevertheless lead to a considerable impairment of the biological balance in the neighbouring nature reserve".

Also yesterday, it emerged Saldanha's executive chairman, Mr Bernard Smith, had written to Mr Slabber and said he was drafting a deed to set up an environmental monitoring trust with Saldanha Steel and outside role-players as trustees.

The trust would establish a contractual right to apply "certain sanctions" to the plant and firm "if reasonable but demanding pollution criteria are exceeded".

Dump blues, green idea

(56)

SFM 28/4/95

Waste paper plan

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

A nationwide project to take the recycling of paper out of the basement and into the boardroom has been launched by a large paper producer.

Known as the Paperback Programme, it offers businesses the opportunity to make a green statement by diverting office paper from landfills to recycling plants.

The programme will not cost participating companies anything.

In fact they stand to earn moderate financial returns.

"Mondi will set up the systems and supply the equipment. All we need is support and co-operation," said Bob Hunt, manager of Mondi Recycling.

The Paperback Programme is an effort to cut down on paper in dumps, about 34% of the waste

in landfills. Offices account for 85% of that.

It works like this:

■ Once a company signs up, each workstation gets two bins: one for paper and another for rubbish.

■ The paper is weighed at a depot.

Its quality and recovery cost determine its value.

■ Payment is made after the end of the month, or special arrangements can be made.

Hunt points out there are obvious public relations opportunities for companies involved in the project.

"It's an opportunity for big business to make a strong green statement, earmark their contributions for worthy environmental organisations and involve staff in a new mindset to benefit our environment."

For further information contact Steve Harley on (021) 461-3990/2.

Eskom comes clean on the environment

(56) (244) *SAPA 28/4/95*
 ■ BY ANITA ALLEN
 SCIENCE WRITER

Eskom has chosen to celebrate the first anniversary of the new South Africa with the release of its first environmental report, and by so doing becomes the first large corporation in South Africa to go public on its environmental performance.

Underlining its commitment to the environment, Eskom now employs 50 full-time environmental specialists, while another 47 technically qualified employees deal with environmental issues as part of their duties.

Highlights of the 38-page report show:

- Eskom's power stations are emitting fewer gases that cause the greenhouse effect, and using less water per unit of electricity produced.
 - Eskom believes improved air quality can best be achieved by applying limited capital resources to residential electrification, rather than installing improved pollution control equipment.
 - For "a long time to come", Eskom will continue to rely on coal-based power stations for electricity generation.
- Under environmental issues fundamental to marginalised communities, the report commits

Eskom to:

- Reducing the real price of electricity by 15%, so as to become the world's lowest cost producer of electricity. At present it is the second lowest.
- Electrifying 300 000 homes a year to the end of the century.
- Spending R50-million a year to supply small electricity generating units to clinics and schools in rural areas.

In the process of burning 76,9-million tons of coal in 1994, Eskom's power stations have emitted 122 000 tons of particulates (fine ash and visible smoke), 143 000 000 tons of carbon dioxide, 1 167 000 tons of sulphur oxides and 961 000 tons of nitrogen oxides.

Of 22-million tons of ash waste produced during 1994, 800 000 tons (3%) was sold for making cement and bricks. Rehabilitation has been completed for 60% of the ash dump sites no longer in use. This involved shaping, covering with soil and planting with suitable vegetation.

Eskom now administers some 240 000 km of powerlines. Its policy is to route these lines with minimal impact on communities, agriculture and wildlife.

By reviewing its current environmental status in the open, Eskom has set up a standard against which future performance can be evaluated.

Paraffin prices to drop by 1c

The price of domestic paraffin will drop by 1c a litre from Wednesday, the Central Energy Fund has said. The downward adjustment of 1c is a result of economic factors.

The paraffin price has fallen by 4c since the start of the year, while petrol and diesel prices have risen by 12c and 1c a litre over the same period.

Petrol and diesel prices have moved up mainly because of the strengthening of prices on international markets.

The March Budget also announced a 2c-a-litre increase in fuel taxes. The next 1c adjustment due to higher tax comes into effect on Wednesday.

Paraffin will cost 90,43c a litre from that day on the coast and 101,43c in Gauteng, the fund said. — Sapa

83-year-old nabs thief

Oslo (Norway) — As if being captured wasn't bad enough, an armed bank robber had to suffer the indignity of being nabbed by an angry octogenarian passer-by here this week. The 83-year-old hero suffered a broken nose, a black eye and a few cuts but still managed to hang on until others joined in. — Sapa-AP.

Top SA resort areas targeted for casinos

(56) ST 30/4/95
By CHRIS BARRON

SOME of South Africa's best-loved and most beautiful resort areas have been targeted for the development of multimillion-rand casinos by one of the biggest players in the hunt for gambling licences.

Langebaan and Hermanus in the Western Cape and the George-Knysna area have been earmarked by Rand Merchant Bank's casino arm, Global Resorts SA.

Sites for developments of R50-million to R150-million have already been identified and approved by local authorities in these areas, according to Global Resorts chief executive Ernie Joubert.

Other areas targeted include Bloemfontein in the Free State, Kimberley in the Northern Cape, Worcester and Oudtshoorn in the Western Cape, Midrand and an area close to Soweto in Gauteng, Klerksdorp in North-West province, Pietersburg in Northern Transvaal, Maritzburg and Durban (North Coast) in Kwazulu Natal, Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape and Nelspruit in the Eastern Transvaal.

Global Resorts has teamed up with Century Casinos, a major US-based group which has six casino operations in the US, to bid for some of the 23 casino licences on offer.

Global Resorts hopes that Century Casinos will give it the kind of credibility and status it will need to counter the huge fund of experience that Sun International, which already has 17 licences, will bring to the bidding contest.

The biggest battle will be for the single mega-casino licence in the Cape Town metropolitan area which local authorities have said they will grant. At least six companies will be competing for what could be a capital commitment of up to R1-billion.

Sun International has bought a site in Goodwood for a reputed R35-million.

Global Resorts, which has reserved a 30 percent block of its shares for black-interest groups, has appointed Capital Alliance, South Africa's first black-owned merchant bank, to assist in identifying suitable black partners.

Third degree over wetlands

□ *'Project will have severe impact on environment'* ^{ARL 12/5/95} ⁽⁹⁾

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

ABOUT 200 residents of Tokai gave consultants for the Dreyersdal Farm wetlands development a torrid time at a public meeting in the Kirstenhof Primary School hall this week.

Consultants conceded the proposed residential component of the 11-hectare project would have a severe impact on the environment.

The meeting was called to enable the consultants to present the initial environmental impact assessment report.

This had been commissioned by the developers as part of their public participation programme.

Many of the residents who attended the meeting differed

with the findings of the assessment report, however, and they insisted that their opposing views be recorded.

Outlining the ecological impact of the scheme, Mike Luger of Ninham Shand said the site on which the shopping centre would be established had already been filled in and the impact on this area would not be of great significance.

However, the residential area would be established on part of the wetland that still had be filled in and this would have a severe impact on the environment of the area occupied by a large number of birds and animals like the water mongoose.

To derisive laughter, Mr Luger said the study had found the proposed shopping development would only have a mod-

erate impact on the view from most of the surrounding residences and the residential component would have a light to moderate impact on the surrounding properties.

He also said the assessment had shown that homes near the shopping centre could experience a reduction in value but the residential component would not affect property values. The shopping centre would create about 400 jobs and provide business opportunities.

Outlining the hydrological impact of the scheme, Colin Wittemore of Ninham Shand said the increased risk of properties being flooded with the infill of the wetland and changes to the adjoining Keyser's River canal would not be significant if the scheme was adequately engineered.

There would also be little if any change to the water quality or the water table of the area.

Residents said a detailed hydrological survey was a must before the scheme could even be considered.

In his review of the development proposals, Brian Alexander of Ninham Shand said the development would cover the lower quarter of the wetland and the 12 000 square metre "value centre" would be similar to Meadowridge's Park'n Shop. The homes would be in two separate areas with four complexes of 100 units each from single to four storeys in height.

There was also the possibility of a small office block and a further small commercial building.

Site's closure highlights waste disposal dilemma

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

(125) (S6)

The disposal of hazardous waste in Gauteng will be seriously disrupted following the closure yesterday of one of only two dump sites in the province.

Waste-tech, which manages the Germiston City Council's Margois site, was given notice yesterday that all disposal of hazardous waste had to cease, failing which legal action would be taken.

Waste-tech said it would be withdrawing from the hazardous waste disposal business.

The company currently serves 745 industrial waste clients and 1 242 medical waste clients, and disposes of more than half the hazardous waste produced in the province.

"Waste-tech has no option but to withdraw from the hazardous and bio-hazardous medical waste disposal business in Gauteng until such time as alternative sites can be commissioned," a Waste-tech statement said.

The company has invested about R10-million in the construction of a state-of-the-art hazardous waste landfill site at Chloorkop, which lies unused following public protests. The site should have opened in July 1993 but the matter is still bogged down in hearings by a committee that began 18 months

ago, and has failed to take a decision.

"Time will tell if the sole remaining hazardous waste disposal site and the limited number of licensed medical waste incinerators in Gauteng are able to cope with more than twice the amount of industrial and medical waste they are now handling," Waste-tech said. "Industry, hospital services and the medical profession must decide for themselves whether it is desirable to depend on only one disposal facility."

Waste-tech managing director Ken Bromfield said councils in Gauteng had a responsibility to industry to provide hazardous waste disposal sites.

"If a decision had been made on Chloorkop then we wouldn't be in the position now where one medical disposal facility and one hazardous waste facility have to cope with nearly treble what they are currently handling," he said.

"The trouble is that the decision to license a hazardous waste disposal site is not a popular decision for politicians. It won't win them votes."

Enviroserve, which manages the only other dump site in Gauteng, said that for the time being it was coping.

"But the situation is not desirable and authorities must act," said marketing manager Yolanda Young.

SKW 17/5/95

Tourism at risk as Cape Town sinks under tons of litter

Environment Reporter

CLEANLINESS and security are vital to the survival of the tourism industry — a major component of the Western Cape economy — but Cape Town is being threatened by a tidal wave of litter.

This was the message from Kendal Kaveney, director of the Cape Town City Council's cleansing services, at the Clean City Award presentation.

The 1994 award was made to BP Southern Africa for its schools environment programme, involving primary and senior schools throughout the Western Cape.

Mr Kaveney said about 3 000

tons of litter was dropped on the city's streets each month.

Because the council's cleansing budget had remained static, the same number of cleaners using the same equipment were trying to cope with a growing problem.

"The 1995 Clean City Award is one of the ways of encouraging people, organisations and companies to contribute to keeping the Mother City clean."

Tourism was one of the city's biggest business investments, and two areas vital to this industry's survival were security and cleanliness.

"We need all Capetonians to support the award by keeping a look-out for people and compa-

nies who can be nominated for their efforts.

"By doing this, citizens are not only helping to keep Cape Town beautiful for residents, but are indirectly helping to protect and create jobs in the tourism industry," he said.

Finalists for the 1994 award were BP, Consol Glass, Protea Assurance, 3 Medical Battalion of the South African National Defence Force, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, and Metroprop. *ARU 3/5/95*

● Nominations for the 1995 award can be sent to the Fair-est Cape Association, Box 97, Cape Town, 8000; or the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Box 204, Cape Town, 8000.

Wetland law 'an urgent matter' (5b)

802/5/95 NICOLA JENVEY

DURBAN — The Campaign for St Lucia, representing several thousand concerned environmentalists locally and abroad, has thrown its weight behind preventing the erection of a steel smelting works close to the internationally recognised Langebaan wetland site.

Chairman Tony Pooley said at the weekend damage to the Langebaan wetland system could be avoided by siting the steel works in a less ecologically sensitive area, as had been done at St Lucia.

Pooley said the current threat had to receive the same international attention as St Lucia, and underlined the necessity for government to enact legislation to protect wetlands and their catchment areas.

Legislation had been prepared and introduced earlier this year as a private member's motion by the Senate's select committee on the environment chairman, Stefan Grové. The Wetland Conservation Bill made provision for the prohibition of activities detrimental to wetlands and their catchment areas.

"As state land will be affected, the Bill is currently awaiting presidential approval before advancing to committee stage. We call on (President Nelson) Mandela to allow it to proceed as a matter of urgency," Pooley said.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

SA to be cleaned up by US waste firm

By SHIRLEY JONES

STAFF WRITER

The American waste management multi-national, Separation and Recovery Systems (SRS), intends to invest millions in cleaning up South African industry.

Riding on the back of stringent legislation which could be introduced to govern the handling of toxic waste, the company's newly formed South African subsidiary is believed to be close to concluding multimillion rand deals with major oil refineries and chemical and metal producers.

The refinery deals are expected to top R100 million. An equity deal which will see one of the country's largest waste disposal companies marry its infrastructure with technology developed by Separation and Recovery Systems, is all but concluded.

John McDermott, who will head the South African operation said the arrival of the American company in South Africa would be a business, technological and environmental revolution. Like its American parent, the South African operation would deal with refining waste sludges, crude tank bot-

tons, hydrocarbon contaminated soils, cooling tower and aeration pond sludges.

Although not ready to comment on deals in the pipeline, he was prepared to wager that the operation could help to reduce the number of pits and ponds into which major industries, waste disposal companies and the government have poured poisons.

McDermott said most slag or effluent was used as landfill which saw toxins seeping into water systems and moving up the food chain. In America, Europe and Japan, this

was illegal. In the United States McDermott said 2 000 landfill farms had to be removed in two years.

This landfill process was likely to continue in South Africa without appropriate waste processing technology. Using present methods, it would take a major refinery over 1 000 years to remove its existing waste.

SRS was negotiating a deal to eradicate this within 15 years.

He said SRS was the first company to bring sophisticated waste treatment technology to this country. The growth prospects were almost endless, he said.

Based on five to 10 year contracts with SRS personnel manning installations, its conservative goal of R300 million turnover within five years was already in sight, he said.

The start up plant ready to be sent to South Africa from the United States was valued at R15 million, McDermott said.

Although the company usually leased the the plant process, manned by SRS personnel, they were prepared to negotiate.

Options included selling equipment, leasing equipment with an option to buy and training personnel, he said.

(52) CT 31/5/95

ECONOMIC growth and a wider spread of prosperity in SA will bring political and social benefits, but it will also have a cost that is often overlooked — the generation of an ever-increasing amount of waste material that needs to be disposed of.

As international firms set up operations here, and domestic manufacturers expand capability to cater to an increasingly materialistic market, the output of waste — much of it hazardous — will grow apace. What to do with the flood of unwanted consumer and factory material is a subject not usually seen as an important part of the national debate and, as a result, there has been little effective planning.

The fact is the garbage disposal situation in the country is far from acceptable, and hazardous waste management is facing a particular crisis. Of an estimated 1 200 dump sites in the country, only about 150 are properly licensed. And less than half the hazardous waste produced finds its way to government regulated landfill sites.

Until recently, waste was not an issue. A relatively small urban, industrialised society found plenty of space and opportunity to dump rubbish cheaply and with no fuss.

Now a dawning awareness of the unacceptability of indiscriminate dumping and the acquisition of technical expertise in waste disposal has coincided with an explosion in public concern about environmental matters and, ironically, efforts to establish new, high-tech waste landfills and incinerators have been met by a chorus of opposition from green activists and militant citizens. The controversy over the Chloorkop hazardous waste site north of Johannesburg is a prime example.

At present, there are only two hazardous waste operations servicing the Highveld's manufacturing heartland — at Holfontein near Springs and at Margolis in Germiston, a site which is almost full, only has a licence until December and has been operating under court restriction allowing only certain types of waste. Last week, it was only last minute intervention by Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal that prevented the

Prosperity brings problem of more hazardous waste

MICHAEL MOON

(56)
BD 22/5/95

Germiston city council, responding to residents' complaints, from closing down the Margolis site completely. The new R10m Chloorkop facility, built by the Waste-tech company to replace Margolis, is currently standing idle, the subject of a Kempton Park municipal inquiry, and may never go into operation as a result of public outrage over a lack of community consultation over its construction and allegations that it constitutes a threat to public health.

While the Margolis and Chloorkop disputes drag on, hazardous waste continues to be produced... and disposed of inappropriately, illegally and dangerously. Of more than 1-million tons of hazardous waste generated in Gauteng, only about 250 000 tons are handled by Waste-tech and its competitor Enviroserv in their landfill sites. The rest is disposed of in various ways, including reprocessing at plant, legal and illegal disposal through sewers, illegal incineration under cover of darkness, "fly-dumping" on municipal tips and surreptitious dumping at remote sites.

Clearly something should be done to curb such dangerous activities. But the question arises: whose responsibility is it?

Historically, garbage has been handled by municipal authorities, generally through the expedient of dumps on the outskirts of towns. Until fairly recently there was comprehensive ignorance of the dangers of

leachate (the liquid product of compacted waste) permeating through to the water table or washing into catchment areas. The "attenuation theory" held that pollution leaking off would dissipate until it was no longer a serious problem.

But escalating levels of waste from industry, mining, and power generation resulted in the advent of commercial waste management firms, while growth in awareness of pollution dangers also brought greater central government involvement. The Water Affairs and Forestry Department is responsible for permitting and monitoring solid waste disposal and last year released a set of minimum requirements.

ties have neither the resources nor the expertise to handle hazardous waste. "In some instances, they are not even able to handle their domestic waste streams properly," he says.

Waste-tech MD Ken Bromfield says up to 60% of the cost of waste disposal lies in transport. If public pressure forced companies to locate dumps at great distances from urban areas, the exercise would be uneconomical, and illegal dumping would increase.

Water Affairs deputy director-general Leon Bredenhann says financial implications would make government reluctant to step in, but a deteriorating situation, such as that threatening in the hazardous waste area, might force its hand.

"The object of the department would not be to enter the waste business, but to prevent uncontrolled disposal by providing landfill sites to protect the public and the environment," says Bredenhann. "The department will not be interested in managing such sites, but will have to contract reliable companies for this purpose."

Government could possibly also play a role in introducing waste incineration, which has until now been seen as too expensive an option and has also met with fierce resistance from environmentalists.

Ball acknowledges the problem. "I believe there will be a shortage of hazardous waste 'airspace' in the

very near future," he says. He says good economic and environmental reasons exist for developing new landfills that comply with government minimum requirements to cope with the existing waste stream. But environmentalists disagree, arguing that provision for easy dumping merely encourages the generation of waste. They want waste generators to be forced to practice "source reduction" — the minimisation and detoxification of hazardous waste at factories.

Earthlife Africa's Peter Lukey says categorically that no hazardous waste should be produced at all. The organisation believes no toxins whatsoever should be put into the environment. "The uni-directional movement of material is against any natural system. We have to close the waste cycle and view so-called waste products as resources. Manufacturers should analyse their waste streams, and all substances should be detoxified to make them useable in some way," says Lukey.

He believes this is already possible, and points to work being done at AECI and Sasol in reducing solids and sludges.

Waste-tech's Bromfield describes total elimination of hazardous waste as "the 100-year dream", but acknowledges growing involvement between waste companies and the industrial sector in efforts to reduce and recycle at source.

Bredenhann says switching to greater reduction should be an economic decision, but regulatory powers could help the process along. "By increasing the standards required, you increase the costs involved in final disposal and thereby increase the incentive for manufacturers to go back to their processes to look for reduction possibilities."

Ball agrees source reduction is the future. He warns, however, of the danger of arbitrarily abandoning current disposal methods. He says the new minimum requirements will bring modern landfill sites in SA into line with international standards.

These standards promote the trend towards "cradle to grave" responsibilities and the "polluter pays" principle and inch the country towards the waste elimination scenario which all agree is the goal. But in the short-term, a crisis remains.

ENVIRONMENT — 1995

JUNE — JULY

Mountain

choice praised

(56) CT 1/6/95

STAFF REPORTER

THE Botanical Society of South Africa has congratulated attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn on his selection of the 16 people who will decide on the best management model for Table Mountain.

Executive officer Mrs Daphne Barends said yesterday: "The names listed are all people of eminence and expertise who will be able to contribute greatly to decision-making."

The committee will help government legal teams to draft new legislation to manage the Cape Peninsula mountain chain or to recommend an existing structure such as a national park or provincial reserve.

The committee will have its

Insurers recognise potential of pollution liability

Susan Russell

THE increasing willingness of courts both here and abroad to award damages to the victims of pollution had led to insurance companies drastically reassessing their attitude to cover against this kind of liability, Johannesburg attorney Michael Judin said.

In a paper for the SA Institute of directors, he said in the past most SA insurance companies did not bother to include pollution in their policies except where the insured was involved in operations that were potentially hazardous to the environment.

However, in recent years an ever-increasing number of pollution victims had become more assured of their legal rights with the courts in-

creasingly amenable to awarding compensation. Offenders were also finding it increasingly difficult to evade liability.

Judin said that with an alarming increase in damages claims caused by pollution, representing huge losses for insurance companies, they were drastically reassessing their previous "laissez-faire" attitude.

Despite the growing awareness of pollution liability SA, like most countries, did not have the insurance mechanisms to deal with the consequences of environmental damage.

Judin said the local insurance market was now being put under pressure to acknowledge the grave potential of liability from pollution.

"In SA insurance companies rely

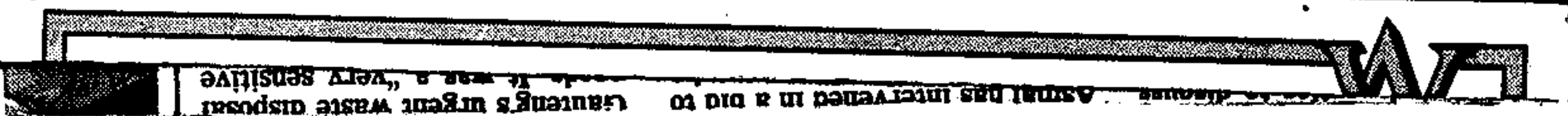
on the fact that their policies cover liabilities that arise from an accident, which may be defined as a 'sudden, unforeseen event'.

"This excludes operative causes such as the accumulative effects of hazardous waste dumping, or the emission of toxic smoke from chimney stacks, where nuisance arises from deliberate acts of pollution."

Most policies now included an exclusion clause in respect of damage caused by unforeseen action resulting in pollution or contamination.

"In addition insurance companies will not indemnify their clients against the costs of cleaning up damage caused by pollution unless caused by a sudden accident during the period of insurance," he said.

(56) BD 2/6/95



Premier environmental award goes to De Beers

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Striking a balance between development and the environment has paid off for De Beers Consolidated Mines, which yesterday won SA's premier environmental award for business and industry.

De Beers won the National Premium Award of the Environmental Planning Professions Interdisciplinary Committee (Eppic) for its water conservation project at the Venetia mine near Messina in Northern Transvaal.

The project, "The Venetia Balance", was a three-year investigation into ways of minimising the environmental impact of providing water for the mine from the Limpopo River.

The award was accepted by Julian Ogilvie-Thompson, chairman of De Beers, who paid tribute to the multidisciplinary team responsible for the project. The team included the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Nature Conservation, the SA National Defence Force, the local farmers' association and environmental consultants Cave Klapwijk and Associates, which co-ordinated the activities.

The annual awards are a recognition of excellence in the ap-

plication of integrated environmental management by Eppic, which represents more than 100 000 members of the combined Associated Scientific and Technological Societies of SA, the SA Society of Professional Engineers and the Habitat Council.

Other winners were:

■ National Student Award — shared by Edward Kniel and Karin Delmarco of the faculty of engineering at the University of Cape Town, for their thesis "Environmental Life Cycle Analysis: an evaluative tool for process design"; and Karoline Hanks, of the department of environmental and geographical science at UCT for her dissertation "The implementation of integrated invasive vegetation management in the Citrusdal agricultural region and the potential for landowner involvement".

■ Best Environmental Technical Paper — the Department of Environmental Affairs and the GIS-LAB, University of Pretoria, for the National Environmental Potential Atlas. This series of computer-based maps provides the first visual overview of SA's environmental resources.

■ Best Environmental Journal — shared by the Wildlife Society for African Wildlife and the Environmental and Development Trust for New Ground.

Environment fiesta

56

Sowetan 2/6/95

By Musa Zondi

THE global community celebrates World Environment Day with a string of activities next Monday.

In South Africa, a host of activities have been planned to coincide with the day and most will run for the whole week.

The highlight will be the country's hosting of the UN Environment Programme Global 500 Awards on Monday at the State Theatre in Pretoria.

President Nelson Mandela will attend. In North West, a seminar will be held today at 10am at CLB106 at the

University of the North West. A speaker from the Gaborone Game Reserve will give a keynote address.

On Sunday, North West premier Mr Popo Molefe will host a dinner for children from various parts of the province.

Basic Information

The children will also be offered basic information on green issues and taken for a game drive. Later there will be an anti-litter festival featuring Tshepo Tshola, Sankomota and William Mthetwa.

On Monday, the show will be at Bakgatla Gate in Pilanesberg, where the recycling process will be demonstrated.

In Pretoria, a seminar on "Sustainability, Biodiversity and the People" will be held at the Sammy Marks Conference Centre. The meetings starts at 8am.

In Kattlehong, the Tidy Town Council, which is the local arm of Keep SA Beautiful, will be hosting a week-long clean-up campaign for the township.

Residents of Zone 6, Diepkloof, Soweto, will be commemorating the World Environmental Week on Monday by cleaning the Baragwanath entrance to Soweto.

The local municipality will provide trees to be planted near Baragwanath Hospital.

'Work. That's what the people need'



An ANC MP kicks dust in the faces of those who want to stop the Saldanha steel mill, reports **Rehana Rossouw**

AFRICAN National Congress MP Jenny Schreiner this week hit out at "arrogant" conservationists for trying to stop Iscor from building a steel mill in the environmentally sensitive Langebaan lagoon area at Saldanha. Her broadside came as a Saldanha landowner brought an urgent interdict against the Western Cape government to prevent the site for the proposed mill from being rezoned for industrial use.

Accusing conservationists of ignoring the needs of working class communities, Schreiner, who services the Saldanha constituency on the Cape west coast for the ANC, says the economic prospects for residents in the area are bleak. Fishing is in decline and is a seasonal activity. Many fishermen supplement their incomes by working on farms, where wages are "appallingly low".

The steel mill, says Iscor, will create 4 000 construction jobs and several hundred per-

manent jobs. Schreiner says the south-west coast needs to be developed as a matter of urgency, and wants a strategic environmental assessment of Saldanha be conducted soon, to examine the viability of the fishing industry, ecotourism and other industries, including the steel mill.

"The development of the area could be an RDP dream. It could be people-oriented, empowering and environment-friendly. The area could get housing, roads, schools, clinics and, most importantly, jobs," Schreiner says.

She says that while landowners were raising concerns about the impact of the steel mill on the "pristine beauty" of the area, Iscor had consulted working class communities about the mill. The local ANC branches, civics and unions had been given commitments from Iscor on environmental issues and occupational health.

"It is incredibly arrogant to assume that only the bourgeoisie — the landowners — are concerned about the environment and able to make informed decisions related to it."

"I briefed people recently at a fishing industry summit in Saldanha Bay on the steel mill project and the steps which should be taken to protect the environment. Although I was

addressing fishermen, people whose level of formal education is extremely low, the entire hall debated the merits of the project.

"The fishermen, who live off the sea, spoke of how they had to go further and further out to sea to find mossbankers and how their grandfathers had stood on shore with lines and caught them."

"The environment is in these people's blood. They might not be able to talk about environmental impact assessments, but they have a better understanding of their immediate environment than many intellectuals with their fancy theories."

Schreiner is also scathing about the call by landowners to protect the "pristine beauty" of the area. "There is no pristine beauty anywhere in South Africa. It's a misconception to believe that people have left any part of the country untouched. Apartheid certainly did not touch it in a way that left it protected."

"It's easy for the environmentalists to sit back and criticise development in this area. It's not as easy to come up with an alternative which improves the quality of life of the people there."

Schreiner says that the benefits of ecotourism in the area amount to "a big zero" for the working class community.

"There has been no community involvement in the ecotourism industry around Saldanha. Residents were never consulted about exploiting their area's natural resources for tourism."

Schreiner's views are echoed by University of Cape Town environmentalist Farieda Khan. Providing jobs or protecting the environment should never be an either/or debate, she says. The situation has to be examined holistically, and from every community's point of view.

"South Africa is a developing nation, which makes it difficult at the best of times to decide in favour of preserving the aesthetics of an area at the expense of people's basic needs. At the same time, the country also has a responsibility to future generations to preserve the environment."

'It is incredibly arrogant to assume that only the the landowners are concerned about the environment and able to make decisions'

Khan says each development has to be judged on its merits, balancing the short-term employment needs against the long-term environmental imperatives. She says there is an erroneous perception that the environmental debate is one which belongs primarily to white people and cannot be taken seriously by black communities.

"This perception was inherited during the apartheid past when environmentalists were seen to be primarily concerned with preservation and wildlife issues. Black communities viewed environmentalists as people who were saving the whales and the rhinos at the expense of their needs," Khan says.

"So the response from people was very hostile. They were also apathetic because they were sunk in everyday survival concerns. Yet people in South Africa have always been interested in environmental concerns because it has to do with where they live, work and play."

Khan is also sceptical of attaching too great a significance to protecting scenery from industrialisation. While industry needs to be planned "sensitively", environmentalists are often too caught up in preserving "traditional" beauty spots.

"In Cape Town, for example, there's too much emphasis on the peninsula, on Table Mountain and the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve. For how many people is it beautiful? How many people have experienced its beauty?"

"There are so many people living on the Cape Flats who have never been to these places, for whom it holds little significance. Environmentalists have to realise that there are indigenous plants on the Cape Flats which are beautiful and just as worth preserving as those on Table Mountain or in distant nature reserves."

"Everyone needs to be informed of the impact of a development. How many people are talking about the Saldanha mill? All you have right now are experts and environmentalists slugging it out. You never hear the views of ordinary people," Khan said.

"The environment belongs to every citizen in South Africa, not a few experts. What should be happening is that experts inform the public so that they can also participate in the debate."

What about the working class? ANC MP Jenny Schreiner has criticised conservationist and the 'bourgeoisie' for their 'arrogance'

INDEPENDENT BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

TRIPLE INQUIRY

INTO PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICES, CROSS-MEDIA CONTROL AND LOCAL CONTENT IN PROGRAMMES.

The Authority seeks contributions from the broad public at public hearings to be held in each province.

The hearings will be held according to the schedule below:

Johannesburg	01-02 June	Johannesburg Holiday Inn Garden Court, 84 Small Str. Jhb
Bisho	01-02 June	Amatola Sun, Bisho
Mmabatho	01-02 June	Mmabatho Sun, Mmabatho
Pietersburg	08-09 June	The Ranch Hotel, Pietersburg
Kimberley	08-09 June	Kimberley Civic Centre, Kimberley
Bloemfontein	12-13 June	Bloemfontein Civic Centre, Bloemfontein
Nelspruit	13-14 June	Hotel Promenade, Nelspruit
Durban	14-15 June	Holiday Inn Garden Court, Marine Parade

NGO's in different provinces who would like to participate should please contact Barbara Paxinos as soon as possible at:

Tel: (011) 447-6180 Fax: (011) 447-6187



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STATE TENDER BOARD

Procurement of Election Requirements:

Compilation of lists of approved suppliers

- Tender No. RTG 8663 SD: Ballot Papers
- Tender No. RTG 8664 SA: Stationery Packages
- Tender No. RTG 8665 GR: Furniture
- Tender No. RTG 8666 KM: Mobile Toilets

Tender documents are obtainable free of charge from the Chief Director: Office of the State Tender Board, 122 Paul Kruger Street, Pretoria. Telephone (012) 324-1560 ext. 2090/2091. Office hours: 07:30 to 12:30 and 13:15 to 16:00 (Mondays to Fridays).

The closing date for the submission of tenders is 11:00 on 30 June 1995.

Each tender must be submitted in a separate, sealed envelope on which the name and address of the tenderer, the tender number and the closing date must be clearly endorsed. The tender must be addressed and posted to The Chief Director: Office of the State Tender Board, Private Bag X49, Pretoria 0001, so as to reach the destination not later than the closing time or deposited in the tender box in the arcade of 122 Paul Kruger Street, (corner Paul Kruger and Vermeulen Streets), Pretoria.



SAATCHI & SAATCHI KLERK & BARRETT RECRUITMENT 48035



THE COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE (UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE)

The Community Law Centre together with Frederick Ebert Stiftung is hosting a conference on:

THE ROLE OF LAW IN TRANSITION: DEALING WITH THE INJUSTICES OF THE PAST THROUGH LAW IN SOUTH AFRICA AND GERMANY.

Speakers from South Africa and Germany will look at three areas:

- * the punishment and amnesty of persons for the violation of human rights
- * the reparations for the victims of human rights violation
- * the restitution of land

VENUE: Karos Arthur's Seat Hotel
DATE: 30 June - 1 July 1995

Cost for delegates requiring accommodation: R252 - Single room (per day)
R207 - Sharing (per day)
Kindly confirm your intention to attend the conference by 19 June 1995.

CONTACT: NATASHIA EMMETT, Community Law Centre (UWC)
PRIVATE BAG X17, BELLVILLE 7535
Ph: (021) 959-2950/Ls Fax: (021) 959-2411

TEACHERS



PUPILS

Watch out for our special schools newspaper project. Find in in next week's special birthday supplement.

3-way split for the world's No 1 game park

(56) ARG 3/6/95
JAMES CLARKE

Weekend Argus Reporter

NEGOTIATIONS have started for the establishment of the world's largest international game park — along the Limpopo river.

National and regional parks representatives are negotiating to buy up the irrigation farms along the Limpopo and three governments have approved the idea of creating a vast tourist region shared by Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana.

Rupert Lorimer, former MP and now head of the government's advisory committee on environment, says the international park would straddle the Limpopo from Pont Drift to near Messina.

The move is not unprecedented: Mr Lorimer pointed out that South Africa and Botswana have already agreed to melding the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park (the second largest national park in South Africa) with Botswana's equal-sized Kalahari National Park.

The two are to be managed as one — and as long as tourists leave by the same gate passports would be unnecessary.

At Tuli Safari Lodge on the Botswana side of the Limpopo Robin Tolley, a member of the legislative assembly of Northern Transvaal, told a news conference his province was involved in creating the proposed three-nation park.

An announcement is expected to be made at a ceremony in Vhembe game reserve adjacent to Mapungubwe archaeological site — both of which will become part of the park.

The South Africa Park would comprise private as well as state-owned areas and would reinstate the old Dongola National Park proclaimed by Jan Smuts but deproclaimed as soon as the National Party came to power in 1948.

Mr Lorimer, who, for almost 20 years, has been campaigning in and out of parliament for the reinstatement of Dongola, said the park could stretch south to Madikwe, newest of

the "Bop parks", and absorb 800 000 hectares of South Africa's northern-most provinces (more than a third of the size of Kruger Park).

De Beers, which owns the Limpopo Valley Venetia Game Reserve (40 000 hectares) have agreed to be a part of the park, as has the owner of a 50 000-hectare block of game farms on the Zimbabwe side of the Limpopo.

The 75 000-hectare Tuli Block reserves and the Tuli Circle (about 50 000 hectares) in Botswana are keen, it was said at the conference.

He said it would be possible for the proposed international park to "eventually" connect with Kruger Park, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, creating an international park of millions of hectares.

A large area would remain private "contract parks".

"You must remember that of South Africa's new Richtersveld National Park not one hectare is owned by the state," said Mr Lorimer.

Giant greenhouse to test gases

Sunday Times Reporter (56)

WITH World Environment Day being celebrated tomorrow, scientists from For-estek in Pretoria have built a giant green-house with R2-million backing from the environmental affairs department.

The first experiment, to be launched next Thursday, will be a three-year pro-ject to monitor the effect of carbon mon-oxide on savannah.

The greenhouse has been divided into 20 miniature savannah environments, each planted with one acacia and two broad-

ST 4/16/95
leaved tree species, two types of grass and other plants.

Starting in spring, varying amounts of carbon dioxide will be pumped into the chambers, simulating the effects of indus-trial and bush fire pollution.

Results are expected to show that the plant life will thrive on the higher levels — but the polluted vegetation will become inedible to animals.

The experiment is being conducted to anticipate the impact of rising levels of carbon dioxide in the world's atmosphere on agriculture, water and biodiversity.

Saldanha mill's future hinges on land enquiry

(56) ARG 3/6/95
WILLEM STEENKAMP

Weekend Argus Reporter

A DECISION on the future of the controversial steel mill near Saldanha will only be taken after an urgent application against the re-zoning of the land is heard by the Supreme Court on June 13.

Willem van Huyssteen, spokesman for the regional planning Minister Lampie Fick, said there had been a "gentlemen's agreement" between the parties that no decision on the future of the plant should be taken until the application against the re-zoning is heard.

Mr Van Huyssteen said, in spite of rumours that the authorities were ready to grant re-zoning and give the go ahead for the R4,7 billion mill, it was simply not true.

"There are some very tough questions being put to Iscor, questions that Mr Fick wants detailed answers on.

"This office has been inundated by people who are either for or against this development. Mr Fick clearly realises the issues at stake and we will do everything

in our power to ensure these issues are investigated before any final decision."

Mr Van Huyssteen said the fact that Iscor had already ordered equipment for the mill as early as January this year would not play a role in a decision on the future of the plant.

"That was their decision and it is their problem. This will not put pressure on Mr Fick in any way," said Mr Van Huyssteen.

But in spite of Mr Van Huyssteen's assurances that the decision on the future of the proposed plant was wide open, a senior official in regional government who asked not to be identified, said he had little doubt the re-zoning of the land would be approved.

The official said the Western Cape needed a development of this size to boost the economy of the region. He was adamant that the environmental aspect of the development was not negotiable.

The decision to give the go ahead for the mill would be linked to stringent environmental assurances to protect the sensitive ecology of the Langebaan Lagoon.

~~(189A)~~ (56)

Iscor mill

inquiry

ST 4/6/95

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

ENVIRONMENT Minister Dawie de Villiers is to consult cabinet colleagues next week about setting up a judicial inquiry into the Saldanha steel mill controversy.

If approved by the cabinet, the investigation could partly settle a pending Supreme Court action on June 13 by landowners who want to stop Iscor's chosen site, near Langebaan lagoon, being rezoned for industrial use.

It could also satisfy the project's critics who say the Western Cape government does not have enough information to approve the siting of the mill.

Oil quay impact study for Saldanha Bay

(56) (18)
ARG 5/6/95

□ *Award-winning team commissioned*

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE Strategic Fuel Fund has commissioned the first step of an environmental impact assessment of the proposed expansion of its oil quay at Saldanha Bay.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's award-winning environmental impact assessment team has been commissioned to undertake a "scoping study", which is expected to take three or four months.

The remaining phases of a full environmental impact assessment — specialist studies and assessment phases — will take several more months.

Details of the commission were hammered out at a meeting last week, soon after it was announced that South Africa's oil deal with Iran to store and trade 15 million barrels at Saldanha was being signed.

Mineral and Energy Affairs minister Pik Botha's department announced that there was an environmental "escape clause" in the deal, which still had to be ratified by the Central Energy Fund's board.

The Democratic Party has added its voice to concern about the proposal.

"Bearing in mind that the Saldanha lagoon system is a closed system, and that any pollution here is likely to do permanent damage, the advisability of allowing increased bulk tanker activity to aggravate a risk — which is already unacceptably high — is ques-

tionable," said DP environment spokesman Errol Moorcroft.

"Expanding the harbour facilities holds further risks to this environmentally sensitive area, and environmental impact assessments are of the utmost importance."

Jonathan Crowther of the company which has been appointed to facilitate public participation in the oil study, said the scoping study was the first step in a full assessment of the fuel fund's proposed expansion of the oil loading and transfer facility at Saldanha.

"This scoping study will be in two phases.

"The first will be a process review, in which interested and affected parties will be able to comment on the CSIR's proposed approach to the investigation, including the management of the decision-making process by the authorities.

"A scoping exercise, which forms the second part of the study, is being undertaken to ensure that issues, concerns and alternatives that may be associated with the proposed expansion are identified for investigation in the environmental impact assessment."

A document with background information, a description of the proposed impact assessment and a summary of the proposed alternatives would be distributed within the next few weeks for comment, he said.

● For further details contact Mr Crowther, ☎ 461 1118.

Mountain committee offer good blend of skills

Let them get on with it now.

52

□ □ □ □ □

HE came, he listened, he cracked a few jokes and he's now made his choice.

There can be few quibbles with the 16-person committee named by Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn last week to make recommendations about the future management of Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain.

To be sure, there have been some raised eyebrows — both at some of the choices and at the omissions — but that was inevitable.

Some of the questions are about those who — up to now, at least — have not been closely associated with Table Mountain and its conservation management, at least in the public eye. But impressive conservation records elsewhere, often against formidable odds and with few resources, speak volumes for people's abilities and tenacity, and they may yet surprise. Brian Huntley, chief executive of the National Botanical Institute, may well feel miffed at

GREEN SCENE

John Yeld



being overlooked, although he is — as he will doubtless admit — an incredibly busy person with major overseas commitments. But his talents are too prodigious to ignore, and the committee may well feel a need to co-opt him, at least for certain aspects of its investigation.

Given the size restrictions, the committee has a good blend of scientific, legal and financial expertise, as well as management experience and a commitment to public input.

JUST before the opening of Rugby World Cup, a group of middle-aged Kiwi tourists — obviously rugby enthusiasts — were feeding the squirrels in Government Avenue.

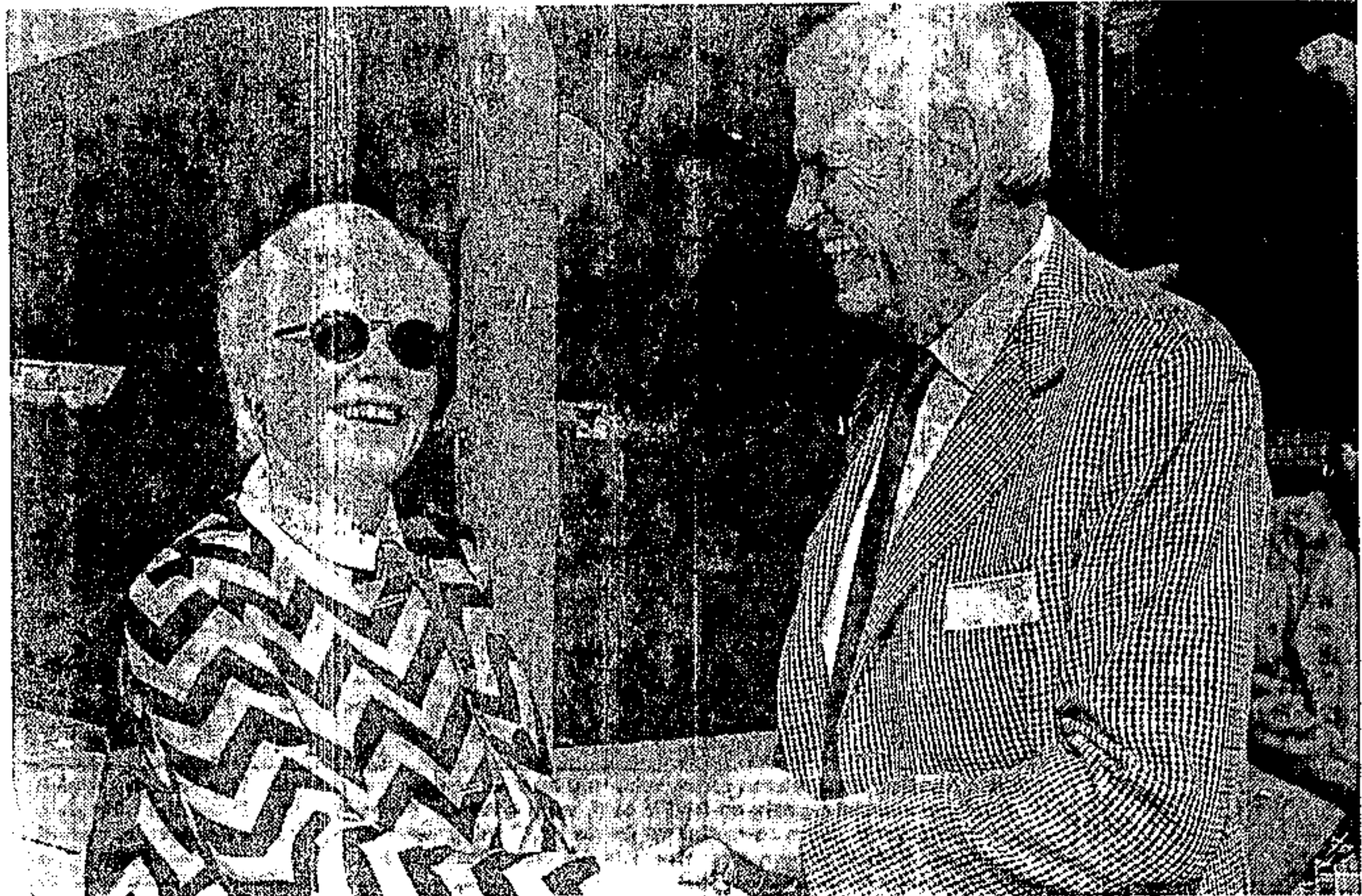
With typical Antipodean candour, one of them asked a local who was striding past: "Say, mate, are these little animals native to this area?"

The man stopped and replied earnestly: "Oh yes! They're very special — only found here."

Looking suitably impressed at the Cape's astonishing range of biodiversity, the gullible tourists continued on their way up the avenue.

As most children find out on their first visit to the Gardens, the admittedly attractive little rodents with the fluffy tails are in reality exotic American grey squirrels.

They are about as far from home — and as much of the indigenous Cape scene — as the Kiwi tourists themselves.



UN Environment Programme executive director Elizabeth Dowdeswell, who is in SA to mark World Environment Week, meets Industrial Environmental Forum chairman John Maroo at Rietvlei nature reserve yesterday. Picture: GARTH LUMLEY

Gauteng (56) environment forum plan

Michael Morn
BD 5/6/95

A PROVINCIAL environmental forum was being established in Gauteng, the province's development planning, environment and works MEC Sicelo Shiceka said last week.

A steering committee representing interested parties had been set up and was formulating proposals for the forum's constitution.

Shiceka was speaking on the eve of World Environment Week which gets underway today.

SA has been chosen by the UN Environment Programme to host this year's global Environment Day centrepiece, the Global 500 awards ceremony.

President Nelson Mandela will preside over the ceremony at Pretoria's State Theatre tonight when 27 individuals from 21 countries are honoured for contributions to environmental causes worldwide. Programme executive director Elizabeth Dowdeswell will make the presentations.

Other events in Pretoria today include the opening of an exhibition on diversity at the State Theatre by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo, the opening of an art exhibition at the Art Museum by Arts, Science and Culture Minister Gen. Ngubane, a tree-planting by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal and dignitaries at the Botanical Gardens and the release of the Lorimer committee report on the Council for the Environment by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers.

In Johannesburg the Kooen SA Beautiful Campaign is conducting a tour of projects in Alexandra township in the presence of Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Bantu Holomisa and Minister without Portfolio J. Naidoo.

US strikes some goods off preferential list

John Dlodlu

THE Clinton administration has reversed a decision granting 37 developing nations -- including SA -- \$1.6bn worth of trade preferences under the general system of preferences (GSP).

The mechanism, which was extended to SA last May, allows beneficiary nations to export to the benefactor's markets duty-free or at substantially reduced import duties.

Of the 140 products covered by the decision, only three items from SA will lose their preferential status -- animal leather, building stones and vanadium oxides. The decision is to come into effect next month.

Following the decision, the affected products will now be granted most favoured nation status -- the most basic form of trade preferences which drops duties symbolically.

It was unclear at the weekend what effect the decision would have on SA's trade with the US or the performance of SA exports in US markets.

A statement released from Washington quoted one official as saying that the change GSP to most favoured nation status "should be particularly burdensome" for most countries since most favoured nation rates on all items were already very low.

BD 5/6/95
ted one official as saying that the change GSP to most favoured nation status "should be particularly burdensome" for most countries since most favoured nation rates on all items were already very low.

The basic idea behind GSP -- often seen by trade diplomats as the cheapest form of trade development in the beneficiary country through the expansion of its exports in markets of the benefactor nation.

Under US laws -- and generally those of other countries -- the list of qualifying products may be changed if it is found that the products already enjoy a competitive edge in the markets of the benefactor country, or when found that the beneficiary country's per capita GNP exceeds a specified level.

Countries affected by the announcement include Argentina, Malaysia, Russia, India, Brazil, Thailand and Turkey, while products affected include fruits, plywood, arms, articles of yarn, handbags, non-aromatic drugs, typewriters, machinery parts and jewelry.

US lobby 'broadly supports' labour Bill

Renee Grawitzky

MAJOR US investors in SA represented by the American Chamber of Commerce (Amcham) broadly supported the draft Labour Relations Bill and hoped it would contribute towards creating a new atmosphere in labour relations.

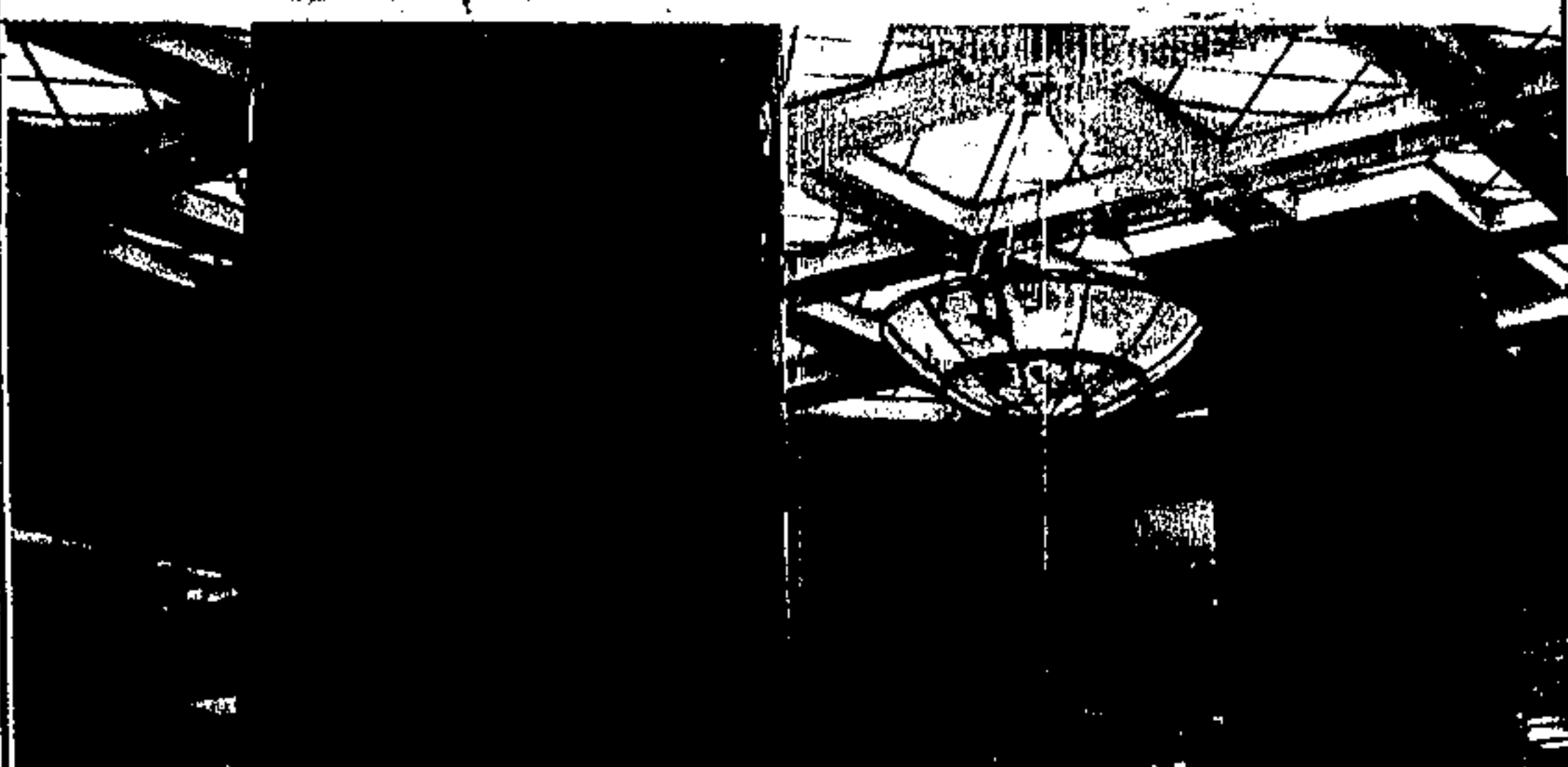
However, Amcham working committee head Roger Crawford said: "We have highlighted certain aspects which the chamber cannot see its way clear to giving any form of support."

Amcham would call on the labour minister to give serious thought to delaying the promulgation of the Act until a conciliation commission was up and running.

BD 5/6/95
tion of the Act until a conciliation commission was up and running. "We are deeply concerned about some of the wide powers that the Bill suggests the commission should have. Powers must be limited to refer only to issues under dispute."

Organisational rights provisions were problematic in that they could "unduly disrupt operational activities of an employer".

Disclosure of information was supported, the automatic right rejected. Amcham supported the right to strike, but was concerned about the removal of ballot provisions from the



Council plan to repair dune damage

ARG 5/6/95 (56)
□ *Project to leave more beach space*

Staff Reporter

FISH HOEK's beach dunes in front of the caravan park and the yacht club are to be restructured and replanted with indigenous vegetation in a project that will provide more beach space.

The interim council has commissioned the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to prepare recommendations based on technical studies of wind-blown dune sand and tide patterns from the restaurant to Clovelly corner as well as to make suggestions for future beach development.

Dune ecologists from the CSIR explained a four-phase dune management plan at a public meeting in the Fish Hoek town hall, attended by about 40 people.

They said bulldozer operators would take advantage of the winter season to top the dunes in front of the yacht club and the caravan park. The sand removed from the back of these dunes would be returned to the beach.

This would result in more

beach space as well as more open public space behind the dunes.

The plan was also to establish a nursery of indigenous dune plants adapted to wind and salt spray with which to replace exotic maram grass.

Fish Hoek dunes were now a "totally altered system", they were no longer natural, and a properly managed programme in future would ultimately save ratepayers' money.

Uncontrolled public access to the beach over the dunes had created corridors of loose sand and "blow-outs" with a resulting threat to the environment.

The CSIR's Paul Lochner said it was hoped to have input from yacht club users on ideas for managing their territory, as the club's existing launching site had created a corridor for wind-blown sand and a large amount of sand had accumulated around the clubhouse.

Experts said the dune management project would provide jobs for local people as it was important to train a maintenance team to create continuity of dune management. Oth-

erwise the money spent would be wasted.

In future the frontal dune system would be kept vegetated with the help of irrigation and fertilisation.

The second stage of the beach plan would be beach development. This would not be tackled without further public participation.

Mr Lochner said development did not mean more cottages, but the future need for toilets, fencing, boardwalks, safer public access, particularly at the Clovelly end, and upgrading the restaurant.

In response to a question from the floor about CSIR findings on the possible canalisation of the Silvermine River, a dune ecologist said that apart from strengthening the banks where the river flowed under the Main Road and the railway line, the river mouth should be left free to meander back and forth on the beach as was natural with the influences of wind and tide.

The next stage in the public participation process would be a workshop of all interest groups including ratepayers, Mr Lochner said.

Extra land boost for Karoo flower power

Nature Reserve to be a third bigger

(5b) *AKG/16/195*

Features written by JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter.

SOUTH Africa is the world's third wealthiest country when it comes to biological riches, and it is the only country with an entire floral kingdom within its borders.

These were among the points made by Ian Macdonald, conservation director of the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF SA), during a ceremony to mark the hand-over of the 10 000 ha Touwsfontein property in the Little Karoo between Ladismith and Montagu to Cape Nature Conservation.

The property, also known as the Anyberg private nature-reserve, adjoins Cape Nature Conservation's existing Anyberg nature reserve, and will increase its size by nearly a third from its existing 35 000 ha.

The private reserve was bought from conservation-conscious owners Ian and Lucy Crabtree by WWF SA, with funding from the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust.

Touwsfontein had emerged as the top priority property at a meeting last year to establish which areas needed to be acquired to protect effectively the succulent Karoo vegetation type, Dr Macdonald said.

There was a "very disturbing" trend of nature reserves having their integrity breached — mainly by unlawful occupations.

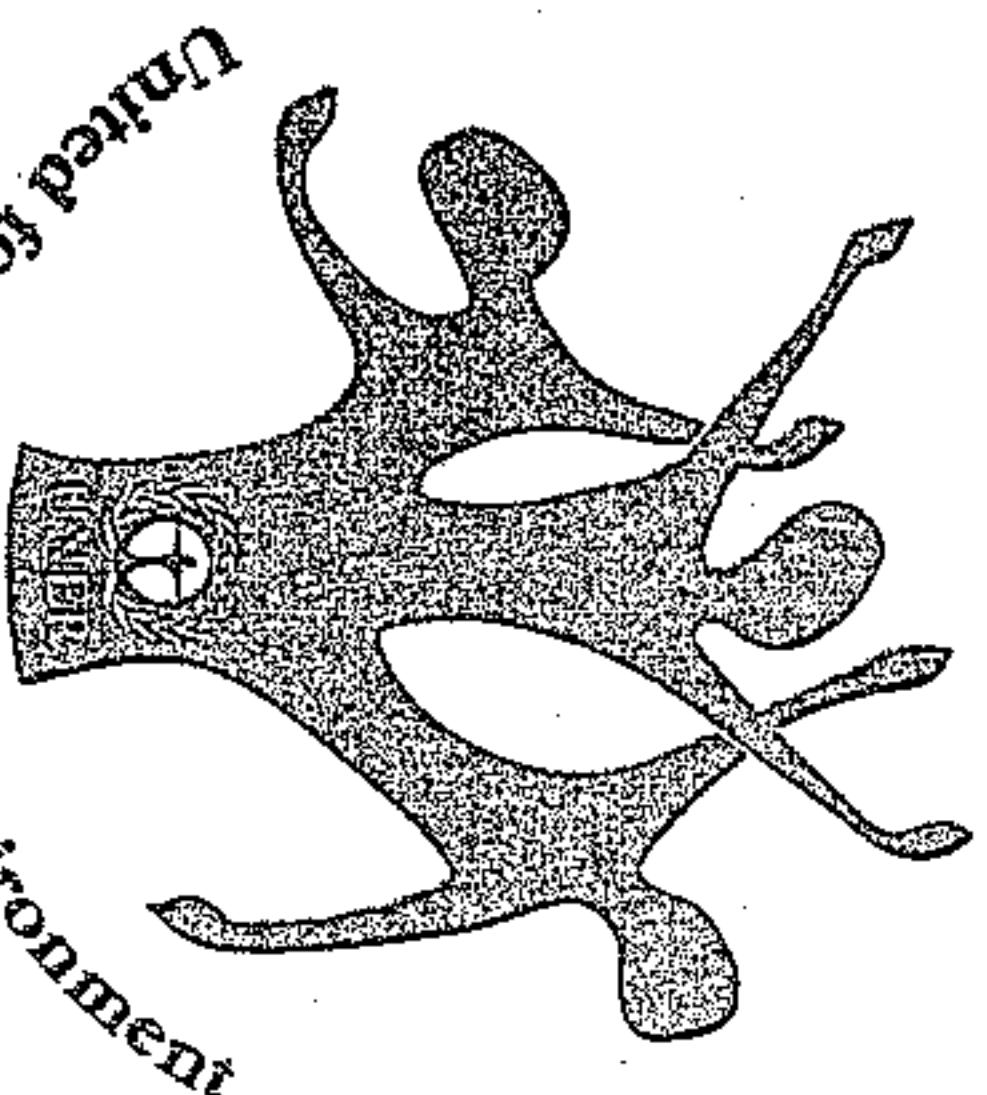
The establishment of the new Touwsfontein reserve was going against the trend, and it was vitally important that people understood why protected areas were so significant.

Within recent times, there has been a well-documented, 50 percent decrease in South African groups and individuals will be honoured for their environmental efforts when they are handed covered Global 500 awards by President Mandela at a function in Pretoria tonight. They are among 27 laureates nominated for this year's award, made annually by the UN Environment Programme.

The local winners (the first four in the Youth Category) are:

- Rober Dyer of Kwazulu-Natal, already widely honoured for his project to

See the Peoples



World Environment Day 1995

the stock carrying capacity of the succulent Karoo, Dr Macdonald said.

"In some parts, half of the number of edible plant species have been lost.

"If this grazing pressure continues, the Karoo will lose at least one third of its plant species."

A recent study by Craig Hilton-Taylor of the National Botanical Institute had confirmed that the unique plant communities in this vegetation type — the richest succulent area in the world — were under tremendous pressure.

The number of succulent Karoo plants known to have become extinct had in-

re-establish vegetation on the banks of the Umhlatuzana catchment rivers and uplift local communities.

● Green Machine Nature Conservation Club of the Sunridge Primary School at Knysna, whose projects include the upliftment of impoverished informal settlements.

● Humphrey Mvula, a young community builder who started the Soweto Thabiso Young Club to raise awareness of environmental problems.

South Africans win six coveted green awards

(5b) *AKG/5/16/195*

● John Bissaker Secondary School in East London for their Second Creek Environment Project, a multi-dimensional project to improve the lives of a informal community close to the school.

● Trees for Africa, South Africa's only national greening organisation which has planted some 250 000 trees.

● Robert Filmer, a disabled nature conservation officer who has pioneered facilities for the blind and other disabled people in protected areas.

created from three in 1985 to 13 in 1993.

"This (Touwsfontein) is one of the most significant reserves in the whole Karoo, and it massively increases our chances of preserving this unique vegetation," Dr Macdonald said.

Jan Vlok, Cape Nature Conservation's southern Cape regional botanist, said he was "incredibly happy" with the acquisition of Touwsfontein as the Karoo was botanically "very special".

"It's not just a dry dusty place. And the wonderful thing is that the new area extends between the mountain and the lower areas, so now we have a real chance to study interactions between the two."

Cape Nature Conservation director Ko-bus Jooste described the transfer as "a red-letter day in our history".

"This is really a very special conservation area, and we're very excited about taking it over."

The department was looking at the possibility of drawing other private landowners into the conservation area through the creation of a major conservancy.

Anyberg reserve is rich in Bushman paintings, including one of the extinct blue buck.

"There is also an opportunity for special interest ecotourism groups, and the public will definitely find this area more accessible than in the past," Mr Jooste said.

● The reserve offers a two-day horse trail at weekends. Hikers are welcome, although there are no formal trails at present.

There is a campsite and self-catering cottages.

For further information, ☎ 02372-1913.



LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING: The Touwsfontein property near Ladismith in the Little Karoo may look dull to the uninitiated, but it is a biological jewel with an extremely valuable plant life.

Pictures: CAPE NATURE CONSERVATION.



KAROO RESERVE: Cape Nature Conservation's beautiful Anyberg nature reserve, which has now been expanded by more than 25 percent with the purchase of the adjoining Touwsfontein private reserve property.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

SA to celebrate with world for first time

(56) ARCS/6/95

MILLIONS of people around the globe will today reaffirm their commitment to a healthy planet Earth as they celebrate World Environment Day.

In South Africa, the day will be celebrated for the first time in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme, whose executive director — Canadian Elizabeth Dowdeswell — will be guest of honour at several events during the week.

This year's Environment Day theme is "Diversity is Life", and Ms Dowdeswell will give the opening address at a major symposium in Pretoria tomorrow, *Sustainability, Biodiversity and the People*.

Tonight, she will help President Mandela officiate at the Global 500 Awards ceremony at the State Theatre in Pretoria, where six South African individuals and groups are among the 17 laureates honoured for their environmental efforts.

Ms Dowdeswell, who is the United Nation's under secretary-general, will also read a message from secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

A World Environment Week programme, organised by the Department of Environmental Affairs, started in Kokstad yesterday with an inter-faith meeting, organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature: South Africa (WWF SA) and led by Anglican archbishop Desmond Tutu, to promote religion and the environment.

It was the first time in South Africa that political, traditional and religious leaders, conservationists and educationists have come together on a single platform.

Using the slogan *Committed to Earthkeeping — Unite for Life*, they called on people to strive for a lifestyle in greater harmony with the environment.

The meeting reaffirmed the 1986 Declarations of Assisi, when the WWF International launched a network on conservation and religion in partnership with the world's major religious communities.

In the celebration at Assisi in Italy, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews and Muslims joined environmental leaders to declare their commitment to faith and Earthkeeping.

WWF SA chief executive John Hanks said he hoped yesterday's event at Kokstad would start a major partnership between environmental groups and South Africa's spiritual and religious groups.



DIVERSITY IS LIFE: That's the theme of this year's striking World Environment Day poster, designed by the Department of Environmental Affairs. The poster depicts some of the plants and animals associated with South Africa's six biomes (broad ecological categories) — succulent Karoo, savanna, fynbos, grassland, forest and nama-Karoo — as well as important wetland and coastal ecosystems.

"It was a tremendous opportunity for us to affirm our joint commitment and, through church and faith networks, to encourage community and individual responsibility to care better for the environment," Dr Hanks said.

Later today, the report will be released of the committee appointed by Environmental Affairs minister Dawie de Villiers to make recommendations on the restructuring of the Council for the Environment and other related matters.

The committee, headed by Democratic Party environmental spokesman Rupert Lorimer, was allowed to widen its brief to consider "matters of relevance to environmental systems as a whole".

In Cape Town, many organisations and schools

are holding Environment Day and Environment Week programmes.

The Botanical Society has an exhibition of posters and educational material in the Lecture Hall at Kirstenbosch, and there are also free lunchtime lectures on botanical and environmental topics at the hall at 1 pm tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday.

For further information, contact Barbara or Gaby, ☎ 797-2090.

Today the Fairest Cape Association is hosting the finals of this year's Environmental Speech Competition for schools, with the two top speakers winning a trip to the Brazilian city of Curitiba — the world's role model for urban environmental sustainability.

(56)

5/6/95

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

SA joins in to celebrate World Environment Day

THE SOWETAN 5/6/95
(56) Sowetan 5/6/95



Nelson Mandela

By Musa Zondi

THE global community celebrates World Environment Day with a string of activities today.

In South Africa the highlight will be the country's hosting of the UN Environment-Programme Global 500 Awards today at the State Theatre in Pretoria. The event will be attended by President Nelson Mandela and other dignitaries.

Recycling process

In the NorthWest today, the show will be at Bakgatla-Gate in Pilanesberg, where the recycling process will be demonstrated.

In Pretoria, a seminar on "Sustainability, Bio-diversity and the People" will be held at the Sammy Marks Conference Centre. The meetings start at 8am.

The Katlehong Tidy Town Council will be hosting a week-long clean-up campaign for the township.

Residents of Zone 6, Diepkloof, Soweto, will be cleaning the Baragwanath Hospital entrance to Soweto.

Provide trees

The local municipality will provide trees to be planted near the hospital.

- World's faith groups are expected to converge on the small East Griqualand town of Kokstad to celebrate the UN Environmental Day.

The celebration is led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who will also open the Diocese of Umzimvubu's conservation orientated training centre.

- An interactive workshop is to be held today at the auditorium of the Council for Geoscience in Silverton in Pretoria.

Experts panel

The objective is to make local filmmakers, radio and television producers and others interested in communicating for a better environment, benefit from the presence in South Africa of a panel of experts in filmmaking and environmental issues from around the world.

- The Soroptimist International service club will host 75 Ipopeng pre-school children and staff at Delta Environmental Centre in Randburg.

A complete set of Ecolink posters and books which explain various aspects of nature will be donated to the Delta library.

- At 1pm the Klipspruit Environmental and Recreation Centre will carry out a clean-up campaign in their neighbourhood.

- Ekuphumeleleni Primary School in Jabulani will also have a clean-up campaign starting at 9am.

Project keeps settlement neat

Ingrid Salgado

56

A CONTINUOUS community-owned waste management programme in Alexandra township's Stswela squatter camp north of Johannesburg had ensured it was one of the cleanest informal settlements in SA, community leaders said yesterday.

The project, One Man Contract, contracts individuals to maintain designated zones, streets and public spaces in a litter-free condition. It also encourages residents to plant vegetable and flower gardens.

Residents of the once polluted and litter-strewn settlement celebrated World Environment Day with the programme's initiator, Keep SA Beautiful, and funders United Bank and Plastomark.

Also present were Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo and Deputy Environ-

mental Affairs and Tourism Minister Bantu Holomisa, who together planted the tree of the year — a river bush willow.

Naidoo urged the community to register for local government elections since elected leaders would be accountable for electricity and clean water.

Environmentalism was about addressing poverty and making better lives for all, he said. Government money should be devoted to meeting needs and creating jobs. If change was slow, it was because government was laying "proper foundations".

Holomisa appealed to the private sector to continue supporting such projects until service delivery had been normalised.

Environmental affairs and tourism select committee chairman Peter Mokaba told residents they should plan housing allocations and road sites together.



Environmental Affairs Minister Bantu Holomisa and Keep SA Beautiful Campaign CE Raymond Byrne, top, inspect the results of a community-driven waste management project at Alexandra's Stswela informal settlement yesterday while residents mark World Environment Week.

Picture: GARTH LUMLEY

Environmental education is needed

By Ruth Bhengu

IT'S a pity most South Africans don't know what environmental education is all about.

Most think it has something to do only with nature conservation or social outings to nature reserves.

There is a dire need for effective environmental education that develops a holistic environmental ethic in us, as custodians of the environment.

Environmental education is: Creating feelings of concern, caring and commitment to living responsibly in the environment.

Decide on priorities

Communities should be empowered to identify the problems they see as most important, and by discussion and negotiation decide on priorities and appropriate action to be taken.

The people most likely to know and

understand any particular issue are those living with it.

The reconstruction and development programme states that the people must be empowered, that decision-making should be democratised, that we should embark on community development projects and that people should be in a position to look after their own environment.

We need to protect, conserve and manage the environment in a way that ensures its sustainable use.

South Africa has been so preoccupied with political and economic issues, that to a large extent environmental issues were seen as unimportant and almost incidental.

Substantial economy

But a substantial economy cannot be built on a degraded, bankrupt and polluted environment nor can the RDP succeed if it is detrimental to the envi-

ronment.

This country needs to make the environment a central concern and must begin to work towards sustainability.

Environmental projects such as recycling, tree planting, water testing, food gardens, use of open spaces for recreational purposes, eco-tourism and clean-up programmes should be seen within the context of the RDP.

Projects should promote active community participation and involvement. They should also be durable, practical and justifiable.

The most important strategies for sustainable projects should include:

- A system of waste management with emphasis on prevention of pollution and reducing waste through direct control by government.

- Active participation and involvement of communities in management and decision making in wild life conservation and the related tourism benefits.

Environmental Education programmes should be used to rekindle our love for the land.

- Establishment of procedures, rights and duties to allow all business decisions to ensure products are environmentally acceptable and the manufacturing process applies environmentally sound processes.

- A civics project aimed at the development of a comprehensive action plan to ensure a sustainable living environment by, among other things, improving environmental literacy involving communities at grass roots level.

Teachers and students attending specific workshops should be exposed to methodologies, techniques and strategies which will foster an ethic of environmental awareness in formal education and also enable them to develop basic life skills.

What then is the way forward? We need a multi-faceted and holistic

approach to the environmental issues. Members of the community should attend workshops as regularly as possible and draw others into the process. Issues should be documented to help lobbying.

Environmental projects must be part of an on-going education process.

The role of the family should be considered as important in inculcating values and positive attitudes in this particular process as is the role of women. We should promote environmental committees and use all available media, theatre, dance, song and traditional story telling.

We should also promote networking and democratic consultation.

Every person has a role to play in environmental conservation, be it at home, school, work place or recreational area. The underlying message should be: "What can I do to improve my own environment?"

Watchdog group to probe Saldanha mill

CHRIS BATEMAN

CT 5/6/95

THE world's top wetlands watchdog body is so concerned at developments in the Saldanha Steel controversy that it intends officially asking for "further information".

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance has yet to be officially briefed by Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers.

Signatory governments, of which South Africa is one, undertook to inform convention partners if change in the ecological character of designated wetland sites was likely.

Mr Michael Smart, senior policy adviser to the 86-member Ramsar Bureau, said senior members of Dr De Villiers' department had informed him unofficially that there were "potential problems coming up", but there had been no official notification. His Cape Times interview was the first time he had been "briefed in such detail".

The convention is sending its top African member, Mr Tom Kabii, to SA on a fact-finding mission next month.

SA's only Ramsar official, Prof Michael Bruton, said he had "the impression that (Dr De Villiers) feels until the land is formally rezoned and the mill given the go-ahead there's no need to inform Ramsar of what's going on".

● Earthlife Africa has accused politicians of "misleading" West Coast residents with the promise of jobs.

They said the National Union of Metalworkers of SA had an agreement with Iscor in terms of which workers retrenched from their Vanderbijlpark plant would get the first bite at the 600 jobs on their proposed Saldanha site.



Environmental Affairs Minister Bantu Holomisa and Keep SA Beautiful Campaign CE Raymond Byrne, top, inspect the results of a community-driven waste management project at Alexandra's Siswetha informal settlement yesterday while residents mark World Environment Week.

Picture: GARTH LUMLEY

Project keeps settlement neat

Ingrid Salgado



A CONTINUOUS community-owned waste management programme in Alexandra township's Siswetha squatter camp north of Johannesburg had ensured it was one of the cleanest informal settlements in SA, community leaders said yesterday.

The project, One Man Contract, contracts individuals to maintain designated zones, streets and public spaces in a litter-free condition. It also encourages residents to plant vegetable and flower gardens.

Residents of the once polluted and litter-strewn settlement celebrated World Environment Day with the programme's initiator, Keep SA Beautiful, and funder United Bank and Plastronak. *BP 6/6/95*

Also present were Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo and Deputy Environ-

mental Affairs and Tourism Minister Zanu Holomisa, who together planted the tree of the year -- a river bush willow.

Naidoo urged the community to register for local government elections since elected leaders would be accountable for electricity and clean water.

Environmentalism was about addressing poverty and making better lives for all, he said. Government money should be devoted to meeting needs and creating jobs. If change was slow, it was because government was laying "proper foundations".

Holomisa appealed to the private sector to continue supporting such projects until service delivery had been normalised.

Environmental affairs and tourism select committee chairman Peter Mokaba told residents they should plan housing allocations and road sites together.

Department suspends water subsidies

BP 6/6/95

PRETORIA — The water affairs department yesterday suspended further subsidies to local authorities pending a revision of the subsidy system aimed at providing first for the basic needs of everyone — particularly rural people.

The department said payment of subsidies for works approved before the date of this announcement would be phased out.

"The existing subsidy system previously gave financial support to local authorities to expand existing services but ignored the

needs of the large rural population in areas outside the local authority boundaries.

"The department is working in close collaboration with the office of economic construction and development programme to formulate a common approach to funding of these water and sanitation services."

The RDP-funded programme had already given capital subsidies for projects aimed at supplying water within 2 km of households and providing each with "a safe sanitation system". — Sapa.

'Green' alert for RDP

Warning: A prosperous economy cannot be built on a bankrupt environment

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa's "hopes and dreams" for a successful Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) could be undermined by a deteriorating environment.

This is the warning from the Lorimer committee, appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie Viljoer, to advise him on the restructuring of the existing Council for the Environment and other related matters.

The five-person committee, headed by Democratic Party spokesman on the environment Rupert Lorimer, has recommended that the Minister of Environmental Affairs be located in the President's Office — similar to the position of present Minister Without Portfolio Jay Naidoo.

It has also suggested a statutory Commission for the Environment to replace the Council for the Environment, with a full-time chief commissioner also acting as an environmental ombudsman.

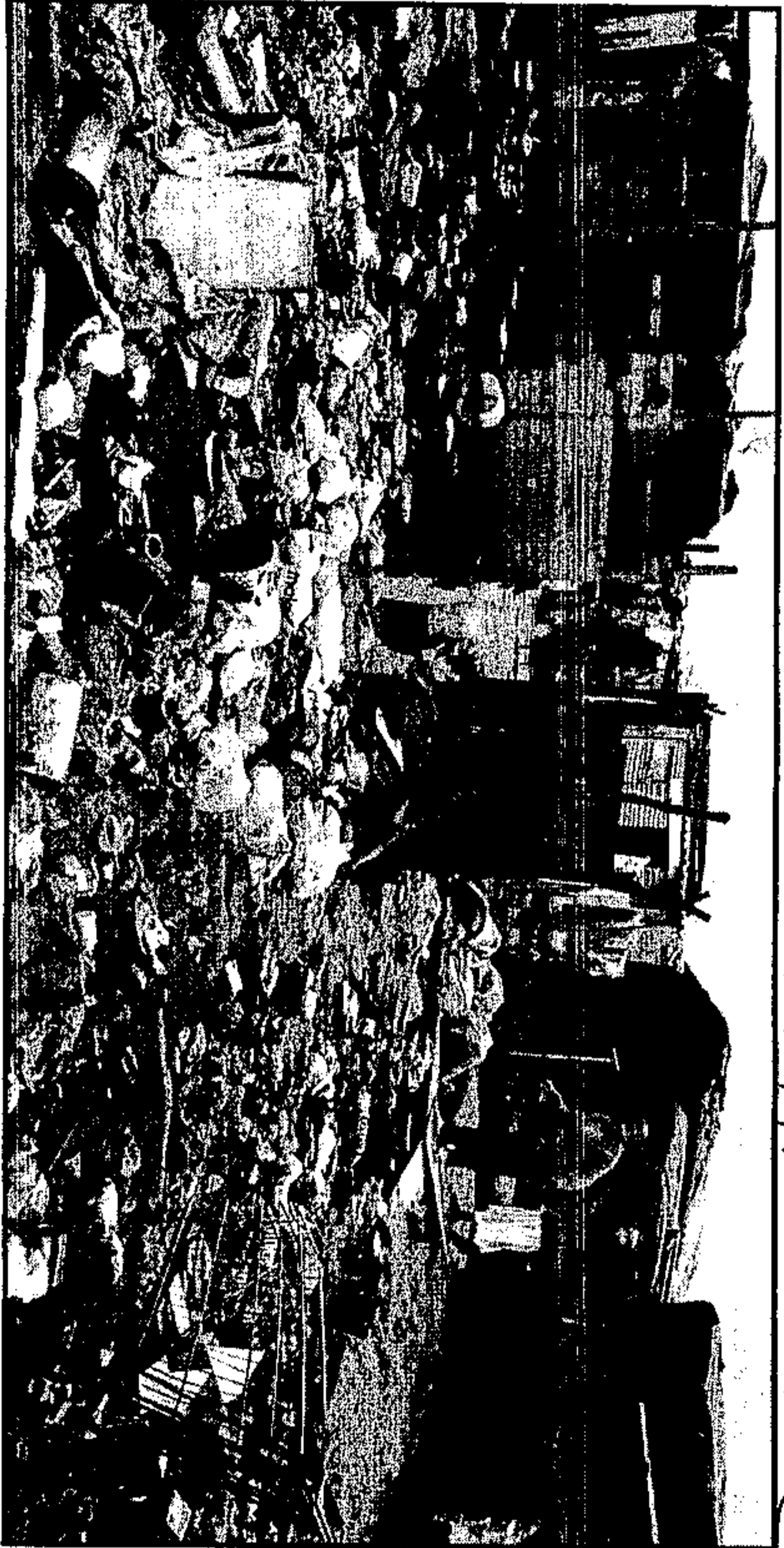
The Lorimer committee, whose report was released yesterday — World Environment Day — warned that South Africa's soil, water and biological resources were collapsing and that the country was facing "enormous problems" on the environmental front.

There could be no sustained political settlement without sustained economic growth, and in turn no sustained economic growth without wise and sustained environmental management, the committee said. "A prosperous economy cannot be built on a bankrupt environment."

"The present deteriorating state

ARC 6/6/95

(56)



DETERIORATING ENVIRONMENT: The government's reconstruction and development programme (RDP) — aimed particularly at communities like Milnerton's Marconi Beam, pictured here — is at risk because of the deteriorating environment.

of the environment is regarded in a very serious light, and urgent action is required to assist the successful implementation of the RDP

"Public awareness must be directed towards the fact that sound environmental practice and behaviour will contribute significantly to South Africa's capacity to build a winning nation."

The term "environment" was not defined in the interim constitution

and in the Environment Conservation Act was defined too broadly — "an unsatisfactory and imprecise interpretation".

Much previous advice from the Council for the Environment had been ignored by environmental affairs ministers and other cabinet

Environmental factors did not recognise political boundaries and the fragmentation of environmental responsibility, partly because of

the interim constitution, was "highly undesirable".

Policy formulation and responsibility for ensuring compliance should be vested with the central government, but a "super-Ministry" with responsibility for all environmental matters was impractical.

To deal with the pressing problem of fragmentation of environmental control, a minister should be placed directly under the president, with a responsibility to ad-

vice the cabinet on environmental policy and ensure compliance with approved policy, the committee recommended.

"There is a precedent for such an appointment. The present cabinet includes a minister without portfolio directly under the president with a special responsibility for carrying out government policy in respect of the RDP."

"The RDP is administered by many government departments at

both central and provincial level. As with national RDP policy, a national environmental policy could be co-ordinated in a similar structure...

"The minister would, in a sense, become the 'environmental champion' in the cabinet to ensure compliance with norms and standards as laid down in policy and the resulting legislation."

Its major recommendations are:
● A 24-person, statutory Commission for the Environment should be established, with 15 people appointed by the president and one each by the nine provinces.

● It should be chaired by a full-time chief commissioner who would act as an "environmental ombudsman".
● This commission should be purely advisory, and should advise the cabinet on a national environmental policy.

● It should have the right to make its advice public.
● There should be a statutory obligation on the minister to respond within a reasonable time.

● The commission should have its own budget and be independent from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

● The government should produce a comprehensive "State of the Environment" report, at least every three years.

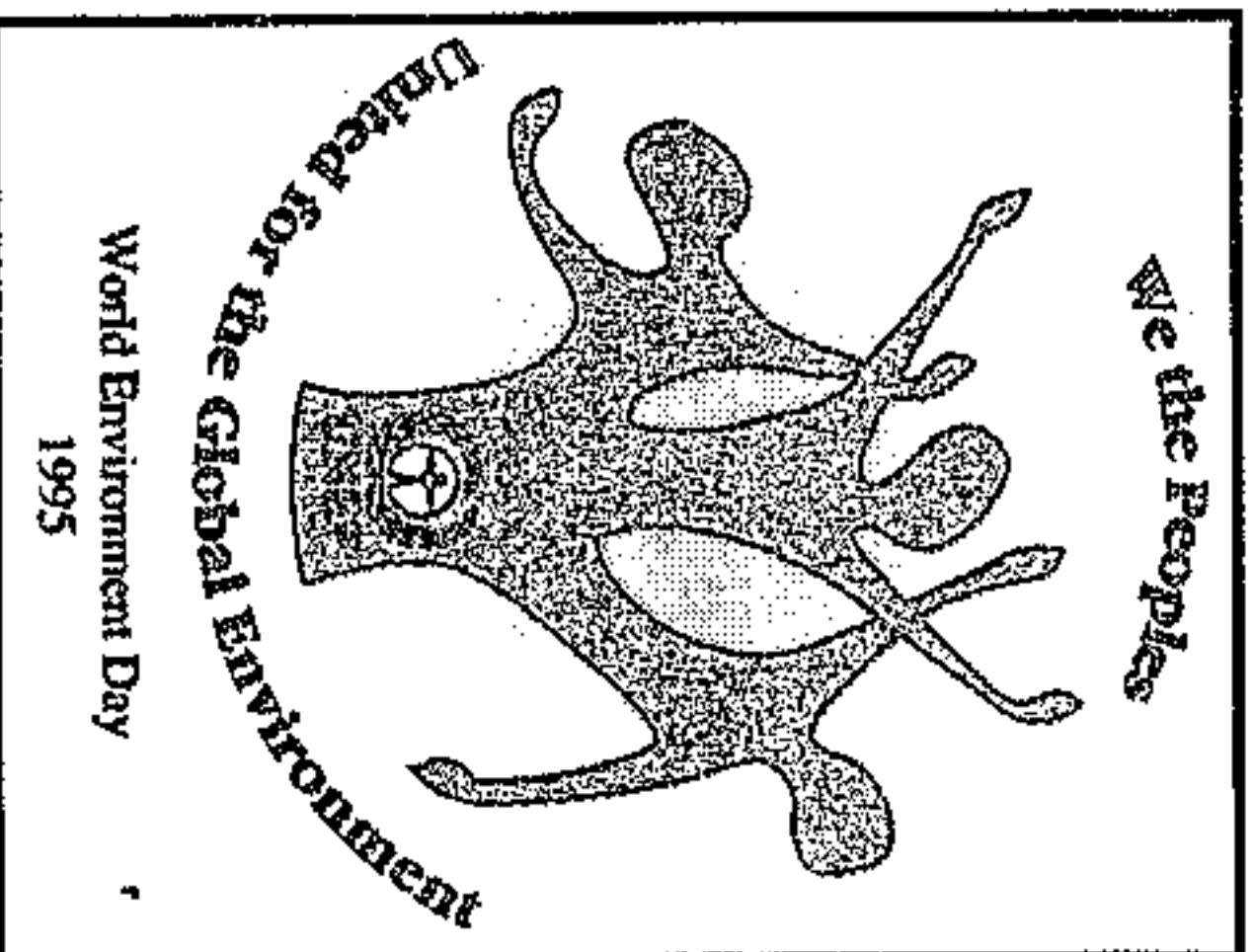
● The Minister of the Environment should operate from within the president's office, with the right to consult with any other minister at national and provincial level, and

● Every department at all three tiers of government should be compelled to compile an environmental management plan, and include an environmental audit in its annual report.

Awards galore mark World Environment Day

UN eco body honours six SA 'greens'

Star 6/6/95



■ BY STAFF REPORTERS
and SAPA

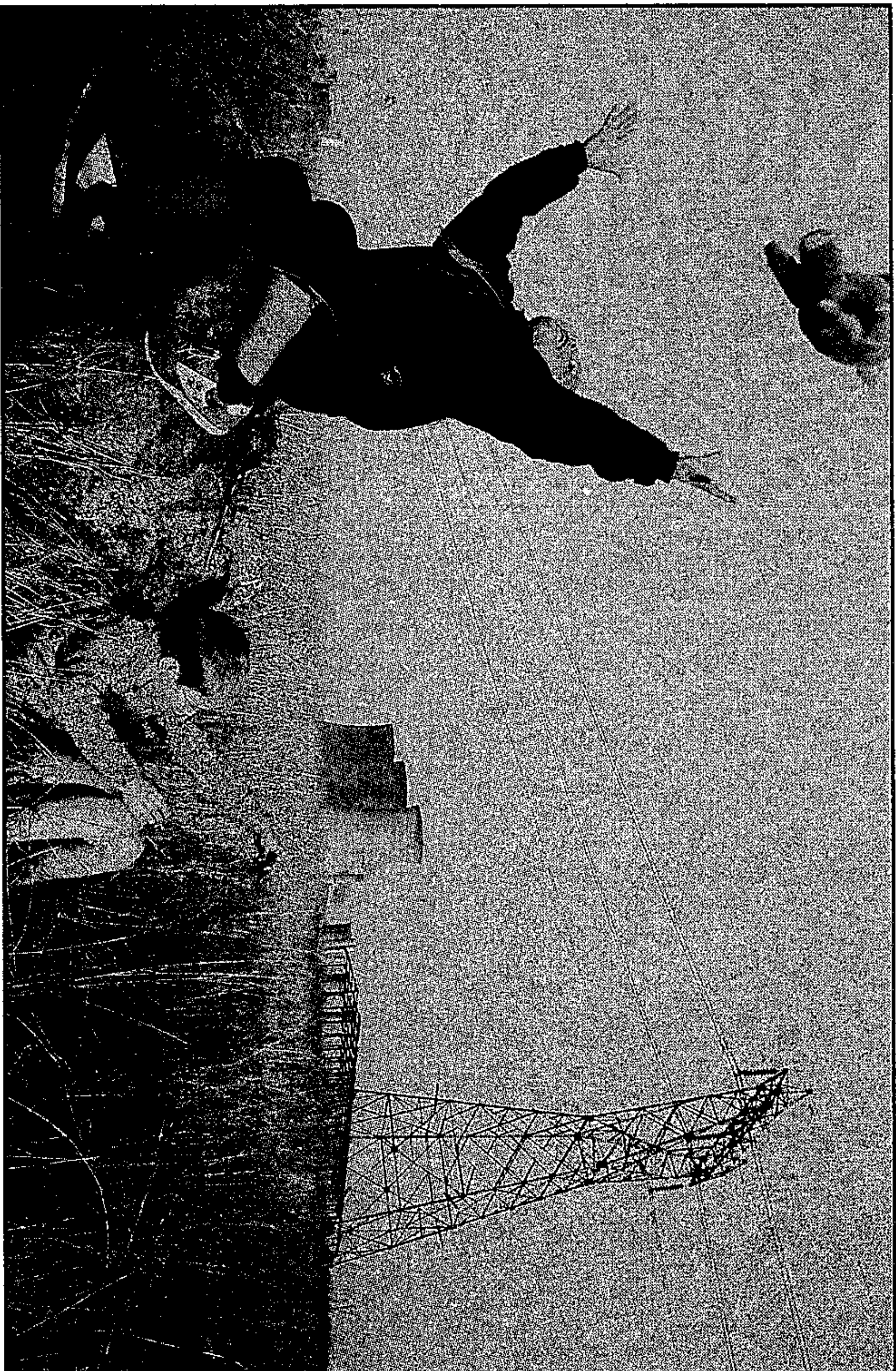
South Africans countrywide celebrated World Environment Day yesterday, with special green events to mark the country's first hosting of the annual United Nations Environmental Programme (Unep) event.

The highlight of yesterday's events was the Global 500 awards ceremony in Pretoria attended by President Mandela.

Speaking at the function, Mandela said South Africa was proud to play host to this important event.

"We feel deeply honoured by the warmth with which our new democracy has been accepted into the international movement for the preservation of the global environment," he said.

The annual Unep Global 500 awards go to people and organisations worldwide nominated by their respective governments. The intention of the Global 500 awards is to honour grassroots individuals and organisations —



Cityscape . . . Esterpark residents Rochelle Theunissen and Kobus Rabie play beside power lines near their East Rand homes as the world yesterday focused on both natural and man-made environments. PICTURE: JODI BIEBER

the silent partners in the struggle to preserve our planet.

Last night 27 people from 21 countries, including six from South Africa, were honoured. South Africans who received their awards last night were Robert Filmer; Robert Dyer and Humphrey Bheki Mvula of the

Soweto Thabisong Youth Club. SA organisations honoured were Green Machine Nature Conservation Club from Sunridge Primary School, Knysna; Second Creek Environment Project of John Bisseker Secondary School, East London; and Trees for Africa.

Paying tribute to the 27 laureates Mandela said: "We thank you for taking responsibility for our common home, for dedicating your energies, your skills and your knowledge, to a cause which benefits all of us, and future generations as well. Thank you for your love of our Planet

Earth."

He said that the presence of distinguished representatives from so many countries bore witness to the urgency with which the peoples of the world were uniting to develop strategies for the sustainable use of the environment.

"The Government and the people of this beautiful land share the global community's concern for the health of our planet. We pledge our support for a healthy environment for all people. We will strive to implement national policies that promote sustainable development, peace and human security. And we pledge our commitment to our custodianship of a global heritage.

"I trust that all of us, the planetary family of mankind, can stand together, take hands and unite for the global environment.

International festivities in Pretoria yesterday started at the State Theatre, where an environmental exhibition highlighting South Africa's international commitments was opened by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo and Unep executive director Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

South Africa's environmental experience and expertise was a source from which the world could learn, Dowdeswell said.

"Environmental problems need not paralyse us. The individual can make a difference," she said.

This event was followed by the opening of an environmental art exhibition attended by Minister of Environment Dr Dawie de Villiers and a tree planting ceremony at the Botanical Gardens, attended by Minister of Water Affairs Kader Asmal.

Festivities continue today in Pretoria and throughout Gauteng, and will culminate in an environmental rally on Friday at Nasrec near Johannesburg, where Deputy Minister of Environment, General Bantu Hlonima, will be guest of honour.

'Black water' effluent damages Rondebult sanctua.

Famed birdlan

Eco reform proposed

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Sweeping reforms to ensure that the environment is considered and protected at every level have been proposed in a Government-sponsored report handed to Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Dr Dawie de Villiers yesterday.

The most important recommendation in the report, entitled "The restructuring of the Council for the Environment and related matters", is that the Ministry of Environment Affairs should be placed in the Office of the President.

The minister's responsibility would be to advise the Cabinet on environmental policy and to ensure compliance with that policy at all levels.

"A minister operating from within the President's Office should have the right and responsibility to consult with any other minister or department at both national and provincial levels," said the report.

A second important recommendation is that an independent 24-member Commission on the Environment be established as a statutory body to advise on all matters relating to the environment. It should be headed by a chief commissioner who would act as an ombudsman for society.

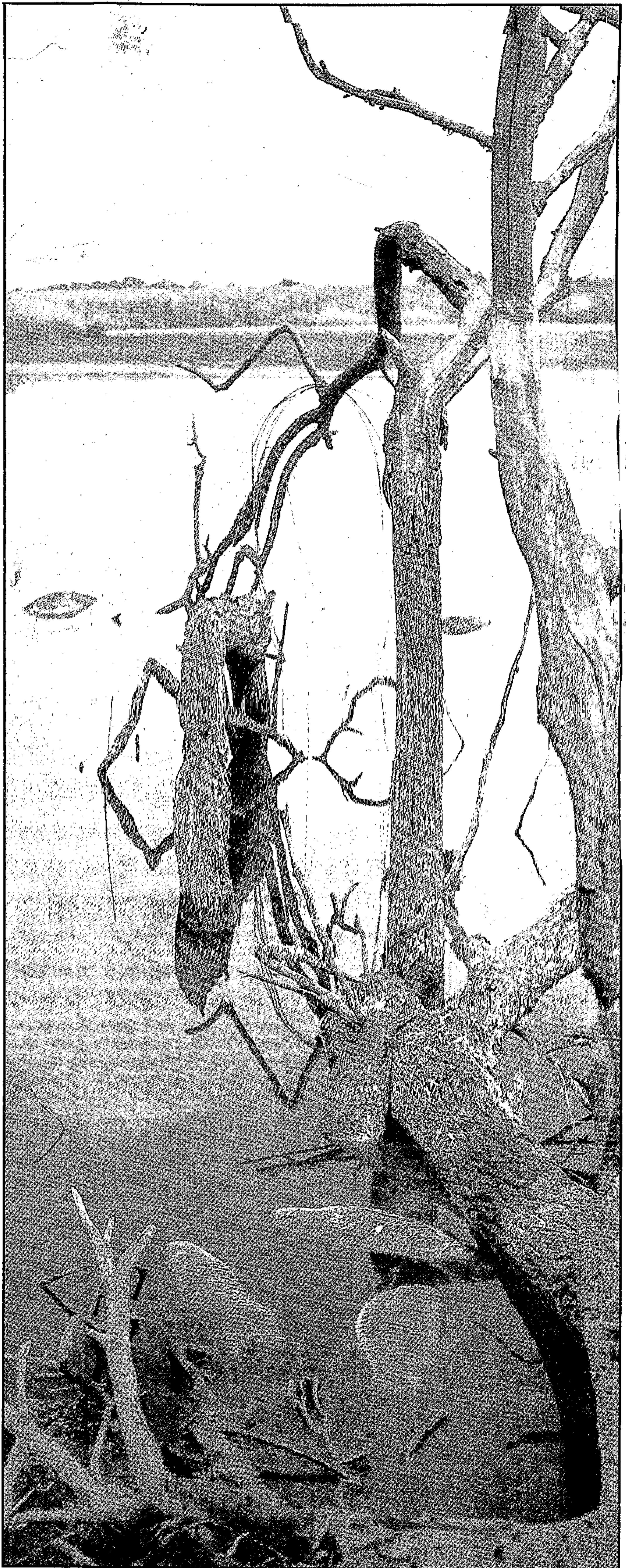
The report of the 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Rupert Lorimer expressed serious concern about the fragmentation of environmental responsibility. It said this was the main reason for South Africa's deteriorating environmental health and it threatened the successful implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

It recommended that:

■ The lack of clarity over legal responsibility for the environment, which was devolved to provinces in the constitution, be reviewed by the Constitutional Assembly, which should define clearly the environmental responsibilities of each tier of government.

■ The urgent formulation of a National Environmental Forum to establish a National Environmental Policy.

■ That every department in all tiers of government be compelled to draw up an environmental management plan and to include an environmental audit in annual reports.



► Six South Africans honoured - Page 3

Black water death . . . effluent from factories has killed fish (foreground) and driven birdlife from the Rondebult bird sanctuary.

PICTURE: ANDREAS VLACHAKIS

POLLUTED

(56) Star 6/6/95

**MINA LOUW
RAND BUREAU**

Industrial effluent dubbed "black water" has damaged a fragile ecological system at the abandoned Rondebult bird sanctuary, killing off fish and driving the remaining waterbirds away.

The effluent was said to have been pumped from two Germiston factories through the Rand Water Authority (RWA) purification plant which supplies artificial wetlands to the birdland. Environmentalists and ornithologists expressed outrage about "black water" discharge.

Uninformed sources, including some from Erwat, say industrial effluent from Germiston factories of National Chemical Products, and African Products, believed to have overloaded the system with chemical oxygen demand (COD) particles which are the worst pollutant to a wetland such as the Rondebult bird sanctuary.

NCP spokesman said the company had launched an immediate investigation to find out what the problem was. Erwat has always treated its water and everything was fine up to now. We are trying to find out what went wrong."

FISH killed and birds disappear, and experts warn of long-term damage to ecosystem

city council's parks, sport and recreation department Johnny Dixon said he had known about the "black water" for some weeks, but had not anticipated the damage.

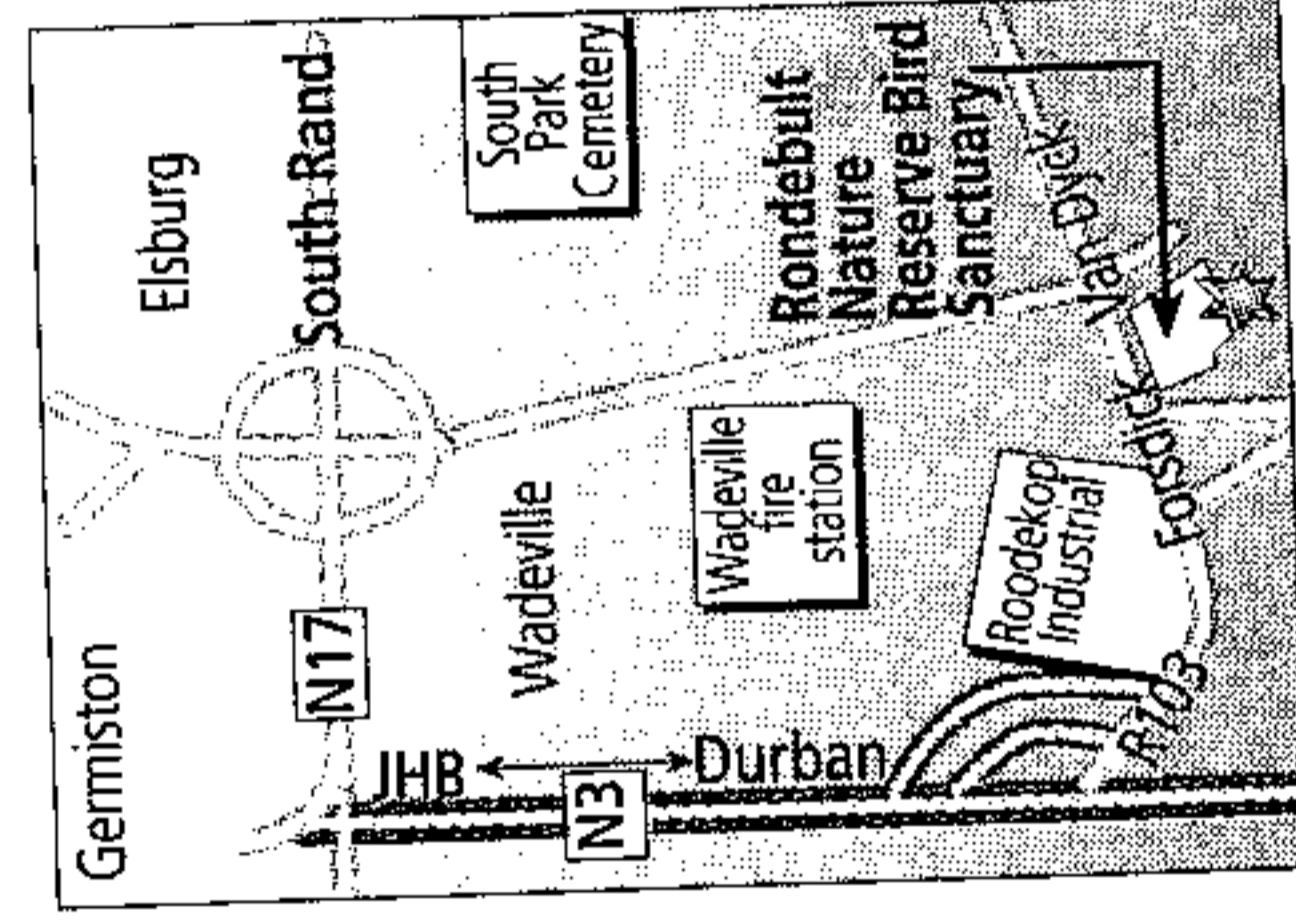
Meanwhile, Erwat has stopped the flow of the water because of the pollutants and this had caused the wetlands to dry up. The outcome is an environmental nightmare ... fish are lying dead in thick black mud, while others are floating belly up in the remaining water.

The abundant birdlife has disappeared. Waterbirds migrate from the Russian Steppes, Asia and Europe to Rondebult sanctuary each summer. This year they face a barren and polluted environment.

Sam Scott, who runs an environmental education centre at Rondebult, is devastated. His centre draws many children from Katlehong who have enjoyed environmental education at the sanctuary. Plans for a new centre, costing about R1-million, at the sanctuary will now be shelved.

South African bird artist Rose Bunting, who lives in Germiston, has expressed outrage over the "destruction" of Rondebult sanctuary.

Wild Life Society spokesman



In a statement, African Products said it was deeply concerned about allegations that its Germiston factory might be involved in environmental damage to the bird sanctuary.

The company has spent R650 000 to eliminate excess industrial effluent which its factory released from time to time, the statement said.

Head of Greater Germiston

Bird scandal

◀ From Page 1

(36) Star 6/6/95
Sue Babich said: "We are disgusted at the destruction of the reserve which attracted tourists from round the world."

An Erwat source confirmed that a temporary bypass from the Rondebult purification works had been laid on to the Waterval purification works near Kliprivier which has the capacity to cope with the effluent.

A furious senior Erwat spokesman, Pete McCawl, said The Star had no right to speak to any of the Erwat staff.

Germiston town clerk Anton Kruger said a borehole would be sunk this week as a matter of urgency to try to provide clean water and revive the sanctuary's wetlands.

■ A full account of the investigation will be published in Looking East tomorrow.

World Environment Day celebrated

THE sleepy East Griqualand town of Kokstad came to life on Sunday when environmentalists and religious leaders of various faiths from all over the world came to celebrate World Environment Day.

This event whose theme was "Committed to Earthkeeping — Unite for Life" was the first of its kind in Africa.

The last such event took place nine years ago in Asisi, Italy, when the World Wide Fund for Nature obtained the partnership of the world's religious communities in an inter-faith ceremony where they declared their commitment to faith and living in harmony with nature.

The different religions which took part in Kokstad included Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Bhuddist and Bahai.

The ceremony kicked off with a colourful march from the town hall to the Glenthorne Training Centre, an environmental centre where the clergy and environmentalists will work hand in hand.

Sowetan 6/6/95
Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Professor Kader Asmal said there was a scarcity of water in South Africa and there were at least 12 million people who had no access to clean water. He also said environmental policies should benefit all South Africans.

"If we manage our land and farming practices wisely and take steps to maintain the cleanliness of our rivers, then they will not only continue to supply us with water but also to provide a place for us to relax, play and be happy," he said.

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism General Bantu Holomisa announced that a national consultative conference to work out a new environmental policy would take place in Gauteng on August 17.

Other dignitaries present were the deputy director of the United Nations Environmental Programme regional office for Africa Mr Cheikh Oumar Sow and Dr John Hanks of the WWF.

(3) No: the investors realise that the alleged fraud was perpetrated by Swiss nationals in Switzerland.

(4) Yes: every possible assistance was and will be given to the Swiss authorities and the investors. In the meantime a liquidator has been appointed in Switzerland who has in turn appointed a representative in South Africa to assist with the possible recovery of all assets arising from the alleged fraud and misappropriation of funds and scrip on behalf of the clients of Equity Brokers Clearing.

New prisons planned/under construction
97. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(a) How many new prisons are currently being planned or under construction in the Republic, (b) where is each being built or to be built, (c) what is the intended capacity of each, (d) what is the estimated cost of each, (e) when is it anticipated that each will be completed and (f) in respect of what date is this information given?

S178E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

(a) Seven.

(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Paarl/Victor Verster	474	R 12,150 million	9/95
Worcester/Brandvlei	316	R 10,350 million	9/95
Porterville/Voorberg	1 201	R 86,470 million	8/96
Umtzinto/Umtzinto	358	R 27,950 million	9/95
Goodwood/Wingfield	1 501	R144,100 million	1/97
Malmesbury/Malmesbury	1 197	R149,070 million	1/98
Pietermaritzburg/Napierville	1 649	R 93,980 million	12/98

(f) 8 May 1995.

Saldanha steel project: availability of water

113. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

(1) Whether a formal study has been conducted to establish whether there is sufficient water available in the surrounding area to sustain the Saldanha steel project and associated industries; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings;

(2) whether any studies have been initiated and/or (b) completed into (i) the effects (aa) of the proposed project on the harbour and lagoon, (bb) on tourism, (cc) of pollution on the viable marine culture industry and the resultant loss of jobs, (ii) the cumulative effect of pollution caused by satellite industries and (iii) the cost in respect of jobs that could be lost if the area was changed from conservation to an industrial area; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case?

S213E

56
The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) No, although this aspect was included in studies that were done about 20 years ago at the stage when it was decided to develop the Saldanha area as an industrial area.

The availability of sufficient water was, however, discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Report. It was mentioned that the Besansklip Reservoir will be able to supply sufficient water for the Saldanha steel project. Concern was expressed in that report regarding the availability of water for associated industries. This matter was, however, at that stage not further addressed in a formal study.

The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry announced on 19 May 1995 that this matter, as well as water pollution aspects, will be thoroughly addressed in a formal study commissioned by his Department.

(2) (a) (i) (aa) Yes: An environmental impact assessment is being undertaken by the CSIR and Crowther Campbell & Ass. for extensions of the General Cargo Quay. The draft report will be published for comment by the end of June.

(bb) Please see reply on the next point.

(cc) Yes. These aspects are being addressed as part of the environmental impact assessment which covers the proposed extensions to the harbour facilities. As part of the environmental impact assessment, the following specialist studies are being undertaken:

* The impact of dredging on mariculture and marine ecology;

* The handling of material and associated dust problems;

* The increased risk with regard to increased maritime traffic in the harbour area;

* The social impact of the development (including tourism and job opportunities);

* The impact of increased traffic flow.

(b) (i) (aa); (bb) and (cc) Fall away.

(a) (ii) No. The possible cumulative effect of pollution caused by satellite industries has not been satisfactorily clarified and will be considered by the provincial administration. Due to the uncertainty with regard to the precise

nature and extent of possible satellite industries, it will be very difficult at this stage to assess the effect with certainty.

The zoning of areas that are at present being managed as conservation areas will not be changed to industrial area. The indirect impact in the greater Saldanha area will be taken into account by the Western Cape Province during the assessment of the application.

The results of the aspects that are now being addressed will also be available at the end of June 1995 for public scrutiny and comments.

(bb) to (b)(iii)(cc) Fall away.

Members of SAPS/police reservists: deaths

21. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(a) How many (i) members of the South African Police Service and (ii) police reservists (aa) committed suicide and (bb) were killed in the line of duty in 1994 and (b) how many members of the SAPS died in or as a result of political violence in 1994?

S229E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) (i) (aa) 184.

(bb) 78.

(ii) (aa) None.

(bb) 1.

(b) 9.

Note:

These statistics only refer to members of the South African Police.

Hansard 6/6/95

Strong support for environment

Sowetan 6/6/95 (56)

NORTH WEST PREMIER Popo Molefe said yesterday that apartheid policies had saddled South Africans with a huge "environmental debt".

He was addressing World Environment Day celebrations at the Pilanesberg National Park.

"The implementation of sound environmental management practices is high on the agenda of my government and the new environmental management policies will be carried forward to all levels of government and society," he said.

Mr Molefe said apartheid policies had forced over 80 percent of the people to live on just over 13 percent of South Africa's land.

The country's poor education system had created a nation not only with high

South Africa's hopes and dreams could be undermined by collapsing soil, water and biological resources

levels of illiteracy, but also environmental illiteracy.

Economic and social segregation policies had led to a downward spiral of poverty and environmental degradation. The political, economic and social segregation policies pursued under apartheid had created a vast group of people who had no way of escaping the poverty trap.

"These people were forced to over-use those natural environmental resources available to them just to survive

today and let tomorrow take care of itself." Apartheid, Molefe said, had created minority-controlled commercial, mining, industrial and agricultural sectors with an extraordinary amount of political influence and power.

"These sectors formed powerful vested interest blocks which prevented any effective environmental management from taking place. Implementation of sustainable environmental management was seen as a hindrance to short term gain." — *Sapa*.

Green policy for SA to be formulated

Michael Moon

⁽⁵⁶⁾
BD 7/16/95
FORMULATION of a comprehensive, integrated environmental policy for SA would start at a national consultative conference on August 17, deputy environment affairs and tourism minister Bantu Holomisa announced yesterday.

Input was being sought from all interested parties, including civics, non-governmental organisations, environmental groups and provincial governments, and a policy White Paper would be drawn up at the end of the process, Holomisa told an Environment Week seminar in Pretoria.

Holomisa singled out policy on hazardous substances as being one area needing urgent policy attention and said this would be in line with the Basle convention which now banned toxic waste exports to Africa.

He said African nations needed to exercise greater control over their genetic materials. There was a net flow of genetic material from the developing south to the developed north, and modern agricultural and horticultural systems needed a diverse supply of genetic material, generally from the Third World.

He said the ultimate goals of the reconstruction and development programme, such as an improvement in quality of life, were shared by environmentalists, and his department had adapted its budget to fit the requirements of the programme.

Areas it was currently involved in included integrated pollution control, development control and environmental impact assessment and guidelines for environmental resource economics.

ANC alliance rejects boundary proposal

Edward West

⁽⁵⁵⁾
BD 7/16/95
CAPE TOWN — Resistance to Western Cape local government NP MEC Pieter Marais' boundary proposal gathered momentum yesterday when a summit convened by the ANC alliance and a wide range of civic organisations rejected his plan.

Deputy Constitutional Affairs and Local Government Minister Valli Moosa said at the summit that if Marais did not change the proposal, steps would be taken "so he will be left with no choice — negotiate or fight in a court of law". Marais recently decided that Khayelitsha should be included in the central and southern Peninsula metropolitan substructures, a decision which was contrary to the demarcation board's proposal that the township should be included in the Tygerberg substructure.

Parliament's constitutional affairs committee has voted to amend the Local Government Transitional Act to overturn Marais' decision, but the amendment still awaits the signature of President Nelson Mandela. Marais has threatened to take the issue to the Constitutional Court if his decision is overturned.

Moosa said he did not believe any reasonable court would respond in such a way as to delay the local government elections.

Western Cape premier Hennis Kriel appealed to Mandela not to sign the proclamation, which he said was a "direct transgression of democracy".

Kriel said negotiation was still possible and a court battle could be prevented.

Moosa said the NP's claim that central government was aiming to interfere with the powers of the provinces was not true. Central government was acting to see that the way towards local government was negotiated to ensure inclusivity.

"The people of Cape Town must decide on the boundaries, but the boundaries must not create another volkstaat," he said.

At the constitutional affairs committee meeting yesterday, NP caucus leader Andre Fourie slammed the amendment to the Local Government Transitional Act as "a blatant intervention by government in provincial affairs", and he called on the ANC to revisit the amendment.

The committee yesterday voted through an amendment to give Constitutional Affairs and Local Government Minister Roelf Meyer and Justice Minister Dullah Omar powers to appoint provincial committee members. The amendment also terminates all committee appointments by the provinces after April 30 1995.

At the committee meeting, electoral task group convener Van Zyl Slabbert appealed for solutions to be found as soon as possible to the many political problems that were expected to be encountered on the road to the local government elections.

He cited as an example of the potential political pitfalls the fact that 50% of local government seats would have to be occupied by whites, Asians and coloureds, while the remaining 50% of the seats would be occupied by blacks, irrespective of whether one group dominated another in a particular area.

Business 'needs environmental incentives'

Michael Moon

BUSINESS supported market incentives to encourage better environmental performance, but had to ensure government avoided the temptation to use them as a revenue raising mechanism that would burden industry, Industrial Environmental Forum chairman John Maree said yesterday.

The business community would rather have incentives to improve environmental efforts than be threatened with punishment for not measuring up to standards, Maree said at an Environment Week seminar in Pretoria.

A past emphasis on punishment for poor performance had forced business into a reactive mode. But recent government initiatives to explore ways of using the market to achieve environmental goals was being followed with inter-

est and was likely to encourage innovative thinking from business, Maree told delegates.

He said business had to do more than minimum compliance with legislation, and avoidance strategies would not work. The consequences of not complying would be heavier penalties and the loss of hard-won reputations.

Few countries in Africa could afford expensive bureaucracies to enforce extensive regulatory systems, which placed a major responsibility on African business leaders to demonstrate responsible self-regulation in achieving effective environmental management.

Maree said environmental management equated well with good business practice as it was a question of improving efficiencies to avoid waste, reduce costs, manage liabilities and identify new opportunities.

Environmental issues had not always been

80 7/6/95 (53)
uppermost in the thinking of the business world but organisations such as the Industrial Environmental Forum now encouraged the same commitment to them as was traditionally served for technological and financial matters.

This was not to suggest that business would react to environmental "whim and fancy" would undertake calculated responses to concerns that had rational, scientific explanations.

Innovation was taking place in many areas of business and inevitably "easy matters" were being tackled first, such as waste reduction.

"Others — the complex issues — confront society with some difficult choices. Difficult to cause even the scientists disagree on the cause and effect mechanisms of some environmental problems; the required technology may be lacking; and the costs of suggested remedies astronomical," said Maree.

Business 'needs environmental incentives'

Michael Moon

BUSINESS supported market incentives to encourage better environmental performance, but had to ensure government avoided the temptation to use them as a revenue raising mechanism that would burden industry, Industrial Environmental Forum chairman John Maree said yesterday.

The business community would rather have incentives to improve environmental efforts than be threatened with punishment for not measuring up to standards, Maree said at an Environment Week seminar in Pretoria.

A past emphasis on punishment for poor performance had forced business into a reactive mode. But recent government initiatives to explore ways of using the market to achieve environmental goals was being followed with inter-

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This was not to suggest that business would react to environmental "whim and fancy". It would undertake calculated responses to concerns that had rational, scientific explanations. Innovation was taking place in many areas of business and inevitably "easy matters" were being tackled first, such as waste reduction.

"Others — the complex issues — confront society with some difficult choices. Difficult because even the scientists disagree on the cause and effect mechanisms of some environmental problems; the required technology may be lacking; and the costs of suggested remedies astronomical," said Maree.

Our youth scoop half enviro awards

ARG 7/6/95

The Argus Correspondent (56)

WHEN it comes to being really green, South African youngsters are streets ahead of their elders.

This was clear at this week's United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) Global 500 awards presentation in the State Theatre, Pretoria.

South African youngsters walked off with more than half of the Global 500 awards in the youth section of the world's most prestigious environmental event.

Pinetown scholar Robert Dyer is involved in catchment conservation in the Umhlatuzana Basin and has been involved in repairing an 87 km stretch of degraded riverbank on the Umhlatuzana River.

Knysna's Green Machine Conservation Club won a coveted Global 500 award for the community work it has done in an informal settlement in the coastal town while Humphrey Bheki Mvula's Thabisong Youth Club earned its award for raising environmental awareness.

East London's John Bisseker Secondary School is no stranger to gaining awards for its environmental involvement. On Monday it received the crowning achievement of a Global 500 for its Second Creek Environment Project involving the upgrading of an informal settlement.

In the adult division of the awards Trees for Africa, South Africa's only national greening organisation, and handicapped Johannesburg Robert Filmer were honoured by their eco-colleagues.

The group of South Africans share their international environmental awards with luminaries such as Jordan's Queen Noor and American George Schaller, director of New York-based Wildlife Conservation International.

Twenty-seven Global 500 awards were presented by Unep executive director Elizabeth Dowdeswell and South African Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers in a live televised ceremony.

New laws to protect baboons on the cards

Environment Reporter

NEW legislation to protect the Peninsula's remaining baboons is being considered, and a benefactor has offered a R5 000 reward for information leading to the conviction of people mutilating the animals.

This follows recent sightings of several animals with missing hands.

Initial suggestions that the baboons may have been mutilated for the muti trade have been denied by the Traditional Healers' Association of the Western Cape.

A spokesman said none of the association's 700 members would acquire any animal parts illegally.

Although baboons are protected in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance, they are also classified as "problem animals" and there is a year-long open hunting season on them — including in the Cape Peninsula.

Just 30 years ago there were still baboons on Table Mountain but they have now retreated to the southern Peninsula.

(5b)
ARLT 7/6/95
"We are concerned about the future of these baboons — not only because their future is threatened, but because they are an important tourist attraction," a Cape Nature Conservation spokesman said.

"A major problem threatening the future of these animals is that people feed them at the roadside."

The conservation authority planned to amend legislation next year to give the Peninsula's baboons legal protection.

"We are also planning an education campaign, aimed at visitors to the Peninsula."

Officials were also still investigating the mutilations, and an anonymous upcountry benefactor had offered the R5 000 reward.

● Anyone with information can contact Zane Erasmus, Joe Herbig or Cyril Payle in confidence at ☎ 52 1070/1/2.

Landowners and other interested parties wanting to comment on the proposed amended legislation can contact Dries Strydom at ☎ 483 3925.

Green talks on bid

Environment Reporter (56) (228)

THE Cape Town Olympic Bid Committee will discuss bid-related "green" issues with environmentalists and other concerned people at a public meeting next week.

This follows a "slightly heated" discussion last week when a memorandum outlining concerns about the bid was handed to bid committee deputy chairman Clive Keegan and several of his colleagues, by representatives of the Olympic meeting working group.

The group was formed at a meeting last month when about 80 people representing environmental and civic groups met to discuss concerns that "green" issues were being sidelined in the bid.

They decided to call for the bid to be put on hold until a full summit meeting of all interested parties and a vote by Cape Town residents on whether they wanted to host the 2004 Games.

Mary-Jane Morris, spokeswoman for the working group, said they had talked for about 30 minutes and the discussion had been "slightly heated" at times.

The bid committee had acknowledged that many people who had supported the bid no longer did so, and that it was "very behind" in its public participation and environmental programmes. ARG 7/6/95

The committee had indicated that it would send representatives to the group's next public meeting next week, Ms Morris said.

● The meeting is at 6 pm next Tuesday, June 13, in the ground floor lecture theatre of the podium block in the Civic Centre.

ARG 6/6/95
Nzo enters ~~1599~~
debate on ~~56~~
Saldanha mill

Political Staff

PRETORIA. — A new player — the department of foreign affairs — has entered the debate on the Saldanha Bay steel project.

Iscor's decision to build a steel mill at the town drew comment from Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo when he set the World Environment Day celebrations ball rolling at the State Theatre yesterday.

South Africa became a contracting party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1975 and 12 South African wetlands had been designated and listed as "wetlands of international importance" — including the one at Saldanha Bay, Mr Nzo said.

The Foreign Affairs Minister officially opened an environment exhibition — the first official World Environment Day function — but declined to give any further comment on the Saldanha steel mill project.

A furore has erupted in recent weeks about Iscor's decision to build a steel mill at Saldanha Bay because of ecological damage to the sensitive Langebaan lagoon — site of the West Coast National Park.

ARG 7/6/95

Steel mill worries foreign convention

Environment Reporter

(56)

AN international convention on wetlands has asked for more information about Iscor's proposed steel mill near the shores of Langebaan lagoon.

The call for information from the Department of Environment Affairs came from the Ramsar Convention's Swiss-based secretariat.

The Ramsar Convention, originally negotiated as a means of conserving waterfowl, is now a key tool in the conservation of wetlands, recognised as one of the world's most threatened ecosystems.

South Africa is a signatory to the convention and Langebaan Lagoon is one of a handful of proclaimed Ramsar sites in the country.

In terms of the convention, signatories must be informed of any possible threats to proclaimed sites.

The Citizen's Review Group, an alliance of people opposed to Iscor's plan, contacted the Ramsar Bureau in Switzerland to ask it to inquire why it had not been informed officially of the proposal by the South African government.

The group says the Langebaan lagoon is threatened by the steel mill.

"Dr De Villiers has declined to notify Ramsar in spite of considerable and substantial opposition to the project, including that from Cape Nature Conservation, National Parks Board and the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa," said the group.

"Technology can be built anywhere; this rare lagoon is unique and irreplaceable."

Taking the guesswork out of planning

Environmental atlas now on computer

(56)

STW 7/6/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

South Africa's Department of the Environment and Tourism chose the second day of international festivities surrounding World Environment Day to lift the wraps off two new state-of-the-art electronic environmental information systems yesterday.

At a champagne breakfast attended by Minister of Environment Dawie de Villiers and Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa, the DEA previewed its computer-based State of Environment Report.

Indicators

The easy-to-navigate system runs on any 386 micro computer with Windows and will be updated regularly.

It contains indicators covering the whole spectrum of the environment ranging from global warming, ozone, acid rain, women and the environment to landscape change, environmental hazards, health effects, infrastructure, waste, Ramsar sites, legislation and population. It allows for sub-regional up to global comparisons, monitoring of progress/deterioration and in-

cludes maps, graphs, and animation in time and space.

The entire package will be released in the next few months and will put South Africa in line with international sustainability criteria developed by the United Nations.

The State of the Environment launch was followed by a one-day seminar on this year's Environment Day theme: the inter-relatedness of sustainability, biodiversity and people.

The DEA's second triumph was the release of its National Environmental Potential Atlas (Enpat), which won this year's EPPIC award for the Best South African Technical Paper.

This set of Geographic Information System-derived electronic maps provides a visual over-

view of South Africa's environmental resources, its potential for conservation and agriculture.

Enpat is aimed at macro and broad-scale scenario planning and its most important value is that for the first-time implications of land-use decisions will be available before any actions are initiated.

Enpat contains two main data types: environmental and population. A query facility allows the user to construct "what if ..." scenarios.

By querying the two data sets together, the potential environmental impacts of broad planning or national policy decisions can be modelled and predicted.

The largest atlas in the set is Enpat Gauteng, comprising 72 1:50 000 map sheets containing 200 Mb of data. The first atlas purchased on CD costs R500, which includes a free copy of ARCVIEW 1 software, atlas data and user manual. Subsequent CDs cost R250, with atlas data and user manual.

The DEA is investigating the possibility of tailoring Enpat for education needs. Unfortunately, the funds for Edupat, as it has been dubbed, are not yet available.

FOR THE RECORD

It was incorrectly reported in The Star on Monday that an environmental rally would be held at Nasrec, Johannesburg, on Friday. The event takes place at 11am on Saturday and admission is free. Deputy Minister of Environment Bantu Holomisa will be the guest of honour.

SA launches Ecoworld '96

Michael Moon

MORE than 1 000 international and local delegates and 350 exhibitors are expected at a major environmental and ecotourism event to be held in Durban in March next year.

Ecoworld '96 would be the biggest conference and exhibition of its kind in Africa, organisers said at a formal launch in Sandton this week.

Speaking at the launch, Ecoworld '96 chairman Wouter van Houven said the event would be held on a biannual basis and aimed to provide a forum for governments, business, environmentalists and the public.

The components would be an exhibition; a congress with symposia on wildlife management, environmental management, marine conservation, and ecotourism and adventure travel; and an international nature film festival.

Formally launching the project, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers said it was an attempt to put SA on the environmental world map. It was envisaged it would be used to help establish a world environmental forum, along the lines of the World Economic Forum which meets in Davos, Switzerland, every year.

The event was initiated by management company Spearhead International.

Holomisa moots environment fund

(58) BD 8/6/95

Michael Moon

A NATIONAL trust fund should be set up to help educate disadvantaged communities on the importance of good environmental practices, Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Bantu Holomisa said yesterday.

He suggested a levy on fuel consumption — a major cause of pollution — could be one source of finance for the fund. Contributions from government, the private sector and international donors could also be solicited, Holomisa told a seminar on environmental resource economics in Midrand.

While government was providing resources for reconstruction projects which were environmentally beneficial, more funds were clearly needed for environmental initiatives and education in disadvantaged areas, he said.

A planned national consultative conference on the environment in August would produce a policy White Paper, but Holomisa asked how such a policy would ever be implemented without the necessary infrastructure and finance.

Good programmes, such as the 20/20 project at Natal University's Institute for Natural Resources and essential efforts to protect biodiversity, were hampered because they did not have adequate capacity for their implementation.

A dedicated trust fund might be able to supply resources to provincial governments to assist them in dealing with environmental issues.

Holomisa's suggestion echoed one made earlier in the week by Earthlife Africa's Chris Albertyn.

He called for government, business and scientific agencies involved in environmental work to establish a special trust

fund to assist local communities. Albertyn told an Environment Week seminar in Pretoria that more attention needed to be given to ensuring the voices of community leaders were heard when environmental impacts were being investigated.

Usually consultations on development projects were attended mainly by "men in pinstriped suits and ties".

It was often beyond the means of community leaders to attend such meetings and the other interested parties needed to make an effort to empower them through some sort of fund, said Albertyn.

Holomisa said recommendations made in the Lorimer committee report released this week might not be necessary.

While some of its suggestions would further environmental endeavours in SA, it might not be necessary to go as far as appointing a special minister in the President's office to oversee environmental policy in the same way as the reconstruction and development programme was being co-ordinated.

Instead, a presidential environment committee, comprising the president and representatives from other sectors of society, could meet regularly to discuss integrating environment issues into government strategies.

Holomisa said SA needed to move away from economic practices which allowed private companies to maximise profits by passing on production costs to the environment. There was a need to build principles of sustainability into all economic strategies and avoid the unbalanced use of natural resources.

Economic activity needed to concentrate specifically on the eradication of poverty as this led directly to degradation of the ecology, said Holomisa.

Govt launches Saldanha mill inquiry

Edward West

(122A) (56)

BD 8/6/95

CAPE TOWN — A board of inquiry would be appointed to conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed R4bn steel mill in Saldanha Bay, Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

The planned steel mill, a joint equity venture between Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation, has attracted strong criticism from environmental groups and property owners in the area.

An application for an interdict forcing De Villiers to appoint a board of inquiry and appealing for the site's rezoning to be postponed until the board completed its assessment is due to be heard in the Cape Supreme Court next week.

De Villiers said he decided to appoint the board following a report from an ad hoc

committee of the Council for the Environment and following reservations on the matter expressed by Western Cape provincial environment MEC Kobus Meiring.

Iscor had indicated it was not opposed to the investigation, De Villiers said.

Former national peace secretariat chairman and jurist Antonie Gildenhuys would chair the board and would be assisted by University of Cape Town geography and environmental sciences department head Prof Richard Fuggle. Other board appointments were being finalised.

De Villiers was confident the investigation could be concluded quickly.

Others opposing the plant include the Cape Nature Conservation, National Parks Board, Wildlife Society, Earthlife Africa, the National Union of Metalworkers of SA and World Wildlife Fund.

Waste-Tech accused of illegal dumping

Deborah Fine

BD 8/16/95
GAUTENG hazardous waste removal company Enviroserv has accused another waste removal operation, Waste-Tech, of unlawful competition and illegally dumping toxic materials at other sites not intended for such waste.

The allegation was made by Enviroserv director Alexander Mclean, who has asked the Rand Supreme Court to interdict Waste-Tech from collecting or removing hazardous wastes and disposing of the toxic materials at any site in the former Transvaal province. Mclean has accused Waste-Tech of illegally dumping toxic wastes at sites in Rosslyn near Pretoria, and Nuffield in Springs.

He said in an affidavit before court his company and Waste-Tech were the only two operations in the former Transvaal province involved in the disposal of hazardous waste.

Enviroserv had government permission to dump such waste at a site in Holfontein, Springs, while Waste-Tech previously had been granted a temporary permit to deposit toxic materials at the Margolis site, in Germiston, he said.

Waste-Tech's permit had been withdrawn in 1993, however, after the Germiston town council secured a Rand Supreme Court order interdicting Waste-Tech from using the Margolis site for toxic wastes following complaints from Germiston residents about noxious smells and gases.

Mclean alleged that Waste-Tech had

still been dumping oil, phenol, phosphate sludge, heavy metals and iron hydroxide filtercake at the Margolis site as late as May last year.

He accused Waste-Tech of continuing to dump toxic wastes at the Germiston site in contravention of the 1993 interdict, as well as depositing the wastes at the other sites.

The Margolis site was officially closed last month.

Mclean said his allegations were based on the fact that Enviroserv had only 40% to 50% of the hazardous waste disposal market, and had failed to secure more customers after withdrawal of Waste-Tech's permission to use the Margolis site.

"I submit it is inconceivable that the balance of hazardous waste generators dispose of the wastes generated by their activities unlawfully. I contend the only reasonable conclusion is that the balance of the market is being serviced by Waste-Tech," he said.

Mclean accused Waste-Tech of unlawfully depriving Enviroserv of a larger portion of the hazardous waste market through its allegedly unlawful conduct.

He said the total potential annual turnover of the toxic waste market in the Transvaal was about R100m a year. Through its unlawful competition and alleged illegal dumping, Waste-Tech was depriving Enviroserv of about R10.5m a year.

Waste-Tech is expected to file answering affidavits next week.

The matter was postponed indefinitely by Judge R Zulman.

Abortive secret deal lost SANDF \$1,6m

BD 8/16/95
CAPE TOWN — The SA National Defence Force had made a \$1,6m loss after a 1992/1993 covert overseas deal went awry, the joint public accounts committee heard yesterday.

The covert project involved the purchase of "very sensitive chemicals" from eastern European institutions, SANDF chief Koos Meiring said. Attempts to recover the money were still continuing.

Asked by Freedom Front MP Piet Gous to elaborate, Meiring said he would require special permission from Cabinet to disclose further information.

The matter was under investigation by the Office for Serious Economic Offences, which had requested permission from Justice Minister Dullah Omar to continue investigations abroad, office head Chris Swanepoel told the committee.

The request had been made in September last year, but no response had been received from the minister as the matter was still before Cabinet.

The agent responsible for the loss had made a statement at the SA embassy in Bonn, acknowledging full responsibility for the disappearance of the money and promising full co-operation, Meiring said.

An intricate delivery and payment structure had had to be created. There had been adequate control over the transaction "up to a certain time".

The SANDF's stock — nearly R37bn — was scrutinised by the committee, with

some members suggesting the state's tied-up assets could be put to better use.

Chairman Ken Andrew (DP) noted that if the stock was reduced by 15% then SA's total budget deficit could drop below 5%.

Meiring told the committee that in many cases stock was below a "desirable level for a defence force of this size". Reserves had already been eaten into as a result of these cuts and SANDF stock was at far from an optimum level.

The committee also called for an independent investigation of the acquisition, renovation and sale of property for an SA mission in New York. The building, intended as office and residential accommodation for the mission and consulate, was later sold for an eighth of the purchase and refurbishing costs.

In its report to Parliament, the committee expressed "serious concern" at the procedures used to acquire the property.

It urged the auditor-general to appoint an independent legal expert to investigate the matter locally and abroad to "determine the facts, possible culpability, and whether there is a basis for further legal action to recover losses".

The committee further recommended that responsibility for the refurbishment of buildings abroad be clearly assigned, and that the foreign affairs department ensure that its officials act strictly in accordance with procedure when renting, acquiring or refurbishing buildings overseas. — Sapa.

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Probe of 'all aspects' of Saldanha steel plant

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A BOARD of inquiry headed by former National Peace Secretariat chairman Antonie Gildenhuys has been appointed to probe all available information, including objections, about Iscor's proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay.

The board, appointed in terms of Section 15 of the Environment Conservation Act, will include at least one nationally recognised environmentalist and must assist Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to evaluate the proposal.

The appointment of a board is one of the major demands of a Supreme Court interdict application against the steel mill, brought last week by a Langebaan Lagoon property trust.

The application was postponed by agreement to next week.

Earlier yesterday National Assembly Environment Committee chairman Peter Mokaba said he had intended asking the minister for an inquiry and

that it was important for such a precedent to be set for future industrial development of this nature.

Announcing the board's appointment yesterday, Dr De Villiers said that if it found strong reasons for not allowing the proposed steel plant to be constructed, he would go to the cabinet for approval to act in terms of Section 31 of the Environment Conservation Act which allows him to forbid any action which damages — or threatens to damage — the environment.

He stressed that the board would not undertake a new environmental impact assessment of Iscor's proposal and that its inquiry, which would include public hearings of evidence, would be completed as soon as possible.

"I don't want to put a time frame on this, but it won't take months and months. A lot of work has already been done, and it can be completed in a reasonably quick time," Dr De Villiers said. "This is an issue

which has generated much emotion and clashing interests.

"Matters of this nature are very difficult and very complex . . . you need to have to weigh conflicting interests. This is perhaps one of the most difficult examples of weighing such interests."

The environmental impact assessment of the plant had, to date, indicated that it could be built and operated within acceptable limits.

"But there are also arguments that the impact assessment was too limited — for example, it only looked at Iscor's proposed site, and there are other questions which have been raised by the National Parks Board, World Wide Fund for Nature and others.

"So to try to assess this in the most responsible and objective manner I've decided to appoint the board."

Dr Gildenhuys was a trained jurist who had specialist knowledge and experience of water law and environmental legisla-

tion.

Richard Fuggle, head of the University of Cape Town's department of environmental and geographical sciences and a member of the Council for the Environment, was the only other member of the board named yesterday, but Dr De Villiers said he was likely to appoint "one or two more".

● Sapa reports that earlier at a National Assembly Environment Committee meeting, it was asked if the proposed rezoning of the site from agricultural to heavy industrial land-use went ahead, it would be impossible to stop development, despite the incomplete impact studies.

It could cost the government "a lot" in compensation if, once the land were rezoned and Iscor had started developing, environmental and other impact studies showed the site was unsuitable for heavy industrial development, Mr Mokaba said. The Minister said he was unable to comment.

STEEL PLANT PROJECT PUT ON HOLD

Govt Orders Saldanha Probe

CT 8/6/95 (56)

THE ESTABLISHMENT of a board to probe the environmental impact of the proposed Saldanha steel mill has effectively delayed any decision on the future of the project. **BARRY STREEK** and **CHRIS BATEMAN** report.

THE controversial Saldanha steel project was yesterday effectively put on ice when a board of investigation was appointed to look into the environmental consequences of the proposed development.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Dr Dawie de Villiers, announced the establishment of the board yesterday.

It is to be chaired by Dr Antonie Gildenhuys, former chairman of the National Peace Secretariat.

Professor Richard Fuggle of the University of Cape Town was appointed as a member.

Dr De Villiers said additional members would be appointed to the board, which was appointed in terms of the Environment Conservation Act.

Despite the appointment of the board, it is reliably understood that Iscor is pressing ahead with its preparations and is confident it will eventually receive the go-ahead for the project.

Western Cape Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Minister, Mr Lamplie Fick, on whose desk Saldanha Steel's rezoning site application lies, said last night he felt it was still possible to make his decision "within a couple of weeks".

"Dr De Villiers' action will have to be considered but it's too soon to say whether it will delay my decision," he said.

More documentation was coming in every day from scientists and interested parties and this was being "cross-checked and assessed".

This made it difficult to give a date for his decision.

Alternative site

Saldanha Steel, which is continuing with its R4,8 billion mill plans, has asked for the proposed Yzerfontein farm site, three kilometres from the waterside, to be rezoned from agricultural to industrial use.

Mr Fick and Water Affairs Minister Professor Kader Asmal are flying to the controversial site and a proposed alternative site (Langeberg Farm, some 10km from the lagoon) tomorrow, where they will meet council officials and hold a press conference.

However, provincial Minister of Nature and Environment Conservation Mr Kobus Meiring said he was sure the rezoning would be delayed until the investigation was complete.

The announcement came shortly



INQUIRY COMING: Dr Dawie de Villiers, with Mr Kobus Meiring, provincial Minister of Nature and Environment Conservation (left) and Mr Johan Jooste, of the same department, announce the setting up of a board of inquiry.

PICTURE: CLIVE SMITH

after the chairman of the Portfolio Committee on Environment Affairs, Mr Peter Mokaba, asked Dr De Villiers to appoint the board.

After his committee heard evidence from a group of environmentalists linked to Earthlife Africa and an Iscor consultant, Mr William Roper, Mr Mokaba said he did not feel anything should be done in a hurry "until we have arrived at a well-considered position".

Dr De Villiers said the board's hearings on the issue would be in public, as laid down in the law, and people could be ordered to appear before it.

Iscor had been informed of the decision and while it was not enthusiastic, it accepted it.

In terms of the act, the board of investigation will evaluate the matter and advise him, Dr De Villiers said.

● **WILLEM STEENKAMP** reports that Dr Gildenhuys is a former director of one of Iscor's law firms. Dr Gildenhuys, who confirmed last

CT 8/6

night that Dr De Villiers had approached him for the post of board chairman and he had accepted, said, however, that he left the Pretoria firm of Gildenhuys Van der Merwe in 1989. The firm, which had retained his name in its title, still employed him as a consultant but "without remuneration".

Iscor spokesman Mr Neels Howart confirmed last night that "we are using Gildenhuys Van der Merwe in the final stage of the steel mill project".

Iscor board query

(1899) (56) Star 8/6/95

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Dr Antonie Gildenhuys, the chairman of the board of inquiry set up yesterday by Environment Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers to probe the controversial Saldanha steel mill, is a former director of a law firm that has done work for Iscor.

Dr Gildenhuys said that he left the Pretoria firm of Gildenhuys

Van der Merwe in 1989 to join the Johannesburg firm of Hofmeyr Van der Merwe.

He said that Gildenhuys Van der Merwe, which had retained his name in its title, still employed him as a consultant but "without remuneration".

"I have nothing (else) to do with the firm," he said. Had he still had an interest in the law firm, "there definitely would be a conflict of interest".

HIGH-TECH ANSWER TO PHONE POLES

Back to nature at Cape Point

CT 9/6/95

(56)

TECHNOLOGY is helping to preserve the beauty of the Cape Point Nature Reserve. **CLAIRE BISSEKER** reports.

CAPE POINT took a step back to nature yesterday when workers began removing the nature reserve's 300 "unsightly" telephone poles, which have been replaced by a digital radio network.

"It is one of the most significant events that has occurred in the reserve for many years. Over the past five years we have tried to remove everything that was discordant or a suburban intrusion into the landscape," said Mr Howard Langley, the Cape Metropolitan Council's chief conservation officer.

After a lengthy technical investigation by Telkom, the reserve switched over to the R200 000 Digital Radio Multiple Access Subscriber System last month and the first telephone pole was felled yesterday.

The state-of-the-art radio system, which has been used by essential services in informal Cape Flats settlements over the past year, provides the remotely-situated telephone user with a better

quality line at no extra cost, a Telkom spokesman said.

He explained that the electronic signal from an ordinary telephone headset was routed underground to a nearby subscriber box, which converted it into a radio signal and relayed it to the Swartklip exchange in Mitchells Plain. There it was changed back into an electronic signal and routed via the normal telephone network.

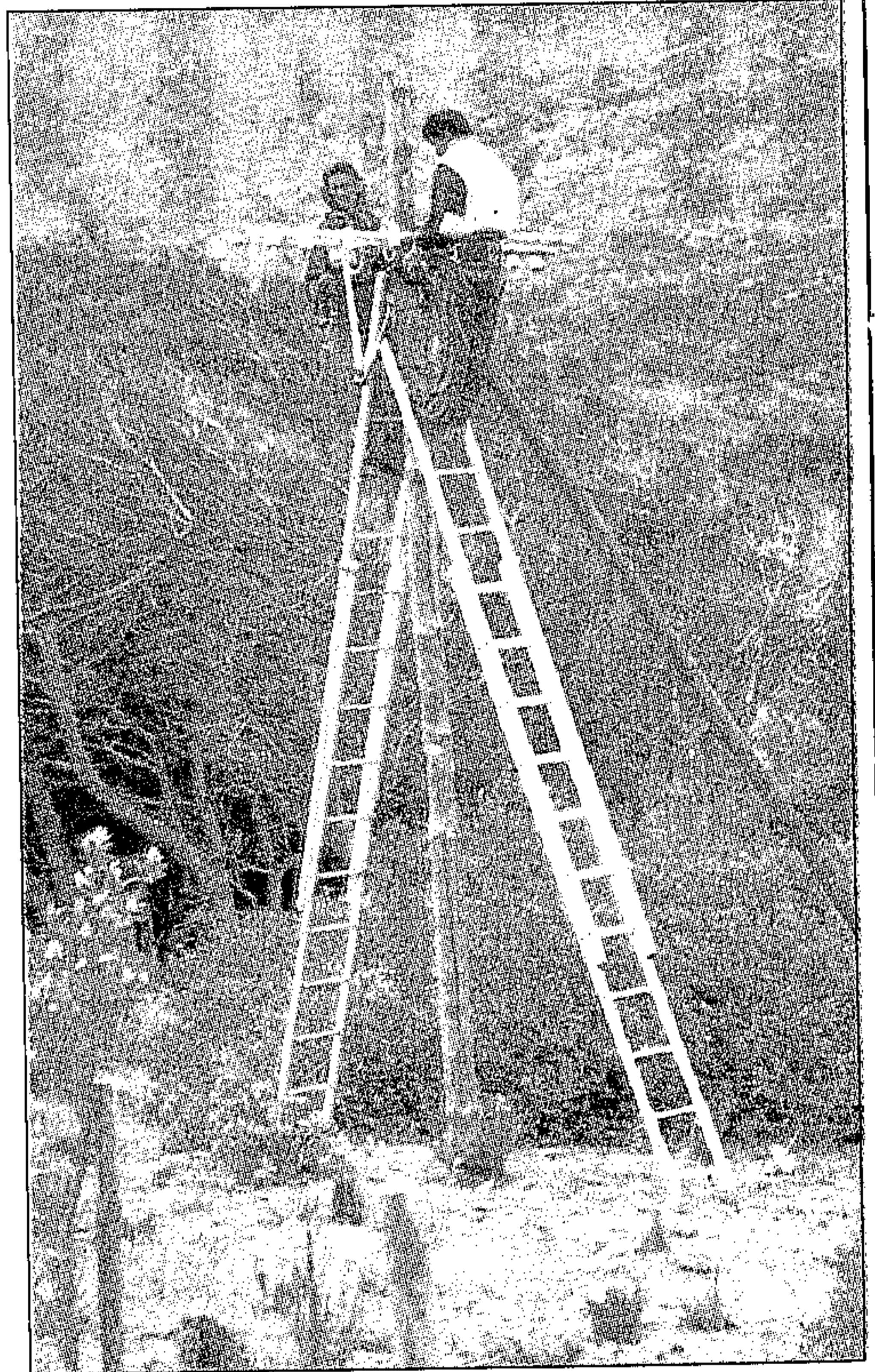
Installed

An additional six lines have already been installed at Cape Point for the CSIR, the weather station and the Gold Fields Education Centre.

By then end of July the network will be expanded to 90 lines covering the Red Hill, Perdekloof and Plateau Road areas which adjoin the reserve.

The only dissenting note has been from the Steppe Buzzards who migrate to Cape Point from the Russian steppes every spring and roost at the tops of the telephone poles.

Telkom said they had the assurance of ornithologists that the birds would soon revert to roosting on rocks and bushes.



TIMBER: The first of 300 Cape Point Nature Reserve telephone poles was felled yesterday by Cape Metropolitan Council workers. The "unsightly" overhead system is being replaced by a digital radio network.

PICTURE: CLIVE SMITH

Saldanha: Probe chairman resigns

WILLEM STEENKAMP

DR Antonie Gildenhuys, appointed on Wednesday by Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers to chair a commission of inquiry into the controversial Saldanha Steel project, yesterday recused himself.

Dr Gildenhuys, confirmed last night that he had withdrawn because his old law firm, Gildenhuys Van der Merwe, which he left in 1989, represents Iscor for the project.

He still acts as a consultant for

the firm of lawyers.

Details of his involvement with the firm were published in the Cape Times yesterday.

"I never foresaw that my old firm would be Iscor's lawyers," he said last night.

The Saldanha project was "highly controversial and emotionally charged", he said. It was important that there was "no suspicion" of there being interested parties, "especially not in such a sensitive matter".

"I don't think there is any possibility I could do it," he said,

expressing relief that the problem had been identified early.

He tendered his withdrawal about lunchtime yesterday and Dr De Villiers confirmed this about 5pm. No replacement had yet been appointed, he said.

Meanwhile, environmental consultant Mr John Raimondo, appointed recently as an "independent" observer by regional Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Minister Mr Lampie Fick to examine a CSIR environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the proposed Langebaan Lagoon site,

has come under fire from the project's objectors.

They questioned Mr Raimondo's impartiality, claiming he was a member of the Malgas Consortium, a body including the CSIR and other consultants which identified the lagoon site.

They also attacked his report to Mr Fick, saying it contained little criticism of the EIA and instead listed ways for Mr Fick to immediately approve the proposed site.

Mr Raimondo rejected the allegations.

● See Page 6

ET 9/6/95

(56) (EIA)

Shark Board men in 'seal killing orgy'

(56) ST(CM) 11/6/95

By YVETTE VAN BREDA

NATAL Sharks Board workers embarked on a "killing orgy" off the Cape south coast, mercilessly shooting, gaffing and clubbing to death at least 50 seals for bait to test an electric shark barrier, it was revealed this week.

Details of the incident were revealed in a sworn statement to police by Natal Sharks Board (NSB) technician Norman Starkey, who said he had witnessed the killings.

Earlier this week Mr Theo Ferreira, the head of the Cape Town-based White Shark Research Institute, laid a complaint of cruelty to animals with police in Gansbaai.

On Friday a police spokesman in Gansbaai confirmed that a docket had been opened in connection with the illegal killing of 50 seals.

In his affidavit, made to police in Durban, Mr Starkey said the killings took place between February and April this year at the huge seal colony at Dyer Island off Gansbaai, on the Cape's south coast.

He has blamed two NSB officials and an American shark researcher for the killings.

The killings were confirmed by NSB director Graham Charter on Friday. He said Mr Starkey and NSB logistics technician and skipper of their research boat, Mr Paul van Blerk, had been temporarily suspended from work.

The men were facing an internal disciplinary investigation and possible criminal charges, he said.

Mr Starkey denied that he had been involved in the killings and said the slaughter of the seals "sickened me."

Mr Charter said members of the NSB's staff had illegally killed 13 seals, contrary to his instructions, for bait to attract sharks during the testing of a revolutionary electric shark repellent, which has cost R2-million to develop.

An internal investigation had revealed that 13 seals were killed, while a further 32 dead seal pups were collected as bait.

Mr Charter said his staff had believed that the instruction not to kill seals was based on his own "ecological philosophy and not in terms of the law.

"The staff saw local fishermen shooting seals to keep them away from their catches and Sea Fisheries inspectors killing seals for research reasons and

to stop them smashing penguin eggs.

"They therefore thought that seal culling for authorised research purposes is a legitimate practice."

In his affidavit, Mr Starkey said NSB staff had visited Dyer Island on numerous occasions over the past four years to test the shark repellent. Until two years ago they had used seal bait supplied by the Department of Sea Fisheries' Mammal Research Unit for their tests.

In November last year "they (the NSB staff and the American researcher) started shooting seals, using a silencer," Mr Starkey said. "But in February they became afraid that the gunshots may be heard by the island keeper and started clubbing seals on a large scale".

When he learnt that the NSB were returning to the island, he decided to "come clean" and contacted White Shark Research Institute director Theo Ferreira.

Sleight of hand by Iscor in Saldanha

(56) (SAB) WM 9-14/6/95

Ian Moultrie, a private shareholder in Iscor, takes issue with ANC MP Jenny Schreiner's comments on opposition to the proposed Saldanha Steel Project

JENNY SCHREINER is reported in last week's *Mail & Guardian* as saying: "It is incredibly arrogant to assume that only the bourgeoisie are concerned about the environment." Nobody I know is making that assumption. And no one I know is trying to stop Iscor from building its steel mill or "criticising development in this area".

What they want are answers to a lot of questions, some of which will require serious study.

The Saldanha Steel Project was stitched together in a rush, and the plasters are starting to peel. There are two reasons for Iscor's haste, and neither of them has to do with earning foreign exchange, or ore beneficiation, or jobs for the local community, which are the stated motivations.

First, Iscor had to order equipment quickly so as to obtain R1-billion in section 37e income tax concessions before they were withdrawn in January this year. Without these the project would have been far less profitable. Second, the Industrial Development Corporation, a big Iscor shareholder, had a lot of cash and wanted to tuck it into a profitable long-term investment before its emphasis was redirected into Reconstruction and Development Programme projects.

Making steel is arguably the dirtiest industry there is, producing hazardous wastes which are difficult and expensive to contain. Iscor started off on the right foot in March last year, by voluntarily commissioning the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to do an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This is not a legal requirement, nor is it binding on Iscor. Unfortunately, the CSIR was given a very limited brief: to investigate the environmental impact of one steel plant with a capacity of 1-million tons per year on a specific Iscor-owned site one kilometre from the water in Saldanha Bay.

During the rest of 1994, Iscor's plans changed dramatically. The initial capacity of the plant increased to 1,25-million tons per year, and then to 2,5-million tons per year; secondary industries were added, including a cement factory, a stainless steel plant, a tube manufacturer, a galvanising plant and a pel-

letisation plant — in most of which Iscor has a direct, if not controlling, interest. These industries mean extensions to the harbour, to double both its capacity and the size of ship than it can accommodate. The EIA was invalidated before it was published; it hadn't considered changes on that scale.

Nevertheless, the report did show up areas which required further investigation. To date, 15 outstanding specialist studies have been identified, and more questions are being raised daily.

For example, while checking this article against the report, I came across a note in Figure 4.4, which states that the effects of the offloading of coal at the quay, and transport to the site "was excluded from the brief of this study".

The coal will be offloaded by a grab hook, from ships of up to 60 000 tons, over several days. If a typical

Probe ordered

A BOARD of inquiry is to investigate the Saldanha steel mill project, Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers said on Wednesday.

De Villiers said former National Peace Secretariat Chairman and legal professional Dr Antoni Gildenhuys would chair the board, assisted by University of Cape Town environmental science Professor Richard Fuggle and possibly one or two others.

four-day south-easter is blowing, that coal dust will gust horizontally across the water, across the beach and into the houses at 70km/h.

Objections were raised with Lampie Fick, the MEC responsible for rezoning the site, something which Iscor had omitted at the outset. He appointed an environmentalist, Dr John Raimondo, to consider the shortcomings of the EIA and the costs of alternative sites, and went overseas to visit steel plants in Canada and the United States.

These plants were shown on TV, overlaid on photographs of Saldanha, suggesting that they were Corex-technology plants of the type proposed by Iscor. They weren't: there are only two Corex plants in the world, Iscor's Pretoria plant is one, which has been going for six years and for which Iscor refuses to disclose essential effluent data. This plant doesn't feature much on the TV. The other was installed a few months ago in Korea.

Iscor didn't tell anyone that Canadian plants are as clean as they are because Canadians do not put up with smooth technotalk. They rely on and enforce draconian environmental laws, not Corex state-of-the-art technology, which Iscor is punting. The plans in the EIA are full of cost-saving short cuts, which would never be allowed in Canada.

Raimondo presented his findings at a meeting chaired by Fick on May 25. Raimondo recommended that the site, which had been severely criticised, should not be moved, and that rezoning should proceed, provided certain stringent conditions were placed on Iscor. This caused even more vociferous objections, rooted in the common sense argument that you can't impose stringent conditions on activities whose consequences are unknown.

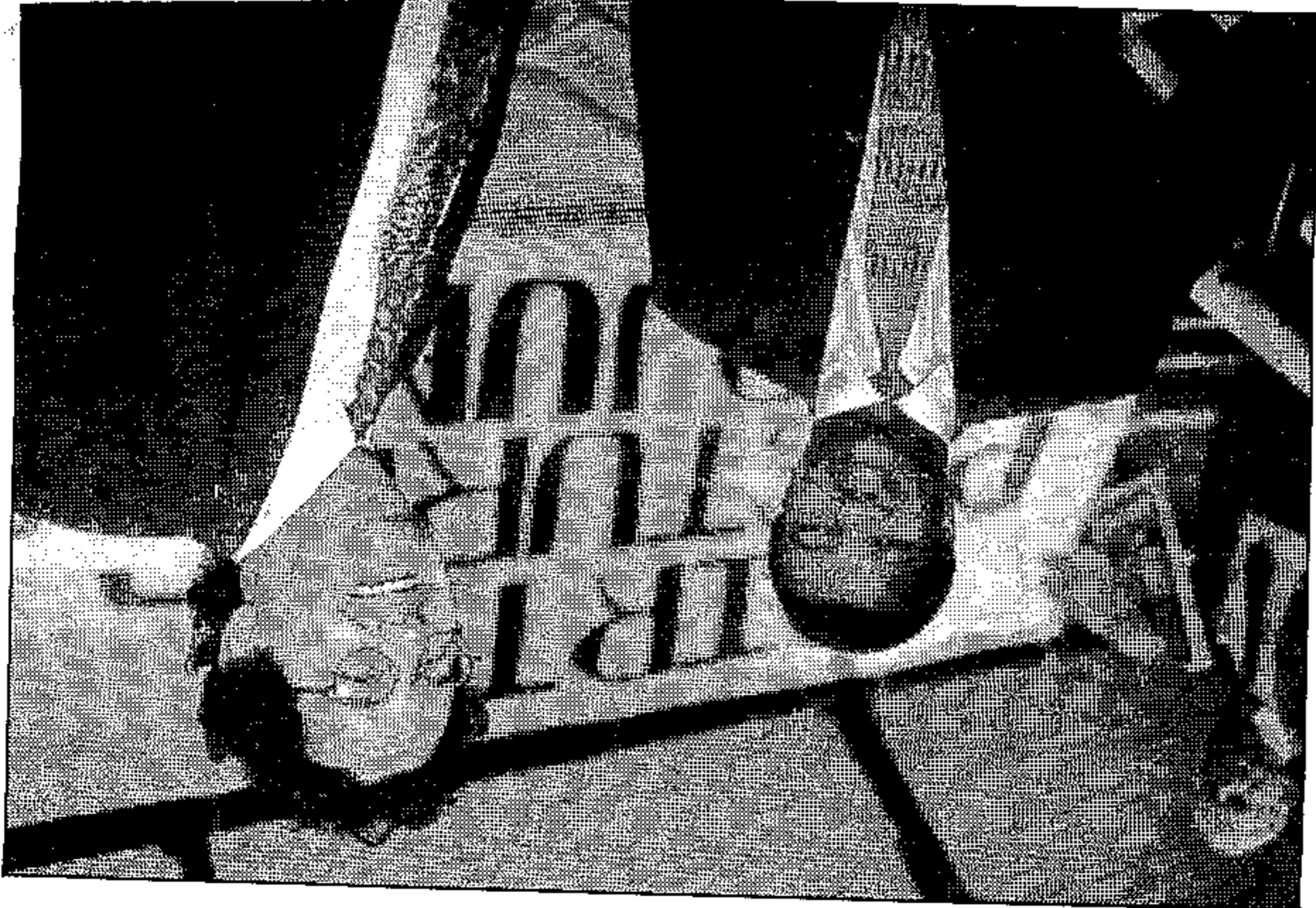
The management of Iscor has consistently minimised the environmental risks and equally consistently overstated the benefits.

Investors were allowed to believe that Iscor's exports were going to increase by R1,6-billion a year, which would have increased the share's attractiveness as a rand hedge. Government was allowed to think that it was going to earn an extra R1,6-billion a year in dollars.

Everyone was led to think that Iscor was creating a whole lot of new jobs when 4 500 jobs will be lost. None of this is criminal. It is sleight of hand, the very phrase adopted by Iscor's Executive Director, Steel Division, as reported in *SA Mining*.

Three hundred of the 590 jobs at Saldanha Steel Project are for graduates; another 160 for matriculants. The EIA says that, on average, the unemployed in Saldanha have Standard 5 or 6. Anyway, any decent employer would first reward the loyal service and experience of those who want transfers to Saldanha as the Vanderbijlpark operation is phased out.

Saldanha alone will earn profits of R500-million a year. That's as much as the whole of Iscor earned last year from all six of its plants and its ore exports. But Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith pleads poverty when it comes to moving the plant 10km inland, to minimise the effects of acid fog, for example. He might be on his own here: six of his biggest private shareholders have said that they would give up some of these amazing profits if studies show that such a move would add value to the environment, always including its people as the significant component.



PHOTOGRAPH: BRETT ELOFF

Digging up the dirt ...
Deputy
Environmental Affairs
Minister Bantu
Holomisa and Mail &
Guardian Editor
Anton Harber at
Friday's presentation
of the Dirty
Pictures
(environmental)
photographic awards
sponsored by the
M&G and Earthlife
Africa.

SA's new game park engages RDP ethic

SA

BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

South Africa's newest game park came of age last week with the release of spotted hyena and lion into the Madikwe Game Reserve, the arid 75 000ha stretch of bushveld on the northernmost boundary of North West Province.

For the tourist, the introduction of three *panthera leo* places this reserve among the exclusive group boasting the Big Five, a new destination on the "must-see" list.

Operation Phoenix is believed to be the biggest relocation of animals ever undertaken in the world, with some 10 000 head of game released on 28 former cattle farms in the heart of Herman Charles Bosman country.

But the real story of Madikwe is about the reclamation of overgrazed land and the empower-

ment of the poverty-stricken people who live there, giving real meaning to the RDP implemented by North West Environmental Conservation, formerly the Bophuthatwana Parks Board.

NWEC acting chief director Steve Johnson explained: "The community chiefs and tribal leaders were part of every step of decision-making, with the government providing an initial R30-million to get the project off the ground over three years."

The private sector has already invested in the park and corporate lodges are expected to swell the present number of beds to between 500 and 700, representing a total investment of about R100-million.

"Not only does this development provide a vast range of employment for the socially and economically depressed region, but the ultimate aim is that the

local community of about 12 000 people will be paid a dividend of R3- to 4-million within 10 to 15 years when the park is fully operational."

An added bonus is that marginal land — which has limited carrying capacity and relies on an erratic 500mm of rain a year — is being fully utilised.

"Previously some 80 herdmen were earning about R500 a month on cattle farms. But, developed as a wild life-based tourist attraction, a total of six private lodges and a hotel will employ some 1 200 people earning a total of R7,6-million.

Johnson said: "Revenue from cattle farmers was about R80 000. Tourism is expected to generate about R24-million and the multiplier effect is R240-million in an area which was previously simply not viable."



Languid lion . . . Gus van Dyk attaches a radio collar to a darted lion waiting to be released into a boma at the Madikwe Game Reserve in North West Province. The reserve's stocking programme, dubbed Operation Phoenix, is believed to be the biggest relocation of animals ever undertaken, with some 10 000 head of game released at the park. PICTURE: LORTON COMMUNICATIONS

SA's clean image attracts dirty deeds

Susan Russell

BD 12/6/95

SA's acceptance back into the African and global fold has opened up numerous cultural, social and commercial benefits but it has also made it a more attractive target for latter-day remittance men, carpetbaggers, drug cartels and international crime syndicates.

It was perhaps inevitable that, close on the heels of the diplomats and aid officials, have come sophisticated criminals from elsewhere in Africa, the Far East and South America, alert to new and lucrative markets, and who are now causing a major headache to law enforcement agencies both here and abroad.

With SA's changing position in the global community in mind, former Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee asked the SA Law Commission early last year to investigate existing legislation dealing with international co-operation in criminal prosecutions, identify problems and submit recommendations on possible improvements and amendments to the current law.

The commission last month released a working paper containing details of its investigation. Among its recommendations are proposals for tightening up current extradition mechanisms to bring them in line with international trends as well as new legislation to combat attempts to launder money from abroad in SA.

Also included in the working paper were recommendations for getting evidence from and supplying evidence to foreign

states and the execution of foreign penal orders and sentences inside SA.

Also recommended is legislation which would empower the courts to confiscate the proceeds from crime. Current law does not include a general procedure for the confiscation of such proceeds. As a result SA cannot comply with requests from foreign states for the confiscation locally of proceeds of a crime committed abroad.

The commission said a survey conducted among the attorneys-general, certain chief magistrates, regional court presidents and branches of the police indicated that most believed there was a definite need for such a procedure.

It said empowering the courts to confiscate crime proceeds would make money laundering in SA less attractive to a potential offender.

Money laundering schemes normally used financial institutions, shell corporations and other avenues of investment to transfer illegally obtained proceeds and convert them into assets of an apparently legitimate origin.

These illegally obtained funds entered the normal commercial sphere under a pretence of legitimate investments, where they competed with legitimate money earned at lower profit margins and which had been taxed, the commission said.

"This leads to an undermining of legitimate business and political systems as the laundered funds are used to corrupt banking, government and law enforcement officials on an international scale."

RDP is 'not sufficiently green'

Bonile Ngqiyaza

BD 12/6/95

ENVIRONMENTAL issues were not given enough emphasis in government's reconstruction and development programme (RDP), Gauteng development planning, environment and works MEC Sicelo Shiceka told a seminar organised by the Midrand Town Council.

Shiceka said the perception would have to change if the environmental movement was to be taken seriously. "Disadvantaged communities are beginning to realise that they have environmental rights," he said.

"It is also my belief that environmental issues will never be taken seriously until we have a mass movement of people who are pushing for changes in the way development takes place."

Shiceka said the urban poor were most vulnerable to the collapse of urban services and the environmental agenda should maintain healthy living standards regard-

less of circumstances.

He said he was struck by the contrast between the informal settlement of Ivory Park and the rest of Midrand. "The challenge is to integrate the townships with the more affluent areas," he said.

People often knew more about the problems of their environment than outside experts did.

Seventy percent of the population would be urbanised by the end of the century, and Gauteng would be most affected.

"The approach needs to link appropriate high-density housing, affordable and efficient transport systems and work locations. The unfortunate reality is that development often results in pollution."

Shiceka said his department would in June be holding a conference to look at waste management. He said Gauteng produced 70% of SA's "hazardous waste" and yet had inadequate controls for management of such waste.

'SA relects world environment'

Michael Moor (56)

SA MIRRORED all the environmental issues faced by the rest of the world and was, therefore, of particular global interest, UN Environment Programme executive director Elizabeth Dowdeswell said in Pretoria last week.

SA was one of the world's areas of greatest biodiversity, and was interesting also in that it had a "foot in two worlds" — it was an industrialised country and a developing country, at the same time. PD 12/6/95

Dowdeswell told delegates at an Environment Week seminar that the reconstruction and development programme appeared to be trying to find the right balance between these two worlds and ensure sustainable development. One of the main challenges about sustainable development worldwide was that it meant different things to different people.

For the programme, sustainability implied equity, people-centred development and continual adaptation to scientific change, Dowdeswell said.

But development sustainability was impossible if the richness of biodiversity was not sustained. Ecosystems, species and habitats had to be conserved.

All species were interdependent and a threat to one was a threat to another. Biodiversity also had to be maintained as a matter of principle.

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cusser by Inkatha and provincial MPs.

The resolution complained about central government's failure to assign to provinces powers related to land affairs, water, forestry, certain aspects of trade and commerce, consumer protection, education, provincial public media, gambling, lotteries, provincial public service, regional planning and development.

The national council endorsed Mdlalose's decision to withdraw from the inter-governmental forum. However, it was un-

gress in efforts to break the deadlock over international mediation, and the exchange of constitutional documents with the ANC was a "farce" as Inkatha had made comprehensive submissions to the Constitutional Assembly which were available to ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa.

Jiyane said if there were to be future talks with the ANC on the issue, these would focus solely on the implementation of the mediation agreement.

Police respond to Inkatha threat

Ingrid Salgado

POLICE would be deployed in taxi ranks and bus and train stations to curb possible violence threatened by Inkatha Freedom Party members in Gauteng, the province's safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte said yesterday.

Duarte, speaking after meetings with premier Tokyo Sexwale and Gauteng police commissioner Sharma Maharaj, said she could not say how many police would be involved.

This followed the Inkatha Vaal Triangle branch's threat at the weekend that Gauteng would become ungovernable if President Nelson Mandela was not arrested in connection with the deaths of 11 Inkatha marchers outside the ANC's Shell House headquarters last year.

Sexwale would meet Inkatha's Gauteng leadership today to discuss the matter, Duarte said.

Farouk Chothia reports that Inkatha secretary general Ziba Jiyane said Inkatha's Gauteng leadership would establish a disci-

plinary committee to censure Youth Brigade leaders.

Jiyane said agents provocateurs were behind the statements and some members misunderstood the autonomy that was given to the Youth Brigade under Inkatha's new constitution. He described Inkatha deputy secretary-general Zakhele Khumalo, arrested last week on 13 counts of murder, as a hero.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he was not shocked by the arrest as the Investigation Task Unit, whose investigation led to the arrests, was established to "demolish" him.

Khumalo was also former private secretary to Buthelezi.

Inkatha member Peter Msane was arrested on Friday in connection with the 13 killings in KwaMakhutha on the Kwa-Zulu/Natal south coast in January 1987.

Sapa-Reuter reports that Msane was released on R2 000 bail.

Msane was among 200 Inkatha members trained by the SA Defence Force in the Caprivi Strip in 1987. He was said to be close to Inkatha Gauteng deputy leader Themba Khoza.

Court bans the caning of juveniles

Susan Russell

THE Constitutional Court has abolished the practise of caning juvenile males for criminal offences, holding it to be a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, in a judgment handed down on Friday.

Judge P Langa, with the unanimous concurrence of the other 10 judges, granted an order declaring juvenile caning invalid on the grounds that it was in violation of the fundamental rights to protect one's dignity and protection against "cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment".

The issue was referred to the Constitutional Court by a full bench of the Cape provincial division of the Supreme Court where the question of constitutionality arose in five different cases involving six juveniles. The five cases were consolidated as one for the purposes of argument before the court.

The law still allows caning as a punishment for adult males between the ages of 21 and 30.

Langa said where juveniles were concerned, no minimum age was fixed in the Criminal Procedure Act, although practice and judicial decisions would seem to have fixed the lower age limit at nine.

In determining whether a punishment was cruel, inhuman or degrading, the punishment in question had to be assessed in the light of the underlying values.

"There is unmistakably a growing consensus in the international community that judicial whipping, involving as it does the deliberate infliction of physical pain on the accused, offends society's notions of decency and is a direct invasion of the right which every person has to human dignity," Langa said.

Ministers tussle over Saldanha

Adrian Hadland

CAPE TOWN — A ministerial tussle is developing over which member of Cabinet has ultimate responsibility for Iscor's proposed Saldanha steel project.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal, who visited the site on Friday, was adamant the project was a water-related matter and therefore within his ambit.

The huge water demands of the proposed mill together with the possible impact of the project on groundwater in the area were clear indications that water affairs had a superior claim to the matter, Asmal said in an interview.

Environment spokesman for Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers said he thought he appointed a board of inquiry to investigate the project last week, but that he had "the overriding capacity" on the issue.

At provincial level, Western Cape NP MECs Lempie Fick, currently involved in

a court case concerning the rezoning of the land, and Kobus Meiring are the responsible ministers.

It is believed both back the project due to its capacity to stimulate job creation and the regional economy.

De Villiers is believed to be under pressure from his party and Afrikaans business leaders in the Saldanha area to facilitate government approval, while Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel is also understood to favour the mill.

The National Parks Board, which falls under De Villiers's portfolio, has indicated its opposition.

The ANC, noting fierce public opinions on the issue, appears to have adopted a circumspect attitude and wants a more thorough environmental assessment.

The environmental affairs department, meanwhile, was going through a list of about 15 people at the weekend to see who was available to chair the board of inquiry into the project.

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Mines 'foul water'

JOHANNESBURG. — Farmers at Fochville in North-West Province have claimed that the Anglo American-owned gold-mines Elandsrand and Western Deep Levels have polluted their water sources, cyanide and metal salts from slimes dams having leached into water in the area. Some cattle have tested positive for cyanide.

(53) ARCT 12/6/95

Mill inquiry: Minister seeks new chairman

ARG 12/6/95

(56) 18227

Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers was at his desk early today making calls to find a replacement chairman for the board of inquiry into Iscor's proposed R4,7 billion steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

This follows the withdrawal on Friday of former National Peace Secretariat chairman and legal expert Antonie Gildenhuys, who resigned two days after being named as chairman because of his links with a Pretoria legal firm which represents Iscor.

Only one other nomination to the board — that of University of Cape Town environmental academic Richard Fuggle — has been confirmed so far.

When he announced the board last week, Dr De Villiers said he was likely to name "one or two" other members.

At 7.45 am today, a spokesman for Dr De Villiers said the minister had already made several calls in connection with finding a new chairman.

"We're working on it. It could be a long process that

will take all day, or we could have someone in five minutes," he said.

The Wildlife Society said it was encouraged by the appointment of the board, which would investigate the full environmental impact of the proposed mill, but that certain steps were needed "in the interests of transparency and sound decision-making".

These included:

- The terms of reference of the board should be agreed to by stakeholders before any appointments were made.

- The terms of reference should include commissioning and reviewing a strategic environmental assessment of the greater Saldanha-Vredenburg area.

- A process had to be established so that board members were acceptable to all stakeholder groups.

"A precedent for such a process has already been set in the establishment of the review panel involved in the St Lucia issue."

In another development, the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF SA) is ex-

pected to release a statement later today, softening its opposition to the siting of the mill at Yzervarkensrug, two kilometres inland of Portnet's general cargo quay.

After a site visit on Friday, WWF SA chief executive John Hanks said his organisation had been "very concerned" about the proposed steel plant as it had invested R17 million on land for the West Coast National Park.

"There is an enormous responsibility on us to ensure that if this development goes ahead, it won't impact on the park or the lagoon, a Ramsar site.

"From what I've seen and heard, I'm satisfied that controls to minimise pollution are very satisfactory."

The argument that the area's "sense of place" would be damaged was not valid because the proposed plant would be barely visible from the park or the Ramsar site, Dr Hanks said. "So it's very difficult for WWF SA to object."

But it would be important to ensure secondary industry was channelled inland.

CLEAN-UP COULD COST MILLIONS MORE

Clifton beaches fouled again by exposed oil

ANOTHER clean-up of Clifton beach will add millions to the Apollo Sea bill. **MUNICIPAL REPORTER**

CLIFTON beach was covered in oil again this weekend, after winter seas stripped off surface sand to expose buried oil believed to have come from the Apollo Sea, which sank off Robben Island last winter.

Cleansing staff of the Cape Town City Council are now considering another helicopter lift of earthmoving equipment on to the beach, to dig up the sand and remove oil below it.

This would not be the final

solution, however, said chief engineer of cleansing Mr Bruce Black. There are places where it is not practical to dig up the buried oil.

Mr Black said tests had shown there were still deposits of oil between 1,5m and 3m deep in the sand, as had been suspected.

"We knew there must be oil below there, because there were fairly deep pools of it that disappeared before we could clean it up."

Every now and then, part of this buried oil re-appears on the surface and is spread around by the waves. This means rocks have to be cleaned up all over again.

"We are busy with a pro-active plan," Mr Black said. "We were hoping to start on this programme

before the major winter storms, to get to the oil before the weather exposes it."

It was not possible to make a reliable estimate of how much oil was still under the sand, he said.

There were 2 500 tons of fuel oil on board the Apollo Sea.

● The Apollo Sea's insurers, who have said they will pay all reasonable claims arising out of the disaster, have already paid out between R15m and R18m.

Another clean-up operation on Clifton is expected to add millions more to the bill.

Up to 500 people, from the council and private sector firms, have been engaged in the clean-up since the oil spill a year ago.



BLACKWASH: City Council workers Mr Neville Canemeyer and Mr Ronald Anderson worked hard early yesterday morning to clean up the slimy black mess washed up on Clifton beach after stormy weather this weekend. About 14 000 tons of oil and sand were removed from the Atlantic beaches last winter, but large quantities are still hidden under the sand.

PICTURE: NIC BOTMA

CONTROLS TO MINIMISE POLLUTION 'SATISFACTORY'

GREENS GIVE OK TO SALDANHA

CT12/6/95

POVERTY is also a threat to the environment and benign industry is needed, say environmentalists. **CLAIRE BISSEKER** reports.

THE official green light for the controversial proposed Saldanha steel mill moved closer at the weekend with the announcement by the World Wide Fund for Nature, SA (WWF SA) yesterday that Saldanha Steel has undertaken to meet their earlier objections — and the Parks Board softened its opposition stance.

National Parks Board (NPB) chairman Mr Naas Steenkamp also said he was "gratified" that Iscor had also undertaken verbally and publicly to meet all their requirements but the NPB would not be revising its stated position.

"I have never been opposed to the project. I think South Africa needs that kind of development. We've been opposed to the siting of it. First prize would be to have it located inland but since we can't block the project all we can do is sit back and wait on the politicians," he said.

WWF SA chief executive Dr John Hanks said yesterday the "benign" industry proposed would not affect the West Coast National Park and the Ramsar wetlands directly or indirectly.

"One of the greatest threats to environment in South Africa is of course industrial pollution but also poverty. South Africa deeply needs this sort of benign industry. As a growth node it is difficult to be objective and oppose it unless it is going to be a direct threat to the environment," he said.

"I am satisfied that the controls to minimise pollution are satisfactory."

Saldanha Steel announced at an on-site meeting on Friday that the plant had been redesigned to use only half as much water as initially projected, by installing a R24-million dry cooling plant.

It also undertook not to dump on the site any hazardous or toxic waste containing heavy metals that could possibly bleed into underground water.

The WWF SA is expected to issue a revised statement today taking a softer stance than their earlier position that the mill be moved 10km inland away from Langebaan Lagoon.

Dr Hanks said: "I am working on a revised statement. We're not saying we support the mill going ahead, but we are

quite happy that the conditions under which we will not object to the present site are going to be met.

"We would like to have it 10km inland but we have to be realistic about the cost. There are environmental advantages and disadvantages we weren't aware of, like the disadvantage of bringing coal 10km across land on conveyor belts."

He had been reassured that the steel mill would not have a serious visual impact on the landscape as seen from the national park and wetlands areas, but was still concerned about peripheral industry between the mill and the sea.

The proposal could still be floored if Water Affairs Minister Professor Kader Asmal refuses to grant a water-usage permit or regional Planning Minister Mr Lampie Fick refuses to rezone the site for heavy industry. Both said on Friday that their minds were "not yet made up" but a final decision would be taken by the end of July after all the environmental research had been completed and the local community consulted.

Steamroller

Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers' recently-appointed board of inquiry could also declare the project "dangerous to the environment".

However, Earthlife Africa claimed in a hard-hitting statement at the weekend that the board was "little more than a steamroller of approval for the project".

Earthlife Africa criticised the appointments to the board of Professor Richard Fuggle, "an old school envirocrat", and Dr Antonie Gildenhuys, who recused himself after it was found his old law firm represented Iscor on the project.

"The appointments demonstrate a contempt for any transparent or democratic process, if not a deliberate greenwash or cover up," Earthlife Africa alleged.

Prof Asmal, Mr Fick, Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Mr Bantu Holomisa, provincial Finance Minister Mr Kobus Meiring, environmentalists and Iscor representatives inspected the site on Friday. Afterwards about 30 unemployed migrant workers urged Mr Holomisa to continue with the project.

They said the municipality had made a list of unemployed people in the area to ensure they were given first preference when jobs became available at the mill.

● See Page 15 Business Report

State and Iscor set to clash over Saldanha plant

By DEREK TOMMEY

MINING EDITOR

The government and Iscor seem set on a collision course over the proposed R3,6 billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay.

Hans Smith, Iscor's managing director, said in an interview at the weekend that further delays in approving the project could force Iscor to reconsider the economic viability of the entire scheme.

He said he hoped to receive approval from the authorities by the middle of this month. However,

if a decision to go ahead was not forthcoming by then, Iscor would have to recalculate the figures on which the project was based.

But Reuter reports that Kader Asmal, minister for water affairs and forestry, says he will make a decision on the controversial mill only by the end of July.

Asmal said the final decision on the project would be an integrated one involving his ministry as well as the environmental affairs and trade and industry ministries.

He said Iscor's application for a permit to go ahead with the project

would be granted if it agreed to certain conditions. The central condition would be to co-operate with a monitoring committee of non-governmental organisations and national, provincial and local authorities.

Asmal said the committee would not be merely advisory but would have the power to police and execute the conditions set out by the various ministries.

Work is being held up on the plant following the appointment last week by environment minister Dawie de Villiers of a board of

inquiry into certain environmental aspects.

Smith added that the Saldanha plant was unique — being the only steel plant in the world which would export its entire output.

There was a risk that if the plant were delayed further it could start production just when the commodity cycle was at its lowest dip, which could seriously affect its international competitiveness.

He rejected a suggestion by environmentalists that the plant be sited about 20km away from Saldanha Bay, saying this would

increase the capital cost by about R50 million and operating costs by the same amount every year.

Iscor had leaned over backwards to meet the objections of environmentalists, he said.

The plant did not have any coke ovens or blast furnaces which were the main causes of pollution at steel works.

What exhaust gases there were, would be recycled and dispersed by becoming part of the steel manufacturing process.

Smith said that Iscor was financing a trust which would

monitor the Saldanha plant and had the power to shut it down if it did not comply with anti-pollution regulations.

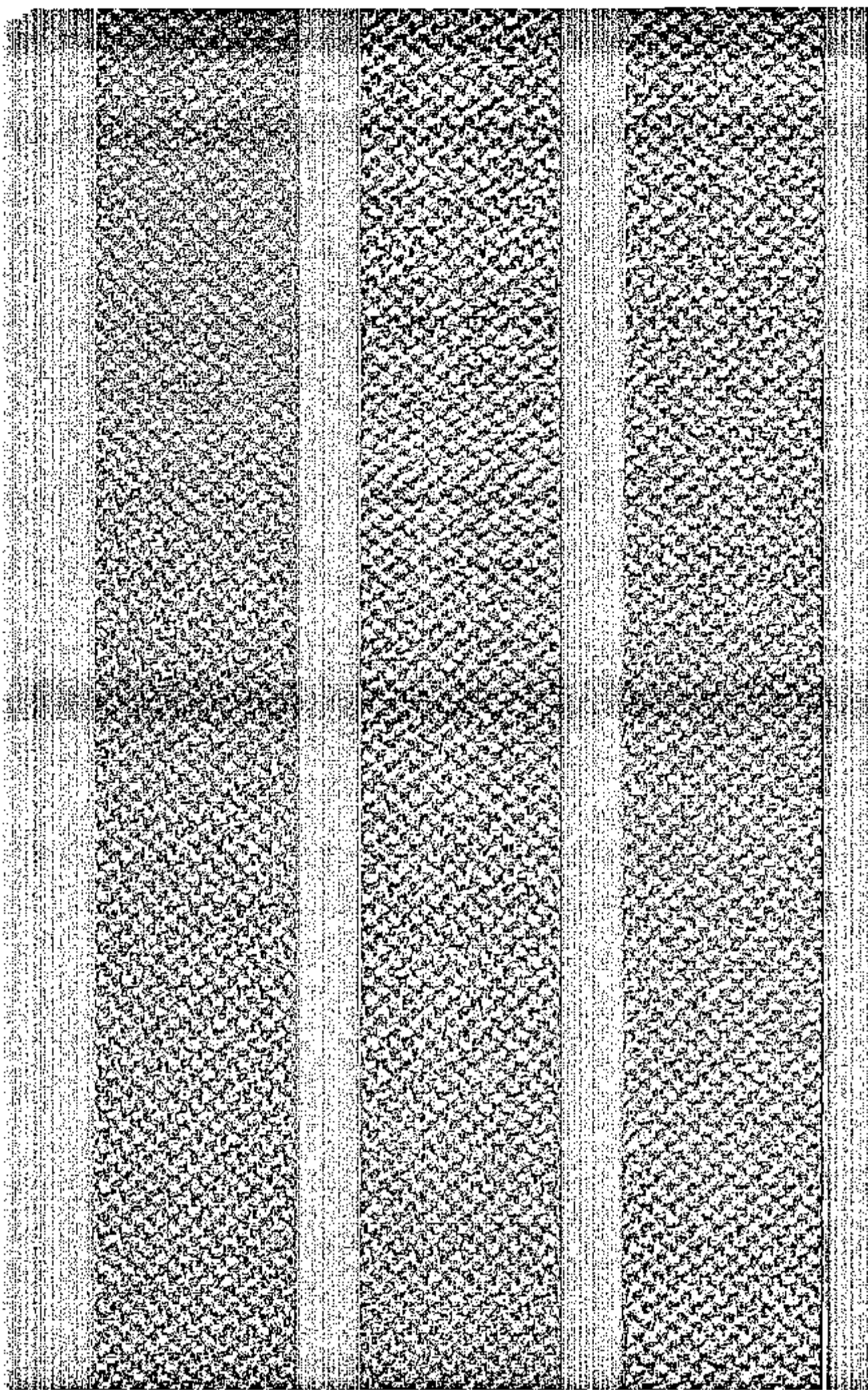
He said the remaining two major objections of the environmentalists were the appearance of the 140m high tower in which the steel would be made — which he had agreed to clad — and the possibility that other new industries attracted by Iscor's plant might pollute the area.

The Saldanha plant is expected to produce steel worth about R1,6 billion a year.

CTREB) 12/6/95

~~12/6/95~~

(52)



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE: Stormy conditions have exposed large quantities of oil from the Apollo Sea on Clifton's beaches during the past few days, and the council has deployed a 150-strong workforce to clear the mess. Two members of the team remove oiled kelp from the beach.

Council task team tackles new oil threat at Clifton

ARG 13/6/95

(56)

Environment Reporter

STORMY conditions along the Atlantic seaboard have eroded huge volumes of sand from Clifton's Third and Fourth beaches, exposing large quantities of oil from the Apollo Sea, which went down last year.

A specially assembled council task force of 150 workers moved on to the beaches today and are likely to be busy for the next fortnight.

Bruce Black, chief engineer in the city council's cleansing branch, said at least one metre of sand had been lost from the two beaches.

"It is a major problem at the moment — it's well beyond just nuisance value," he said after briefing the workers.

"We've lost a substantial amount of sand through erosion at Third and Fourth beaches.

"The oil has been exposed and it's become necessary to step up our effort.

"We've deployed an additional group of workers, bringing the total to 150.

"In the interim we are dealing reactively with the oil that is washed up, but it's our intention to proceed with proactive plans as soon as possible."

Details of the new plan were still being worked out, Mr Black said.

"In the meantime we expect to have this oil cleared within about two weeks — there's been substantial exposure, and that is why we have had to bring in a substantial number of people."

Sea disasters a 'bigger threat' to West Coast than steel mill

ART 13/6/95

Environmentalists approve plant site

Environment Reporter
INCREASED shipping poses a greater threat to Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon than Iscor's proposed steel mill, and precautionary measures to prevent spillages and disasters in the bay must be considered as part of the mill's overall operations.

ter Kader Asmal and others at the invitation of Iscor last week, said his organisation would not oppose Iscor's rezoning application for its Yzerwaterkruis property for the proposed mill, subject to certain strict conditions.

"We believe that, providing major precautionary measures are rigorously applied, provided environmental monitoring and auditing is carried out on an ongoing basis, and provided strong and legally enforceable measures are immediately taken if environmentally detrimental effect from any component of the entire industrial growth node become evident, Saldanha Steel's application for rezoning can be given approval."

But, the environmental monitoring and auditing should not be left in the hands of the industry itself.

WWF SA was "extremely concerned" about the potential threats to Saldanha Bay and Langebaan Lagoon from increased shipping and ships lying at anchorage in the bay, said Dr Hanks.

"This threat is likely to be greater than that of the steel mill itself."

"This problem needs to be addressed immediately, especially in the light of international concerns about the safety of the Ramsar (Convention) site — that is, the southern portion of Langebaan Lagoon."

"As Saldanha Steel requires intensification of shipping in Saldanha Bay, precautionary measures to prevent spillages and disasters need to be considered as part of their overall operation."

The environmental organisation remained deeply concerned about perceptions that the proposed mill would solve unemployment and poverty problems.

"The danger of large numbers of workseekers moving into the region and competing with the local population for jobs must be recognised."

"Continuing joblessness and increasing criminality are likely to remain and the resulting poverty in itself represents a significant environmental threat," said Dr Hanks.

WWF SA welcomed Saldanha Steel's positive reaction to its proposal that downstream and secondary industry should be developed inland of the Yzerwaterkruis site, rather than on land zoned for industrial development along the coastal strip at Bluewater Bay, said Dr Hanks.

They strongly recommended this land be declared a nature reserve, extending the existing declared nature area to the east as a buffer strip.

Tourist-orientated facilities here could include an information centre and an educational trail with the theme "Industrial development and environmental conservation side by side — can it be done?"

"Consideration should be given to placing this entire buffer strip/nature area under the auspices of WWF to allay suspicions about its future protection by an environmentally conscious and concerned public," said Dr Hanks.

(WWF's) proposal that downstream and secondary industry should be developed inland of the Yzerwaterkruis site, rather than on land zoned for industrial development along the coastal strip at Bluewater Bay, said Dr Hanks.

on the top of the page

	1 August 1994	11% (standard rate only)	Free State	200
	(ii) 1 April 1995	15% (average)	Northern Cape	72
			North West	73
			Eastern Cape	
			Included in the statistics for Western Cape	
(b)	(i) 1 April 1993	20%	Western Cape	1 454
	1 April 1994	10%	Eastern Transvaal	469
			Northern Transvaal	1 962
(2)	(ii) 1 April 1995	20%	Gauteng (Greater Pretoria)	2 036
(a)	1 April 1996		Rest of Gauteng	1 592
(b)	A decision has not yet been taken.		KwaZulu-Natal	816
(3)	Yes		Free State	371
			Northern Cape	119
			North West	137
			Eastern Cape	
(a)	Eastern Transvaal	95	Included in the statistics for Western Cape	
	Northern Transvaal	399		
	Gauteng (Greater Pretoria)	414		
	Rest of Gauteng	2 903		
	KwaZulu-Natal	542		
			Western Cape	1 487
			(4) No	

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Amount of hazardous waste annually produced in Republic

115. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) (a) What amount of hazardous waste is annually produced in the Republic and (b) what is the total capacity for hazardous waste disposal in the country;
- (2) whether any problems have been experienced in the past five months in respect of the disposal of hazardous waste; if so, (a) what problems and (b) what steps have been taken to solve these problems?

S2222E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) (a) Approximately 1,9 million tons according to the latest estimates.

(b) Five licensed Class-H waste disposal facilities are available for public use, one in Gauteng, one in Port Elizabeth, one in Uitenhage and two just outside Cape Town. Three other privately owned licensed facilities exist while there are two sites that are currently not operative. Theoretically the sites have the capacity to handle all the hazardous waste produced in the country. In practice this is however not true since the localities of the sites are such that it would be too expensive to transport hazardous waste produced in certain areas to the nearest Class-H landfill site.

The ideal situation would be to have a Class-H waste disposal facility for every big industrial area, for example one each in the Eastern-, Western- and Central Witwatersrand. However, a number of factors play an important role when choosing a suitable waste disposal site, as indicated in the Department of Water Affairs

and Forestry's documents on the Minimum Requirements for Waste Disposal Facilities.

(2) (a) A number of problems were experienced the past five months mainly as a result of public pressure. Reasons given are the lack of public consultation and allegations that the management of some of the waste disposal facilities are not up to standard. Examples are the Margolis facility in Germiston which was closed for the disposal of hazardous waste by the Germiston City Council and the Aloes waste disposal facility in Port Elizabeth, where the public demands the closing of the facility. The Hoffmtein facility on the East Rand is criticised for possible air pollution. The Chloorkop facility near Kempton Park has been unable to become operative because of objections that the public was not consulted in the decision making process and due to problems of rezoning the area.

(b) The problem cannot be solved overnight. It takes several years before a designated Class-H waste disposal facility can receive hazardous waste for disposal. It follows only after extensive technical surveys to identify a suitable site, public and authority approval and finally the building of the site according to the conditions of the permit. Regarding the problems experienced recently, the Margolis site remains closed but the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry has reached an interim agreement with the Germiston City Council, by which medical waste may be incinerated at Margolis. Other hazardous waste must be handled elsewhere. At the Aloes site in Port Elizabeth a steering committee was formed on 31 May 1995 to look into the problems experienced there. The site can however still accept hazardous waste.

tion of IEC funds are still being investigated.

- (ii) None.
 (iii) Not applicable.
 (c) (i) None.
 (ii) None.

Tenders pertaining to Kruger National Park

328. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 218 on 2 May 1995 and certain information furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, he has obtained written assurance from the relevant authorities that no grievances exist in respect of tenders pertaining to the Kruger National Park; if not, why not; if so, (a) what assurance did he obtain and (b) from whom?

N648E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

My answer to Question No 218 was given after written confirmation in this regard had been obtained from the relevant authority:

- (a) The written confirmation as already mentioned in my reply to Question No 218; and
 (b) the answer was furnished by the manager in charge of Provision Services, Mr C J Ahlers, on behalf of the Park Warden who, by virtue of his position obviously responds on behalf of the organisation. His answer was channelled through the National Parks Board in Pretoria who was in accordance therewith.

Council for the Environment: (56)
 recommendations/costs

336. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether the Council for the Environment has undertaken any investigation into mat-

Hansard 13/6/95

tens pertaining to the environment; if not, why not; if so,

- (2) whether the Council has made any recommendations in this regard; if so, what recommendations;
 (3) what was the total cost relating to the functioning of the Council as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

N694E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) Since the establishment of the Council for the Environment in 1982 it has continuously been involved in numerous investigations into matters relating to the environment. In this regard I wish to refer the hon member to the Council's annual report which was tabled and made available to members on 11 May this year. The report also includes an overview of the Council's activities since its establishment.

- (2) The recommendations of the Council are reflected in the annual report and those that are most important have been published for public information.

- (3) The budget of the Council is controlled by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. Since the 1984/85 financial year the following amounts have specifically been budgeted for the Council—
- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----|------|----|
| 1984/85 | R131 200, | cut | back | to |
| R102 000 | | | | |
| 1985/86 | R272 000 | | | |
| 1986/87 | R280 000 | | | |
| 1987/88 | R260 000 | | | |
| 1988/89 | R268 000 | | | |
| 1989/90 | R328 000 | | | |
| 1990/91 | R328 000 | | | |
| 1991/92 | R328 000 | | | |
| 1992/93 | R400 000 | | | |
| 1993/94 | R424 000 | | | |

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Integration of education provision: cost

319. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Education:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 66 on 12 August 1994, his Department has as yet calculated the cost of integrating education provision into single provincial education departments in the nine provinces; if not, why not; if so, what are the envisaged costs in respect of each of the nine provinces?

N655E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

No.

Since the provincial education departments are still in the process of being established, the final cost can still not be determined.

Sponsoring of sport by commercial enterprises: incentives

335. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Whether any statutory and/or other incen-

tives exist for commercial enterprises to sponsor sport in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what incentives?

- (2) Whether he or his Department intends taking any steps towards facilitating more incentives in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

N693E

The MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION:

- (1) (a) Yes.

(b) Tax incentives/benefits along the lines of the old 18A or 18B which would encourage sponsors to fund sports development in a meaningful way as well as those that enable National Federations to host major events.

- (2) (a) Yes.

(b) To prepare viable alternatives to the old 18A or 18B for presentation to Parliament where the necessary enabling legislation will be passed.

Iscor warns on delay at Saldanha

Marcia Klein

ISCOR regarded the establishment of the R3,6bn joint venture steel mill in Saldanha Bay as its favoured project, but warned it would "walk away" if this was necessary.

Iscor MD Hans Smith said at a news conference yesterday the mill — a joint venture with the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) — was "not the only project Iscor has on the table" and if there was a serious delay Iscor might have to reconsider its involvement.

Iscor and the IDC said they believed the mill's establishment was in the national interest and they were "quietly confident" it would be given the go ahead. However, further delays "could jeopardise the project" and Iscor was "concerned about its participation".

They said yesterday the project would generate about R1,6bn to R1,8bn in foreign exchange a year, would create 600 jobs directly and would generate capital spending of R4,7bn escalated over the period of the project. The project would use about R100m a year in coal supplies.

Iscor and the IDC said the project, under evaluation by a government-appointed committee following complaints about its effect on the environment, would suffer if there were delays in its launch.

The project is on hold pending the outcome of an evaluation by the committee

BO 13/6/95 Continued on Page 2.

Saldanha

Continued from Page 1

into its environmental impact. Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith said they were awaiting the appointment of a committee chairman, and re-zoning of the area for industrial use.

Iscor's Smith said the project would come on stream in 1998 as the international commodity cycle turned down. Any delay would bring it further into the downturn, with lower realisations for steel.

He would not comment further on the nature of the other projects, other than to say Iscor had said it was in a growth mode.

Saldanha's Smith said delays would lead to increased costs. The project team was in place and was carrying out technical and other studies. Saldanha was currently spending about R5m a month.

He said environmental impact studies "were done thoroughly and in much more detail than required legally. We have filled all the legal requirements..."

Iscor might dump Saldanha venture

■ BY DEREK TOMMEY

Government and Iscor seem set on collision course over the proposed R3,6-billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay.

Hans Smith, managing director of Iscor, says that further delays in approving the project could force Iscor to reconsider the economic viability of the entire scheme.

He told Business Report that he hoped to receive approval from the authorities by the middle of this month.

However he added that if a decision to go ahead was not forthcoming by the middle of the month, Iscor would have to recalculate the figures on which the project is based.

But Reuter reports that Kader Asmal, Minister for Water Affairs and Forestry, says he will make a decision on the controversial mill only by the end of July.

Work is being held up on the plant following the appointment last week by environment

minister Dawie de Villiers of a board of inquiry into certain environmental aspects.

Smith said in an interview at the weekend that the Saldanha plant was unique. It was the only steel plant in the world which would export its entire output. This meant it had to be competitive internationally.

The export market was a tough one and further delays in the establishment of the plant could affect its ability to compete, especially if the commodity cycle turned down.

Risk factor

There was a risk that if the plant was further delayed it would start production just when the commodity cycle was at its bottom. This could have a major effect on its earnings. Further delays could also lead to an increase in the cost of equipping the plant.

Smith rejected a suggestion by environmentalists that the plant should be sited some 20km away from Saldanha

Bay.

He said this would increase the capital cost by about R50-million and operating costs by around the same amount every year. These increased costs, though not substantial, could leave the plant uncompetitive and vulnerable in the event of a drop in the steel price.

Smith said that Iscor did not have to go ahead with the plant at Saldanha. It had other projects under consideration which would not necessarily be sited in the Western Cape. But he felt the plant would be good for Iscor, good for the Western Cape and good for South Africa.

Iscor had leaned over backwards to meet the objections of the environmentalists, he said.

The plant did not have any coke ovens or blast furnaces which were the main causes of pollution at steel works. What exhaust gases there would be recycled and dissipated by becoming part of the steel manufacturing process.

Smith said that Iscor was financing a trust which would monitor the Saldanha plant and had the power to shut it down if it did not comply with anti-pollution regulations.

Objections

He said the remaining two major objections of the environmentalists were the appearance of the 140-metre high Corex tower, in which the steel would be made, and the possibility that other new industries attracted by Iscor's plant might pollute the area.

Smith said he had agreed to clad the Corex tower, but he had difficulty meeting the objections about the effects on the environment in the future of other industries as he had nothing to go on. "It's a moving target," he said.

The Saldanha plant is expected to produce steel worth about R1,6-billion a year.

Iron ore, presently selling for \$17 a ton, will become steel which will sell for \$340 a ton.

STW 12/6/95
56

Few prosecuted for killing seals

(56)

STAFF REPORTER

CT 13/6/95

PROTECTED Cape fur seals are frequently shot or clubbed, and have been illegally killed for decades, with few prosecutions.

This was said by UCT zoology researcher Dr Patti Wickens, who has done extensive research on seals.

She was commenting on the killing of at least 50 seals off the Cape coast by Natal Sharks Board workers.

"A lot of people in that area shoot or gaff seals at sea. It is illegal, but has been going on for decades. It is very difficult to monitor and there are few prosecutions. No one really knows how many

are killed in this way," Dr Wickens said.

She said there were up to two million Cape fur seals on the coast of Namibia and South Africa.

Details of the clubbing incident were revealed in a sworn statement to the Gansbaai police by Natal Sharks Board technician Mr Norman Stakey.

Criminal charges have been laid against five members of the board.

The seals were allegedly killed for bait to test an electronic shark deterrent experiment.

The Sharks Board was unaware of the killings until the police docket was opened, director Mr Graeme Charter has said.

APPOINTMENTS 'CAUSED DISQUIET'

Steelmill probe under fire

56 1977
ET 13/6/95

THE WESTERN CAPE government seems set to go ahead with the rezoning of the site at Saldanha despite objections.

ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers has come under a blistering attack from the parliamentary Environment Affairs Committee for his handling of appointments to the board of inquiry to probe the controversial R4,8 billion steel mill near the Langebaan lagoon.

The ANC's Mr Peter Mokaba, chairman of the Environmental Affairs select committee, slammed the handling of the board of inquiry appointments which he said had caused a "great deal of disquiet".

Backed by Earthlife Africa and the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, Mr Mokaba called for the terms of reference of the board of inquiry constituted by Dr De Villiers to be agreed upon by all stakeholders before any appointments were made.

He also called on the minister to halt the proposed rezoning of land for the Saldanha Steel mill until the results of the inquiry were made known.

"We cannot afford either a conditional rezoning or approval which will give the impression that the government has already formed an opinion and has taken sides on the matter and thus render the investigation into mere posturing instead of a serious attempt to resolve the issue," Mr Mokaba said in a letter to the minister.

The board ran into controversy last week when the newly-appointed chairman Dr Antonie Gildenhuys recused himself on discovering that his former law firm represented Iscor on the steel mill project.

Dr De Villiers declined to comment. His spokesman said: "We are still receiving nominations for the board and are actively looking for candidates. We hope to have an announcement on new appointments in the next few days."

Earthlife Africa said if the public were to believe the minister was acting in good faith, the rezoning process should be stopped until the board had heard representations from all interested parties.

The Wildlife Society called for board members to be acceptable to all interested parties, to be completely independent of Iscor and to review a strategic environmental assessment of the greater Saldanha-Vredenburg area.

A source close to green organisations said an alliance of green activists and progressive organisations would be constituted this week to fight the proposed steel

mill on economic rather than on environmental grounds.

Meanwhile, Western Cape Agriculture Minister Mr Lampie Fick has set the scene for a provincial rezoning decision on the mill site before Environmental Affairs' official probe has completed its work.

Mr Fick confirmed yesterday that he intended fighting an urgent interdict — now postponed to June 21 — asking for the rezoning decision to be stayed until the board had completed its task.

The application for the rezoning of the site, two kilometres from the lagoon shore, from agricultural to industrial use is a provincial decision and rests with Mr Fick.

Mr Fick agreed it was "most improbable" that Dr De Villiers' new board would complete what is to be an exhaustive and hi-profile inquiry by June 21.

Conditions

The controversy has embarrassed Western Cape Finance Minister, Mr Kobus Meiring, who had said he was confident there would be no rezoning until the board had completed its work.

A spokesman for Mr Meiring yesterday said he had no comment.

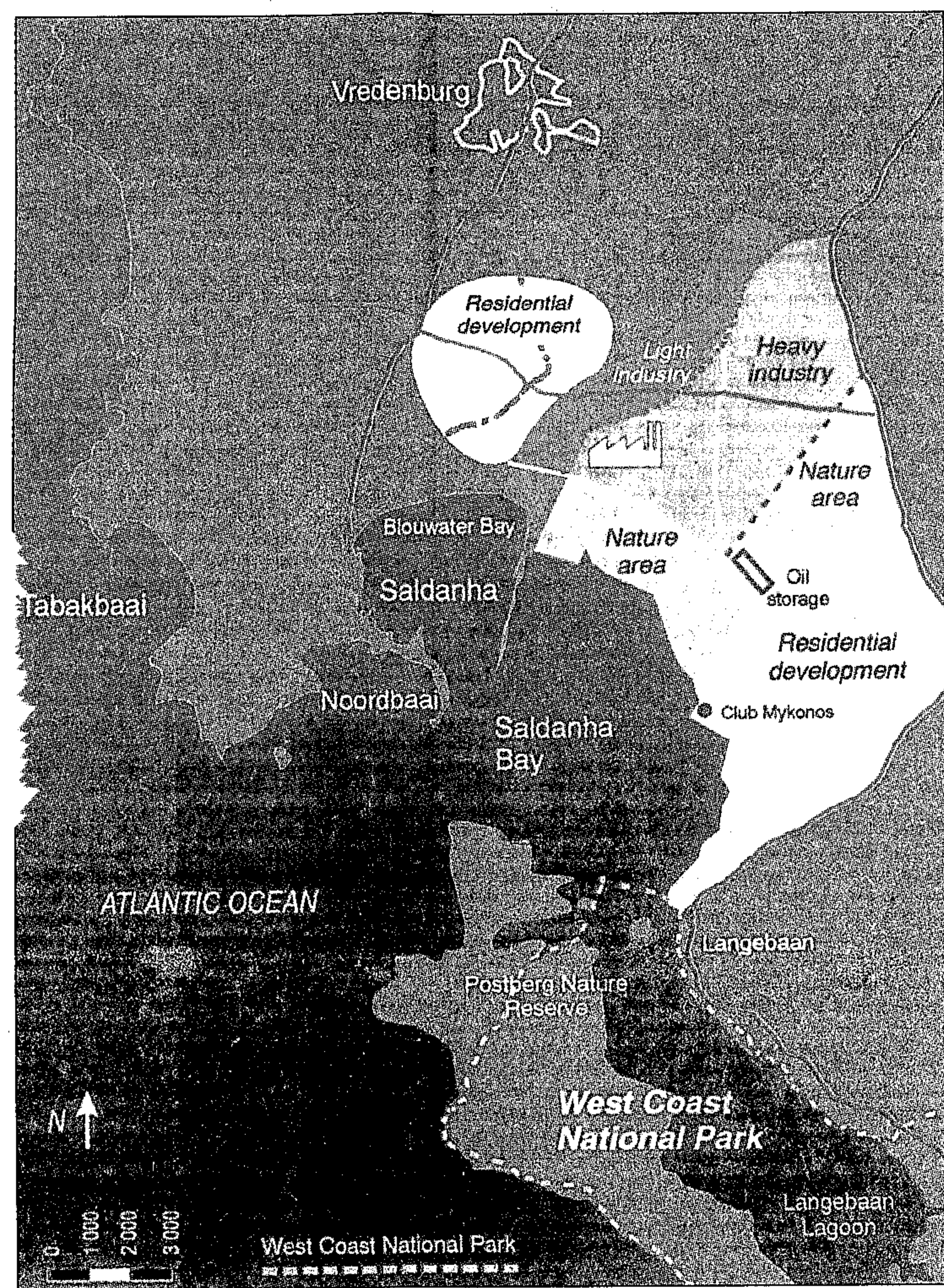
The World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF) has spelt out strict environmental conditions under which the organisation would not oppose the mill and has called on Saldanha Steel to commit itself officially to meeting these conditions.

WWF chief executive Dr John Hanks said he was extremely concerned about the potential threat caused by increased shipping in Saldanha Bay — this could pose a greater threat than the mill itself.

Precautionary measures to prevent spillages and disasters needed to be considered as part of Saldanha Steel's overall operation, he said. He was "deeply concerned" about perceptions which had been created, mainly in political circles, that the proposed steel mill would solve unemployment and poverty in the area, and said there was a danger of large numbers of workseekers moving into the region and competing with the local population for jobs.

"Continued joblessness and increasing criminality are likely to remain and the resulting poverty in itself represent a significant environmental threat."

Dr Hanks recommended that the strip of land along the edge of Bluewater Bay, zoned for industrial development, be declared a nature area. — Staff Reporters



STEEL MILL SITE: The revised plan for the Saldanha region showing the siting of the proposed steel mill.

EcoWorld '96 to be held in Durban

World environment forum initiative launched in SA

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

South Africa has launched an initiative aimed at establishing a world environment forum with a permanent home in Cape Town.

Backed by the combined Departments of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Foreign Affairs and Education, as well as Satour, the project will start with the staging of the biggest ecotourism and environmental summit yet in Africa.

EcoWorld '96 will be held in Durban in March and organisers aim to draw more than 1 000 international and local delegates and 350 exhibitors.

Speaking at the launch in Johannesburg last week, Environment and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers said EcoWorld '96 was a bid to put South Africa on the world environmental map.

"We have made a new start, giving ourselves the opportunity to promote our country as the world's most desirable tourism destination."

EcoWorld will be held biannually and aims to provide a world forum for governments, the business sector, environmentalists and the public to meet a single common objective — the responsible use of the Earth's natural resources.

It will comprise three main components:

- An exhibition on ecotourism, wildlife and environmental management.
- An international nature film festival.
- A world congress covering four symposiums: wildlife management and utilisation organised by the Centre for Wildlife Management, University of Pretoria; marine conservations under the auspices of the Oceanic Research Institute; environmental management under the DEA&T and ecotourism under the Centre for Ecotourism, University of Pretoria.

(56) Star 13/6/95



Enviro-edutainer . . . Don Guy, voted best South African entrant in the UN Global 500 environmental film awards, with his daughter, Silka, at his Blairgowrie studio.

Farmer turned film-maker honoured at Global 500

■ BY WINNIE GRAHAM

Farmer-turned-film-maker Don Guy, winning South African entrant in this week's United Nations Global 500 environmental film competition, has coined the term "enviro-edutainment" to describe his kind of filming.

An example is his winning video *The Search for the Mayfly Nymph* which he directed for Umgeni Water to encourage schools in KwaZulu-Natal to use kits to carry out water purification tests in rivers.

Screened on NNTV and M-Net, it is best followed by viewers

who understand the Zulu anecdotes along with the English commentary.

The video features an expedition by a class at Nansindlela Higher Primary School, Maritzburg, through the Umgeni River's catchment area.

"The most interesting part of the kit is a display of different insects," Guy explained. "If one finds the complement of those listed, one knows the water is clean."

A river passing Nansindlela was short of the mayfly nymph — hence the title.

"I filmed it very spontaneous-

ly. That's the way I like filming because that's the opportunity given to one when tackling a docu-drama, especially in Africa where spontaneity is almost a way of life."

Following the video's success, Guy produced two more to assist teachers. One was about the water cycle and another on water supply and purification. He used the same school.

"The kids really enjoyed themselves and possibly learned something. I also feel these films will live for a decade, at least in education circles, rather than others I've made that are

screened once and lost in the archives." *AR SPAN 13/6/95*

Guy (35) was drawn to his second career after watching British television documentaries while hitch-hiking through Europe in 1984.

On his return to South Africa, instead of going back into agriculture, in which he has an honours degree from Maritzburg University, Guy learned about filming while working at the SABC. During this time he directed two films for the Sunday environmental programme 50-50. (56)

Delay in Saldanha Steel 'worries foreign capital'

By DEREK TOMMEY

ET (BR) 2/13/6/95

The delay by the government in giving the Saldanha Steel project the go-ahead was sending bad signals to overseas investors, Carel van der Merwe, the managing director of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), said yesterday.

Saldanha Steel is a joint project by the IDC and Iscor. The project involves a total investment of R4,7 billion, and when completed in 1998, will export about 1,5 million tons of steel every year.

Van der Merwe said Saldanha Steel had met all the legal require-

ments and every regulation, but there was still uncertainty hanging over it. Foreign investors wanted to know what was happening.

Bernard Smith, executive chairman of Saldanha Steel, said he was concerned by the appointment by Dawie de Villiers, the environment minister of a further committee to evaluate the plant, possible secondary industrial development and its impact on the environment.

Construction had not yet started and further delay could jeopardise the project and even terminate it.

Smith also said that a proposed interdict calling on the government



WAITING Hans Smith, managing director and chief executive officer of Iscor (left) and Bernard Smith, executive chairman of Saldanha Steel

PHOTO: JOHN WOODROOPE

to appoint a committee headed by a judge to investigate the possible environmental impact of Saldanha Steel and of possible secondary industries should be vigorously resisted.

Smith said a thorough environmental impact assessment to international standards, and not to the less stringent local standards, was executed as part of the project's feasibility study.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS ALARMED

Project threatens fynbos

CT 14/6/95

(56)

BOTANISTS are concerned about the future of Milnerton racecourse. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

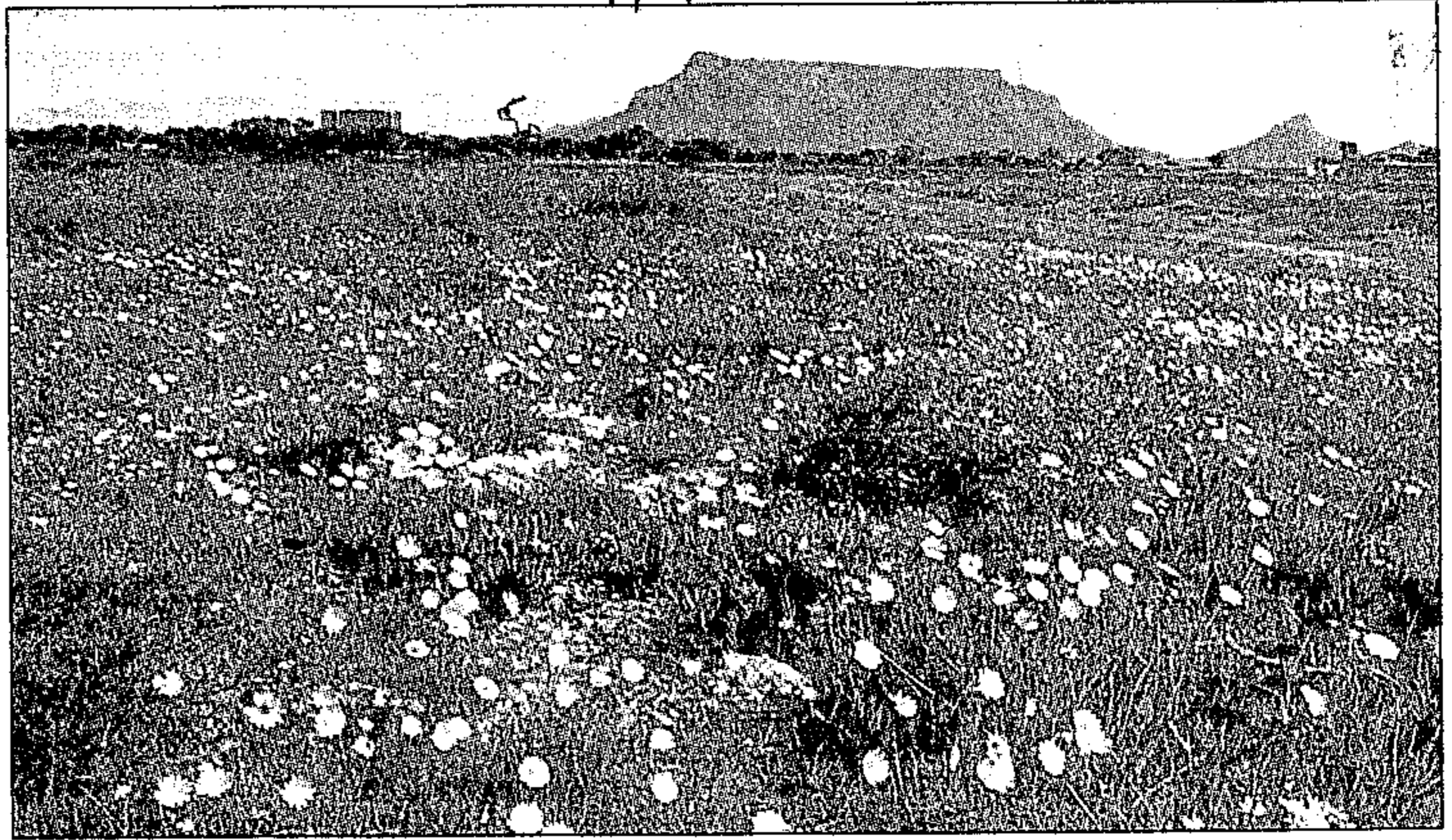
ENVIRONMENTALISTS have joined forces to save the severely threatened sandplain fynbos at Milnerton racecourse from being ploughed up for a multi-million rand leisure development.

Botanist Dr Clive McDowell, a consultant at UCT's Institute for Plant Conservation, who is spearheading the move, said sandplain fynbos had the highest number of endangered plant species in Southern Africa.

"It used to cover between half to two-thirds of the Cape Flats, but has been destroyed by development. Only 0,1% of the original sandplain fynbos still exists. The largest proportion of this habitat survives inside the tracks of the three racecourses — Milnerton, Kenilworth and Durbanville — and the most significant remnant is at Milnerton," Dr McDowell said.

He said he had studied the vegetation of 50 open sites around the Cape Flats, and rated the Milnerton racecourse as the highest conservation priority.

Its future is now under threat as



IN DANGER: Milnerton racecourse's sandplain fynbos — a vegetation type with the highest number of threatened species in Southern Africa — could be destroyed by development when the course is sold.

Western Province Racing Club is selling the 85ha racecourse

Construction group Stocks and Stocks have confirmed they have an option on buying the land and a company spokesman said it was the ideal site for their planned leisure development project aimed at the international market.

Dr McDowell said: "The would-

be buyers should realise this site is of national importance. It is a far richer plant community than Milnerton's much-vaunted Rietvlei. No self-respecting town planner or rezoner should be allowed to rezone it for housing. There is more than enough degraded open space available for housing."

He said sandplain fynbos was

different from mountain fynbos. At Milnerton racecourse there were 185 indigenous plant species — of which eight were listed as endangered in the Red Data book — 68 species of bird and several mammals, including otters and steenbok.

Stocks and Stocks were not available for comment yesterday.

Sishen wants Iscor plant

Sello Mthabakwe

THE Northern Cape government yesterday said the province was best equipped to accommodate Iscor's proposed, and much debated, R3,6bn steel plant.

Northern Cape economic affairs MEC Goolam Akharwaray said the province had made several representations to Iscor on the viability of establishing its plant in Sishen about 3 000km from the regional capital, Kimberley.

He said he could not understand why no attention had been paid to the province's argument, particularly as the mineral and raw material inputs to the plant were immediately available in the province — except coal.

Several minerals were mined in the Sishen area, including iron ore, manga-

nese, burnt dolomite and burnt lime, which were all used in steel production.

Akharwaray said the establishment of the steel mill in Sishen would immediately generate 3 000-4 000 jobs in its start-up stages and encourage the establishment of downstream industries once the plant reached full production.

The province was badly in need of job creation opportunities as unemployment currently stood at about 38% and the population under the million mark. Agriculture and mining were the main economic activities, with almost no beneficiation.

The social impact of the mill in that region would include the generation of profit and the stabilisation of communities by revitalising the region's economy.

● Comment: Page 12

Business must be 'tougher on strikers'

By AUDREY D'ANGELO

CAPE BUSINESS EDITOR

Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry has advised member firms not to pay employees for hours they would be absent from work during the stayaway planned for June 19.

The chamber also advised firms to distribute written warnings if disciplinary action was taken.

Alan Lighton, the chamber's director, warned in the chamber's newsletter that the mass action could force South African companies to move production operations offshore which could

result in job losses.

"It would seem that the trade unions are oblivious to the bigger picture facing South African business, which is increasingly being exposed to international competition," he said.

"The pressure is on as never before and unfavourable business conditions in this country will not only discourage overseas investors but will also encourage local business to increase automation, outsource and even to move production offshore — which can hardly be good news for sustaining and growing employment levels in our economy."

CT(BR) 14/6/95
The chamber advised management to ensure that all employees were told of the areas where protest action could be conducted in the run-up to the stayaway, the conduct expected of employees and the fact that "any demonstrations should be conducted outside normal working hours, for example, during meal breaks.

"Should demonstrations occur during normal working hours, or extend beyond the meal break or assume an intimidating or violent nature, then disciplinary action should be taken in accordance with existing disciplinary procedures."

Tax loop

By BRUCE CAMERON

POLITICAL EDITOR

The tax authorities are examining ways to shut down a substantial increase in the exploitation of trusts to avoid taxation.

Trevor van Heerden, the commissioner for inland revenue, told the parliamentary finance committee yesterday that there had been a recent explosion in the number of trusts in anticipation of a possible reduction of the tax free R1 million on deceased estate and a possible increase in the 15 percent tax rate.

But trusts were being further

Cabinet delaying unleaded fuel

By DEREK TOMMEY

Cabinet indecision about the pricing of unleaded fuel at the pump is delaying its introduction, oil industry sources said.

The Cabinet's problem is if it follows the pricing policy adopted in most other countries for unleaded petrol, it could be seen to favour the rich white over the poorer black community.

Unleaded petrol was to be introduced this month. But its launch date has been put back until next February. The longer the government takes to decide on a price for unleaded petrol, the longer it will be before it becomes available at filling stations.

In most countries where unleaded petrol is on sale, the tax structure has been manipulated so that it sells at a lower price.

This is usually done by

CT(BR) 14/6/95
increasing the tax on leaded petrol and reducing it on unleaded petrol. This is to encourage consumers to switch from using leaded to unleaded petrol.

But if the government were to do it here, it would open itself to the accusation that it was subsidising the better-off white at the expense of the less affluent black.

This is because it is assumed the major users of unleaded petrol will be the owners of new vehicles designed for unleaded petrol. Owners of new vehicles are largely presumed to be white. Owners of taxis and older vehicles, which comprise a large proportion of the motoring population, are mostly black. They would use normal, and more expensive, petrol.

A complicating factor is that the oil industry says it needs a bigger margin than the 3c a litre proposed when introducing unlead-

ed petrol was first discussed.

The industry now says it needs a differential of around 8c if the required 20 percent market share for unleaded petrol is to be achieved within a reasonable time and justify the expense of introducing the fuel.

Part of the Cabinet's difficulty arises from South Africa introducing unleaded petrol for reasons other than the normal one — the curbing of pollution.

In this country, the motor assembly industry is the main force behind bringing in unleaded fuel, as most of the vehicles it produces are designed to run on it.

Oil industry sources point out that when unleaded petrol was introduced elsewhere, the move was usually accompanied by a declaration stating when leaded petrol would no longer be available. This has not happened here.

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Hazardous dump can now reopen

Michael Moon

2015/16/95 (56)
HAZARDOUS waste disposal is to be resumed at the Margolis landfill site east of Johannesburg after the Germiston transitional local council agreed earlier this week to forfeit its right to prohibit dumping.

The council decision follows urgent requests by Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal and the Gauteng legislature to allow the site to be reopened because of a crisis arising from a shortage of hazardous waste facilities in the province.

Margolis was closed to hazardous waste last month when the council, prompted by public complaints, enforced an earlier court order prohibiting disposal company Waste-tech from operating at the site.

The council has now agreed to waive the order and said Waste-tech can resume dumping hazardous waste, as long as it sticks strictly to provisions of a government permit granted for the site. It stipulates that only certain types of waste can be deposited without treatment.

Steel plant is 'in national interest'

ARC 14/6/95
Environment Reporter

FURTHER delays in approving Iscor's proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay could jeopardise the entire project and have a "knock-on" effect on potential investors' confidence in South Africa.

Therefore, the Supreme Court application for an interdict delaying approval for the plant until a board of inquiry constituted in terms of the Environment Conservation Act has investigated the issue, should be "vigorously resisted".

So says Saldanha Steel Project executive chairman Bernard Smith, who claims the new plant is "unquestioningly" in the national interest.

Public statements and communication with concerned bodies such as the National Parks Board and the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa had been studied in detail, Mr Smith said in a statement.

"We accept and are committed to meeting their requirements for remaining on the preferred site."

The steel project had been designed to ensure that regional environmental standards would not be adversely affected.

"There is very great concern about the impact of, and pollution from, secondary or downstream industry attracted to the area by the steel plant.

"This can and should be controlled by appropriate land use regulations, by the appointment of monitoring committees, and by commitment to and participation in self-regulation by local industry," Mr Smith said.

(1822) (56)
Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers had now appointed a board of inquiry to evaluate Saldanha Steel and possible secondary industrial development and their impact on the environment.

"We are concerned because the construction of facilities has not commenced and any further delay will, due to increases in the South African inflation rate, result in the escalation of the capital cost," Mr Smith said.

"This, in turn, could jeopardise this project and perhaps even terminate it, and will inevitably have a knock-on effect on other potential investors' consideration of the area and, indeed, South Africa."

Saldanha Steel believed its environmental impact studies had been done thoroughly and in much more detail than was legally required, Mr Smith said.

"No detrimental issues were identified, and all the other issues can be negated with the aid of pre-conditions as defined by (environmental consultant) Dr Raimondo, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the National Parks Board and others ...

"In our view, Saldanha Steel and related industrial activities will not in fact jeopardise tourism or the fishing industry; in fact, a better developed infrastructure could support and promote both these activities.

"What is very clear is that pristine wildlife areas can only be protected or sustained if adequate life-sustaining commercial and job opportunities are available to people living adjacent to these areas," Mr Smith said.

Security guards killed/injured

120. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether any security guards were (a) killed and (b) injured in attacks on them during the performance of their duty in 1994; if so, (i) how many in each case, (ii) what was the cause of death or injury in each case and (iii) in how many cases were firearms stolen from these security guards during the attacks on them? S228E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) and (b) No statistics regarding attacks on security guards are kept by the South African Police.

Due to the magnitude of the question and the high level of financial and manpower

resources which would have to be utilised in order to provide the answer, the desired information can, unfortunately, not be supplied.

Persons employed by National Protection Service

128. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

How many persons were employed by the National Protection Service (a) prior to and (b) on or after 1 January 1994? S254E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) 1 530 (31 December 1993)

(b) 1 869 (3 June 1995)

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

State pension schemes: state contribution/ value of assets

18. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister of Finance:

(a) How many State pension schemes were there as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) what are their names and (c) what was the (i) State's contribution in respect of, and (ii) total value of the assets held by, each of these schemes as at that date? S31E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) Two as at 31 March 1994.

(b) Members of Statutory Bodies Pension Scheme
Military Pension Scheme

(The Members of Parliament and Political Office-bearers Pension Scheme was officially terminated on 28 February 1994 and doesn't exist anymore.)

(c) As benefits payable by the schemes are financed from the State Revenue Fund (at present the National Revenue Fund), no employer contributions are made by the State as is the case in respect of Pension Funds. The amounts mentioned hereafter therefore represent the total expenditure of the benefits paid out of Revenue for the 1993/94 financial year.

(i) Pension Scheme for
Members of
Statutory Bodies R 923 968
Military Pension
Scheme R88 383 583
Pension Scheme for
Members of
Parliament and
Political Office-
bearers R41 740 827

(ii) Nil

Ramsar Convention: ratification

127. Sen E K MOORROT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

(1) Whether South Africa has ratified and/or acceded to the Convention for the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention); if not, why not; if so, when;

(2) whether any South African wetlands have been designated for inclusion in the list of wetlands of international importance in terms of article 2(1) of the Convention; if not, why not; if so, which wetlands;

(3) whether any formal notification of the organisation or government responsible for continuing bureau duties has even been given; if so, what are the relevant details? S253E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) South Africa in fact took a leading role in the development of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) when we became the fifth Contracting Party to the Convention by signature without reservation as to ratification on 12 March 1975.

(2) South Africa has designated 12 wetlands to the List of Wetlands of International Importance (in terms of Article 2.1 and Recommendation 1.3 (Rec 1.3)). The first two wetlands included by South Africa in the List were Barberspan in the North West Province and De Hoop in the Western Cape. A further four wetlands were added to the List in October 1986 (Blesbokspruit, Heuningnes Estuary in the De Mond State Forest, the St Lucia System and the Turtle Beaches and Coral Reefs of Tongaland). In 1988 Langebaan (part of the West Coast National Park) was added to the List. Another five wetlands were designated by South Africa to the List in 1991 (Lake Sibaya, Kosi Bay, Orange River Mouth Wetland, Verlorenvlei, and Wilderness Lakes) while assessments are being completed on a number of others.

(56) Harward 15/16/95

Of the 12 listed wetlands, two are protected within National Parks, eight are protected within proclaimed Provincial Nature Reserves or State Forests and one is on state land under the jurisdiction of a provincial nature conservation authority. The remaining wetland is partially in a proclaimed Provincial Nature Reserve and partially on privately owned land. The private land is in the ownership of a large corporation which employs an ecologist and manages the area jointly with the

Provincial Government under whose jurisdiction they fall.

- (3) Yes. At the third meeting of the Contracting Parties (Regina, Canada, 1987), the Ramsar Convention Bureau within the headquarters of the IUCN in Gland, Switzerland. The Ramsar Convention Bureau is the permanent secretary for the Convention and carries out the day-to-day coordination of the Conventions "articles".

INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

Bruwer, Sen A A B—
Agriculture, 7

De Ville, Sen Adv J R—

Justice, 1, 99

Fisher, Sen S D—

Housing, 366

Jooste, Sen A J—
Agriculture, 157

Selfe, Sen J—
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Environmental Affairs and Tourism, 359
Williams, Sen A J—

Education, 239, 377, 382

Saldanha: Hope that probe will cool emotions

□ Minister appoints Judge Jan Steyn chairman

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers says he hopes the appointment of a board of inquiry into the proposed Saldanha steel plant will help cool emotions on the issue.

He announced yesterday that former Supreme Court judge and former Independent Development Trust chief executive Jan Steyn had been appointed as chairman of the board.

The board, announced by Dr De Villiers last week, is constituted in terms of Section 15 of the Environment Conservation Act.

Other members are Richard Fuggle, head of the department of environmental and geographical science at the University of Cape Town, and Rufus Maruma, international environmental consultant and environmental adviser to Northern Transvaal premier Ngoako Ramathlodi.

Judge Steyn replaces Antoni Gildenhuys, who withdrew after it emerged that without his knowledge, a law firm for which he used to work and for which he currently acts as a consultant, was appearing for Iscor in the steel plant matter.

Dr De Villiers said yesterday the board would begin evaluating existing evidence and, where necessary, inviting new submissions, as soon as Judge Steyn returned from Europe on June 25.

He said there had been criti-

cism that organisations should have been asked to nominate candidates for appointment to the board, but experience had shown this usually led to the nomination of people supporting a particular point of view.

It was his responsibility to appoint a qualified board consisting of people who could objectively, sensitively and responsibly weigh up the facts.

This procedure had been followed to ensure the independence and objectivity of the board, and carried the blessing of various organisations with interests in the Saldanha debate as well as the parliamentary portfolio committee on environmental affairs and tourism.

While the inquiry was under way, any work undertaken by Iscor at the proposed site would be done "at their own risk".

Dr De Villiers said the debate had to date been "very emotional".

It was hoped the board of inquiry would reduce the emotional content while increasing objective discussion on the merits of the various viewpoints.

"There's clearly too much at stake in terms of development, job creation and economic growth on the one hand, and the protection of our very fragile, valuable environment on the other," said Dr De Villiers.

ARL 15/6/95

Dithering over unleaded fuel leads to price bonus

CT(HR) 15/6/95

(56)

By DEREK TOMMEY

MINING EDITOR

The Government's procrastination in setting a differential between the price of leaded and unleaded petrol has brought it and the South African motoring public, with cars requiring leaded petrol, a major bonus.

The South African Petroleum Industry Association announced last night that it had agreed to a lower pump price differential than originally sought, which would eliminate the need to increase the tax on leaded petrol.

The association wanted a 5 percent pump price differential in favour of unleaded petrol — about 9c a litre.

This would ensure the 20 percent market penetration required for practical reasons to enable effective nation-wide distribution of unleaded petrol.

The association said that to overcome the perception that an increase in the tax on leaded petrol would favour the rich at the expense of the poor, its members had agreed to a lower pump price differential with a review mechanism.

This would be implemented should penetration not be sufficient to enable effective nationwide distribution. There would therefore be no need to charge more for leaded petrol.

The association was sure this would enable the Cabinet to reach an early decision to introduce unleaded petrol, which would be to the advantage of all South Africans.

The association said the availability of unleaded petrol would introduce modern engine technology and open the door to the protection of the environment by introducing emission control equipment.

The association said it was not true that taxis and older vehicles could not use unleaded petrol. Most would be able to use it with little or no adjustment to the engine.

Less than 10 percent of vehicles on the road today would not be able to use unleaded petrol.

These vehicles were mainly those with high compression ratios.

The owners of these vehicles were not predominantly the poor, the association said.

It was untrue that tax structures overseas were "manipulated" to bring about the use of unleaded petrol.

"The correct position is that tax structures were adapted to bring about agreed national priorities." Leaded petrol would be available in South Africa for many years to come, the association said.

Saldanha Iscor: Trust asks court for interdict

Supreme Court Reporter

LEGAL argument has started in the Supreme Court in an application brought by a trust to interdict the authorities over the controversial proposed steel mill at Saldanha.

The Wittedrift Trust, which owns property on the Langebaan lagoon, is bringing the application against, among others, Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Dawie de Villiers, regional Minister of

Agriculture Lampie Fick and Iscor. ARG 16/6/95

The trust is seeking a court order forcing the Minister to appoint a board to investigate the proposed mill and its effect of the surrounding area.

It is also seeking an order preventing the rezoning of the land until the board has completed its report.

The Minister, the Western Cape Premier and Dr Fick have given an undertaking not

to rezone the land before June 21.

During proceedings yesterday the presiding judge, Mr Justice Farlam, warned all the litigants about what they had been saying in the media about the mill.

He reminded them of the *sub judice* law and said the court would not hesitate to use the contempt of court rules.

Argument is expected to continue until next week.

Board 'can review whole Saldanha plan'

CT 16/6/95 (56) (57)

MELANIE GOSLING
STAFF REPORTER

THE Department of Environment board of investigation set up this week to probe Iscor's controversial steel mill plan near Langebaan Lagoon will be able to review the planning guidelines for the entire Saldanha region.

Professor Richard Fuggle of UCT's department of environmental and geographical science, who has been appointed to the board, said yesterday: "The real issue is whether adequate attention has been given by various levels of government to the implications of development at Saldanha Bay. The issues raised by many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) concern the possibility of further development in the area if Iscor's steel mill is built there. With the board set up, the planning guide-

lines for the area can be reviewed."

He said the board would hear evidence for and against the siting of the steel mill, and both sides would have to justify their standpoints.

Asked to comment on statements by some environmental NGOs that he should recuse himself from the board because he served on the Council for the Environment sub-committee that approved the CSIR's environmental impact assessment of the steel mill, Prof Fuggle said: "We had a very specific brief from the minister which was to tell him, within a few days, whether the CSIR report had followed the requirements of integrated environmental management. That was all.

"The terms of reference for the board of investigation are very different and far broader and are reviewing the entire issue."

Steel mill: Move to stop rezoning

ET 16/6/95

(5) (12/11)

DAN SIMON
STAFF REPORTER

A CIVIL suit was launched in the Cape Supreme Court yesterday to oppose any possible move by the government to rezone a stretch of land for Iscor's new steel mill at Saldanha Bay until an appointed board of inquiry has completed its investigations.

The action was brought by Mr Alastair van Huyssteen, Mr Hendrik Venter and Mr Johannes Coetzee, acting as trustees of the Witte-drif community, against the Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Dr Dawie De Villiers and seven other respondents, including provincial minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Mr Lampie Fick.

Mr Dave de Villiers, QC, told the court that what was at stake was the contention by Western Cape Premier Mr Hennis Kriel and Mr Fick that they did not feel obligated to wait for the board's findings in order to rezone the proposed site.

"We say we cannot have fairness in this matter until the commission has completed its job," Mr De Villiers said.

Mr G D Van Schalkwyk, for Mr De Villiers, Mr Kriel and Mr Fick, contended that the board of inquiry called by Mr De Villiers was an "advisory body".

"The only purpose of the board is to assist the minister," Mr Van Schalkwyk said.

The court is expected to issue a judgment next week.

The foreign battalions bring muscle and hope to St Lucia

Star 17/6/95

A concerted effort is building up in Europe and the United States to stop the move to mine at St Lucia (56)

It is good news for South Africans who care about St Lucia that Euronature, based in Germany, as well as the Sierra Club, America's largest environmental body, and other overseas groups are joining in the fight to save St Lucia. The entire Franciscan Order, worldwide, has petitioned President Mandela.

South Africans, on their own, would probably not have been effective enough to stop Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) from removing St Lucia's high dunes.

RBM is sensitive to overseas opinion. It has already rejected, in contemptuous tones, the more than 300 000-signature petition from the South African public. "What public?" snapped an RBM representative last time we met. He dismissed the signatures as being from privileged whites.

In the initial stages of the controversy the mining company was not interested in local opinion.

When The Star warned the public of RBM's intentions the mine refused interviews. Then the London Sunday Telegraph decided to run a full page feature by Fred Bridgland, their man in South Africa. Like a genie out of a bottle, RBM's chief executive was in Johannesburg and in Bridgland's house in Parkhurst. When Bridgland asked if I could also attend the meeting the answer was "No".

The London paper condemned the idea of mining and, next day, I pointed out in The Star the contrast between RBMs sensitive attitude towards overseas opinion and its lack of interest in South African opinion. Days later RBM relented, flew me down, and had the grace to admit its attitude had been regrettable.

But the fight to save St Lucia has remained a classic "us and them" duel ever since. At one

BACK TO EARTH



**JAMES
Clarke**

time RBM warned that if it lost its "right" to mine St Lucia it might sue the public for millions.

A group of eight people arrived from Germany and Spain last week for a two-day look at St Lucia. The group was partly sponsored by Lufthansa who sent its own representative along.

Why Lufthansa?

"We are not just interested in flying," I was told. "We are also involved in ecotourism. In 1993 we handled 5 million ecotourist packages from Germany alone." Ecotourism (for tourists who prefer the outdoors to the cities) is big in Europe. And St Lucia is potentially big in ecotourism.

Claus Peter Hutter of the European Natural Heritage Foundation (Euronature) - it has 105 affiliated societies in Germany and some outside - told me why Europe was interested:

■ St Lucia estuary is the destination for many bird species annually migrating to and from Europe.

■ St Lucia is not just of national or regional importance - it is of international importance. "Any threat to its ecosystem is a threat to Germany," says Hutter.

This last view was also expressed by Marion Hammal-Cavanna who represented Spain.

She said St Lucia is regarded as a "biosphere reserve", one of a number of areas of importance to planet viability itself.

Uld Doerner, an industrial entrepreneur from Munich - and the man in Europe who has done most to bring the people's attention to St Lucia's plight - said people are also questioning whether titanium is so essential to the world that it requires such major sacrifices.

The group, which included two journalists, was unimpressed by what RBM had done over the last 16 years to resuscitate a piece of natural forest on a mined-out dune. The mine shows the patch to visitors as an example of how it would reinstate the vegetation on St Lucia's Eastern Shores.

"There was little species diversity," said Doerner. "You cannot possibly compare it with natural forest. And we noticed a lot of dune slumping along the coast." RBM denied this week that the group visited the rehabilitated area and claimed there was more species diversity in the "rehab" area than in the original forest.

RBM's biological consultants - professors Malcolm Coe of Oxford and Rudi van Aarde of Pretoria whom I met on site, at Richards Bay, a year ago were both impressed by RBM's effort.

But, as we talked, a resident botanist in the background was idly pulling out unwanted plants leaving the impression that, after 15 years, intensive care was still needed even for those few hectares.

I told the German group how I had asked Coe and van Aarde whether the rehabilitation method would be suitable for St Lucia.

The answer stunned us all (BBC, New Scientist and SATV were also there). Coe said he'd never been to St Lucia and would not have time to go. Van Aarde said the same - yet St Lucia is about 15 minutes by helicopter or an hour by road.

Hammerl-Cavanna suggested: "Why can't your government spend 10 years to prove the conservation view that St Lucia is a better prospect as an ecotourist area?" If they fail?

"Mine it!"

Grist to the mill

AM 16/6/95
Government is coming under increasing pressure to give the green light to the new steel mill at Saldanha on the Cape west coast.

Iscor, which had hoped to start construction this month, has warned that further delays could threaten the project's feasibility. And it was reported this week that the World Wildlife Fund for Nature SA is now satisfied that Iscor will amend its plans to meet the fund's earlier objections.

But last week Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers appointed a board of inquiry to examine environmental impact studies of the project's influence on the ecologically sensitive Langebaan lagoon. Water Affairs & Forestry Minister Kader Asmal and Cape provincial planning MEC Lampie Fick will decide only next month whether to approve the project.

Objectors to the mill include owners of exclusive beach properties at Langebaan and hard-core environmental groups such as Earthlife Africa. Those in favour include the economically depressed communities of Saldanha and Vredenburg which see the project as a lifeline to jobs and growth.

Iscor says the plant will be built to the highest possible environmental projection standards. It will also be far more aesthetically acceptable than traditional steel mills such as Iscor's Pretoria West plant.

The new mill will export its total production and earn about R1,6bn a year in foreign currency. It will use the existing harbour for exports of iron ore.

The handling of the controversial issue will be an important test for government. The ANC caucus includes a powerful environmentalist lobby but its demands will need to be weighed carefully against the

need to create jobs and earn foreign exchange through exports of beneficiated raw materials. ■

High costs put Sishen furnace out of reach

(18/95) (56) ST(BT) 18/6/95

IT is more economical to transport iron ore 861km from Iscor's Sishen mine to Saldanha Bay than it is to haul far fewer tons of finished steel the same distance.

This is the reason why Iscor cannot consider building a steel plant at Sishen. Hans Smith, managing director of the nation's biggest steel-making and -mining group, says finished steel has to be protected during transportation whereas iron ore can simply be loaded into rail-trucks and tipped out through automation.

"Obviously we have looked at the feasibility of putting the plant at Sishen but the transport factor makes it uneconomic.

"People are always quick to criticise Transnet for high rail costs but there is no way that steel on pallets can be loaded and unloaded fast enough or carefully enough to compete with the cost of rilling ore.

"Furthermore, iron ore is not the only raw material — coal and imported iron-ore pellets also have to be transported to the plant site. It would cost an extra R400-million to bring an adequate electricity supply to Sishen whereas Saldanha already has infrastructure."

Mr Smith defends Saldanha as the proposed site for the new plant in the face of potential legal action. A Cape Town attorney on Thursday served an interdict against two government ministers, Dawie de Villiers and Hernus Kriel, because they granted permission for the Saldanha site to be rezoned for industrial development.

The interdict is also directed towards the appointment of an investigating committee, chaired by judge Jan Steyn, to investigate the environmental impact of Saldanha Steel and secondary industries. The inquiry will begin on June 25. The inter-

By JULIE WALKER

dict will be opposed by Saldanha Steel.

Iscor's management team is concerned about further delays in winning approval for Saldanha's proposed 2.5-million-ton-a-year export steel plant.

It is anxious to start on time because it forecasts a downturn in the steel price cycle to commence about a year after its commissioning. If it misses better prices for its initial production, the viability of the project will be reduced. Delays will also escalate the capital cost because of the country's inflationary environment.

Bernard Smith, Saldanha Steel's executive chairman and former Gencon director, said this week the company would begin geological tests at the proposed site on June 28.

"In view of the recent

debate on the Saldanha Steel project, we wish to stress that the activity which may be observed on site shortly will be of a purely investigative and information-gathering nature."

The company said it had informed Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment Affairs Bantu Holomisa and members of the Cape regional parliament.

It said the tests could continue until the end of the year.

Iscor says the environmental impact assessment (EIA) undertaken by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research proved there would not be significant pollution to water, land and air.

Opposing parties say the study was incomplete, based on the original plant size of only half the current proposal, and that it made no assessment of the envi-

ronmental effects of secondary development.

Iscor says such secondary development is impossible to define in advance and should be controlled through specific zoning regulations and permits for each instance.

Hans Smith says Iscor is committed to meeting the requirements of concerned bodies such as the World Wildlife Fund, National Parks Board and others. The EIA was carried out to international standards which are more stringent than the domestic level.

Iscor has switched the proposed method of cooling from a water system to air, which halves its water consumption to 8 000m³ a day — about 10% of the sustainable flow rate of the Berg River — but costs an extra R25-million in capital.

It also proposes to recycle sewerage water pumped into the bay and clad buildings.

Saldanha Steel has agreed to establish a trust which will enter into a contract with the company. Its trustees will require Saldanha Steel to meet environmental benchmarks or face severe sanctions.

Iscor is a major landowner around Saldanha and will sell land only to purchasers who will meet strict environmental standards.

Saldanha Steel says it will generate up to R1.8-billion a year in foreign exchange, provide 600 direct and many more indirect jobs. It will generate capital spending of R4.7-billion over 30 months, 70% of which will be spent in South Africa.

Hans Smith's other major concern is the impression other potential investors, particularly foreigners, will be receiving from the the delays.

● Smith forges ahead at Iscor — Newsmaker, back page.

Unleaded petrol price 'cheaper'

Mungo Soggot

(183) (56)

THE SA Petroleum Industry Association (Sapia) has agreed to make unleaded petrol 4c/l cheaper than leaded petrol instead of the 9c/l originally proposed.

Sapia director Colin McClelland said at the weekend this meant there would be no need to increase the tax on leaded petrol to subsidise unleaded fuel. It was hoped this would help Cabinet make a decision in time for unleaded petrol to go on sale in February. Administrative delays had ruled out initial plans to have unleaded petrol on the market by September ^{20/9/95}

The industry had opted for February so that the changeover would not clash with the busy Christmas period. Supplies would be available about four months after refineries started producing unleaded fuel, he said. The price differential would be reviewed if the necessary market penetration for unleaded fuel was not achieved.

McClelland questioned the perception that unleaded fuel was suitable only for wealthy people's cars and was therefore being subsidised by leaded petrol users. Most taxis and older vehicles could, with little or no adjustment, use unleaded petrol, he said. An unleaded fuel education campaign would be launched.

Sapia said it did not favour an extra 7,5c/l fuel levy to raise R1bn for road repair, as recommended by Transport Minister Mac Maharaj. It proposed that the 9c/l synfuel subsidy be used instead.

GOVERNMENT'S handling of the environmental controversy which has erupted around the siting of the proposed steel mill in Saldanha Bay has been shambolic.

The issue has become so enmeshed in environmental and political debates and threats that Iscor has warned it might have to "walk away" from the project.

Although the central issue is the environment, the longer-term ramifications raise the question of whether environmental populism is capable of putting the long-term competitiveness of SA's biggest steel producer — a world player in its own right — and thousands of existing jobs at risk.

The international steel market is intensely competitive, as the closure of steel mills over the past five years in Europe, in particular, attest.

Iscor admits it is losing money on one-sixth of its steel production because of ageing plant. In this industry higher-volume production means a better bargaining position on prices, and lower overheads. Production capability needs to be continually updated, and while outdated plant will have to be excised from its operations, Iscor believes the Saldanha plant represents an opportunity to improve its competitiveness.

Now after years of feasibility studies — and enough media coverage of Iscor's plans to write a book on — environmental lobbyists and property owners have finally stepped in to have their say. Better late than never, one is tempted to comment.

Hard on their heels comes government, with a plethora of ministers, provincial and central, and one parliamentary committee — for the moment at least — all suddenly intent on "further investigation" and getting "all the stakeholders" involved in the decision-making process.

In fact, ministers are reported to be arguing among themselves for the right to decide on the project. All this creates an impression that Iscor has been conducting its planning in secret, which is far from the truth. For instance, the water affairs and forestry department had already given a provisional approval to the project.

Environment must not be used for political points

(56) 201916795

EDWARD WEST

But, said minister Kader Asmal at a belated media conference two weeks ago, the department was unaware of potential secondary industrial development at Saldanha — something Iscor has been touting as a potential positive spin-off all along. And yes, Iscor's telephone number is in the book.

The probability is that if Iscor does get the go-ahead for the project on the planned site, environmental management will be strictly enforced not only by itself — it is doubted whether the group would want a repetition of the current debate — but also by government.

On the other hand, the industrial implications of Iscor not getting the necessary approval are immense, and not only have the potential to scare off any future large-scale industrial investment, but show up government as ready to sacrifice investment to cover its own deficiencies.

Consider the effect of the Saldanha fracas on the development of any large-scale industrial venture. And this is just to meet possible environ-

mental concerns.

The investor would have to make detailed and continuing representations to all surrounding landowners, communities and business organisations; local government bodies; various provincial departments and ministers, various central government departments and agencies and their ministers, political party leaders and parliamentary committees, trade unions and any environmental organisation which might consider itself affected by the development — all before planning of the development takes place. The investor would also require a

legal team, for should any lobbying fail, representations would also have to be made in court and even possibly the Constitutional Court.

He would also probably require the services of two independent environmental research agencies — one to back up the other's research just in case either assessment becomes discredited by objectors.

Surely there is scope for a more integrated and streamlined approach to environmental management as it relates to industrial development? The Saldanha controversy indicates the development of a tangle of red tape in government which the multi-billion-rand-a-year Iscor group does not appear to be circumventing. How much more difficult would it be for any potential new foreign investor?

SA holds a substantial proportion of the world's iron ore reserves. If it is to command higher price for those resources, it will have to be through beneficiation.

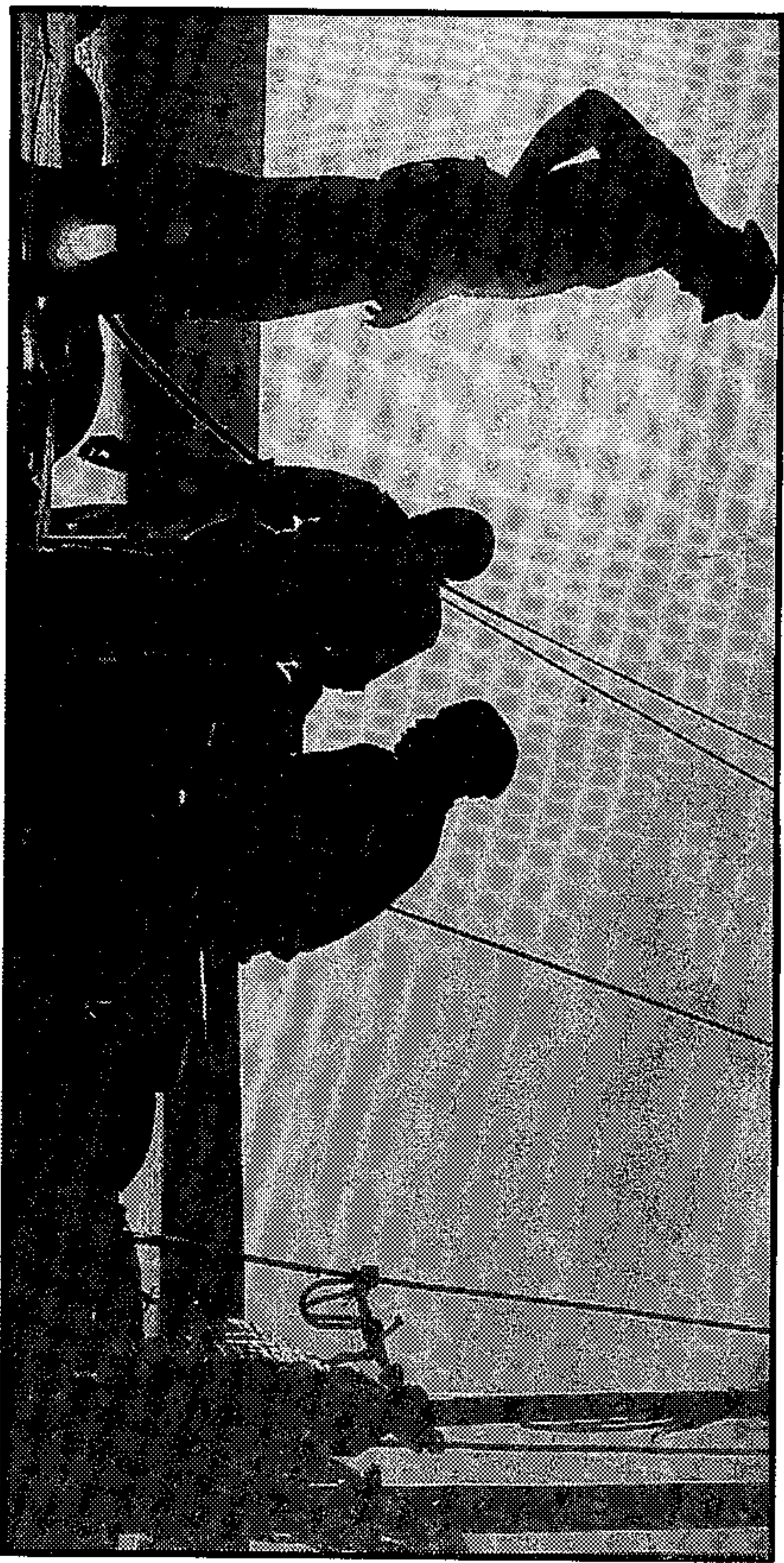
The other option is to continue shipping tons of ore at low prices for beneficiation in other countries.

Is it in the long-term interest of SA to hold up a business decision to invest in what is required for the long-term survival of SA's steel industry, particularly in a world steel market where demand fluctuates in line with the world economy?

Waiting for the appropriate moment to invest in the next demand cycle could be too late. Considering the outcry, Iscor's reluctance to move the proposed plant to another site is evidence that Saldanha represents the group's best option — often the only option worth considering.

It is time for the "government of national unity" to begin showing the world exactly what it purports to be, working in the interests of the development of its people and in the interests of a market economy.

Environmental concerns cannot be relegated to pointscoring by political power brokers. Unlike governments in power, ecological and mineral resources are finite. The issue should be tackled with unity and with the most practical solution in mind — and as quickly as possible.



West coast fishermen . . . will Iscor's proposed steel mill threaten their livelihood or create new jobs?

Quay extension: Impact on bird life to be probed

Environment Reporter

(1597) (56)

A BIRD specialist has been appointed to help the environmental team assessing Portnet's proposal to extend its general harbour quay at Saldanha Bay which will involve underwater blasting.

Portnet wants to extend the 250m quay — partly as a result of Iscor's proposed steel mill nearby — by at least another 250m and possibly as much as 500m.

It also wants to enlarge the navigational channel to the quay so that several, bigger ships can be handled at the same time.

The extension also involves a new turning area.

ARG 19/6/95.
An environmental impact assessment of the proposal is being managed by the Environmental Services branch of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), assisted by a consultant company specialising in involving the public in such assessments.

Geotechnical surveys had revealed that some blasting would be necessary to remove granitic material below the proposed navigation channel.

These surveys should be complete by the end of June.

Also, a bird specialist had been appointed because of the need for blasting.

"This specialist will be requested to assess the possible impact on birds and advise on mitigatory methods to minimise these impacts."

● For further information, contact Heather Campbell, ☎ 461-1118.

New twist to Saldanha saga

AMT 22/7/95

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE announcement by the Central Energy Fund that it has negotiated a contract to store 15 million barrels of Iranian oil at the Saldanha Bay oil-storage facility is "an extraordinary state of affairs".

So says the chairman of the board of inquiry into the proposed steel plant at Saldanha, former Supreme Court judge Jan Steyn, who has queried the lack of opportunity for public comment on that decision.

Also, an attorney giving evidence to the Steyn inquiry suggested the oil contract may be in conflict with the Ramsar Convention on wetland protection, to which South Africa is a signatory, and could therefore be challenged legally.

Mr Steyn's remarks came yesterday during the third day of oral evidence to the board, which was appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers in terms of the Environment Conservation Act.

It is the first time such a board has been constituted.

On Wednesday the board heard evidence from Keith Wiseman of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

He said he was project manager of an environmental impact assessment of Portnet's proposal to increase the size of its general cargo quay at Saldanha Bay — partly because of the proposed Saldanha Steel project.

He had also been contacted by the Strategic Fuel Fund and requested to increase the scope of their study to include an assessment of the risk of increased oil-tanker traffic if the oil-storage facilities at Saldanha Bay were commercialised.

The inquiry into the controversial proposal to develop a new steel mill at Saldanha Bay, which started in Cape Town this week, took a new turn following the disclosure that the Central Energy Fund had negotiated a contract to store 15 million barrels of Iranian oil at its Saldanha Bay facility next to the proposed steel-mill site. Objectors told the inquiry all development in the area — including the oil-storage facility and proposals to extend the Saldanha quay — must be taken into account.

Mr Wiseman testified he had been told no final decision had been made regarding the commercialisation of the oil-storage facility and that no contracts had been signed.

Their draft study for public comment was unlikely to be completed before the middle of August at the earliest, he said.

But a report late on Thursday which quoted Central Energy Fund managing director Kobus van Zyl as saying the deal to store oil at the Saldanha Bay facility could be worth more than R50 million, said the first shipment of oil was expected in August.

This report was raised during yesterday's proceedings of the board of inquiry, and Mr Steyn's remarks came during discussion about the role of public participation in proposals such as the steel plant and the compiling of area structure plans.

He noted that the steel plant application had generated great public interest.

But the announcement that the oil facility would be used commercially had been done without any opportunity for public participation or involvement by concerned people.

Earlier, attorney and Langebaan lagoon property owner Alastair van Huysteen suggested to the board the oil contract with Iran implied a possible

pollution threat — partly because the world's oil tanker fleet was ageing — and could therefore be in conflict with the Ramsar Convention.

A substantial part of Langebaan lagoon — including several islands in Saldanha Bay — is registered as a Ramsar site.

Because South Africa was already a signatory to this agreement, the oil-storage contract could probably be challenged legally, Mr Van Huysteen said.

Last month Mr Van Huysteen brought a Supreme Court application asking for the establishment of the board of inquiry and for a temporary interdict against the provincial authorities from granting Saldanha Steel's rezoning application until the board has completed its investigation.

Yesterday he told the inquiry the cumulative impact of secondary or downstream development associated with the proposed steel plant and the required deepening of the harbour area could not be viewed separately from the steel plant application.

There had been no holistic assessment of the area.

"The Ramsar Treaty talks about 'creeping development' and this is what's happening... If we don't stop this it's going to creep further and further," Mr Van Huysteen said.

He submitted documents to

the board which included internal memos from the Department of Environment Affairs, released to him because of freedom of access to information guaranteed by the interim constitution.

One of the memos included comments by a department official, a Mrs Swart, on the Council for the Environment's report, which effectively endorsed the CSIR's environmental impact assessment report.

She wrote: "I am disappointed with the Council for the Environment report. Because certain decisions had already been taken by Iscor, the so-called impact study was then in effect just a report in which certain mitigatory measures were proposed."

"The fact that it was stated that this was an impact assessment report based on the principles of integrated environmental management (IEM) makes this study laughable (belittling), particularly also if seen in the context that alternatives (sites) which were considered in an earlier study were only considered on grounds of economic viability."

Mr Van Huysteen also referred to an interview in S. Mining magazine in which Iscor managing director Kevin Robertson was quoted as saying Saldanha Steel's income would be essentially that of Iscor's Vanderbijl Park steel works which were being closed but that the profit margin would be different.

Iscor is a 50 percent shareholder in Saldanha Steel.

Since then Iscor had denied any link between the two operations, Mr Van Huysteen said.

He asked whether Saldanha Steel had disclosed the link suggested by Mr Robertson's remarks to the Receiver of Revenue when successfully applying for a tax concession worth between R500 million and R1 billion — in terms of Section 37E of the Income Tax Act.

Environmental policies to be revised

ART 20/6/95

(56)

Political Staff

A REVISION of environmental policies, in which all South Africans will be consulted, especially those who have not taken part in the past, has been announced by Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Bantu Holomisa in his budget speech in parliament.

He said yesterday that a consultative national environmental policy conference would be held on August 17 at which all people would for the first time be given a chance to draw up an environmental policy.

"It is this conference which will

identify environmental principles and objectives that will constitute our new environmental policy," he said.

The conference would also review policy formulations on national integrated pollution control, hazardous substances, integrated environmental management and environmental impact assessments.

Mr Holomisa said apartheid policies must take the blame for ecological traumas in South Africa.

"Directly or indirectly, the apartheid set of policies and in-

stitutions has exacerbated a long list of ecological ills.

"The bits and pieces of South Africa reserved by the previous government for the region's original inhabitants, and then packed with black people not wanted in the white economy, are today among the world's most degraded lands."

Unless the disadvantaged communities were empowered to have access to resources and an equitable share in managing them, all efforts to address the environmental and development crisis would fail, he said.

CT 20/6/95

'Politicians will decide on mill'

(5b) (12/11)

POLITICAL considerations would determine the final decision on the proposed Iscor steel mill at Saldanha Bay, and not the opinion of the board of inquiry, Senator Errol Moorcroft (DP) said yesterday.

Conference to review environmental policies

Star 20/6/95 (56)

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

South Africa's environmental policies will come under review later this year during a conference where all South Africans would be consulted, Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Bantu Holomisa announced yesterday.

Speaking during his budget debate in Parliament, Holomisa said a Consultative National Environmental Policy conference would be held on August 17 to give all South Africans an opportunity to draw up SA's environmental guidelines. "It is this conference which will identify environmental principles and objectives that will constitute our new environmental policy."

The conference would also review ongoing policy formulations on national integrated pollution control; hazardous substances; integrated environmental management and environmental impact assessments.

In a hard-hitting speech, Holomisa blamed apartheid policies for ecological traumas in SA.

"Directly or indirectly, the

apartheid set of policies and institutions has exacerbated a long list of ecological ills.

"The bits and pieces of South Africa reserved by the previous government for the region's original inhabitants, and then packed with black people not wanted in the white economy, are today among the world's most degraded lands. Everywhere the dispossessed bear the brunt of ecological abuses and at times have no choice but to sacrifice their environment to save their lives and their families."

Unless the disadvantaged communities were empowered to have access to resources and an equitable share in managing them, all efforts to address the crisis would fail, he said.

The rich and powerful had been responsible for the environmental and development crisis through their control of the structures and institutions of economic, political and cultural power, Holomisa added.

The Government should reprioritise its budget and national environmental objectives, which had a minority and urban bias, to favour the poor.

Environmentalists lambaste Minister

56

Sowetan 20/6/95

Furore as chairman withdraws from board of inquiry into Saldanha project

ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers has come under a blistering attack from the parliamentary environment affairs committee for

his handling of appointments to the board of inquiry formed to probe the controversial R4,8 billion Saldanha steel mill near Langebaan lagoon.

The ANC's Mr Peter Mokaba, chairman of the environmental affairs select committee, slammed the handling of the board of inquiry appointments which he said had caused a "great deal of disquiet" among many stakeholders, including the ANC section of the environmental affairs study group. Backed by Earthlife Africa and the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, Mokaba called for the terms of reference of the board of inquiry constituted by De Villiers to be

agreed upon by all stakeholders before any appointments were made.

He also called on the minister to halt the proposed rezoning of land for the Saldanha steel mill until the work of the board of inquiry had been completed and the results made known. Not to do so "will give the impression that government has already formed an opinion and has taken sides in the matter and thus turning the investigation into mere posturing, instead of a serious attempt to resolve the issue which it should be," Mokaba said in a letter to the minister.

The board ran into controversy last week when the newly appointed chair-

man Dr Antonie Gildenhuys recused himself on discovering that his former law firm represented Iscor in the steel mill project.

Mokaba described Gildenhuys's resignation as an indication of the problems that the handling of the process had unleashed.

De Villiers confirmed receiving the letter yesterday but declined to comment. His spokesman said: "We are still receiving nominations for the board and are actively looking for candidates. We hope to have an announcement on new appointments in the next few days. It is a matter of urgency".

- The number of applications for subdivision of agricultural land as well as applications for change of use of land, have increased dramatically.

(2) Yes.

It could be accepted that persons affected by subdivision of land have been adversely affected by this situation. It is, however, not possible to determine and furnish the exact details thereof.

(3) Yes.

The Department is currently implementing the following steps in order to rectify this situation:

- Filling of existing vacancies in the section is receiving urgent attention, and officials in the section are, furthermore, working overtime in order to work off the backlog; and
- Future enforcement of the Act as well as the influence thereof on initiatives taken by the Government of National Unity are currently under review.

*39. Mr T D LEE—Sport and Recreation.† [Question standing over.]

Death of Mr M van Deventer in 1 Military Hospital

*40. Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- (1) What were the circumstances that led to the death of a certain Mr M van Deventer in 1 Military Hospital in January 1995;
- (2) whether any person or persons are being held responsible for his death; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether his parents have been notified of the alleged causes of his death; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N796BE

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (1) The deceased, Mr M van Deventer, went absent without leave from his unit. A warrant for his arrest was issued and he was arrested by the Military Police and detained in the detention barracks. The

circumstances that led to his death have yet to be determined by an Inquest Court.

An autopsy was performed by a specialist, Dr F Theron, who is of the opinion that the cause of death is chronic (Auto-immune) adrenalitis (adrenaline gland malfunction—by name funkstoneer nie) with acute adrenal insufficiency.

- (2) At this stage no person can be held responsible for the death of the deceased. A formal inquest still has to be held.

- (3) The parents of the deceased were informed by the investigation officer, D-Sgt Anker, regarding the findings of the specialist. The cause of death will be determined by the Inquest Court. A date for the formal inquest has not yet been finalised.

International Whaling Commission: SA membership

*41. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

- (1) Whether South Africa is a member of the International Whaling Commission; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details; (56)
- (2) whether South Africa was represented at the International Whaling Commission's meeting held in Ireland on 29 May 1995; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether South Africa made any inputs at this meeting; if not, why not; if so, what inputs;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on South Africa's policy in respect of the catching of whales? N797E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) Yes. South Africa is a founder-member of the International Whaling Commission and has since 1946 attended all annual meetings and selected working groups.

(2) Yes.

- (3) Yes. South Africa voted on each agenda point brought to a vote and explained its vote where necessary.

- (4) As a member of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), South Africa supports decisions of the Commission. No commercial whaling is permitted worldwide (also in South Africa) as a result of the IWC's moratorium on such catches.

Socio-economic conditions in fishing industry: Investigator

*42. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

- (1) Whether he or his Department has ordered an investigation into the socio-economic conditions in the fishing industry; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, what is the position in this regard;
- (2) whether he or his Department will consider having such investigation undertaken; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N798E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:†

- (1) Yes. The investigation was done by the Human Sciences Research Council and the report is available.
- (2) No. Because it has already been done.

Land claims in St Lucia area: investigations concluded

*43. Mr P A MATTHEE asked the Minister of Land Affairs:†

- (1) Whether the investigation into land claims in the St Lucia area has been concluded; if not, why not; if so, what were the results of this investigation;
- (2) whether this will affect the development of St Lucia; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, to what extent? N799E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) The investigation into land claims in the St Lucia area has not been concluded. Various stakeholders with different viewpoints about the possible resolution of this issue are involved. After protracted negotiations in this regard, it was decided on 9 June 1995 by all parties concerned to refer it to the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights.

- (2) The findings and recommendations of the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights which might have an effect on the development of St Lucia cannot be anticipated at this stage.

Deaths during march to Library Gardens: statements

*44. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (1) Whether the South African Police Service has taken a statement from the President of the Republic in regard to the 53 deaths on the day of the march to the Library Gardens in Johannesburg on 28 March 1994; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (2) whether he or the SAPS is in possession of the names of the persons to whom the President allegedly issued the instruction to shoot to kill if necessary to protect Shell House from the marchers; if not, (a) why not and (b) what efforts are being made to obtain this information; if so, (i) from whom and (ii) by what means was this information obtained;
- (3) whether any statements have been taken from the persons to whom this instruction was given; if not, why not; if so, when? N802E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (1) No. The National Commissioner of the South African Police Service personally interviewed the President regarding his knowledge of the Shell House incident.
- (2) No.
 - (a) and (b)(i), (ii) The investigation team is in the process of identifying individuals involved in the incident, from whom statements will be obtained.
- (3) The investigation team is in the process of identifying individuals involved in the incident, from whom statements will be obtained.

Operation Vula: weapons handed over/ recovered

- *45. Mr A L LEON asked the Minister of Defence: Whether any weapons were (a) handed over to

- (1) Whether any pensioners collecting their pensions have to wait in queues outside buildings in all kinds of weather conditions in order to receive their pensions; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,

- (2) whether he or his Department has taken or intends taking any steps in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps? N788E

THE MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes. Social grantees who receive cash payments in some cases do have to stand outside in queues to wait for their grants. This occurs especially in the deep rural areas where there are no facilities or where social grants are paid out in buildings not large enough to accommodate all beneficiaries inside the building. Small numbers of beneficiaries are usually paid at pay-points in rural areas and therefore they do not have to stand in queues for long. Where facilities are available beneficiaries are accommodated inside buildings;

- (2) yes, most of the venues where social grants are paid out are the property of either the local government or a private concern. The Department of Welfare and the provincial welfare departments encourage local governments and the private sector to upgrade facilities at pay-points in order to make it as convenient as possible for the beneficiary. To prevent beneficiaries to stand outside in queues for extended periods of time payments in a specific area are staggered over a few days. Beneficiaries are also encouraged to have their grants paid into banking accounts where feasible to avoid long queues.

Sewerage system in Alexandra Township: hazard to public health

*34. Ms M S SEPHEREPERE asked the Minister for Health:

With reference to her reply to Question No 18 on 24 May 1995, since when has the sewerage system in Alexandra Township and/or any other area in the Republic posed a hazard to public health? N789E

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

It is not possible to determine a specific date or event. As more and more people move to urban

areas, systems which have originally been designed to cater for a limited number of people can no longer cope with the overload. These systems then malfunction with consequent health hazards. In many cases people congregate in large numbers in areas where no or scant provision for sewerage systems have been made. As I have already stated in my reply to Question 18 on 24 May 1995, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is doing everything possible to alleviate these conditions.

Reinstatement of Cahora Bassa line

*35. Mr M VAN S HAMMAN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

- (1) Whether any agreement has been reached that the Cahora Bassa line be reinstated; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) which countries will have access to the power produced and (b) what are the further relevant details;

- (2) whether any South African companies have been or are to be awarded manufacturing and supply contracts; if not, why not; if so, which companies;

- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N790E

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

- (1) Eskom and Hidroeletrica de Cahora Bassa, S.A.R.L. (HCB), the Mozambican company that owns and operates Cahora Bassa, have agreed to re-establish power supply through the high Voltage DC (HVDC) system to South Africa as early as possible in 1997. HCB has now placed the contract for the line reconstruction with an Italian consortium for completion within 24 months, that is by 7 June 1997. The separate contracts for refurbishment and improvement works at the respective terminals, should be finished by early 1997.

- (a) On completion early in 1997 of the high voltage line now under construction from Cahora Bassa to Zimbabwe, that country will buy 500 MW from HCB. Eskom has forfeited this power from its contractual entitlement in favour of Zesa, the Zimbabwean Eskom, until the end of 2003.

- (b) Mozambique has a maximum allocation of 200 MW from the 2 000 MW Cahora Bassa scheme. Apart from using this power for its own customers, Mozambique is negotiating with Swaziland and Malawi for the onward sale of its excess power. The necessary transmission schemes from Cahora Bassa to Malawi and between Swaziland and Mozambique for these purposes, have been studied but still have to be built.

- (2) Eskom will provide financing to the value of R130 million of which $\frac{2}{3}$ are guaranteed by the RSA government, for the export of steel tower components to Mozambique for the reconstruction of the HVDC lines. Power Lines, a Division of ABB-Ferrarin, will produce these steel components in South Africa.

A joint venture between Eskom and the local subsidiary of the American engineering and construction company, Fluor, will manage the construction of the transmission line in Mozambique under the overall control of HCB project management.

- (3) The main contracts for reconstruction of the Cahora Bassa transmission scheme are now finally well underway and South Africa can expect the reinstatement of this important renewable and environmentally clean supply of energy in the first half of 1997. With the development of the Southern African grid and power pool agreements by Eskom and the other utilities in the region, this supply will technically and commercially play an increasingly important role in Southern Africa.

*36. Mr M VAN S HAMMAN—Trade and Industry. [Question standing over.]

Environment Conservation Act, 1989

prosecutions

*37. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether any prosecutions have been instituted in terms of the provisions of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989); if so, (a) how many and

- (b) in what categories of offences; if not, why not;

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N793E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) Prosecutions have been instituted in terms of the provisions of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989).

- (a) Seven prosecutions have been instituted.

- (b) Offences in terms of section 20(1) of the Act because disposal sites were established, provided or operated without the necessary permits or the conditions of the permits had not been complied with.

- (2) No.

Subdivision of land: delays experienced

*38. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether any delays are being experienced in the processing of the subdivision of land; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, why;

- (2) whether any persons affected by the said subdivision of land have been adversely affected thereby; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (3) whether he or his Department intends taking any steps in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps? N794E

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes.

Delays are currently being experienced in processing applications for subdivision of agricultural land. Reasons therefore are mainly two fold:

- The section responsible for administration of the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act, 1970 (Act 70 of 1970) is currently experiencing a serious staff shortage; and

Chansaid 21/6/95

sures that the reliability of audit opinions, be they qualified or unqualified. (In the Private Sector a similar set of standards are referred to as Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS).)

Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP)
(terms used by Senator Rabinowitz in same question on 9 June 1995)

The manner in which financial transactions are disclosed in financial/accounting statements (eg income statement, balance statement, etc) in accordance with statements on Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as prescribed by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Sen Dr R RABINOWITZ: Mr President, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask him if it would be feasible to subject the local government bodies now coming into existence to some form of GAAP?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: They will be subjected to GAGAS, not to GAAP. [Laughter.]

Sen J A JOOSTE: Mr President, further arising out of the Minister's reply, I have a follow-up question on that. Would the Minister please tell us what the difference is? [Laughter.]

The MINISTER: As far as GAGAS is concerned, the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions has developed a set of standards known as GAGAS, in terms of which the audit processes have to be carried out and complied with and compliance with this ensures the reliability of audit judgments, be they qualified or unqualified.

As far as GAAP is concerned, the manner in which the financial transactions are disclosed, rather than the processes as in terms of GAGAS, in the financial accounting statements, is done in accordance with the statements of the generally accepted accounting practice, which is a practice prescribed by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants. So the one is prescribed by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants and relates to disclosure, while the other one is prescribed by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions and refers to the specific processes.

*2. Sen Dr R RABINOWITZ—Safety and Security. [Question withdrawn by member in House.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr President, I am under the impression that this particular question is the one which was withdrawn. Which one are we dealing with here?

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! Could I perhaps guide the hon the Deputy Minister? It is the question which deals with the incorporation of members of uMkhonto weSizwe.

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr President, I am ready to answer the question, but that is the one I was informed had been withdrawn.

Sen Dr R RABINOWITZ: Mr President, could I assist in the proceedings? It was withdrawn.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! It was withdrawn? Well, apparently, the news was kept very closed to the hon Senator's office! [Laughter.]

*3. Sen Dr G MARAIS—Trade and Industry.† [Question standing over.]

*4. Sen Dr G MARAIS—Trade and Industry. [Question standing over.]

*5. Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF—Trade and Industry.† [Question standing over.]

Salmonella poisoning: children treated

*6. Sen C R REDCLIFFE asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Whether any children were recently treated for salmonella poisoning at the Red Cross Children's Hospital; if so, how many;
- (2) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

S268E

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! I would like Senators around Sen Redcliffe to pay as much attention as he is doing at the moment.

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

- (1) Yes, 60 confirmed cases;
- (2) No.

Taxi violence: introduction of government-run bus services

*7. Sen J SELFIE asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has been approached by any persons and/or institu-

Hansard 22/6/95

tions requesting the introduction of Government-run bus services protected by troops to convey and protect commuters in areas affected by taxi violence; if not, why not; if so, what was the response thereto;

- (2) whether he or his Department will consider introducing such services; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) in which areas and (c) what are the further relevant details?†

S269F.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) No, but private operators of the existing services requested that their services be protected on routes threatened by taxi violence and intimidation. Bus operators were protected by the SA Police in co-operation with the Transport Inspectorate to enable them to render a reliable service.
- (2) No, The Department is not in a position to render such services as they have no facilities at their disposal.
- (a) (b) and (c) Falls away.

Locust-combating operations: chemical substances left over

*8. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- Whether his Department has any stocks of (a) DDT, (b) BHC and (c) Dieldrin or related substances left over from previous locust-combating operations; if so, (i) in what quantities and (ii) what steps does he or his Department intend taking in this regard?†

S270F.

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (a) DDT: Nil.
- (b) BHC: 31 600 kg 7% powder and ± 20 000 kg sweepings BHC, Lindaan and Volaton powder.
- (c) Dieldrin
 - (i) Nil.
 - (ii) The Department has launched a cleaning operation to store left-over substances since last year.

As soon as this operation has been completed, this stock will be destroyed.

Illegal building of houses along coast of former Transkei

*9. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether the alleged illegal building of houses within the protected zone along the former Transkei coast has been brought to his attention; if so, on whose authority were these houses built;
- (2) whether the MEC for Environmental Affairs in the Province of Eastern Cape has taken any action against the builders and the persons who authorised the building of these houses; if not, why not; if so, what action;
- (3) whether he or his Department intends taking any action in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what action;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?†

Hansard 22/6/95 S271E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House):

- (1) Yes, the alleged illegal building of houses within the protected zone along the former Transkei coast has been brought to my attention. The matter was first brought to my attention when the Chairman of the Council for the Environment approached the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to declare a "limited development area" in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989) along the coast of the former Transkei. Studying the Environmental Conservation Decree, 1992 (No 9 of 1992) highlighted the fact that a "coastal conservation area" already existed along the entire coastline of the former Transkei. In this area certain activities are prohibited, including the erection of buildings except for development within municipal boundaries. During informal discussions between officials of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and officials of the former Transkei Nature Conservation it was mentioned that illegal buildings were being erected along the coast. There are also allegations that some of the houses are being built for family

members of politicians. Apparently the erection of this and other illegal structures were brought to the attention of the Director-General of the Department of Local Government and Land Tenure who apparently took the matter up with the owners.

The matter was also brought to the attention of the Deputy Minister by Mr R Taylor, chairman of the Wild Coast Cottage Owners Association, in a letter dated 10 September 1994. I myself also addressed this matter in my letter dated 31 January 1995.

Before any building can be erected in the coastal conservation area by a person that is not permanently resident there, permission must first be obtained in terms of the Environmental Conservation Decree, 1992 (No 9 of 1992). In a letter dated 11 July 1994 sent to all magistrates and the regional and tribal authorities of coastal districts, the Director-General of the former Transkei Department of Agriculture and Forestry amongst others said:

(a) That the department would not issue a permit before it was approved in writing by the Executive Council of the Eastern Cape Province;

(b) Any person found to have contravened the above-mentioned provisions will be prosecuted and authority will be sought for any unauthorised physical structure to be removed at the expense of the offender;

(c) This requirement will continue until the Provincial Legislature of the Eastern Cape has determined the future policy relating to the disposal and occupation of State land in the coastal zone, and will be applied in respect of all transactions including any that are in progress or are in accordance with a law or not.

(2) Yes, the MEC for Agriculture and Environmental Affairs in the Province of Eastern Cape has taken steps to address the illegal building of houses within the protected zone along the former Transkei coast (press release of 23 May 1995). However, no direct action has yet been taken against any person.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism sent a letter to the Premier of the Eastern Cape, Mr R P Mhlaba, on 6 January 1995. In this letter he referred to the draft Transkei Coastal Development Plan, requesting that it be given legal status as soon as possible, urging him to take the lead in this respect. He further requested that this document be used as a guideline document until the Transkei Coastal Development Plan has been formalised. The Acting Director-General of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism also wrote a letter (12 January 1995) to the Acting Director-General, Eastern Cape Administration, Mr S A Mpanbani. In this letter he referred to the letter which was sent to the Premier of the Eastern Cape, calling for the adoption of the Transkei Coastal Development Plan. He also requested that the relevant Planning and Nature Conservation Sections investigate the allegations which was made in Mr Taylor's letter as a matter of urgency.

I cannot speak for the MEC of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs in the Province of Eastern Cape, but am aware that he has made a press statement on 23 May 1995 relating to the above. It is suggested that the actual press release be studied by yourself, but I include some of the main points for your convenience. In this press release he mentions, amongst others that:

(a) It has been brought to his attention that there are certain practices being undertaken on the Eastern Cape Coast, namely, the illegal allocation of land to certain individuals, the illegal construction of buildings, the illegal construction of roads, and the insensitive and unsustainable exploitation of marine resources.

(b) He further stated that there can be no doubt that such practices are having a detrimental effect on natural resources and are being exploited without benefit to the inhabitants of the region generally, and that he intends doing everything within his power to

put an end to such practices. In order to achieve this, he intends to take the following steps:

(i) Enforcement of section 39(2) of Transkei Decree No 9 (Environmental Conservation), including criminal prosecution against identified offenders.

(ii) His Ministry will ensure compliance with the 1979 Transkei Coastal Development Control Plan and will immediately take steps to declare the 1993 Transkei Coastal Development Control Plan to be the control plan referred to in section 39(2) of the aforementioned decree at least as an interim measure pending further environmental and social impact studies.

(3) Apart from the actions taken by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism mentioned above, the Department is of the opinion that certain additional steps needed to be taken. This at least partly related to the building of illegal cottages along the coast of the former Transkei, but also to the legal aspects relating to the use of the coast. The matter is complicated by the various Acts and Decrees that are applicable, the powers of the tribal authorities and the changes that are taking place with the reincorporation of the former Transkei. I have therefore instructed the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to clarify the entire legal situation as a matter of urgency. In a letter dated 31 May 1995 to the MEC Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, Eastern Cape, I suggested that the Department chair a multi-disciplinary task group to investigate these issues and come up with recommendations. At that stage I was unaware of the press release made by the MEC and this might effect the strategy to follow. I am awaiting his response to my letter.

(4) The MEC of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs in the Province of Eastern Cape has already made a statement on the matter. Depending on his response to my letter, it will be decided if an additional statement is necessary. At this stage it

appears as if the matter is being taken forward actively by the Eastern Cape Province.

*10. Sen W F MNISI—Public Works. [Question standing over.]

Mercenaries in Angola: SA/non-SA citizens

*11. Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether he has any information on how many (a) South African and (b) non-South African citizens are operating as mercenaries in (i) Angola and (ii) other African countries; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether the Government intends taking any steps to prevent South African citizens from participating as mercenaries in hostile activities in foreign countries; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

S273E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House.):

Before answering the hon senator's question I wish to point out that there is no definition of the word "mercenary" in South African law. The word mercenary must therefore be given its literal and ordinary grammatical meaning.

Definitions of the word in various dictionaries appear to have three elements in common namely, a mercenary is someone serving or fighting as a soldier, secondly in the armed forces of a foreign country and thirdly, primarily for pay or spoils. This in contradistinction, by implication, to a soldier who serves in the armed forces of his own country, by virtue of his loyalty to his country, and/or his responsibility, duty or obligation as a citizen.

It is therefore within this non-legal definition of the word mercenary that I reply to the question.

(1) (a) (i) Approximately 300 South Africans, some with double citizenship, are assisting with the training of the Angolan Armed Forces. The number varies from time to time.

(b) (i) Intelligence sources estimate that a further 1 000 foreign nationals mainly from Portugal, Russia and Israel are also assisting with this training.

Steel yourselves: Iscor's plant no guarantee of boom in jobs

ALY 19/6/95 (52)

“BUT have you actually read it?” That’s the question that needs to be directed at some of this country’s movers and shakers who have been commenting on Iscor’s plan to produce steel at a site close to Langebaan Lagoon . . . sorry, I mean Saldanha Bay.

Much has been spoken and written about this controversial proposal and, not surprisingly, a significant part of the debate has focused on the question of employment opportunities which the new plant will allegedly create, directly and indirectly.

It’s something Iscor (more correctly Saldanha Steel) has been at pains to emphasise from the outset, and certainly many people in the local Vredenburg-Saldanha-Langebaan communities believe the steel manufacturer. Their representatives have told politicians like Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal and provincial Planning Minister Lampe Fick that in no uncertain terms, Saldanha Steel says the project will cre-

ate at least 590 full-time jobs and several thousand others during the construction phase and through the development of secondary industry.

No one in South Africa — least of all serious environmentalists — denies the importance of job creation and economic development.

Not only are jobs necessary for the socio-economic upliftment of South Africa’s people, they’re also necessary for their mental and spiritual health.

The mentally debilitating effects of long-term unemployment have been well documented: in the long run, they can be as devastating as physical consequences.

So the anxiety on the part of the economically disadvantaged people of the region for the new plant and associated new development and opportunities should come as no surprise to anyone. But — and this is a significant but — has

GREEN SCENE

John Yeld



the situation been properly analysed? Because the initial assessment is that the new plant will have exactly the opposite effect, and will in fact impact negatively on overall employment in the region.

That assessment comes from no less a source than that used by Saldanha Steel in its argument to be allowed to proceed with the new plant as soon as possible: the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which Iscor commissioned from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

This is what the CSIR’s final report states: “The impact of population growth

and unemployment in the Vredenburg-Saldanha-Langebaan (VSL) area: The VSL local area is already experiencing rapid population growth. Growth is occurring due to the in-migration of black low-income job-seekers . . .

“The Saldanha Steel Project would cause the rate of population growth to increase further. In particular, an increased rate of in-migration of low-income job-seekers would occur. This would increase the size of the economically active, yet unemployed portion of the population.

“An increasing rate of population growth would have an impact of high significance on the existing population as competition for existing resources and facilities would increase.

“The impact would begin at the construction phase and continue during the operational stage of the project.

“A cumulative impact of high significance would also occur if secondary and

support industries are developed. This would probably occur since the proposed design of the steel plant does not include many of the support and maintenance facilities that would be needed.”

Then there is an analysis of the 590 new jobs to be considered.

Ian Moultrie, one of the largest private shareholders in Iscor and a strong critic of the proposed Yzerfontein site for the new plant, has argued that 300 of the new jobs will be reserved for graduates and 160 for matriculants.

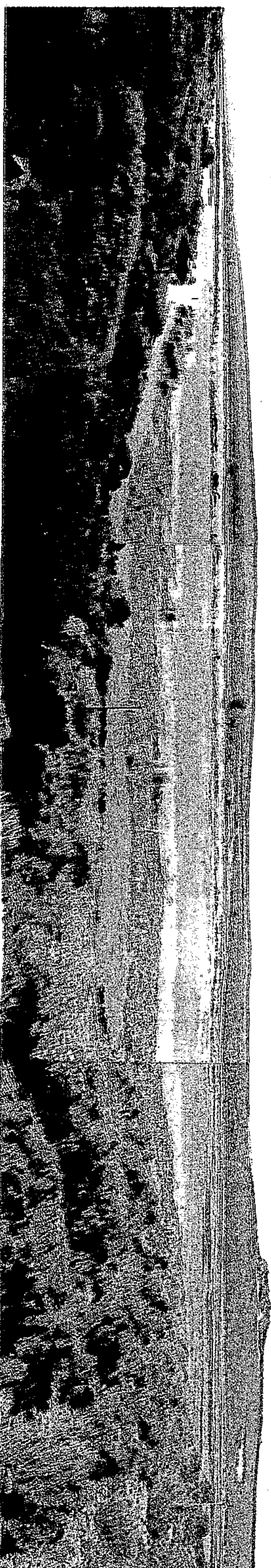
That leaves just 130 new jobs — most, if not all, of which should be offered to some of the 4 500 workers being retrenched at Iscor’s giant Vanderbijlpark plant.

So where does all this leave the argument that the new steel project is going to be the catalyst for huge new job opportunities on the West Coast?

And will those movers and shakers now please read the reports?

Pictures
JOHN YELD
The Argus

WEST COAST JEWEL: The lovely Verlorenvlei which feeds into Elands Bay is about to be formally conserved after years of wrangling and neglect.

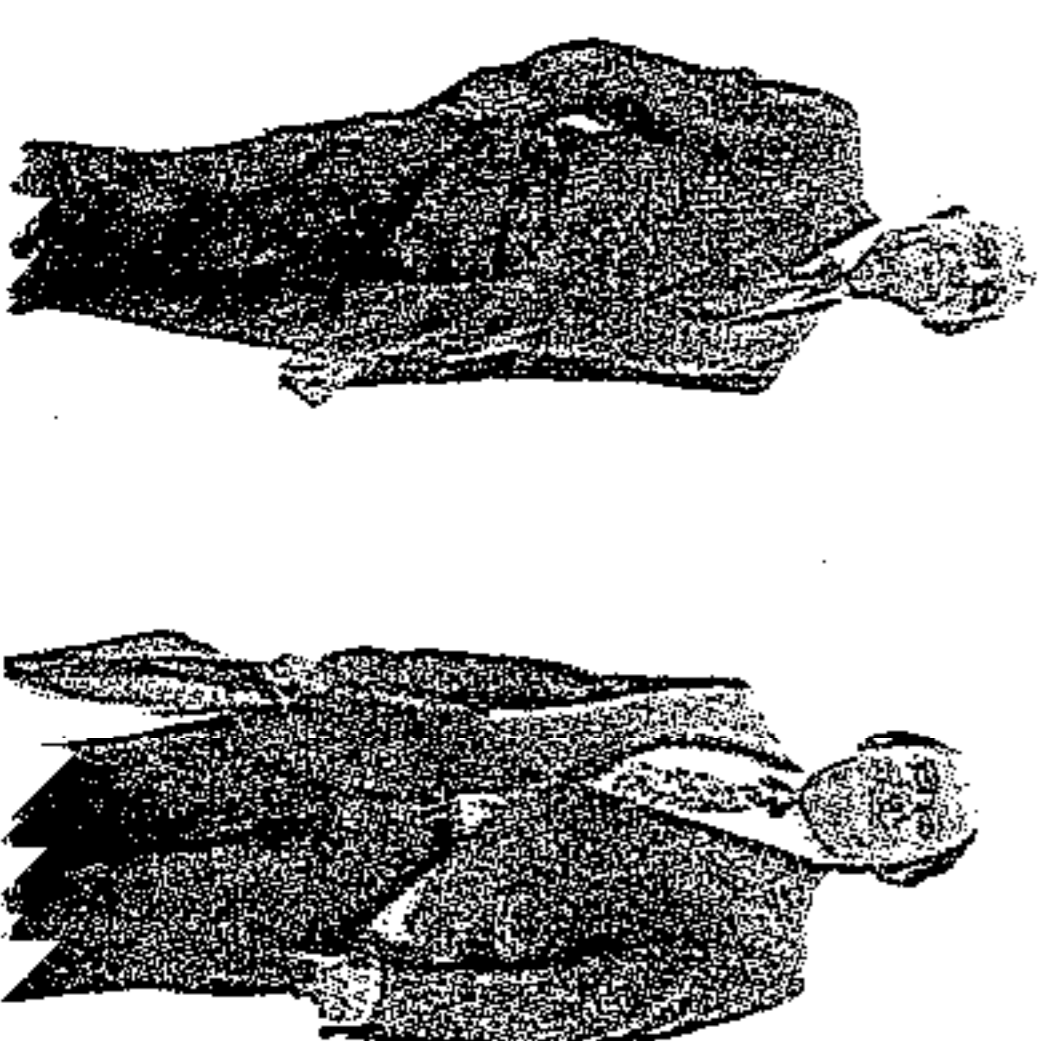


Once known as the “forgotten corner” of South Africa, the beautiful and bird-rich Verlorenvlei near Elands Bay on the West Coast may soon become an ecotourist’s dream. This follows overwhelming support for the recommendations of a task group appointed to resolve the decades-long conflict over this unique ecosystem, which is also a proclaimed Ramsar Convention site. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD was at the task group’s report-back meeting.

(52)

ALY 19/6/95

View to be protected



Reserve — at last

AN ILLLEGAL causeway across the mouth of Verlorenvlei at Elands Bay is to be removed as soon as possible, and the government has approved in principle the consolidation of all state-owned land in and around the vlei as a provincial nature reserve.

The causeway — illegally blocked during the dry season to maintain water levels for a handful of irrigation farmers near the mouth — will be removed as soon as the Western Cape government has discussed an alternative "short cut" across the vlei's mouth with local workers.

Problems with the vlei go back decades. They include the shifting of the natural mouth, the construction of an artificial dune system between the vlei and the beach, and the construction and seasonal

blocking of the causeway — all illegal actions affecting the ecological functioning of the vlei and creating problems for property owners further up the vlei.

After years of complaints, objections, claims and counter-claims — during which repeated calls for the ecologically important vlei to be formally conserved — the government finally appointed a task group two years ago.

The provincial government has now accepted the recommendations of this group, which were explained at a public meeting in Elands Bay recently.

The meeting was attended by Western Cape Environment Minister Kobus Meiring and Minister of Agriculture, Tourism and Planning Lampe Fick, and about 70 local people.

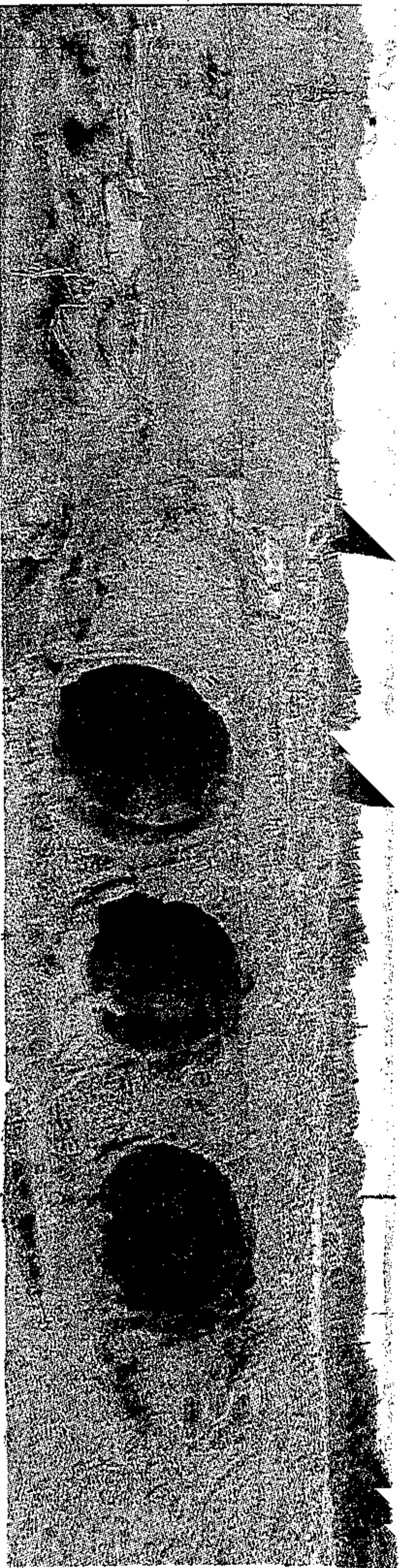
A big majority at the meeting endorsed the task group's recommendations, but a

handful of farmers opposed them. Mr Meiring said Verlorenvlei was "a wonderful natural asset", while ecological consultant and estuary specialist Allan Heydorn described it as "a beautiful place".

"It has a mystique which is matched by few other places in South Africa... If we lose Verlorenvlei, the environmental costs will be incalculable," Dr Heydorn said.

Initial suggestions that a "political" compromise solution to the presence of the causeway could be found were rejected by the government, which said such favouritism for a few individuals could not be justified, given the vlei's international status. Cape Nature Conservation director Kobus Jooste told the meeting there had been

A BRIDGE TOO MANY: Regional cabinet ministers Kobus Meiring and Lampe Fick inspect the controversial and ecologically damaging causeway across the mouth of Verlorenvlei, which is to be removed.



Final constitution 'should protect animal rights too'

Environment Reporter

ANIMALS also have rights, which need to be safeguarded in the new constitution.

That's the message to South Africa's constitution-makers from organisations concerned with animals.

In an article in the latest issue of its journal *Compassion*, Beauty Without Cruelty said the present interim constitution was exclusively preoccupied with human, as opposed to humane, considerations.

"This means that it is, not unexpectedly, designed to protect human rights at the expense of all other species."

"While it is necessary to protect the rights of individuals, it is equally necessary to recognise the interdependence between humans, animals and the environment."

"We need to acknowledge this symbiotic relationship and the need to protect and nurture it through the constitution."

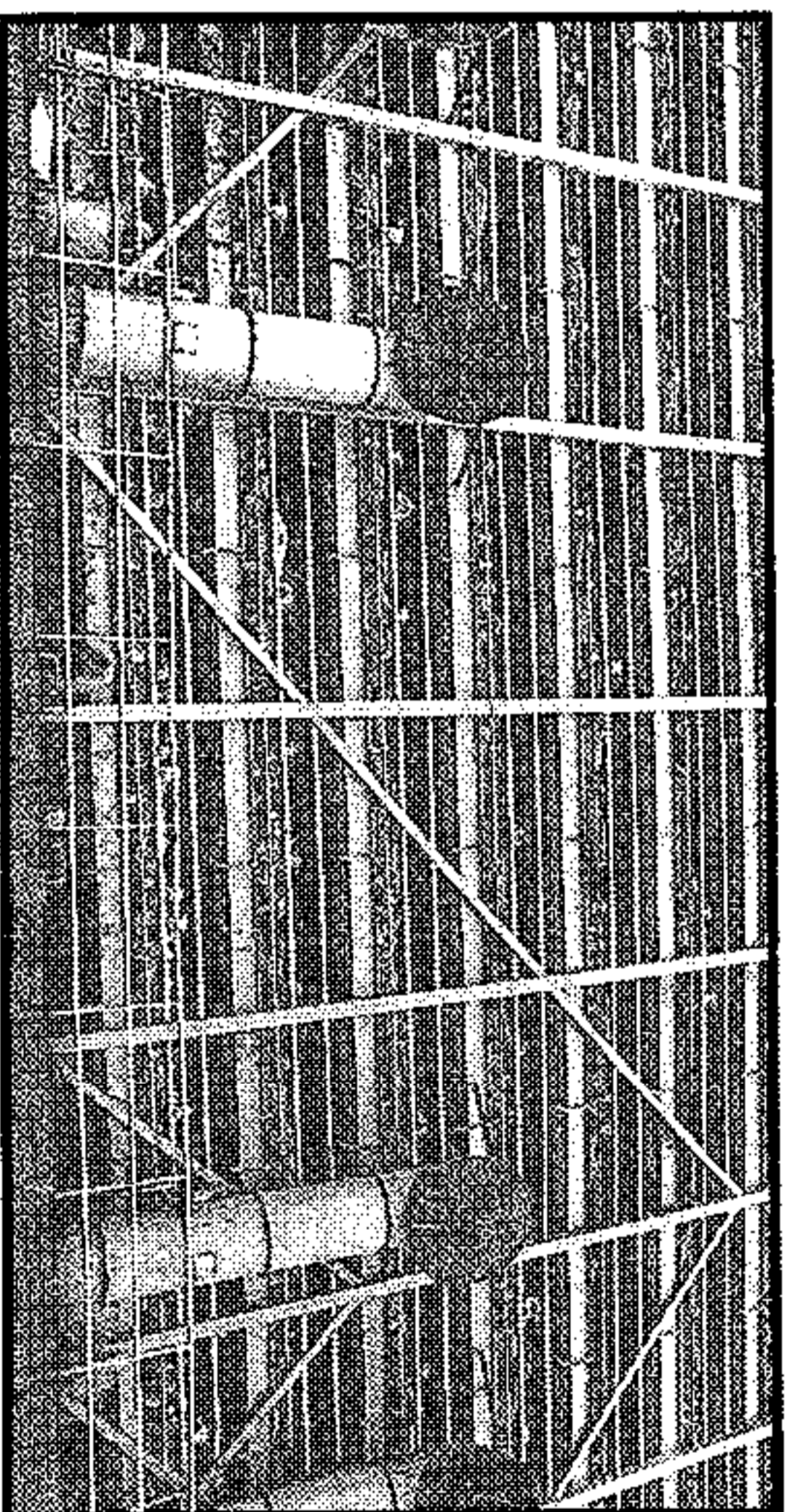
It should be the responsibility and duty of any civilised, democratic society to promote the welfare of animals, the article stated.

strong demands for Verlorenvlei to be declared a wetland of international significance under the Ramsar Convention. This had been done in 1991.

"The vlei qualifies in five of the 11 categories, any one of which qualifies a site for proclamation," Mr Jooste said. The vlei was a major nursery area for fish, he noted.

"You have to ask the question — isn't the artificial manipulation of this and other systems along the West Coast at least partly responsible for the declining fishing industry?"

The area is an "ecotone" — a zone where different ecosystems meet and which is considered of special scientific and conser-



ANIMAL RIGHTS: These sheep on a container ship, packed like proverbial sardines, also need to be protected by the new constitution.

rights of humans are so thoroughly divorced from, and elevated above, the rest of creation, it's doubtful there will ever be an end to the suffering and exploitation of other living creatures."

The Animals Group Network, representing eight Western Cape organisations, sent a submission to the constitutional assembly which reads: "All persons have a duty to ensure all living creatures are treated in a compassionate, dignified and respectful manner, without the in-

Quay extension: Impact on bird life to be probed

Environment Reporter

A BIRD specialist has been appointed to help the environmental team assessing Portnet's proposal to extend its general harbour quay at Saldanha Bay which will involve underwater blasting.

Portnet wants to extend the 250m quay — partly as a result of Iscor's proposed steel mill nearby — by at least another 250m and possibly as much as 500m.

It also wants to enlarge the navigational channel to the quay so that several, bigger ships can be handled at the same time.

The extension also involves a new turning area.

An environmental impact assessment of the proposal is being managed by the Environmental Services branch of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), assisted by a consultant company specialising in involving the public in such assessments.

Geotechnical surveys had revealed that some blasting would be necessary to remove granitic material below the proposed navigation channel.

These surveys should be complete by the end of June.

Also, a bird specialist had been appointed because of the need for blasting.

"This specialist will be requested to assess the possible impact on birds and advise on mitigatory methods to minimise these impacts."

For further information, contact Heather Campbell, 461-1118.

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Last week's 6 NEW Zama-Zama R25 000 Winners!

LAST WEEK'S DRAW DATE: 17.06.95

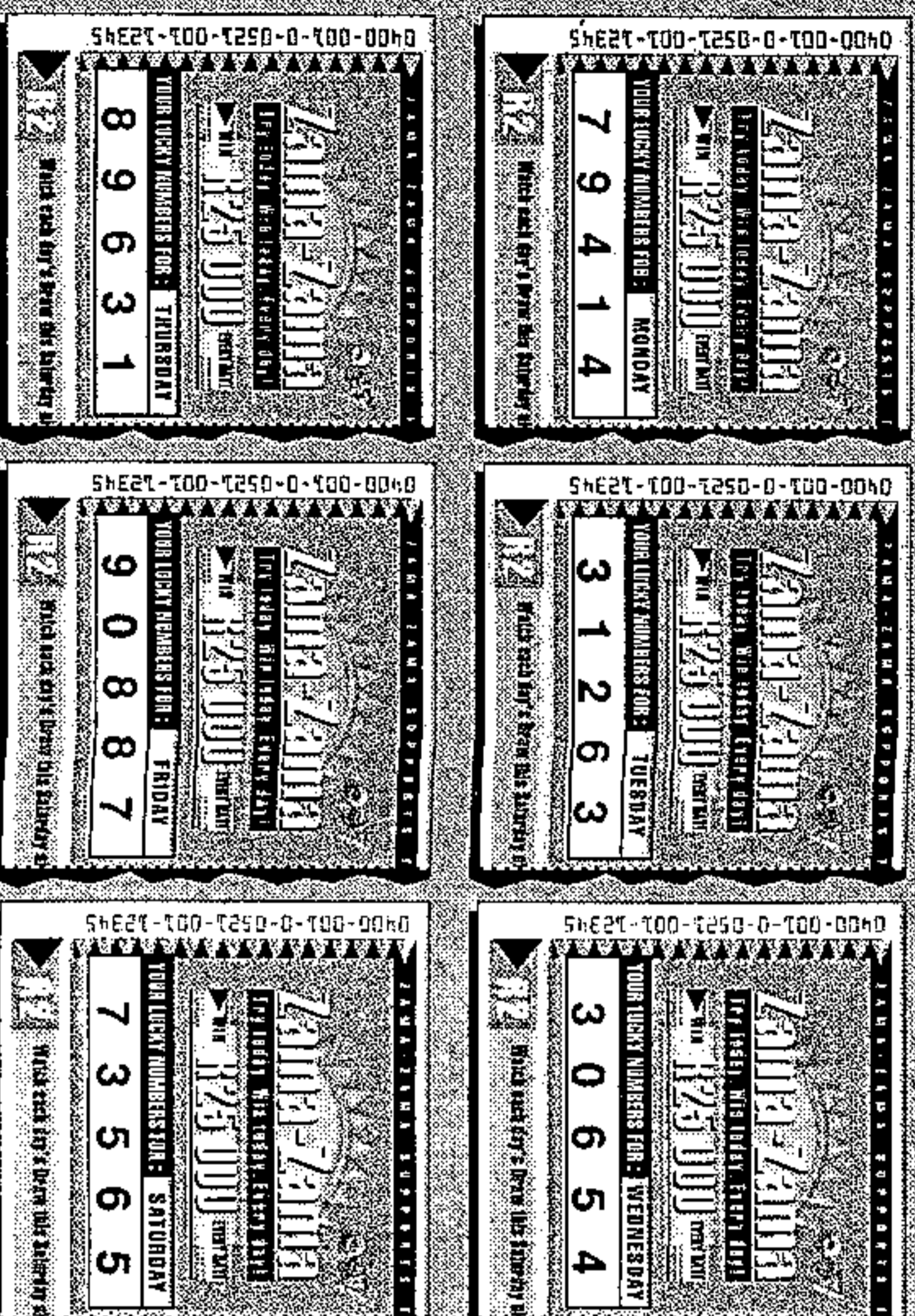
PRESS RELEASE

Fruit and vegetable seller wins R25 000

Sihembele Mahlaba of Port Elizabeth is still jumping up and down after finding out that he had won R25 000 with Zama-Zama on Thursday night's live draw.

"I sat down to watch the live draw just before nine and could not believe that the winning number called matched one of my tickets," said Sihembele.

"This windfall will help me put down a nice deposit on a taxi as well as help my parents with a little much-needed cash," said the happy winner.



Watch the CGV Zama-Zama Game Show this Saturday night when all 6 winning numbers will be drawn!

To claim your prize, see back of ticket for details. Zama-Zama toll free number 0800-11-88-44 (office hours, Monday to Friday). Matched subject to confirmation.

Saldanha Steel to go on with geological tests

ART 19/6/95

Environment Reporter

SALDANHA Steel is to press ahead with further geological tests at the site of its proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay.

The tests have the blessing of the Western Cape regional government which is still considering a rezoning application for the site, but Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has warned that any work done before full approval is at the steel manufacturer's own risk.

Dr De Villiers has appointed a board of inquiry in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, and has said he will ask cabinet for permission to prohibit the steel mill in terms of Section 31 of the Act if the inquiry finds it is undesirable.

Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernhard Smith said geological tests will be made at the proposed steel works site from June 26.

"In view of the recent debate on the Saldanha steel project, we wish to stress that the activity which may be observed on-site soon will be of a purely investigative and information-gathering nature," Mr Smith said in a statement.

The tests, which could continue until the end of the year, were to ensure a better definition of the project's construction procedures and costs.

"The tests will involve gathering further information on soil, ground water and run-off conditions and will consist primarily of hole drilling, soil load bearing tests, ground water sampling and soil condition tests."

Contraception still a top health priority

ART 19/6/95

CONTRACEPTION could be put on the backburner as the health system targets hot topics such as HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and child health as its priorities.

This was a worrying phenomena, said Helen Rees, national chairwoman of the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa.

Speaking at the association's annual meeting, she said even a 20 percent increase in the use of contraception would reduce maternal ill-health and death.

Contraception empowered women and improved the quality of their lives, she said.

A third of all women admitted to hospital had moderate or severe complications from abortions or miscarriages. Easy access to acceptable contraception would prevent many of these admissions.

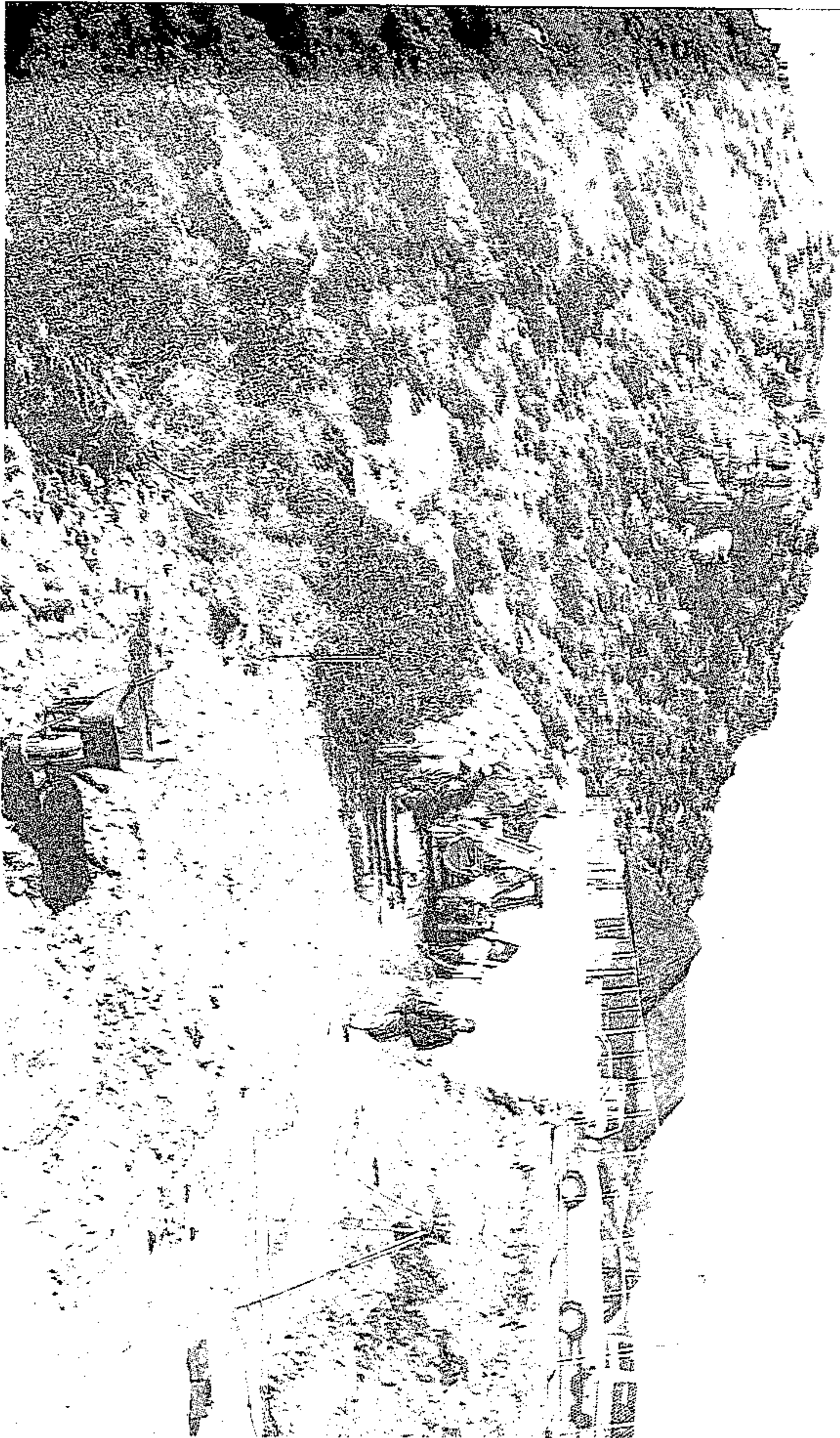
She said the priority for contraception in South Africa was to take exist-

ing services and expand them to include a whole range, such as treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and screening for cancers. This is the trend internationally, she said.

It was time to look at acceptable, safe and alternative ways of providing contraception, and get away from the medical model, which was a nurse in a clinic handing out pills. Clinics were often overloaded and contraception was a low priority. Healthy women wanting contraception were reluctant to queue for hours to get it.

One way of providing contraception, she said, was an outreach programme, where trained community health workers went from door to door, educating and counselling people and handing out pills and condoms.

Community outreach pilot projects had been launched in the Cape in Khayelitsha and Worcester and in Gauteng, she added.



Picture: JOHN YELD. The Argus
WORK IN PROGRESS: A construction team is making rapid progress with excavations for the new restaurant complex at the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve at Cape Point. A catchment fence has been erected to confine workmen to the site, prevent spillage down the steep slope and minimise damage to the adjoining natural vegetation. The rubble in the background is from an old toilet block which was demolished.

Red Nose Day 'a vital fundraiser for child welfare'

Staff Reporter

INCOME generated by Red Nose Day accounted for 30 percent of the 1994/5 budget for Cape Town's Child Welfare Society, a vital part of its funding operation.

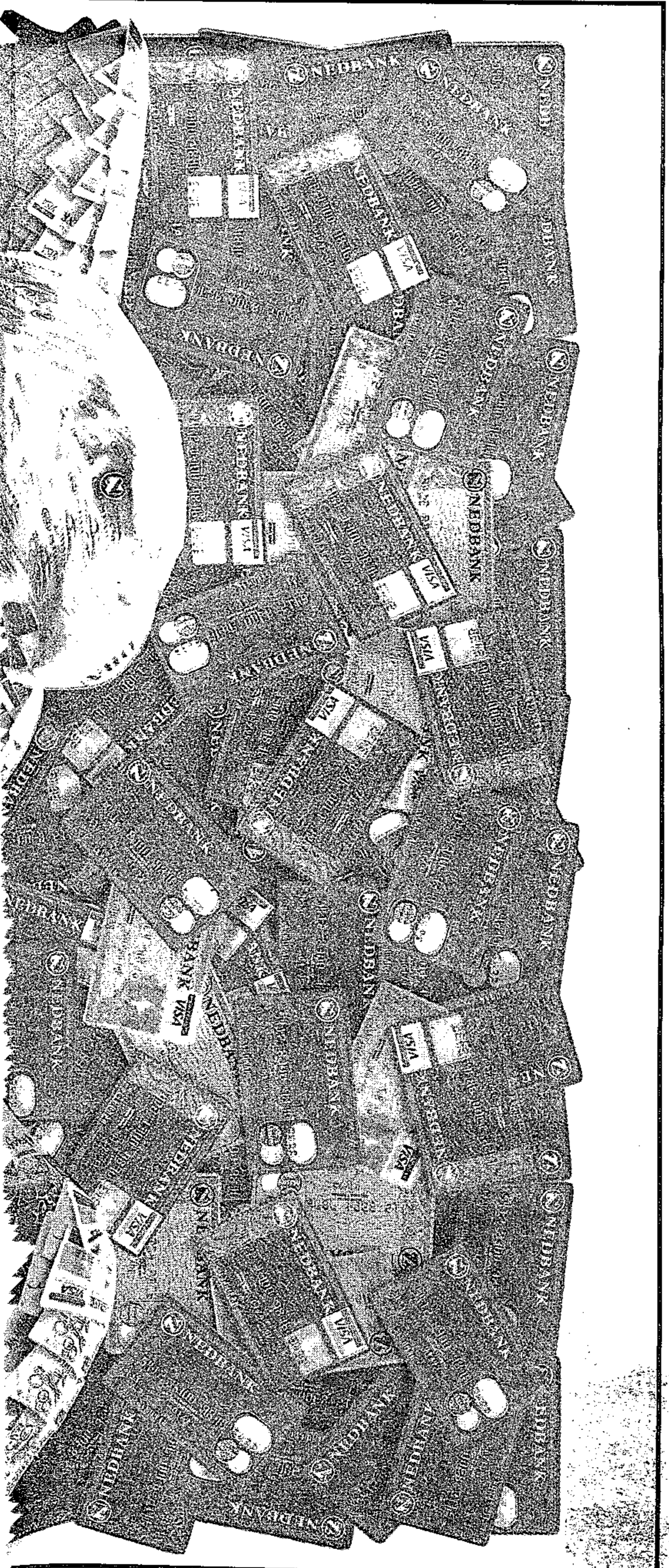
This excludes the contribution still to come from the National Council for Child and Family Welfare.

In the light of the importance of the project, Jetty Botes, funding development manager of Child Welfare, said she was "tremendously disturbed" to learn that the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society was questioning the credibility of the Red Nose Day project and alleging it was harmful to their fundraising endeavours.

She said special fundraising events were the society's primary source of income and Red Nose Day was undoubtedly the flagship fundraiser for Child Welfare in Cape Town.

"When confronted with ever-diminishing resources and serious financial constraints facing all sectors of South Africa, we are immensely grateful to have the opportunity of participating in a project such as Red Nose Day, which boosts our income so substantially."

"Without Red Nose Day's contributions we would be facing an insurmountable financial crisis and would be forced to close down many of our child care projects in Cape Town," she said.



TV viewers in line for more satellite options

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South African television viewers — already getting their first taste of satellite TV — could be choosing programmes from four or five different satellite options within a year, says Steve Shaver, the managing director of Echostar, the rope.

Each new satellite would increase the number of programmes available, he said at a joint Echostar/Aerial Empire Press briefing.

Echostar provides programming, but by the end of the year will also own and operate a satellite of its own. Aerial Empire installs local satellite hardware.

Most South Africans are familiar with the MultiChoice PanamSat-4 (PAS-4) satellite which is scheduled for launch at the end of August, and should be operating by mid-October, and the Intelsat 704, which began beaming down test signals from the African Satellite Entertainment Corporation recently.

But other satellites could soon be hovering 36 000 km above the equator, one of them the Russian GALS 1 satellite, Mr. Shaver said.

He added that South Africa would be in the unusual position of having two technology streams operating side by side with the cheaper analogue technology operating from some satellites while others would provide digital signals.

That would make this country the second one after the United States to use digital once the PAS-4 satellite was launched.

Intelsat plans to use only analogue signals for the first three or four years.

PAS-4 will have four analogue channels which will effectively be the three current SABC channels and M-Net. The satellite technology will enable people throughout the country to receive all four channels.

Currently TV1, which has the highest audience penetration of the SABC channels, reaches just over 70 percent of the population.

The technology that enables viewers to receive the analogue signal is significantly cheaper, retailing for about R1 800, which includes the cost of installing the 90 cm dish and the receiver.

Baby 'Nana' has lost her parents. Can you help?

Staff Reporter

SHE was found, shivering and crying, on a cold day in May.

One of her tiny boots was missing, but the toddler was otherwise well-dressed and in good health.

Nana, as she was later named, was found on May 25 by a young man who heard her cries from behind his mother's home in Browns Farm.

She was sitting forlornly in an open field near a bridge on Elsleben Road, which is behind the Informal settlement.

The family fell in love with her and waited until May 28 to take her to the police station.

She was later taken to a nearby old-aged home before Child Welfare was contacted.

They placed Nana temporarily in a foster home.

The organisation is now trying to find her family.

They believe Nana, who is about 18 months old, may be lost, rather than abandoned.



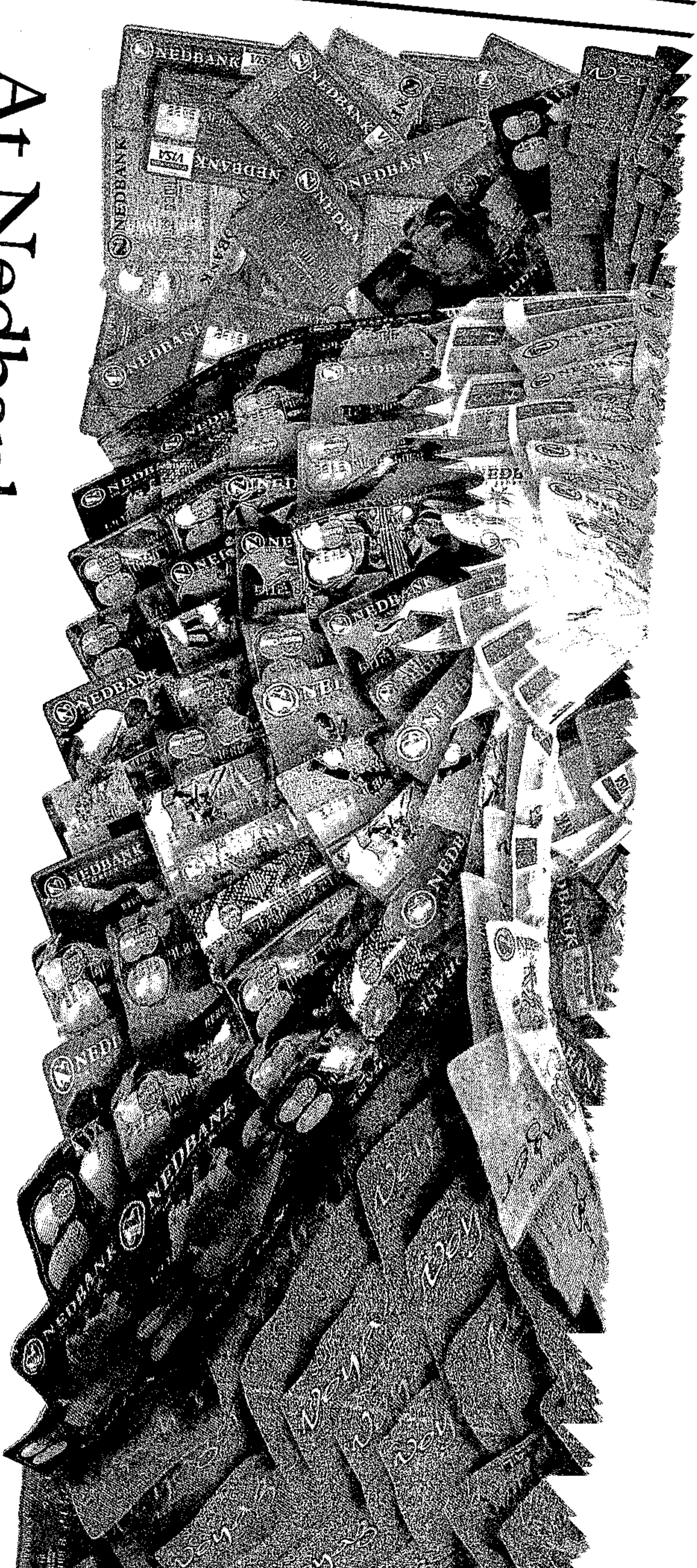
WHO KNOWS WHERE?

Said social worker Rachel Everise: "There are marks on her arm from where she got her tuberculous injection, so her mother is not careless."

"She was well dressed and clean with her mother and got lost. Browns Farm is a big place. There is another squatter camp close by."

Nana is dark-complexioned, plump, and was dressed in pants, a pink jersey and one red-and-blue boot when she was found.

Anyone with information about her parents can contact Jacquelyn Swartz at 488 4217 or Rachel Everise at 638 1164.



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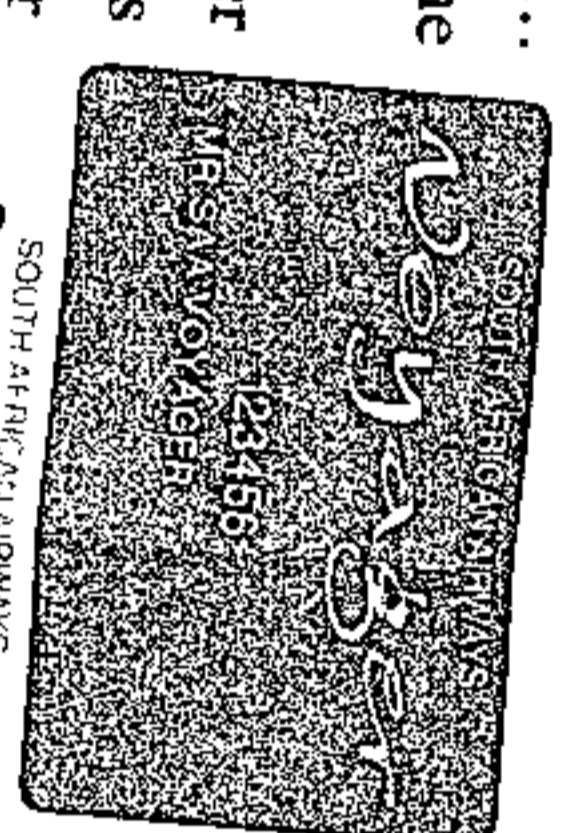
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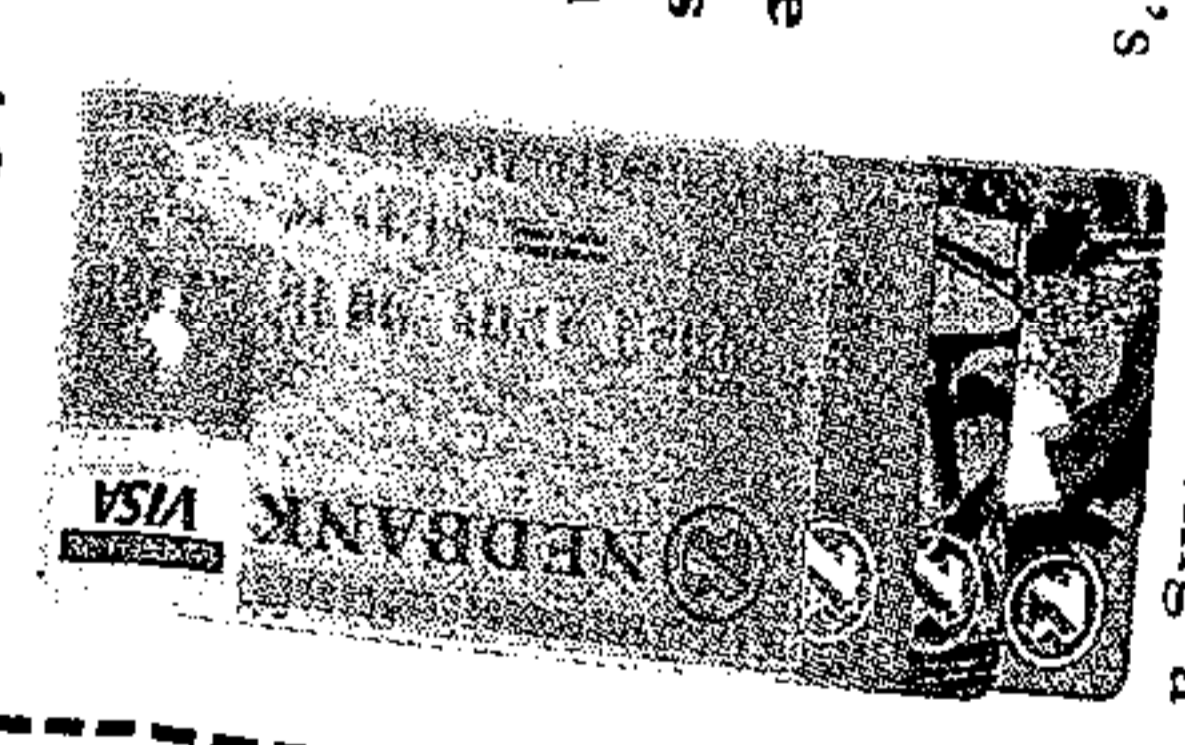
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Invasive alien vegetation such as hakea, Australian acacias and some pine species is sweeping across the mountain catchment areas of the Western Cape, guzzling the region's precious water supplies. Removing this vegetation — the most cost-effective way of increasing water availability — has virtually ground to a halt because of budget cuts. Now new moves are being made to tap into RDP funds to tackle the problem and create new work opportunities at the same time. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD was at the announcement.

R20-m bid to reduce threat to water

ARLS/6/95

(51)

**&
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LIFE

AN APPLICATION will be made for R20 million a year for the next 10 years from reconstruction and development programme funds to remove alien vegetation from Western Cape mountain catchment areas.

This follows the disclosure by scientists that invasive alien vegetation in the catchment area is probably reducing the amount of water available to the Cape metropolitan region by about 30 percent.

Also, authorities are to investigate the possibility of a small levy — possibly as little as one percent — on water consumers' bills as a way of increasing funds for the management of mountain catchment areas under the control of Cape Nature Conservation.

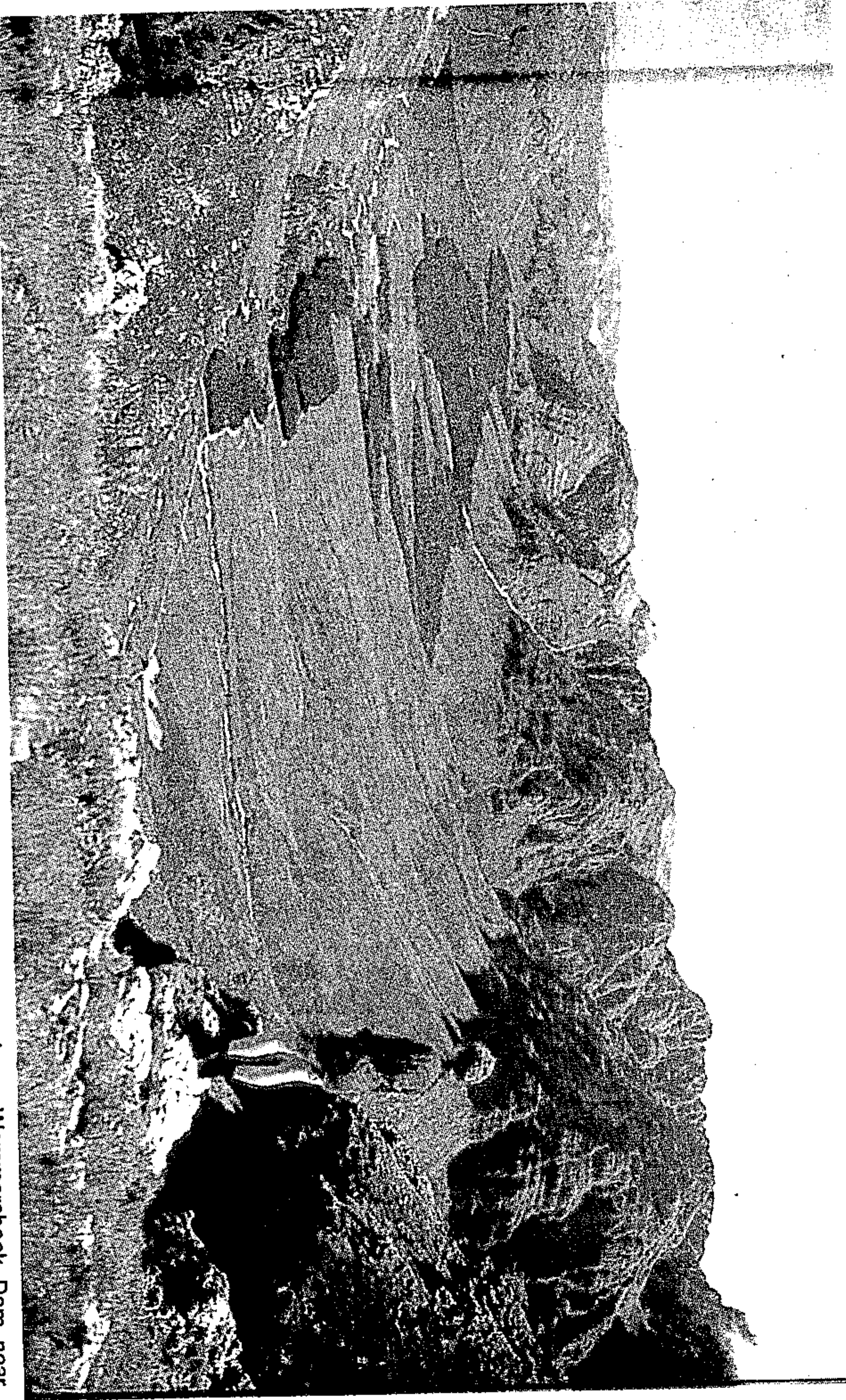
The application for RDP funds will be made through the Western Cape government, regional Finance and Environmental Affairs Minister Kobus Meiring said.

Alien plants and water supplies, which has been developed by the Fynbos Forum — a network of individuals and organisations concerned with the Cape's unique flora — for presentation to decision-makers and opinion-formers at all levels.

The presentation proposes increasing Cape Nature Conservation's mountain catchment workforce from the existing 160 labourers to 1 000 for 10 years, at an annual cost of R20 million.

This will make more water available at a lower unit cost than alternative options such as new dams.

The first presentation was also attended by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal, who said water was central to the RDP.



INVASION OF THE WATER-SNATCHERS: Mountain catchments like this area above Wemmershoek Dam near Franschoek provide some two-thirds of the Western Cape's water supplies, but are being increasingly threatened by the spread of invasive alien vegetation which sharply reduces the amount of available water.

Picture: CSIR.

and the removal of the pain and suffering of unemployment."

As great a priority had to be given to water conservation and water management as to other issues, Professor Asmal said.

Alien vegetation control offered permanent employment opportunities and as part of the rehabilitation of "the most beautiful part of South Africa".

But he warned that the Western Cape's population had been artificially manipulated by apartheid, and that there had to be development in the region.

this jewel to the fact that there will be development.

"There has been an artificiality about the Western Cape's population ... the natural flow and evolution of a society was stemmed. We have to take that as a given and relate it to the environment.

"I do not see this as a threat but as part of the whole evolution of South Africa being at peace with itself — it's part of the greening of South Africa."

The "roadshow" presentation is a World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa project, in collaboration with Cape Nature Conservation, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's Foretek and the

University of Cape Town's Institute for Plant Conservation.

The first presentation was given by fynbos ecologist Brian van Wilgen of the CSIR, who said some 1,1 million hectares of mountain catchment was managed by Cape Nature Conservation.

Just under 400 000 ha of this had already been invaded by alien vegetation, some of it in extremely dense stands. If management stopped, the entire catchment area would be invaded within 25 years.

Already, there was not enough water to sustain the region's economy or to provide a proper quality of life for its inhabitants.

Land-grab by Whites in Namaqualand

BY CHARL DE VILLIERS

ILLEGAL land-grabbing by white holiday-makers is seriously threatening negotiations to set up a new national park on Namaqualand's desolate diamond coast.

Whites from as far afield as Pretoria and Swaziland have recently indulged in a spate of pegging, laying claim to land owned by the state, triggering demands for firm and swift action by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom.

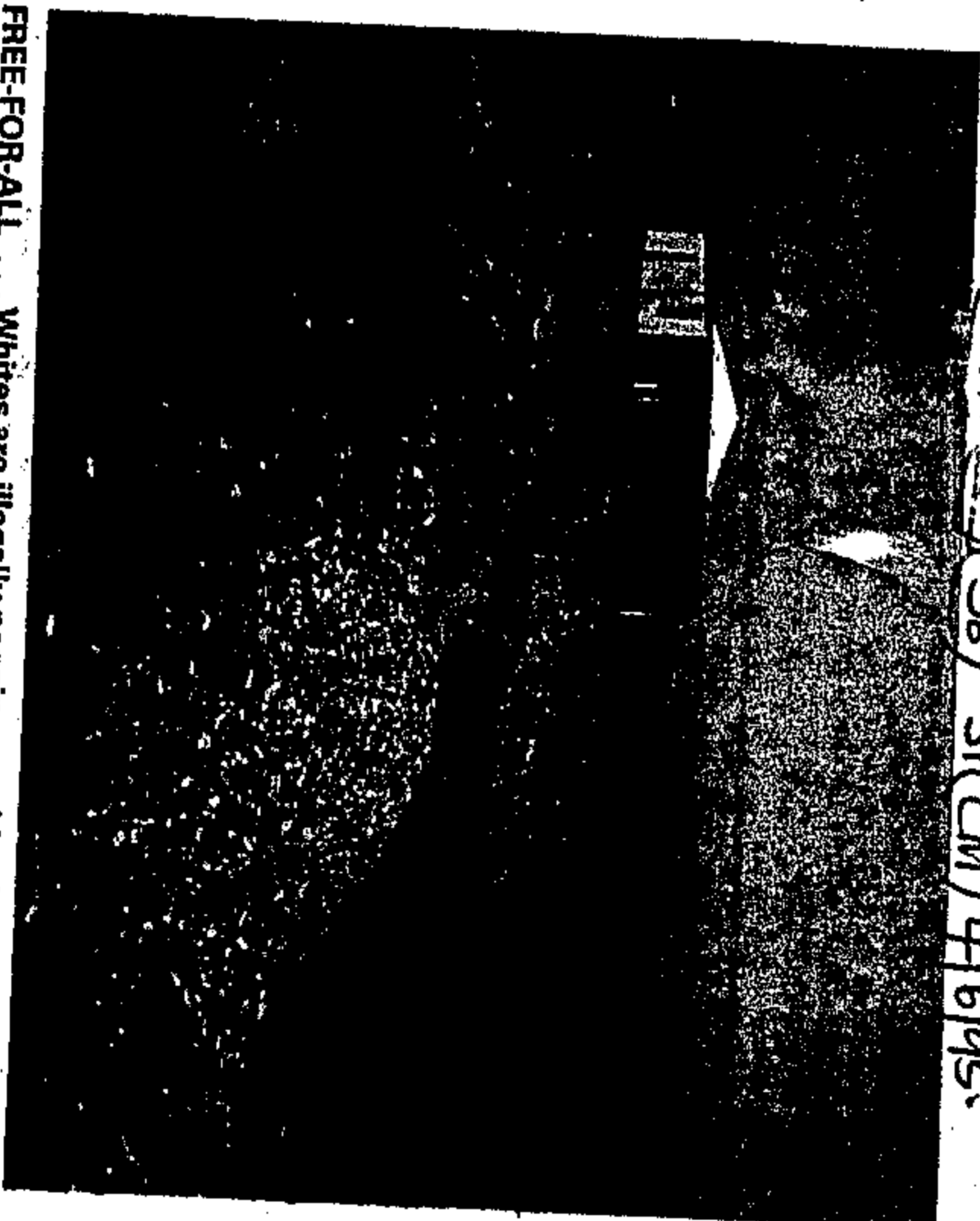
Efforts to negotiate a new park have been threatened by the land dispute, involving white Namaqualand families who have camped there for generations, as well as the latecomers, who have joined in the scramble for what they believe is a chance to obtain free prime seaside plots.

National Parks Board research and development director Anthony Hall-Martin, who slammed the Groenrivier "squatter" settlement, said this week: "We don't want a white slum in the middle of a national park."

Alarmed by the influx, Mr Hanekom has moved to stop any further squatting on state land in the proposed park, which will bracket about 50km of pristine coastline.

The dispute centres on about 100ha of state land south of the Groenrivier, where local whites have built about 30 holiday shacks and others have pegged at least 60 "plots".

Many have placed markers, on which they have written their names and telephone numbers, on the plots which they desire. Most of the prospective "owners" are from the Northern Cape, while some are from as far afield as Pretoria, Swaziland and Namibia.



FREE-FOR-ALL ... Whites are illegally pegging seaside plots on land owned by the state, threatening sensitive negotiations for a new national park on the Namaqualand coast
Picture: Rachel Wynberg

Nominal rate

Mr Jan Liebenberg, who pegged a piece of land with his brother-in-law about three weeks ago, said he believed he had a right to free state land for recreation.

"I mean, if (black) guys squat on state land they get it and it's developed."

The owner of a shop between Kakamas and Keimoes, Mr Liebenberg said he had staked his claim after hearing about the "free state land".

While reluctant to do so, he would nonetheless rip up the stakes he had planted if ordered to by the authorities.

The surrounding land is owned by De Beers Namaqualand Mines, which wants to lease it to NPB for a nominal rate. But the plan is being thwarted by the "mushrooming" settlement at Groenrivier, says the mining group's regional manager, Richard Molyneux.

De Beers, the NPB, land affairs departments and local communities are involved with sensitive negotiations on setting up a 35 000ha contractual park which includes Groenrivier, the only permanent estuary in the area.

Mr Molyneux says recent squatting and pegging suggested a systematic process involving apparently professional surveying skills.

Unchecked squatting at Groenrivier could set a dangerous precedent for illegal occupation of other state land on the isolated Namaqualand coast.

"If this is not stopped, it will block the process of establishing a national park on the country's most unspoilt coastline," Mr Molyneux said.

All tourism and economic potential will be lost because a group of selfish people want to sit in shacks for a few weeks a year.

But Mr Jasper Nienuyoudt, a Namaqualander by birth, said a section 21 company representing aspirant landowners would resolve the problem of disorderly development.

While angry with latecomers who have put up unsightly plastic and tin shacks, staked plots and littered the area, he says most of them support his business plan.

He said he had 150 volunteers committed to plédge R10 000 each towards the section 21 company which would end the current "free-for-all" and take over from the Gharies municipality's "pathetic" plans to develop the site.

An exclusive settlement could link up with the NPB's plans and ensure environmentally-sensitive development.

He denied rumours of a rightwing, volkstata-type trek to the coast.

Dr Hall-Martin said selfishness was the bottom line of the squatters' land drive.

De Beers had offered them alternative land south of the park border, but this had been turned down, he said.

"They're stealing something from the nation for their own relaxation."

Mr Hanekom, who is keen to ensure that the park goes ahead, will be meeting the various stakeholders at Groenrivier on July 1 in an attempt to resolve the impasse.

(56) ST(CM) 4/6/95

Three governments creating world's largest game park

56

SPW 3/6/95

By JAMES CLARKE

Negotiations began this morning for the establishment of the world's largest "international game park", along the Limpopo River.

Representatives of national and regional parks are today negotiating to buy up the irrigation farms along the Limpopo. Three governments have given the nod to the idea of creating a vast tourist region shared by Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana.

Rupert Lorimer, former MP and now head of the Government's advisory committee on environment, says the international park will straddle the Limpopo from Pont Drift to near Messina.

The move is not unprecedented: Lorimer pointed out that South Africa and Botswana have already

agreed to melding the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park with Botswana's Kalahari National Park. The two are to be managed as one — and as long as tourists enter and leave by the same gate, passports will be unnecessary.

Announcement

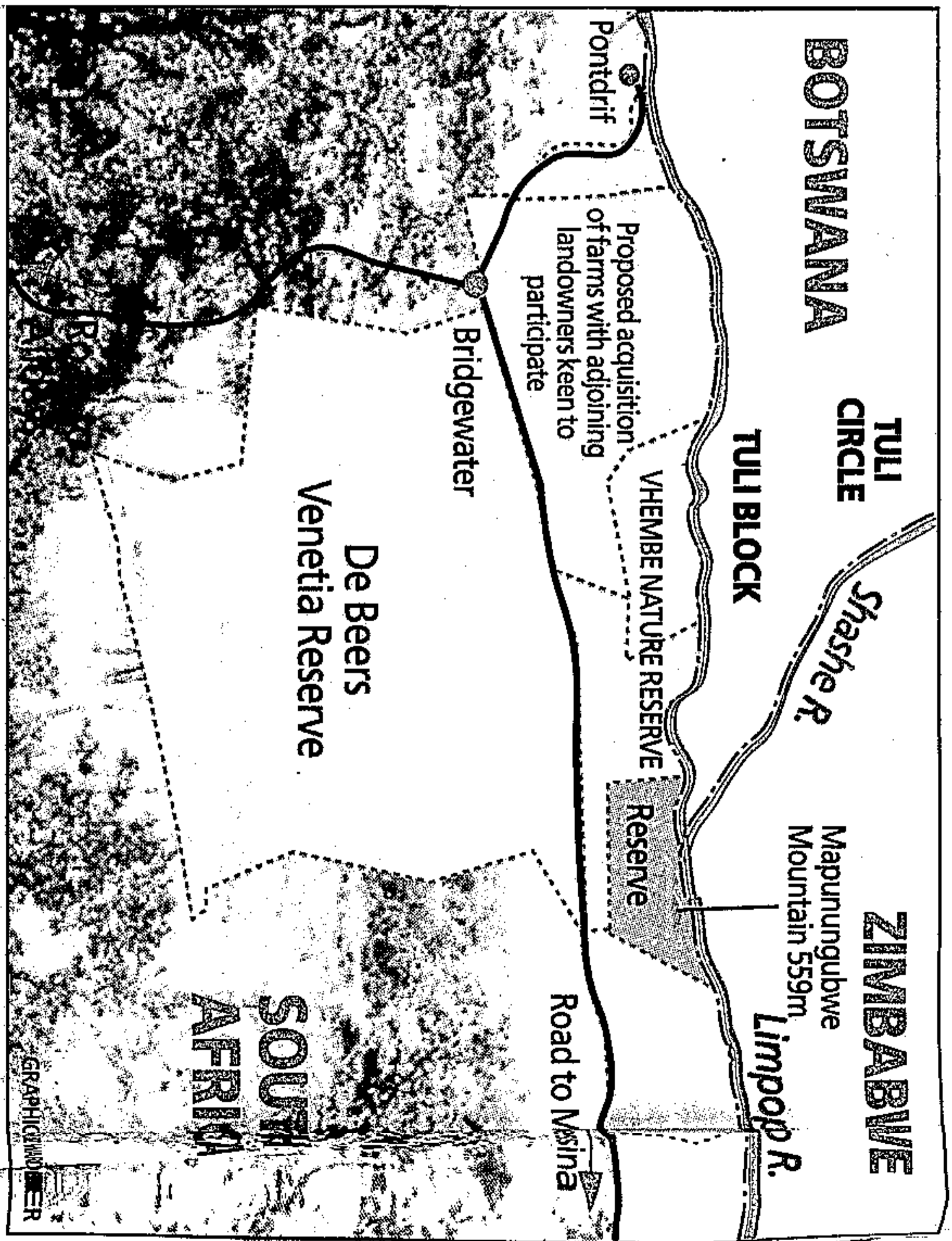
At Tuli Safari Lodge, on the Botswana side of the Limpopo, Robin Tolley, a member of the Northern Transvaal legislature, told a news conference this week that his province was involved in the creation of the proposed three-nation park.

An announcement regarding the park is expected to be made on Friday at a ceremony in Vhembe Game Reserve, adjacent to Mapungubwe archaeological site, both of which will become part of the park.

The South African part of the park would comprise private and state-owned areas and would reinstate the old Dongola National Park, proclaimed by Jan Smuts but deproclaimed when the National Party came to power in 1948.

Lorimer, who for almost 20 years has been campaigning for the reinstatement of Dongola, told me the park could stretch south to Madikwe, newest of the "Bop parks", and absorb 800 000ha of South Africa's northern provinces (more than a third of the size of Kruger Park).

He said it would be possible for the proposed international park eventually to connect with Kruger Park and Gona re Zhou in Zimbabwe and thus with Mozambique, creating an international park of millions of hectares.



SA hazardous waste dilemma

Political Correspondent (56)

ABOUT 1,9 million tons of hazardous waste are produced annually in South Africa — too much for waste disposal facilities to handle. ARG 14/6/98

There are five hazardous waste disposal facilities — two just outside Cape Town.

Replying to questions in the senate by Errol Moorcroft (DP), Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers said that, in theory, the sites had the capacity to handle all the waste produced in the country.

“In practice, this is not true since the localities of the sites are such that it would be too expensive to transport hazardous waste produced in certain areas to the nearest class H landfill site.”

The ideal would be to have a suitable waste disposal facility for each area.

“The problem cannot be solved overnight. It takes several years before a designated facility can receive hazardous waste for disposal,” he said.

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Gauteng heading for tougher waste laws

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BD 2/6/95

Michael Moon

LEGISLATION to force companies to produce less waste in their manufacturing processes was under investigation by the Gauteng government, the province's development planning, environment and works MEC Shiceka said this week.

The Gauteng legislature had recently acquired from central government the necessary powers to enact environmental legislation, Shiceka said.

He also said he would be convening a meeting this month of all interested parties to discuss the "burning issue" of hazardous waste disposal in the province.

The intention was to get various groups - from local communities to disposal experts - to reach consensus on a 25-year plan for waste disposal in the province.

He also intended arranging discussions on whether waste dis-

posal in Gauteng should be handled by the private sector, or whether government should assume responsibility for it.

These announcements come against the backdrop of a continuing controversy over waste landfill sites in the Greater Johannesburg area, and the closure last month of Waste-tech's Margolis site in terms of a Supreme Court order. The unavailability of the Margolis site precipitated a crisis in the region as hazardous industrial and medical waste began piling up.

Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal has intervened in a bid to get the landfill and a nearby incinerator reopened. While the incinerator is currently dealing with the medical waste backlog, legal opinion on reopening the landfill is still awaited.

Shiceka said the question of whether to proceed with the landfill method of disposal, and where to site such facilities, would be

discussed at this month's meeting. The option of using incinerators to get rid of hazardous waste would also be studied.

The possibility of commissioning Waste-tech's unused, R12m Chloorkop landfill, once Margolis was officially closed at the end of the year, would have to be discussed "with an open mind".

Chloorkop has never been used, as a result of public protests and a dispute over zoning of the area.

Shiceka said a final decision on Chloorkop would have to rest with "the people", but added that they had to be "realistic" about Gauteng's urgent waste disposal needs. It was a "very sensitive matter" which thorough consultation would have to resolve.

He said further talks on who should be responsible for waste disposal would weigh up the issues of private enterprise possibly cutting corners to maximise profit, and the possibility of public sector inefficiencies.

Environment department 'underfunded'

Michael Moon

THE Environmental Affairs and Tourism Department was a "weak, underfunded department which lacked capacity and professional expertise", according to much evidence presented to the Lorimer committee investigating the restructuring of the Council for the Environment.

In a statement yesterday, the department said evidence had also indicated that it was "unable to attract the necessary compe-

tent personnel required to perform its duties adequately".

The department said the findings of the Lorimer committee would be made public on Monday, World Environment Day, by Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers.

The committee was appointed in September last year to probe the need for, and the composition and activities of, an advisory body such as the Council for the Environment. Former DP environment spokesman Rupert Lor-

imer was appointed as the committee chairman.

The committee discovered during its work that the nature of many of the submissions put before it went beyond the scope of its brief.

After discussions between Lorimer and De Villiers, the minister agreed to extensions to the brief, "where the committee considered comment to have relevance to environmental systems as a whole", the department said.

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Ministry still to decide on land claim

Stephane Bothma

DEFENCE Minister Joe Modise was awaiting a National Land Committee progress report before any decision would be taken regarding a claim by the Maremane community to part of the Army Battle School at Lohatla in the Northern Cape.

A ministry spokesman confirmed that a meeting took place between Modise and Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom on Wednesday.

The Lohatla issue had been discussed, but no decisions had been taken, he said.

However, a decision by the ministry was expected.

A group of about 40 land claimants attempted to reoccupy the land last weekend, but were removed by provincial officials this week.

Squatter shacks erected just outside the Army Battle School were removed by the provincial administration and the police on Tuesday.

Three communities, the Maremane, the Gathose and the Khosis, have claims to various parts of the school.

Hanekom earlier said he recognised the right of all three claimant communities to the land concerned.

The Gathose and Maremane were removed in the context of apartheid laws and irrespective of any compensation received by them, theirs was a legitimate restitution case, he said. The ball was now in the court of the defence ministry.

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After years
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KAOLIN mining at the Chapman's Peak site could start within the next few months, but is more likely to begin at the end of the year.

Tenders for a pipeline to carry slurry — a mixture of kaolin and water — from the washing plant at the new site to the drying plant at the company's existing headquarters at Brakkekloof, Sun Valley, are to be signed this week, and this work is expected to be completed by December.

Serina has been given approval by the Noordhoek local council to truck kaolin between the two sites for a three-month period, subject to technical conditions.

But the company says the pipeline option is cheaper and more efficient, and that trucking is merely an interim operation.

Work on the access road to the Chapman's Peak site started a fortnight ago and is due for completion at the end of next month.

The slope of the mountain side has been cut away to allow line-of-sight along Chapman's Peak Drive, and traffic officials have insisted on a "left-hand turn only" exit from the site to maximise safety.

Topsoil removed during the slope cutting was checked for indigenous bulbs, the company's technical director, John Butterworth, said.

"There weren't many, but we've taken out what we found and we'll put them in again," Mr Butterworth said.

Wild peach trees and pelargonium plants had been dug out before bush clearing and were also being replanted on the site.

The banks of the access have been seeded with an indigenous grass seed, and this will be followed by buffalo grass and a fynbos mix on the slopes.

An area on the 26ha site which will be used to store topsoil for later rehabilitation is presently being cleared of alien vegetation.

An experimental plot, about 70m by 100m, was cleared of pine trees last month and is being planted with fynbos to test future rehabilitation options.

"There are different soil conditions on the site, so we have employed a fynbos ecologist to conduct experiments with locally collected fynbos seed," Mr Butterworth said.

The experimental plot will be evaluated over the next 12 years, and initial results about growth rates for different species and relative costs will become available during the next five years.

Alien vegetation — particularly Port Jackson acacias — is being removed, shredded and used as a mulch.

"There'll be no aliens left on the site by the time we're finished. I think that will be a good start for the area," Mr Butterworth said.

All site work was being done in conjunction with the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit, Serina chairman Sybrand van der Spuy said.

"We are working to the environmental control manual produced by them."

Contractors were having to work within "extremely tight" environmental parameters, and faced heavy fines for causing environmental damage.

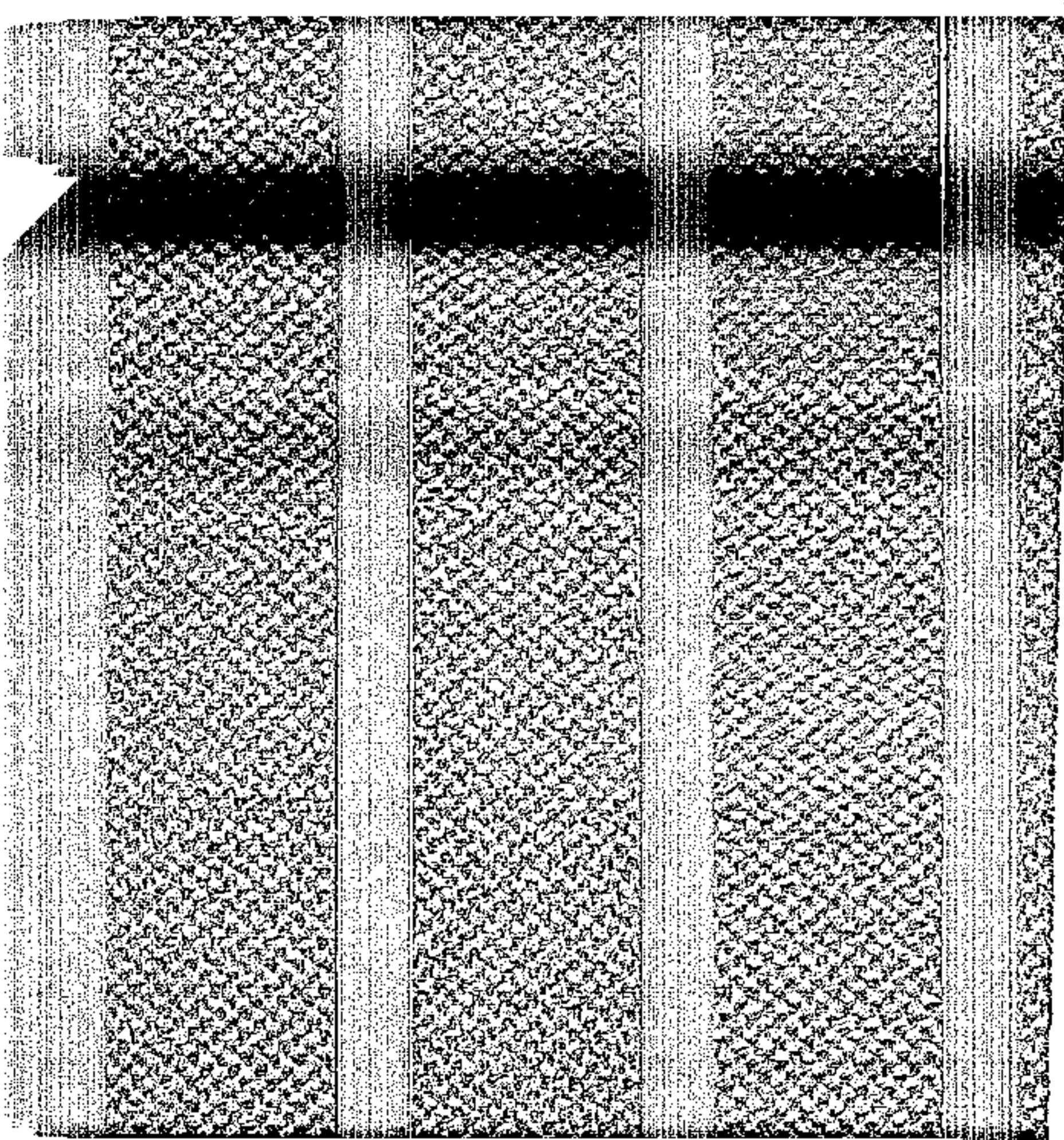
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of controversy and often acrimonious debate, kaolin mining at Serina's site at Chapman's Peak is soon to become a reality. But the mining company says all will be done to strict environmental guidelines and that the site will be left in a better condition than it is at present. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at the issue.

Serina 'will aid environment at kaolin site'

ARC 29/5/95

(56)



FYNBOS IS BETTER: Landscape architect Marius Brits, left, and Serina production director Jan van Zyl check indigenous plants being put into the landscaped verge of the new access road to the Chapman's Peak kaolin mining site. Picture: THE ARGUS.

The stormwater issue had been a question mark in many Noordhoek residents' minds, Mr Van der Spuy said.

Engineers had been instructed to devise a system to divert stormwater around the new pit.

"Previously we were looking at coping with a one-in-100 year storm, but I've asked the engineers to design a system that can cope with a one-in-200 year storm."

It was not yet possible to say when mining would start at Chapman's Peak as it was difficult to assess when the Trentham deposit currently being worked would be

exhausted, Mr Van der Spuy said.

"It could be three months or it could be nine months before we start at Chapman's Peak. Present indications are that it will be towards the end of the year, but I can't say categorically."

Work on the slurry pipeline to take kaolin from the Chapman's Peak mine to the Brakkekloof drying plant is scheduled to start in July and to be completed by December.

The company has permission to truck kaolin between the sites for three months.

"The public concern about this was mostly that trucking was an option we had taken to try and avoid the expense of building the pipeline," Mr Van der Spuy said.

"But the pipeline is by far the cheaper option for us, and we want to start using that as soon as possible."

The delay in putting in the pipeline was the fault of the Regional Services Council which was putting a new sewerage line into the same trench.

"As soon as people see that the pipeline is being put in, I don't think trucking will be an issue," Mr Van der Spuy said.

Saldanha pollution 'inevitable'

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — Smoke, dust and noise would be inevitable at the proposed steel mill in Saldanha Bay, but levels would be below government specifications, Saldanha Steel CE Bernard Smith said yesterday.

He addressed the parliamentary environment committee about issues raised in the outcry over Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation's intention to establish the R4,6bn mill.

He said waste water from the daily 2 000 litres used would be

BO 22/6/95 (56) (12/11/95)
 evaporated. The waterborne trace elements cyanide and ammonia would dissipate into harmless compounds.

All hazardous waste would be taken to a licensed waste disposal site inland, and an "enormous building" would be built over the development to contain dust and sound.

Virtually no gas would be burnt into the atmosphere.

Regarding the effects on marine life of an expansion of the harbour, Smith said he was uncertain about the validity of claims that expan-

sion in 1974 had devastated marine life. He was concerned because it was difficult to be objective about the issue, and "there could never be an end to such an evaluation".

It was possible Saldanha Steel "could scrape by" without expanding the harbour, but shareholders believed it needed to be expanded.

People in the area would be trained and employed at the plant and there was no agreement between Iscor, Numsa or Saldanha Steel that workers from the Vanderbijlpark plant, which was being down-sized, would be employed at Saldanha.

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Environmental concerns drive 'greener' financial reports

(56)

ARG 22/6/95

MAUREEN MARUD
Business Staff

WORLD-WIDE concern for the environment is prompting South African companies that hope to attract foreign investment to produce "greener" financial statements, according to research.

"Investors want to know how environmentally friendly a company is," said Quintus Vorster, head of the department of accounting at the University of Pretoria, and leader of a team of researchers into the financial statements of 168 top listed companies.

A marked improvement has taken place in reporting on environmental issues over the last two years, according to the team's report, the second since they began their analysis of company reports in 1993.

Although legislation does not require companies to disclose environmental information in their financial statements, South African listed companies are making their statements greener, Professor Vorster said from Pretoria.

This voluntary reporting is based partly on foreign investment criteria. It is also due to the wider ethical question of reporting in a fair manner to the stakeholders in the company.

"In this day and age an important stakeholder is society, with its need to

know that the environment is not being polluted by a company's operations."

Tax payers were in the past saddled with the bill for cleaning up the mess when a company polluted a river, Professor Vorster said.

This in effect meant the tax payer was subsidizing the price of the end product of that firm.

"By including clean-up costs in the costing system of the company, it releases the tax payer of the liability. That is a very fundamental accounting ethical issue."

The improvement in reporting on environmental issues is evident in the willingness of more companies to substantiate their environmental performance with hard numbers on technical and financial information, Professor Vorster said.

Also, more companies were prepared to report on their failures in this regard.

He said South African companies still had a lot to do in the quest for environmental correctness.

"But we are not too far behind the rest of the world and we slowly but surely are improving."

He said disclosure in financial statements of environmental issues would become compulsory in time.

"I believe it should," he said.

Burning tyres: Money for the poor — but at a price

Environment suffers as township residents (52) Arg 22/6/95
eke out living

SABATA NGCAL
Staff Reporter

LACK of job opportunities has forced township residents and squatters to make money any way they can — but sometimes with dire consequences for the environment.

One of the most popular choices is burning scrap motor car and truck tyres to extract the wires, which are then sold to scrapyards.

The residents make enough money to buy food for the day. They return to do the same thing the next day to ensure their families do not go to bed with empty stomachs.

But the practice takes its toll on the environment.

The Cape Town City Council recently complained that although motor vehicles and industries were the major cause of pollution, tyre-burning in the townships also contributed significantly to air pollution.

However, residents said they had no alternative but to pollute the air if it meant making a living.

The council's pollution control officer, Hans Linde, said the tyre manufacturers should accept responsibility for manufacture and disposal of the tyres.

He said the smoke affected the health of people who inhaled it and it also affected the environment.

Whitey Ndzube of Vygieskraal squatter camp in Rylands, said he had been burning scrap tyres for the past 17 years.

He claimed to be the first person to have arrived in the squatter camp 18 years ago.

Mr Ndzube said he burnt the tyres in the evenings when people are sleeping and finished about 3 am.

"This is how I make a living, anyone who is opposed to it should give me a job," he said.

Mr Ndzube buys scrap tyres from a

tyre factory. A load of 30 truck tyres makes a full load of scrap metal, which sells for R200.

Each load of scrap metal is carried by his horse-drawn carts to sell at the scrapyards.

Mr Ndzube said he worked hard to maintain his 32 family members and also helped the community when they needed help.

"I have no alternative but to burn the tyres," he said.

"It is unfortunate that my job affects nature and people's health. I can't do otherwise.

"If someone offered me a job tomorrow, I would stop burning the tyres."

Mr Ndzube said he did his job in the evenings because during the day people would inhale the smoke.

However, people still complained about the smoke. But he would rather leave the area than stop doing his job. The land occupied by his two

shacks is black with ash from the burning tyres. The grass and trees have turned black from the smoke.

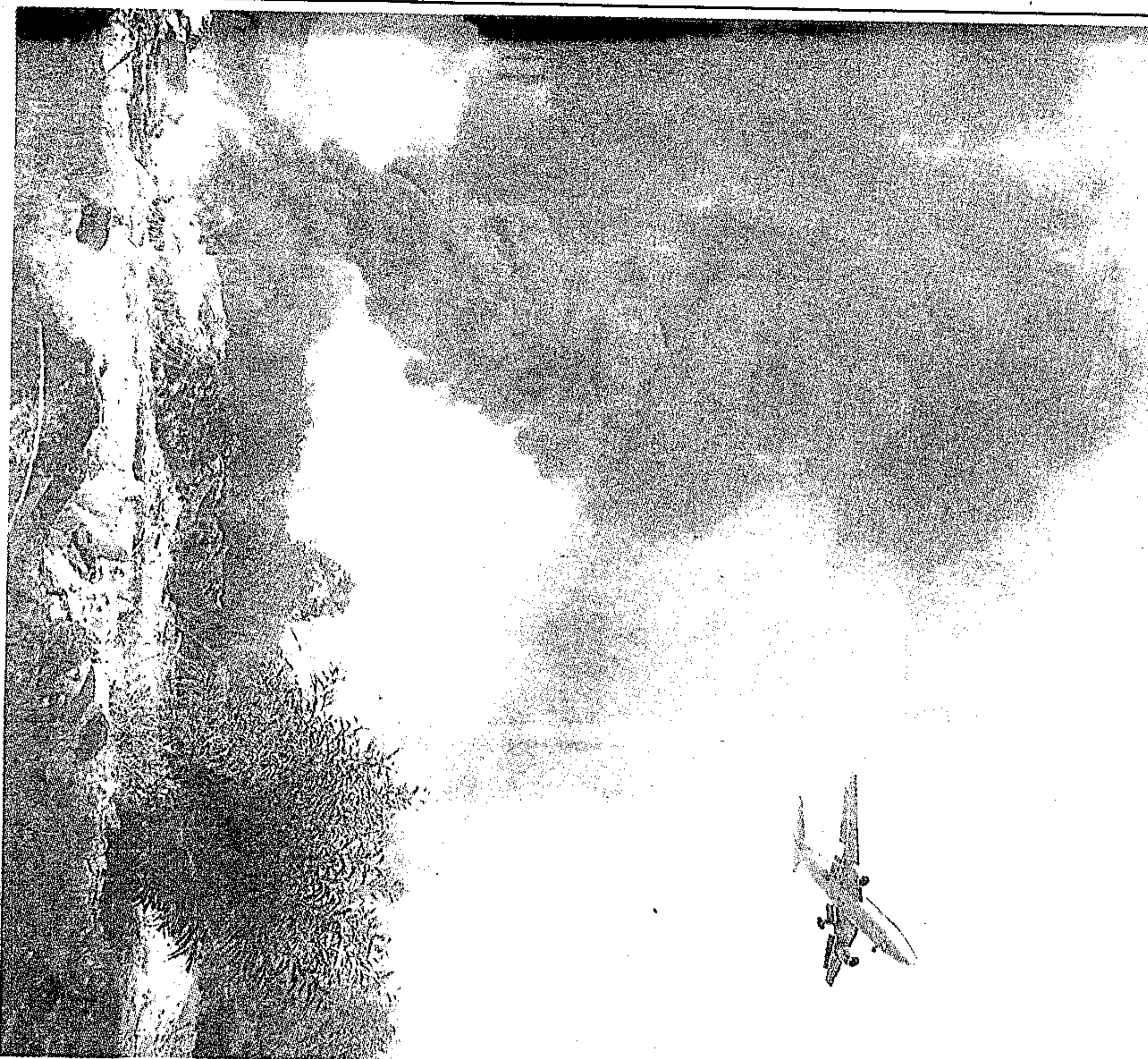
In Khayelisha, The Argus observed a group of people digging up scrap material. They said they also burnt tyres when they got hold of them. They were surrounded by scattered tyre wires.

The residents said when they could not get scrap tyres they spent time digging copper and aluminium waste material from the dump site in Site B. They sold their pickings for between R3,80 and R6 a kilogram.

They said they also collected electric wires from the dump site which were also burnt to separate the wires from the surrounding insulation.

Patrick Boozi, of Khayelisha's Site B, said the scrapyards paid him R6 a kilogram.

He resorted to collecting the scrap metal because he could not find another job.



DANGEROUS SMOKE: A cloud of black smoke from a burning tyre masks a South African Airways aircraft landing at Cape Town International Airport.

Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus

SALDANHA POLLUTION THREAT

Iran oil deal slammed

ET 31/7/95

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have called for the Steyn board of inquiry into the proposed Saldanha steel mill to extend its brief following the announcement of an oil storage deal with Iran. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE Strategic Fuel Fund's (SFF) proposed multi-million rand deal with Iran to store 15 million barrels of crude oil at Saldanha Bay has come under fire from environmentalists and the US government.

While the Steyn board of inquiry is hearing evidence on whether to give the green light to the controversial R4,7 billion steel plant at Saldanha, the SFF's proposal to store crude oil at SA's previously secret bunkers has drawn sharp fire from environmentalists who see the tripling of oil tanker traffic in the ecologically sensitive area as a serious risk.

Several have called for the Steyn inquiry to extend its brief.

Reports at the weekend said the US government was also putting pressure on SA to reconsider the deal, as SA was ignoring a request to all America's trading partners not to fill the void resulting from the US oil embargo on Iran.

National Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson said he had asked the Steyn inquiry for permission to resubmit evidence.

"I am devastated by the news ... We have spent R30 million extending the West Coast National Park ... and now the park is really threatened," he said.

The oil storage deal is likely to increase the number of tankers from 25 to 75 a year.

Earthlife Africa has called for the oil importation business to be halted pending the findings of the Steyn inquiry.

"There is no point in setting up a board of inquiry ... if another development right next door is given the green light and its environmental consequences ignored.

"The blatant disregard for the processes of the board of inquiry shows clearly the lack of weight that central government is attaching to its findings," the organisation said.

Wildlife Society manager Mr Andy Gubb said the SFF had compromised the Steyn inquiry by keeping quiet about the deal until after the closing date for submissions.

"The increased risk ... does not need to be spelt out. Cape Town is still cleaning up after the oil disaster last winter. The people of the Western Cape have both a right and a responsibility to ensure that their future is not compromised," Mr Gubb said.

SFF general manager Mr Kobus van Zyl has said he did not believe the increased shipping would pose any environmental threat. The SFF had handled 459 tankers in 19 years and there had been only eight pollution incidents in which 578 barrels were spilled.

SFF operational manager Mr Willie du Toit said the company had bought over R20m of equipment to deal with spills.

Every time a ship took on or discharged oil a 1 200m fence boom was put around it which could hold spills of up to 7 000 barrels. Equipment including three boats was stored near the oil jetty to recover any spilled oil.

● Mr Van Zyl will give evidence on the deal to the Steyn inquiry on Wednesday.



FIRE FOAM: Saldanha's Port Captain Dave Duncan demonstrates a foam monitor on the oil jetty which discharges a water and foam mixture at 1 600 litres a minute to extinguish possible fires if oil spills in the bay catch alight. Environmentalists claim the pollution risk from increased shipping if the Iranian oil storage deal goes through is unacceptably high, irrespective of anti-pollution precautions.

PICTURE: MELANIE GOSLING

Saldanha Steel to go on with ⁽⁵⁶⁾ geological tests

ARG 19/6/95 ~~(122)~~

Environment Reporter

SALDANHA Steel is to press ahead with further geological tests at the site of its proposed steel plant at Saldanha Bay.

The tests have the blessing of the Western Cape regional government which is still considering a rezoning application for the site, but Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has warned that any work done before full approval is at the steel manufacturer's own risk.

Dr De Villiers has appointed a board of inquiry in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, and has said he will ask cabinet for permission to prohibit the steel mill in terms of Section 31 of the Act if the inquiry finds it is undesirable.

Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith said geological tests will be made at the proposed steel works site from June 26.

"In view of the recent debate on the Saldanha steel project, we wish to stress that the activity which may be observed on-site soon will be of a purely investigative and information-gathering nature," Mr Smith said in a statement.

The tests, which could continue until the end of the year, were to ensure a better definition of the project's construction procedures and costs.

"The tests will involve gathering further information on soil, ground water and run-off conditions and will consist primarily of hole drilling, soil load bearing tests, ground water sampling and soil condition tests."

Contraception still ⁽²⁵⁷⁾ a top health priority

ARG 19/6/95

CONTRACEPTION could be put on the backburner as the health system targets hot topics such as HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and child health as its priorities.

This was a worrying phenomena, said Helen Rees, national chairwoman of the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa.

Speaking at the association's annual meeting, she said even a 20 percent increase in the use of contraception would reduce maternal ill-health and death.

Contraception empowered women and improved the quality of their lives, she said.

A third of all women admitted to hospital had moderate or severe complications from abortions or miscarriages. Easy access to acceptable contraception would prevent many of these admissions.

She said the priority for contraception in South Africa was to take exist-

ing services and expand them to include a whole range, such as treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and screening for cancers. This is the trend internationally, she said.

It was time to look at acceptable, safe and alternative ways of providing contraception, and get away from the medical model, which was a nurse in a clinic handing out pills. Clinics were often overloaded and contraception was a low priority. Healthy women wanting contraception were reluctant to queue for hours to get it.

One way of providing contraception, she said, was an outreach programme, where trained community health workers went from door to door, educating and counselling people and handing out pills and condoms.

Community outreach pilot projects had been launched in the Cape in Khayelitsha and Worcester, and in Gauteng, she added.

Saldanha:

(56) (1995)
'Jobs a

vital factor'

ARG 22/6/95

Political Correspondent

JOB creation should be taken into account by the national assembly committee on the environment when recommending whether or not the Saldanha Steel project should go ahead.

This was urged by Saldanha Steel chief executive Bernard Smith, who told the committee: "There won't be pollution in terms of any real definition of pollution."

Six hundred permanent jobs would be created, local sub-contractors would be used, 6 000 people would be employed during construction, and school pupils from the area would be selected for tertiary education towards being appointed to managerial posts in the plant.

The recruiting office would be opened in Cape Town to head off an influx of job-seekers to the Saldanha area.

Preference would be given to residents, and no-one from the scaled-down Vanderbijlpark steel plant would be given a job at Saldanha.

Mr Smith said he assumed the committee supported the premise that South Africa was in favour of private enterprise and not a centrally-planned economy.

In the private enterprise system, investors operated within legal frameworks that prevented excesses.

The creation of jobs was an end in itself.

The fact that there might be an influx of people looking for jobs was not a reason to prevent job creation.

Steel mill boss, govt call for impact study

~~13/11~~ (56) CT 22/6/95

THE government should establish an agency dedicated to making overall environmental impact studies of planned industrial developments, Saldanha Steel Mills chief executive officer Mr Bernard Smith and the House Environment Committee recommended yesterday.

The environmental impact study commissioned had encompassed only the Saldanha steel mill site, and had not taken into account the effect of ancillary industrial development, he said.

They had not been legally compelled to do the initial study, and felt that by so doing they had discharged their moral responsibilities, he said in response to criticism by environmental groups.

Responding to allegations that the plant would do nothing for the local unemployment problem, he said there was no agreement between Saldanha Steel and the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa to employ workers retrenched from Vanderbijlpark. — Sapa

Revamp *Sowetan* starts 23/6/95 at 233 ⁽⁵⁰⁾ schools

By Themba Sepotokele

THE Gauteng government has granted about R1,6 million to 233 schools for renovations, Mr Lawrence Tshipane, committee member of the School Renovation Programme said yesterday.

In an interview with *Sowetan*, Tshipane said that from about 900 applications already received for renovations, they had only dealt with 388 and approved 233.

He said each school was allotted R8 000 for renovation.

Although the target number of applications for renovations at schools was set at 1 500, they had only received 900 applications by yesterday.

He said district managers were responsible for accepting cheques on behalf of the schools and small builders in the areas were recommended to renovate the schools.

Senaoane Senior Secondary, Sibongile Lower Primary, Thandukuhle Lower Primary, Mohloding and Kliptown Senior Secondary schools were among the 233 schools whose applications had been approved.

Yesterday, schools in Carletonville and Krugersdorp received cheques for R8 000 each for renovations. Wedela Primary and Secondary were among schools that received cheques.

"Farm schools in Krugersdorp will receive their cheques today to start revamping their dilapidated schools," Tshipane said.

The education department said it had received 293 applications from Pretoria, 384 from Veereniging and 277 from Johannesburg schools respectively.

Tshipane said schools in Soweto had expressed fears that their schools would be vandalised if they started renovating them before the winter school holidays.

Some schools have reported to the ministry that they had almost completed renovating their buildings.

The department also announced that schools will be closed on July 7 and reopen on August 11.

Meanwhile, Diepdale High School in Diepkloof, Soweto, was yesterday gutted by fire.

UNLEADED FUEL

A case for the autocats

(56) (10)
FM 23/6/95

With just eight months to go before the planned introduction of unleaded fuel, concern is mounting over the environmental hazards of burning unleaded fuel in cars not fitted with catalytic converters.

Critics charge that the motor industry is pushing for the introduction of unleaded fuel while remaining coy about its potentially damaging impact unless coupled to catalytic converter technology.

"SA is the only country in the world where the introduction of unleaded fuel was motivated by industrial rather than environmental concerns," says Total MD Dennis Poole. "It is an established scientific fact that unleaded fuel used in cars without catalytic converters is dirtier than leaded fuel.

"Producing unleaded fuel is a costly exercise for the oil companies and there is no benefit in it for us. In other countries where unleaded fuel has been introduced, it has been coupled with laws compelling the fitting of catalytic converters."

Poole's claims are supported by the UK's Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in its report "Transport and the Environment" — presented last October.

It says: "Unleaded petrol generally contains more aromatic compounds (which serve as functional replacements for lead compounds) than leaded petrol. These aromatics include benzene, a stable compound of which there are no significant natural sources other than petroleum."

The report goes on to say that benzene, a carcinogenic compound, is "perhaps the most important volatile organic compound arising from transport." The average benzene content in UK fuel is 2%-3%. The European Community limit is 5%, but the German government wants it reduced to 1%, a level recommended for the UK by the Royal Commission.

Though the commission recommended phasing out 97-octane super premium fuel, no action was taken. But customers have been switching to lighter octane ratings out of environmental concern.

Local oil companies plan to introduce a maximum 95-octane unleaded fuel, which will also have a higher aromatic content than the equivalent leaded fuel.

Peter Emmel, MD of catalytic converter manufacturer Johnson Matthey, agrees the available European research shows that unleaded fuel has a higher aromatic content than leaded fuel, but laws compelling the fitting of catalytic converters virtually eliminate hydrocarbon emissions, including those of benzene.

"There does not seem to be a drive to couple the introduction of unleaded fuel to the fitting of catalytic converters in SA, as

has been the case overseas."

Emmel adds that the environmental effects of unleaded fuel in SA, without compulsory fitting of converters, will not be as damaging as in Europe, where congestion is greater. In high density areas such as Johannesburg, however, large-scale use of un-

pre-emptive regarding any potential problems rather than reactive."

Naamsa says the anti-unleaded fuel initiative was started overseas by lead supplier Octel, which has a vested interest. Octel's attack was levelled at 98 RON unleaded fuel, whereas the maximum octane rating for unleaded fuel in SA will be 95.

New engine technology is designed to burn fuel more efficiently, reducing noxious emissions, and most vehicle manufacturers plan to fit emission technology on new models.

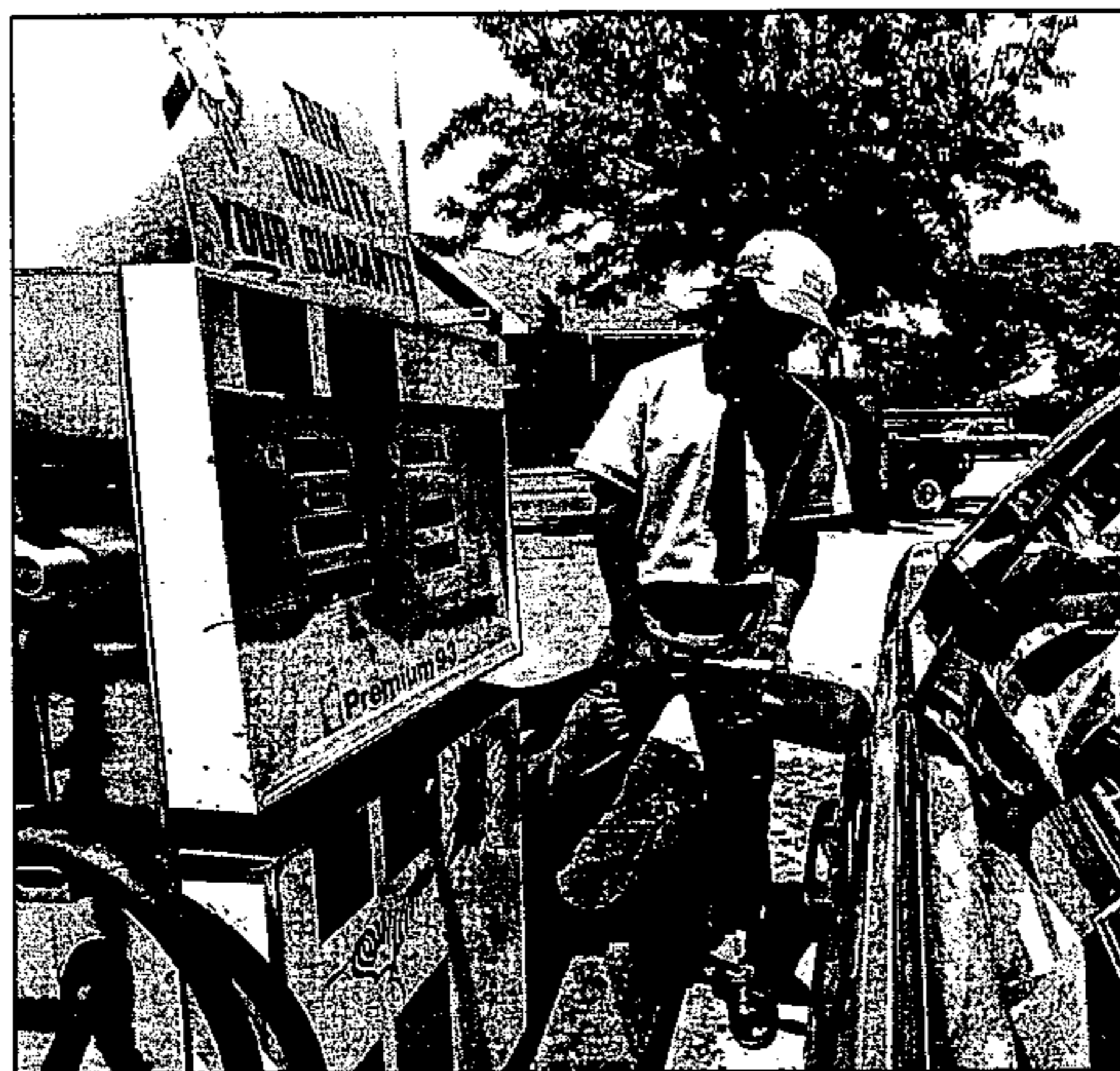
"However, we do not believe it is appropriate or logical for people to be forced to fit expensive exhaust systems on their vehicles in the absence of a proven need," says Naamsa.

Given the high cost of retro-fitting catalytic converters to SA's 5m cars, legislation compelling vehicle owners to fit converters is likely to be stoutly resisted.

Petro Terblanche, manager of environmental

health and safety services at CSIR, says unleaded fuel contains compounds which have known carcinogenic effects.

"There is concern in Europe and the US about the environmental impact of unleaded fuel," says Terblanche. "There is also concern in some circles that unleaded fuel has done little to reduce lead in the blood of urban dwellers. But we cannot pre-judge the environmental impact until the study is complete."



Filling up . . . unleaded waiting to be unleashed — but at what cost?

leaded fuel without converter technology could pose a health hazard.

Unleaded fuel has been touted as environmentally safer than leaded fuel, although both produce toxic emissions. In removing lead from fuel, toxic aromatics are used to retain the fuel's octane rating.

"Unleaded fuel is not an environmentally friendly product in itself," says Colin McClelland, director of the SA Petroleum Producers' Association. "The industry compromised by electing to have a maximum octane rating of 95 on unleaded fuel, which will have similar noxious emissions to 97-octane leaded fuel."

The National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA (Naamsa) says unleaded fuel produces a "negligible increase in certain hydrocarbon components" to enhance its octane value. Government and the motor and oil industries have commissioned the CSIR to carry out an environmental assessment of the air pollution caused by motor vehicle emissions.

"No-one really knows what the effects will be," says Naamsa. "Hence the rationale for emissions to be studied before and after the introduction of unleaded fuel. Our approach is that we will be in a position to be

MANUFACTURING

Cosatu requiem?

FM 23/6/95

The sorry state of SA's manufacturing sector is well known and the findings of a two-year study released this week by Cape Town University's Industrial Strategy Project (ISP) add virtually nothing new to the debate.

Nevertheless, the research needs to be taken seriously. Some aspects are already shaping government's economic policy and a number of the researchers involved in the project have been appointed to senior government posts.

How to have all the protect

SO we're not allowed to talk about "toys for the boys" any longer.

The phrase was "facile, sexist and subliminally racist", deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils decreed in parliament this week when taking to task critics of his department's proposal to buy four corvettes at a cost of some R1,6 billion.

Apart from a chuckle at the thought that Mr Kasril's had subliminally insulted his own boss — remember President Mandela's ringing praise for "our boys" in the green-and-gold rugby jerseys just a few days ago? — his outburst will have made little impression on those doves strongly opposed to the would-be purchase.

Included in that flock are many environmentalists.

Why? Several reasons, really — and that's without getting anywhere near the

tricky question of just who the enemy is — or will be — and what resources they might have that corvettes would be effective against.

The first is that one of the main motivations for the corvette purchase, as far as the hawks are concerned, is that they are necessary to protect South Africa's valuable fishing resources.

Yet these proponents have all been remarkably silent in responding to the comments of those who should know best about these matters — the fisheries inspectorate.

Interestingly, this inspectorate has gone on record as stating that it can do the job properly for just one tenth of the cost of the corvettes.

The inspectorate has put a price on it: R175 million for five medium-fast patrol vessels. Add a handful of modern long-distance surveillance aircraft to that, and

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If South Africa is to develop sustainably the environment will have to be given as much consideration as social and economic factors, the Constitutional Assembly has been told by the University of Natal's BP Chair of Environmental Policy and Management. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at its submission.

Environment a 'unifying force' in SA

ARLT 26/6/95 (56)

ENVIRONMENTAL concerns should be a unifying force in South Africa and should remain above the debate over a constitutional model.

This is the view of Dan Archer, who holds the BP Chair of Environmental Policy and Management at the University of Natal. In a submission to the Constitutional Assembly entitled *The constitution and the environment: Developing an effective distribution of responsibilities*, Professor Archer said South Africa's interim constitution contained the clause "every person shall have the right to an environment not detrimental to his or her health".

It is rumoured that this "awkwardly phrased" fundamental right had been written at 3am after a long negotiating session.

"The inclusion of the environment in this section (126 of the interim constitution) was part of a last-minute deal to draw negotiations on the interim constitution to a close before the agreed deadline," Professor Archer said.

"Environmental Affairs has been described as the 'Cinderella' department, and the environment is too often seen as an 'add-on' to economic and social issues.

"It is not yet widely appreciated that South Africa's environment is the resource base from which we derive our economic livelihood and social well-being," Professor Archer said.

Important elements to be taken into account included:

- South Africans of every province should have a right to a clean, healthy environment;
- With the right to a clean and healthy environment must also come a responsibility and an obligation to safeguard the environment for future generations; and

■ Individuals and organisations must, in turn, be able to look to each other and to the state to safeguard the environment.

Although government was only one of the role players, a thoughtful division of power between the different levels of government — central, provincial and local — was critical to achieving a sound environmental management system, Professor Archer said.

"Central government is well-suited to developing national norms and standards, and ensuring compliance.

"Provincial governments are well-suited to implementing measures to attain such norms and standards, and should be responsible and accountable for adherence to them.

"Local governments can in turn be delegated responsibilities by the provinces in their areas of competence," the professor said.

Environmental concerns should remain above the debate over whether South Africa should be a unitary, federal or confederal state, Professor Archer said.

"The reality is that environmental concerns are important to all South Africans, and should be a unifying rather than divisive force."

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(56) ARG 26/6/95

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— a far cry from R1,6 billion.
SA Navy undoubtedly does a
ere are major diplomatic prob-
ed in using it for fisheries pat-
t shouldn't be the navy's major
as critics point out that using
elp the police curb criminal vi-
t a long-term solution.
e's the major question of the

so-called opportunity costs — something
else the hawks remain silent on.

Respected environmentalist Guy Preston has pointed out that each corvette will cost more than 15 times the 1995/06 budget for population development in the Department of Welfare and Population Development.

Dr Preston and Helen Rees, chairperson of the Planned Parenthood Association in South Africa, have calculated that the number of unplanned pregnancies in the country could be reduced by one third at an annual cost of just R120-R150 million — about one third the cost of a corvette.

It's almost impossible to calculate the cost to the country of those unplanned 200 000 births each year but, over each of those lifetimes, it must be vast.

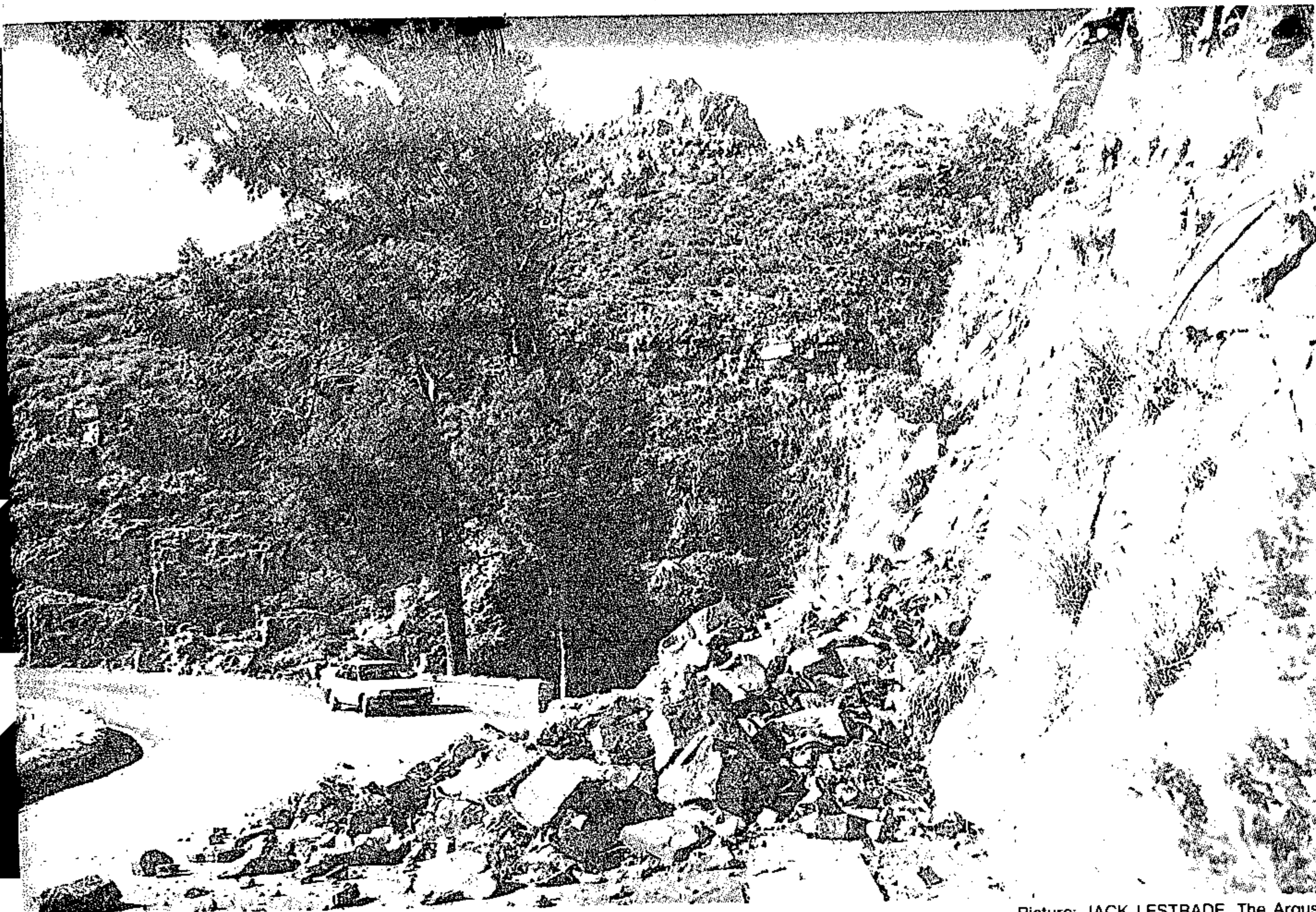
Not to invest in defence would be like leaving one's home with the front door and windows unlocked, Mr Kasrils argued in

parliament.
That may well be true — but do you need the equivalent of a satellite spy system linked to surface-to-air missiles to protect your average suburban home?

Of course not. An ordinary Yale lock and burglar bars are perfectly adequate.

And with the money you save on modest but adequate home protection measures you can probably afford to send your children to school, pay the medical aid, contribute to a community park down the road, plant trees on your pavement, and pay your rates so that the community can have a decent stormwater system, an adequate electricity supply (backed by solar heating), municipal libraries ... in other words, you can help develop a sustainable, happy and stable society.

Is there really any choice?



Picture: JACK LESTRADE, The Argus.

IMPULSORY DETOUR: Winter has well and truly arrived, bringing with it the inconvenience of minor rockfalls on Tafelberg Road and other parts of Table Mountain, as water streams down the slopes and causes slumping. The rockfalls are not a major problem, says the city council's parks and forests branch.

Scientists propose a can deposit scheme

(56)

ARG 26/6/95

Environment Reporter

article in the SA Journal of Science.

DEPOSIT should be built into the price of beverage cans to help reduce the environmental impact of those cans that are discarded — particularly in the three scientists have suggested.

More than 7,6 million cans are manufactured daily in South Africa — about 1 billion each year — many end up in the coastal zone, and initial research suggests waste products from the disintegrating cans may be toxic, they say.

Comments by Vic Cockcroft and Michael Bulbring of the Port Elizabeth Aquarium's centre for Dolphin Studies and John Dutton of the Endangered Wildlife Society's Bazaruto project appear in an ar-

Many cans are discarded in public areas in the belief that they corrode and disappear quickly, the scientists said.

They decided to research the problem after noticing a proliferation of cans in shallow water areas of Mozambique and South Africa.

In Eastern Cape waters, the bases of test cans were "corroded but still substantial" after being immersed for 415 days, while the tops and ring pulls remained whole, though oxidised.

"Besides the aesthetic, the effects of large numbers of deteriorating cans on the environment is unknown.

"It is not known whether the waste

products are toxic, though the lack of floral growth near corroding cans suggests they may be," the scientists said.

It is reasonable to assume that if tin and aluminium cans had a greater value attached to them, their collection and recycling would be encouraged.

"A deposit system built into the purchase price, as used in the USA, giving cans a reasonable value, might ensure a high level of recycling," said the scientists.

"Although the costs of initiating a deposit system may reduce the profit from recycling, South Africa can ill-afford the waste incurred and the environmental consequences of inefficient disposal of cans."

Democracy both for and by the

Star

(56)

Democracy is alive and well in South Africa, as a determined group of delegates proved at a recent one-day seminar on pollution.

The group of 12 individuals, representing trade unions, local communities and non-government organisations, effectively hijacked the meeting. In the process, 18 months of work and R800 000 invested so far by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA&T) in developing an Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) policy for South Africa came within a whisker of being shelved.

Document

At least 80% of the delegates were from government, mining and industry sectors. Up for discussion was a 22-page scoping document, produced by a consortium of consultants appointed to manage the project.

Proceedings started sedately with Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa giving the keynote address. He highlighted the urgent need to overhaul present

GROUP of 12 ensures that discussions at a seminar on pollution were all-inclusive and not confined to capitalist elites, reports Anita Allen, Science Writer

pollution control and waste management which was fragmented, inefficient and ineffective.

Then project co-ordinator John Wates, who chaired the meeting, sketched what had been achieved in 18 months as well as the way forward. The meeting then adjourned for tea. After the break, the Group of 12 had secured speaking slots of five minutes each.

The first salvo was fired by Lara James of the National Union of Mineworkers: "The NUM welcomes the intent of this project, but not the intentions of the capitalist environmental consultants."

In ringing tones she reeled off a list of shortcomings with the DEA&T's attempt at developing an IPC policy: the exclusion of any social and human dimen-

sions; a project management committee made up entirely of government officials; a project advisory committee of 69 members — all from government, mining and industry; public participation which was really rubber stamping; and a 22-page document which was impossibly academic and incomprehensible.

"The way the process is designed effectively excludes those that don't have technological and financial resources," Lael Bethlehem of Cosatu said. "We need a forum where there is space to have input."

She tabled five demands from the trade unions and NGOs if they were to participate: representation on the management committee; public hearings on what people would like to see included in the project;

consultation by project co-ordinators who would go out and contact role players; quarterly meetings and workshops to report back; and financial resources to enable people from all over the country, and not just Gauteng, to attend.

Peter Lukey of Earth-life Africa summed up the situation: "You can carry on and tinker, but R780 000 has already been spent on this flawed process. Or you can stop, and start structures where civil society is represented."

Then, as if nothing had happened, the meeting broke for lunch, with prepared presentations by speakers representing mining, industry, science and the project co-ordinators.

After lunch, the Group of 12 launched a new offensive, using a hi-tech PA system accessed from each seat in the auditorium.

They demanded that the meeting take a formal resolution distancing itself from sentiments expressed by one of the speakers before lunch.

It was utterly untrue that every attempt had been made to contact role players, they said, and unless this was acknowledged, they would not participate in the proceedings.

The meeting erupted. From the right came objections to being held to ransom, from the left came pleas to keep the show on the road, but the Group of 12 was adamant: they wanted a formal acknowledgement that the public at large had not been adequately canvassed and the project should go on ice until inclusivity was a reality.

The rescue came from Holomisa. "The buck always stops somewhere and I guess it stops in this corner," he said.

"We must agree that the inclusiveness of public participation has been highlighted. I think government and the department should take note of this.

"On behalf of the department, I would say yes, there were mistakes in what the last speaker said, but let us look forward."

He suggested that the meeting debate the issue of public participation, and that the IPC project should form part of the Consultative National Environmental Forum on August 17.

Chairman Wates then sent delegates away in small groups to workshop the question of the way forward. When the groups reassembled, each group presented a summary of its discussions.

At the end of a day of high drama and passion, it was a seminar like none other anyone had attended. However, it seems some South Africans are having difficulty accepting that democracy is not only for the people but also by the people.

people
Star

26/6/95

Wates then threw the matter open to the floor, and once again the floodgates opened up. With time running out, and delegates leaving in a steady stream, Wates concluded by saying that minutes of the proceedings would be circulated, comments analysed and the project co-ordinators would look at ways to act.

But the Group of 12 would have none of this. They wanted a firm statement from the meeting which could be given to the press.

After more haggling, three points of agreement were reached:

■ As a priority minutes in print would be circulated, to ensure that everyone had been heard.

■ The scoping document would be rewritten into a discussion document, along the lines of the Department of Water Affairs' "Water for all" bestseller, which was easy to read.

■ Publicity on the IPC would be stepped up and sectoral representatives of civil society would be invited to sit on the project advisory committee, which would take the process forward to the August 17 conference.

INTERNATIONAL BODY OFFERS HELP

Will may harm SA's image

SOUTH AFRICA'S international image might suffer if it failed to honour its environmental pledge in terms of the Ramsar Convention. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

GOVERNMENT which had signed the Ramsar Convention, but failed to honour its pledge to ensure wise use of its international wetland sites, would show itself internationally to be a government which did not keep its word, a spokesman for the Ramsar Bureau said yesterday.

Technical officer Mr Tom Kabili said during a visit to Langebaan Lagoon yesterday that the convention "doesn't have a measure geared to punishing nations, but the nation would put itself in the international limelight as not keeping its word. Diplomatically it would be most regrettable."

Mr Kabili, in South Africa as a guest of the Department of Environmental Affairs, is here to visit two of the country's major Ramsar

wetland sites — Langebaan Lagoon and St Lucia.

He said it would be premature to make a statement about the Ramsar Bureau's standpoint on Iscor's controversial proposal to build a steel mill near the lagoon.

He said Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers had written to Ramsar's head office in Switzerland to say he needed more information before he could say whether the impact of the steel mill would alter the ecological character of Langebaan Lagoon.

"We are still waiting for that further information for us to make a concrete decision," Mr Kabili said.

He said the convention could only make recommendations — it was up to the signatory nation itself to honour its pledge.

Mr Kabili said the convention adopted a precautionary principle if there was doubt about the environmental impact of a development on a wetland.

"If we cannot be sure of the impact ... we will play it safe by recommending the development is limited or withdrawn altogether," he said.

Assistance

He said the Ramsar Bureau would be willing to send a monitoring mission to investigate and gather more information on the impact of the steel mill, if the SA government requested it.

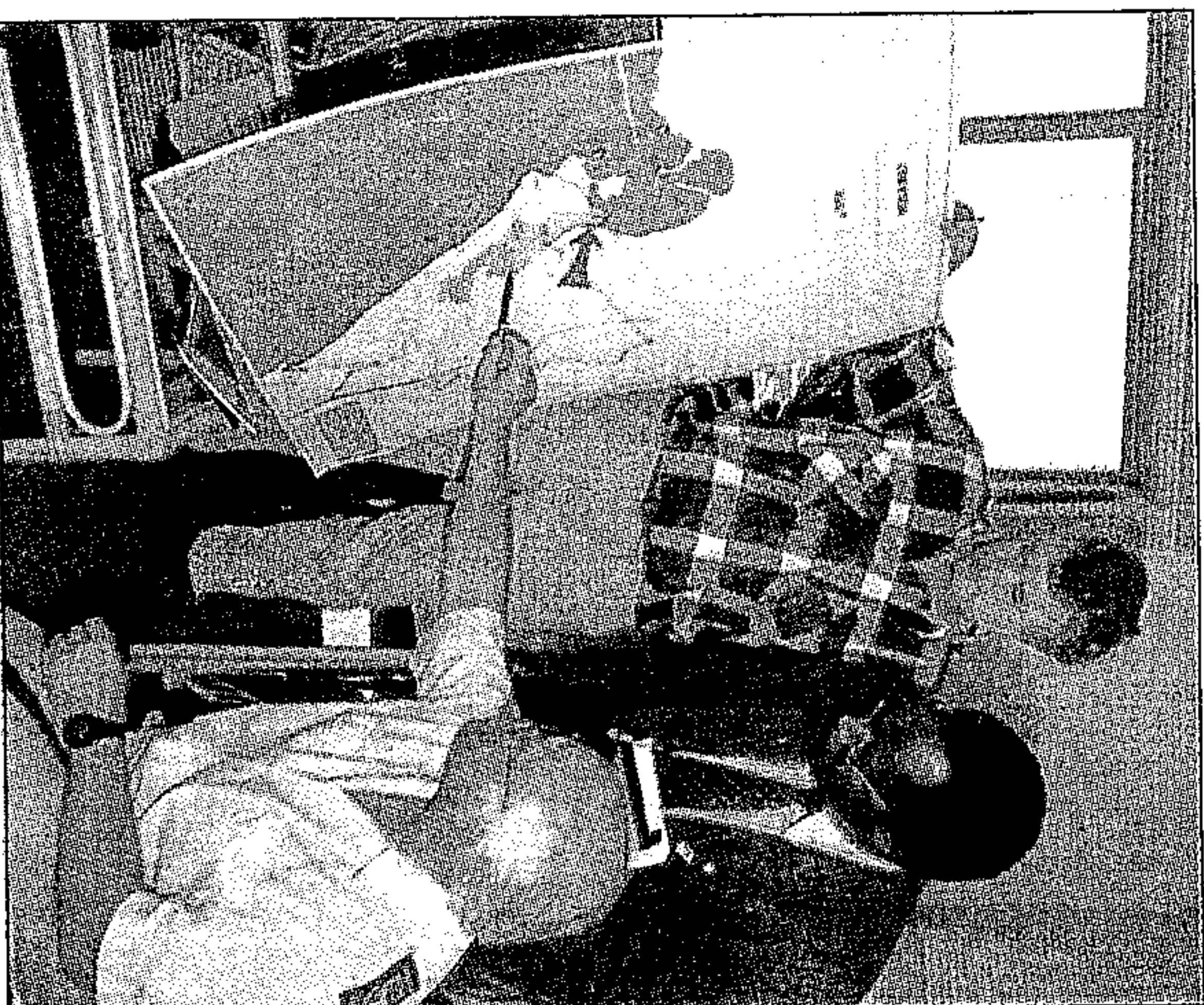
Meanwhile, Sapa reports that a National Assembly Environment and Tourism Committee delegation will visit Saldanha Bay today to investigate the issues surrounding the proposed steel mill project. Committee chairman Mr Peter Mokaba said yesterday the delega-

tion would meet "all stakeholders" in Saldanha and Langebaan and would receive representations from the mayors of Langebaan and of Saldanha/Vredenburg.

Mr Mokaba said SA needed urgently to develop and promulgate comprehensive rules to govern future development. The environment should be integrated in all stages of development so that all stakeholders were properly advised on planned projects.

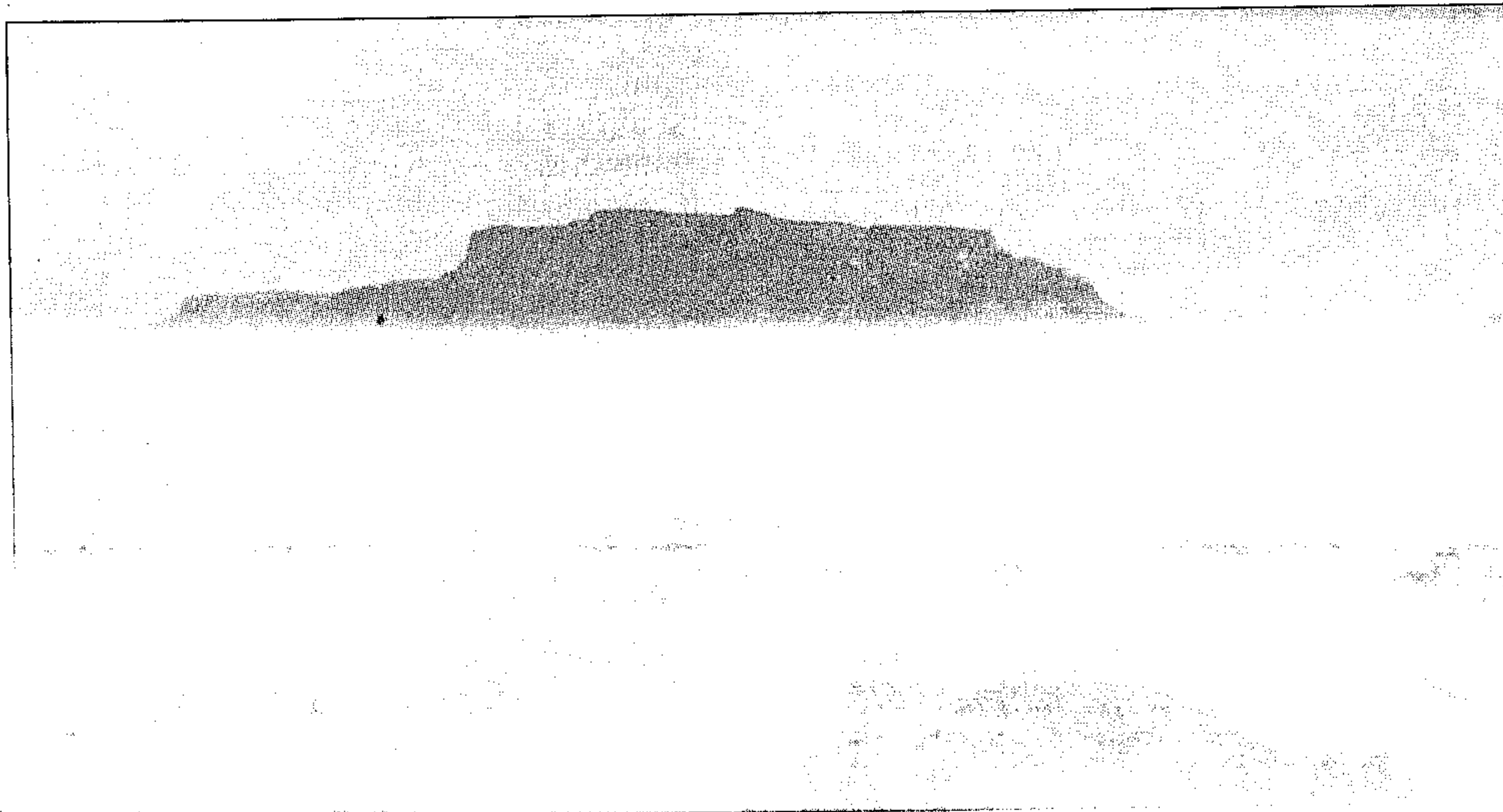
The delegation would report back to the full committee tomorrow.

● The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance is an inter-governmental treaty which was adopted at Ramsar in Iran in 1971. There are 88 signatory nations. SA joined in 1975. When Langebaan Lagoon was declared a wetland of international importance, it was already known that the region was designated for industrial development.



INTERNATIONAL SITE: West Coast National Park warden Mr Otto von Kaschke points out Langebaan Lagoon boundaries to Ramsar's Mr Tom Kabili (centre). With them is Mr Jeff Cowan of the Department of Environmental Affairs. **PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR**

Time to get your gas masks out



SMOG CITY: Table Mountain stood deep in smog yesterday, as air pollution reached alarming levels in the absence of the south-easterly Cape Doctor, which normally sweeps away the blanket of impurities.

PICTURE: ANNE LAING

City pollution levels exceed guidelines

ET 27/6/95 (56)
STAFF REPORTER

CALM conditions and a low-lying temperature inversion layer yesterday caused air pollution levels in the city to exceed standards laid down by the Health Department.

According to statistics released by the City Council the nitrogen oxide reading at 8am was 2 014 micrograms per cubic metre of air, well above the recommended 1 504, and the nitrogen dioxide reading at 11am was 383 micro-

grams per cubic metre, slightly above the 376 guideline.

A spokesman said the windless conditions, coupled with a low-lying inversion layer, was responsible for the high readings.

The inversion layer trapped and concentrated the pollution, which rose as the air warmed.

Also, because it was a sunny day, a photo-chemical reaction caused the pollution to become visible, hence the "brown haze" that hung over the city yesterday.

SA call for 'green' laws

(56) CT 28/6/95

DURBAN: South Africa wanted laws to ensure environmental screening of plans for industrial projects, Deputy Environment Minister Mr Bantu Holomisa said yesterday.

Speaking at a conference, he said SA supported plans for environmental impact assessments to be mandatory for projects which might affect the environment.

Officials from 30 African countries committed their governments to pursuing legislation at a weekend workshop before the conference, a move Mr Holomisa hailed as "a step in the right direction".

He said African states would ensure that outside investors worked closely with local scientists when undertaking these assessments. — Reuter

Saldanha interdict bid is allowed to go ahead

Edward West

(56) (18/11)
CAPE TOWN — The Cape Town Supreme Court upheld an application yesterday by Alistair van Huysteen, who represented several property owners in the Saldanha area, seeking to interdict provincial planning minister Lampie Fick from rezoning the proposed steel mill site until a board of inquiry had concluded its assessment.

Van Huysteen's application to compel De Villiers to appoint the board of inquiry was dismissed.

Reuter reports environmental lawyer David Waddilove told Parliament's portfolio on environment affairs committee the court ordered the rezoning application postponed, pending a government inquiry outcome.

Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation have proposed a 50-50 joint venture to build a R3,6bn mini steel plant in Saldanha Bay. Environmentalists have challenged the development, planned close to the renowned Langebaan Lagoon inlet.

Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has been requested by his parliamentary portfolio committee to reconsi-

M 29/6/95
der the terms of reference for the inquiry into the proposed R4bn steel mill.

Committee chairman Peter Mokaba said terms of reference suggested to the minister included additional criteria to avoid appointing inquiry board members involved with Iscor's initial environmental assessment report. The notion of possible conflicts of interest was first raised when its chairman Antonie Gildenhuys voluntarily recused himself when it was established that the law firm where he was previously employed had been a consultant to Iscor.

The minister has since appointed Judge Jan Steyn as chairman and environment consultant Rufus Maruma and Cape Town University environment and geography department head Richard Fuggle as board members. Fuggle was also involved in the initial Iscor-commissioned CSIR environmental impact assessment.

UCT zoology scientist Neville Sweijd told the committee Fuggle and Maruma were from the same school of thought and would "rubber stamp" approval.

Mokaba said the committee was also considering a three-month time frame for the board's deliberations.

MetLife now listed in Namibia

(58) CT (MR) 29/6/95

FROM SAPA

Windhoek — South Africa insurance giant Metropolitan Life dual-listed more than 66,5 million shares on the Namibian Stock Exchange yesterday — as a move towards creating a wholly owned Namibian subsidiary.

Describing this as the South African company's first foreign venture, managing director Marius Smith said Metropolitan had been operating in Namibia since 1970, and today had 14 local offices with a staff complement of 200.

"Africa is our market and now with South Africa's re-acceptance on the continent we are able to advance relations with Namibia.

"We hope in the near future to create a wholly owned subsidiary into which all Metlife's Namibian interests can be transferred. This will further entrench our local identity," Smith said.

The share price opened at N\$36,25.

Top conservationist slams Iscor's mill plan

ARG 28/6/95

(56) ~~1234~~

Environment Reporter

ONE of South Africa's top conservationists, Nick Steele of KwaZulu's department of nature conservation, has attacked Iscor's proposal to construct a R4,7 billion steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

Mr Steele, who had just returned from a visit to the proposed site, said he was "completely dismayed" by the proposal and that the earmarked property was "dangerously close" to the water's edge.

The day was fast approaching when large corporations would

have to display a sense of ecological and environmental continuity in their corporate endorsements of green issues, Mr Steele said.

"Industry clearly needs to develop a conservation ethic which is not driven primarily by the rand. Iscor's hurry at Saldanha Bay displays an almost cynical dismissal of one of the few pristine areas left in this country."

Mr Steele said Iscor's efforts showed strong parallels with the proposed mining of the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia by Richards Bay Minerals.

Court bars Iscor decision until after inquiry

ARG 28/6/95

(56)

(157)

Staff Reporter

THE Western Cape government was today barred by the Cape Supreme Court from making a rezoning decision on Iscor's proposed new steel mill at Saldanha Bay, pending the findings of a board of inquiry.

An application was granted Mr Justice Farlam for an interdict preventing the Western Cape government of Premier Hrnus Kriel from rezoning the property until a board of inquiry appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers had completed its investigations on the impact of the proposed development.

The application was brought by Alastair van Huyssteen, Hendrik Venter and Johannes Coetzee, acting as trustees of the Wittedrif Community Trust.

The respondents were Dr De Villiers and seven others, including provincial Minister of Agriculture, Planning and Tourism Lampie Fick.

The Wittedrif Trust owns property on Langebaan Lagoon at Saldanha Bay.

● The national assembly environment committee today put on hold its inquiry into the Saldanha Steel issue pending the findings of the board of inquiry, the Argus Political Correspondent reports.

The decision was made soon after the

committee was told the Supreme Court had granted the interdict.

Yesterday, the committee visited the proposed steel mill site and representations were made to it by the mayor of Vredenburg, the community and Iscor.

Chairman Peter Mokaba said the committee had assured residents that they were not opposed to job creation.

"Our way of dealing is to see there is a development which is integrated with the environment.

"The mission of the committee is about sustainable development."

● Iscor's mill plan slammed, page 8.

Iscor steel mill probe will be 'open, speedy'

ARG 29/6/95
 Call for public input on plant

Staff Reporter

THE board of inquiry into the proposed multi-billion-rand Saldanha Bay steel mill will be as transparent as possible, and may complete its work "in a matter of months", says board chairman Jan Steyn.

He also dismissed criticism of two board members - Richard Fuggle, head of the University of Cape Town's environmental and geographical sciences department, and Rufus Maruma, environmental adviser to the premier of the Northern Province.

Mr Steyn said today that the board wanted "as participative a process as possible" and needed the assistance of the media and the public to achieve this.

Yesterday the Cape Supreme Court ruled that a rezoning decision about the property earmarked for Iscor's steel mill be postponed, pending the findings of the board.

Appointed by Minister of Environmental Affairs Dawie De Villiers, the board will look into the costs, benefits and general desirability of the controversial steel mill project.

The board has been briefed to advise Dr De Villiers on:

- The status of previous government decisions which resulted in industrial development in the Saldanha Bay area.

- The validity of objections to the proposed steel mill.

- The extent and limits of powers vested in various authorities whose decisions have an impact on the area.

- Any other issue "relevant" to an adjudication of the matter.

Mr Steyn said the board's proceedings should be "transparent, holistic and comprehensive, fair and conducted with integrity and speed".

"Delay is the enemy of justice" he said, adding that he hoped the findings could be released within months.

Turning to objections about Professor Fuggle's appointment, Mr Steyn said he was satisfied he "was not in any way disqualified".

Professor Fuggle's presence on the board has been questioned because he served on the recent Council for the Environment report on the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Council's (CSIR) impact study on the mill.

Mr Steyn said Professor Fuggle's previous experience and knowledge of the area was an asset.

"He has assured me that he has a completely open mind on the matter and I have no doubt of his ability to bring an impartial mind to bear on the matter."

The board will meet for the first time on July 17.

- The board has invited all interested parties to submit written evidence before July 14. The address for all correspondence is Mrs Colleen Barnard, 14 Keerom Street, Cape Town 8001.

Smog-eating cars fail to fire up platinum industry

BY DEREK TOMMEY

MINING EDITOR

The platinum industry in South Africa is not showing much excitement at this stage about the plan by the American firm Engelhard to use a revolutionary system, using platinum, to convert American cars into smog-eaters.

Industry sources said the plan is

seen as providing an escape route for American car manufacturers unable to reduce the emission levels on their vehicles to the standards being demanded by the Californian authorities.

The standards apply to gross exhaust emissions. But the idea is that, hopefully, by converting cars into mobile vacuum cleaners so that they absorb pollutants as well

as give them off, their net emissions will conform with the high standards.

The scheme involves placing a catalytic coating containing platinum on the surface of a vehicle's radiator and air-conditioning condenser. This converts ozone to oxygen and carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide.

The technology of the system is

not in doubt, said a local industry official, but there are big question marks over how much smog it will actually extract from the air. The installation of the smog-cleaner is expected to add about about \$1 000 to the price of an American car. Consequently, unless the authorities legislate for its introduction it is felt that few cars will have the new system.

Plesgem awarded R25m contract for electricity meters

Plesgem, a division of Plescorp, which is to be listed on the JSE following the merger of Sankorp's electronic interests in Plessey Telumat SA and Tek Electronics, has been awarded a R25 million contract to supply prepayment electricity meters to the Cape Town city council.

Alan Roy, managing director of Plesgem, said: "We have already supplied over 60 000 units to the city council over the past year and are very pleased that we won this contract. There was stiff competition from four other suppliers but we won the tender."

The contract is for an additional

70 000 units and accounts for 17 percent of Plesgem's budgeted turnover.

"Our systems have virtually become the council's standard prepayment meter," said Roy.

Ted Doman, a city council spokesman, said the units, which were key-pad based, were well

suited to the council's requirements and had made a significant contribution to the stabilisation and recovery of electricity payments.

Arrears had declined for three consecutive months and were now well below the November 1994 peak of R62,2 million, Doman said.
— Staff Writer

Saldanha steel project on hold

CT 29/6/95



SALDANHA STEEL MILL project is losing momentum and may fade altogether.
ANTHONY JOHNSON reports.

PLANS for the speedy construction of a multi-billion rand steel mill at Saldanha suffered a series of setbacks yesterday.

First, the Cape Supreme Court barred the Western Cape government from rezoning the site of the proposed Iscor development, before a board of inquiry appointed by the central government had completed its impact probe.

Then the National Assembly environmental committee questioned the limited terms of reference and the composition of the board, appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie De Villiers.

Impact study

And last night Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pk Botha told Parliament a separate environmental impact study had been commissioned to determine the effect of increased traffic to Saldanha harbour by tankers using the crude oil storage facilities.

Mr Botha said the cabinet had decided to increase storage of oil at Saldanha to 25 million barrels — and acknowledged "the handling of crude oil remains a hazardous operation which can lead to serious detrimental effects on the environment, in the case of an accident."

The prospect of construction delays might persuade Iscor to take its project elsewhere.

Saldanha Steel boss Mr Bernard Smith told a parliamentary committee last week that the company hoped to be "in business" by 1998 if rezoning for the site close to the lagoon could take place "soon".

But he immediately warned lawmakers: "There are real dangers that if the project is delayed, shareholders would simply want to take their money elsewhere."

The most likely alternative site is Port Elizabeth, but ANC legislators were warned of punting this because of the need to promote jobs for coloureds in the National Party-controlled Western Cape.

Some Eastern Cape legislators keen to put jobs ahead of environmental concerns have, however, stepped up lobbying.

Chairman of the the parliamentary committee, Mr Peter Mokaba, yesterday proposed the terms of reference of the environmental board of inquiry be extended to include not merely the proposed industrial development at Saldanha, but also the expansion of the harbour and secondary industrial development.

He has asked Dr De Villiers for a "strategic comprehensive cumulative" Environmental Impact Assessment that would take care of "the missing details" environmentalists and others have complained about.

Mr Mokaba told the Cape Times he would also discuss with the minister concerns raised about the alleged bias of the reconstituted board.

The minister would be asked to consider a proposal that "no individual who was previously involved in the initial report should sit on the board to obviate problems of conflict of interest".

Environmental lawyer Mr David Waddilove said a number of environmentalists had "severe problems" with board member and head of Environmental and Geographic Science at UCT, Professor Richard Fuggle.

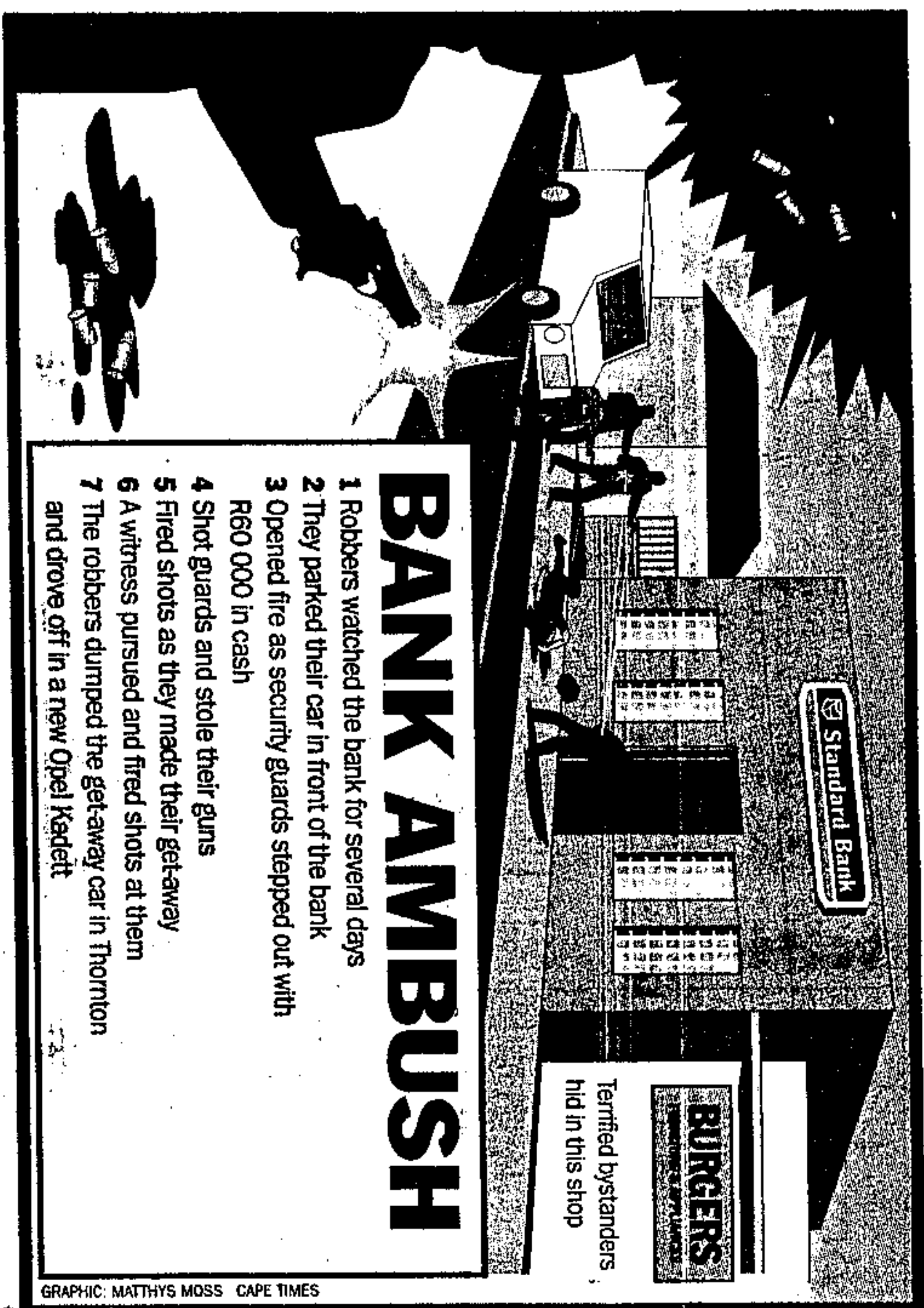
Concerns

He said there were also "concerns," about another board member, Mr Rufus Maruma, who was from the same environmental school as Professor Fuggle and who could be expected to "rubber stamp" the Saldanha Steel project. "We say they are representatives of the interests of industry and Iscor," he told the committee.

Mr Neville Sweoid of UCT's Zoology Department, who visited the proposed site with members of the parliamentary committee, said it was still not possible to say what impact the proposed mill would have on the environment.

He said earlier assurances that eight to 16 million litres of water would be disposed of by evaporation were incorrect — "so the potential for polluting the groundwater is still there".

"The process of assessing the impact of the proposed mill is incomplete, information is missing and is not transparent. There is a need to expose all the benefits and all the costs of the development before taking a decision," he said.



BANK AMBUSH

- 1 Robbers watched the bank for several days
- 2 They parked their car in front of the bank
- 3 Opened fire as security guards stepped out with R60 000 in cash
- 4 Shot guards and stole their guns
- 5 Fired shots as they made their getaway
- 6 A witness pursued and fired shots at them
- 7 The robbers dumped the getaway car in Thornton and drove off in a new Opel Kadett

GRAPHIC: MATTHYS MOSS CAPE TIMES

I prayed as they shot my child

JACKIE CAMERON
CRIME REPORTER

A PINELANDS father told how he prayed that he would not be killed in front of his seven-year-old daughter after he made eye contact with the gunman who shot and wounded his only child during a robbery outside a Goodwood bank yesterday.

Two security guards were shot dead in the robbery and Julia Ford was undergoing surgery last night after she was wounded in the foot.

Her father Mr Julian Ford, 43, said their ordeal began as they stepped out of a shop and into the street and saw a robber shooting a security guard in the chest.

"I grabbed my daughter and dived under a nearby car, trying to shield her with my body. I was petrified he would shoot me in front of my daughter because he knew I had seen him.

"Several shots rang out and then I decided to move before he tried to shoot us. I was worried he would become their next target



SHOT:
Julia Ford, 7

because the gunman had made eye contact with me.

"I picked up my daughter before running into a nearby shop. Julia, who had been silent up until now, told me that her foot was sore. She had not realised she had been shot until blood started gushing out of the wound. We heard more shots being fired."

A remarkably cheerful Julia said last night that she had also prayed to God when she heard the gun shots.

See Page 7

Eco body calls for public's input

56
Star 24/6/95
BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

A project aimed at involving the public in developing a policy to protect South Africa's plant resources was announced by the Land and Agricultural Policy Centre (LAPC) yesterday. The urgent need to attend to biodiversity issues has been highlighted by the Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism, Bantu Holomisa, in numerous speeches over the past year. Salem Faqr, manager of the LAPC's natural resources management programme, said the project supported Holomisa's call to put an end to the exploitation of South Africa's plant resources.

Indigenous

As a first step, the LAPC is inviting interested and affected parties to contribute to formulating a policy for the "protection and use of plant genetic resources".

"The LAPC is undertaking research and policy advocacy work to protect all indigenous plants, but especially those that are of importance in medicine, agriculture and forestry," Faqr said.

To this end, the LAPC is calling for comment on the following objectives:

- Identifying key issues that will form a basis for future policy.
- Identifying key interested people.
- Developing a proposal for the legal system to regulate the uses of resources.
- Identifying appropriate institutions to manage genetic resources.
- Setting up an intellectual property rights framework that ensures benefits accrue to South Africa.

The LAPC is a Section 21 company, based in Johannesburg, which acts as a think tank and research organisation for government on national policy issues. Inquiries and comment to Salem Faqr at (011) 403-7272, fax (011) 339-6423.

Saldanha steel project on

hold

ET 29/6/95

SALDANHA'S STEEL MILL project is losing momentum and may fade altogether. **ANTHONY JOHNSON** reports.

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“The process of assessing the impact of the proposed mill is incomplete, information is missing and is not transparent. There is a need to expose all the benefits and all the costs of the development before taking a decision,” he said.

Iscor's proposed steel mill on hold

Court orders delay in Saldanha rezoning

~~1994~~ (56) STW 29/6/95
Cape Town — The Cape Town Supreme Court yesterday ordered a delay in the rezoning of land in Saldanha Bay for Iscor's proposed steel mill, a lawyer told MPs.

Environmental lawyer David Waddilove told Parliament's portfolio committee on environment affairs that the court ordered a rezoning application postponed pending the outcome of a current Government inquiry.

Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) have proposed a 50-50 joint venture to build a R3,6-billion mini steel plant in Saldanha Bay.

Environmentalists have challenged the development planned near the inlet of the Langebaan Lagoon at the end of a railway line from Sishen iron ore mine.

The multiparty parliamentary

committee called for changes in the composition and mandate of the board of inquiry appointed by Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to probe the steel mill project.

The committee, headed by the ANC's Peter Mokaba, resolved to ask De Villiers to extend the terms of reference of the inquiry headed by Mr Justice Jan Steyn to cover the need for a full environmental impact assessment in addition to the probe of objections raised against the project.

The committee also decided that "no individual who was previously involved with the initial report should sit on the board".

Waddilove, representing the Environmental Monitoring Group, said afterwards the committee's comment on the composition of the board probably

would force the exclusion of University of Cape Town Professor of Environmental and Geographic Studies Richard Fuggle.

Waddilove said Fuggle was involved in the initial Iscor feasibility study and could not assess his own work.

Earlier, Waddilove told the committee that Fuggle and environmentalist Rufus Maruma would not conduct a proper assessment of the project.

"We have severe problems with Professor Fuggle. As far as Mr Maruma is concerned, both men come from the same school of environmentalism. They're going to rubber stamp the development. We see them as representatives of the interests of industry, Iscor and the Saldanha steel project." — Reuter.

Mill: Probe 'fair, fast'

56

MELANIE GOSLING

THE exact location of Iscor's controversial steel mill project at Saldanha Bay was "of great significance" and would be one of the aspects the board of investigation would be looking at, chairman Mr Justice Jan Steyn said yesterday.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Dr Dawie de Villiers, had given the board "as wide a mandate as one could ask for".

"I want as participatory an approach as possible ... the process must be transparent, holistic and comprehensive, fair, objective and conducted with integrity and with all speed. Delay is the enemy of justice," Judge Steyn said.

He hoped to have the inquiry completed within two months. The board does not have decision-making powers.

The other board member is Mr Rufus Maruma, an environmental consultant and adviser to the Northern Province government.

CT 30/6/95

End to rocket tests at Rooi Els

~~27 (2014)~~ (51)
MELANIE GOSLING

ET 30/6/95

THE controversial rocket-testing facilities at Denel-Somchem's site above Rooi Els — which had local residents and the arms giant locked in a marathon legal battle two years ago — are to be dismantled and the land rehabilitated, the company announced yesterday.

Denel-Somchem decided last year to shut down its multi-million rand space programme because it was unable to find an international partner to assist with technology and funding.

Spokesman Mr Paul Holtzhausen said yesterday the controversial site would still be used to test artillery ammunition. "We will still test ammunition for large guns like G5s and G6s so there will still be the occasional bang."

He said the company would hold a meeting with local residents, environmental experts and other interested parties next week to discuss the dismantling of facilities covering an area of 25 to 30 hectares.

"We will undertake this task with great care due to the sensitivity of the natural environment on the test site (and) will establish a monitoring committee of interested parties and environmentalists who will be invited to make contributions on behalf of the community," he said.

The legal battle between the Rooi Els Local Council, Somchem and the Overberg Regional Services Council began in July 1991 when the Rooi Els council disputed Somchem's right to occupy and use the land for rocket-testing.

In September 1993 the dispute was settled when residents accepted Somchem's offer which involved limiting their lease of the land to 10 years, conducting artillery tests for 15 years and restricting tests of rocket propellants to six a year.

Sharks Board begin its own inquiry into seal killings

JILL GOWANS

Staff Reporter

WITH police investigations continuing into seal killing by Natal Sharks Board (NSB) employees — two of whom have been suspended from duty — the board has begun its own inquiry.

Advocate Johan Ploos van Amstel was appointed as chairman with the mandate to:

- inquire into the allegations of misbehaviour by members of staff while conducting tests in the Cape on the electric shark barrier;
- inquire into the extent of such behaviour;
- inquire into the identities of the parties involved;
- inquire into any other allegations affecting the behaviour of members of staff which the presiding chairman sees relevant; and
- report such findings to the NSB.

According to the chairman of the NSB, Ian Askew, suspended employee Norman Starkey, who reported the killings to Sea Fisheries inspector Theo Ferreira, refused to give evidence without his attorney, who is overseas.

Evidence was taken from principal shark officer Paul von Blerk, who has admitted being involved in the killing of 13 seals, a protected species. He claimed this was done to finalise testing of the board's new electric shark repellent, using the seals to attract Great White sharks. He has also been suspended from duty.

Mr Starkey has claimed at least 50 seals were killed. It was agreed his evidence, and that of 15 other staff members, would be heard later.

A spokesman for Gansbaai police, who are investigating the matter, said it would take at least another week before a docket would be sent to the state prosecutor who would decide whether to lay charges.

Holiday-makers invade land

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

HOLIDAY-MAKERS who have pegged illegal plots on a state-owned stretch of the Namaqualand coast are standing in the way of plans by the local coloured community and the National Parks Board to establish a national park.

The proposed 17 000ha park spans 55km between the Spoeg River mouth and Island Point to the south.

At issue is a 100ha piece of land which has

(56) 6/27/95
been claimed as a holiday resort.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom flew to Namaqualand yesterday in a bid to end the dispute.

Mr Hanekom said that although he did not want to pre-empt negotiations, a national park seemed the most logical way to ensure sustainable development in the area.

"State land must be used to the benefit local communities," Mr Hanekom said.

Pollution by heavy metal slashed ⁽⁵⁶⁾

STAFF REPORTER

THE Water Research Commission has developed a new technique for extracting heavy metals from industrial effluent that it says will reduce a major source of pollution in the country's sewerage systems and rivers. *CT 3/7/95*

The commission said in a statement yesterday that laboratory testing of membrane technology had shown that sufficient quantities of heavy metals could be removed from industrial effluent to enable it to be re-used successfully in the plant.

Dr Henry Saayman, research manager at the commission, said electroplating plants were often responsible for major pollution problems.

"About 80% of the water used in the electroplating industry is disposed of as industrial effluent that contains significant quantities of heavy metals such as nickel, chrome and zinc.

"Conventional means are capable of eliminating only a small percentage. This means that effluent loaded with heavy metals is usually disposed of in the sewerage system," he said.

The new method removed nickel, zinc and chrome as well as hydrochloric and sulphuric acids so successfully that 90% of the water could be recycled.

public place, no danger to life or limb or damage to property can result therefrom.

- (2) Yes. A regional mining engineer inspected the slimes dam on 15 October 1993 to comply with the annual slimes dam inspection prescribed in a directive issued by the Government Mining Engineer. During this inspection he was informed that the use of the slimes dam had been discontinued and that a slimes buttress was being constructed against the slimes dam wall, which later failed, to address drainage problems.

- (3) Yes. Subsequent to the Merriespruit disaster a more comprehensive directive regarding the safety of slimes dams had been compiled and forwarded to regional directors for implementation. All regional mining engineers also attended a training course regarding aspects relating to the safety of slimes dams.

Local government elections: extension of period of registration

*88. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development:

- (1) Whether any consideration has been given to extending the period of voter registration for local government elections beyond the prescribed period; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether any decision has been taken in this regard; if so, (a) what decision and (b) what factors were taken into consideration in making this decision;
- (3) whether any provinces or regions have experienced any major problems in regard to the registration of voters; if so, what problems;
- (4) what percentage of eligible voters had been registered as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
N493E

- (1) Yes.
(2) Yes.

(a) After consultation between the Ministry, the provinces and other role-players, a decision was taken to extend the registration period to 5 June 1995.

(b) The original cut-off date was determined to fit in with the schedule requiring voters' rolls to be available by a certain date to serve as a basis for the delimitation of wards. As a result of a fall-back exercise started early in the year, it has now become possible to use population figures and maps for this purpose. Confirmation that these figures and maps would become available in time, was obtained on 20 April 1995. It was then possible to extend the registration period, which is something that all of us would have liked to do in any event in order to obtain as complete as possible a registration and voters' rolls. Voters must not be disenfranchised because they did not register in time.

(3) Different problems and challenges were experienced in different localities, regions and provinces. Major problems and challenges were dealt with on a co-operating basis by the Local Government Elections Task Group and in the regular meetings between the Ministry and provincial MEC's for local government. Problems were so diverse that it is not possible to single out some of them as major problems experienced in particular provinces or regions.

(4) No firm figures are available on potential eligible voter numbers. They are all more or less guestimates. Registration percentages must therefore be seen against this background. The latest date for which information is available was 26 April 1995. According to this information 40,3% of the estimated number of potential voters country-wide had been registered by that date.

For written reply:

Obtaining of ID documents: advertising agency appointed

96. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department has appointed an advertising agency in respect of advertising relating to the obtaining of identity documents; if so, which agency;
- (2) whether all interested advertising agencies were allowed to apply for the account; if not, (a) why not and (b) how was the selection of an agency made; if so, (i) by what means were agencies informed that they could apply for the account, (ii) which agencies applied for the account and (iii) how was the successful agency selected;
- (3) what amount was budgeted in respect of this account? N168E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.
(2) Not applicable.
(3) Not applicable.

Explanation:

If the question is relating to advertisements currently appearing in the media, this is part of a voter education campaign by the Department of Constitutional Development who is responsible for the forthcoming local government elections.

Membership of the Republic to the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund

166. Mr D M STREICHER asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 3 in the Senate on 16 August 1994, it has been decided that the Republic is to become a member of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund; if not, why not; if so, (a) as from what date and (b) what are the further relevant details;
- (2) (a) how many inspections of vessels (i) for unseaworthiness and (ii) to determine whether they constituted a pollution hazard were carried out by his Department in

1994, (b) how many such vessels were found to be (i) unseaworthy and (ii) constituting a pollution hazard and (c) what action was taken in each case? N344E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) No. A final policy decision as to whether or not to join the Fund has not yet been taken.
- (a) Not applicable.

(b) It should be pointed out that access to the Fund Convention is a lengthy process. The financial and legal implications are being thoroughly researched. The matter was also referred to various interest groups for comment. Their inputs have been analysed and a policy decision will hopefully be taken in the near future.

(2) (a) All inspections (surveys) of vessels have one primary aim, namely to determine the seaworthiness of the vessels, which includes the effective operation of the anti-pollution/anti-spill equipment on board. Ships are not inspected specifically to determine whether or not they constitute a pollution hazard unless such a condition already exists, such as when a ship reports that it is in distress and in danger of standing or sinking due to its having been severely crippled by extremely rough seas or having collided with another ship or an underwater object. A passing ship having been spotted by the anti-pollution aircraft Kuswag VIII to be spilling oil or other liquid substance which may damage the ecology, may, of course, also constitute a pollution hazard and is compelled to call at the nearest suitable port for an inspection.

(a)(i) and (ii) and (b)(i) and (ii) During 1994, 337 "port state" inspections were carried out. 18 Ships were found to be unseaworthy and detained until the deficiencies which rendered it unseaworthy had been rectified. 17 Ships were found to have already spilled oil and the Masters were required to pay admission of guilt fines varying between R5 000 and R100 000, depending on the magnitude of the spill and the degree of negligence on

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the part of the Masters and/or crew. When serious safety deficiencies are noted on board ship the classification society, the flag-state representative, the authorities at the next port of call and the IMO are advised when required.

Road accidents involving minibus taxis: decrease
189. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether the number of road accidents involving minibus taxis has decreased on a year on year basis; if not, why not; if so (a) in respect of what dates is this information furnished and (b) to what extent in each case;

- (2) whether the Government has a policy aimed at ensuring passenger safety in respect of minibus taxi users; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N391E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) The statistics as received from Central Statistical Services (CSS) does not distinguish between minibuses and minibus taxis.

Yes, there is a definite decrease in the number of road accidents where minibuses are involved. The number of registered minibuses rose from 173 860 in 1988 to 209 891 in 1992. The distance travelled (per hundred million kilometres travelled) by minibuses has increased by 3,7% from that of 5 276 in 1991 to 5 470 in 1992. The collision rate for minibuses (the number of collisions on the road expressed in terms of a 100 million km travelled within a specific time) has increased by 11,9% from 988 in 1991 to 1 106 in 1992 whilst the death rate (the number of people killed on the road expressed per 100 million km travelled within a specific time) has increased from 18,4% in 1991 to 20,3% in 1992.

- (a) and (b) Statistics for 1994 are not yet available. The number of deaths that occurred where minibuses were involved decreased by 19,4% from 1992 to 1993. The number of serious injuries decreased by 6,2% from 1992 to 1993.

- (2) My Department, in conjunction with the Provincial Departments of Transport, is currently giving priority attention to all the problems associated with minibus-taxi transport. The Department of Transport (DOT) is not only concerned about the safety of the passengers of the minibus-taxi industry, but is also endeavouring to provide an integrated safe, efficient, accessible and affordable public passenger transport system as part of our commitment to the objectives of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

The safety of the minibus-taxi passengers is dependent on three aspects, namely improved road traffic safety in the industry, the reduction of crime-related incidents (such as robberies and vehicle hijacking), and a decrease in the level of general violence in the industry.

As regards the high incidence of crime-related violence associated with minibus taxi transport, the DOT is working in close co-operation with the Minister of Safety and Security's office to alleviate the problem. A Committee of Cabinet, involving both Mr Mufanadi and myself, has been established to address the various problems in the minibus taxi industry.

However, the DOT is mainly concentrating on the transport-related problems, namely reducing the general level of violence and improving the road traffic safety record of the industry. The DOT and the Provincial Departments of Transport have proposed a comprehensive strategy to address the problems in a strategic manner. This strategy, which has been refined on the basis of broad consultation with all role players (provinces, local transport authorities, Local Taxi Liaison Committees (LTLCs), all levels of the industry and other related organisations) involves the appointment of a Task Team to assist in managing the process. At a National Taxi Workshop which took place on 18 March 1995 and which was attended by more than 200 taxi industry representatives, the composition of the Task Team was approved to include officials from the local, provincial and at central level as well as taxi representa-

tives. The first meeting of this Task Team will take place before the end of April 1995.

The Task Team will investigate problems such as a regulation system, the lack of facilities, the need for financial stability and the need to improve the standard of training in the industry. A panel of specialist advisers to assist the Task Team members in their investigation is proposed. The safety of passengers will be high on the agenda of this Task Team. The Task Team will make recommendations on how general taxi violence may be addressed.

The DOT is furthermore also involved in funding driver training for minibus taxi drivers. Improved levels of training will result in an improved road traffic safety record and thus improved safety for the passengers.

The DOT has also established a comprehensive network of Local Transport/Taxi Liaison Committee (LTLC's) incorporating role players at the local and even provincial level. The LTLC brings together the passenger, the driver/operator and the traffic authorities (amongst others) and serves as a forum to discuss safety-related problems at the operational level. The DOT is currently investigating the possibility that the LTLC's can become involved in the management of interprovincial taxi routes to reduce violence and to provide a safe trip to the passenger. The results from the LTLC network are encouraging and the DOT will continue to, in conjunction with the Provincial Departments of Transport, support this vital liaison and information network.

Air pollution: unacceptable levels reached

201. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether air pollution reached unacceptable levels (a) at any city centres and (b) in any regions in the Republic in 1994; if so, (i) at which city centres and (ii) in which regions;

- (2) whether the project to formulate a policy for the reduction of motor vehicle emis-

sions has produced any results; if not, why not; if so, what results;

- (3) whether any steps are being contemplated to reduce the number of vehicles entering city centres with recurring air pollution problems; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

- (4) (a) how are industrial smoke stacks monitored to ensure that their emissions never exceed the level considered to be safe and (b) what is considered to be a safe level of emission;

- (5) whether any tests have been conducted in the Republic to determine whether children who live in areas close to industrial smoke stacks suffer more respiratory ailments than children who do not live in such areas; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) where and (c) what were the findings in each case?

N407E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes. During the winter months city centres and regions where coal is used as primary energy source are subjected to unacceptable levels of pollution.

- (2) No. The first phase of the project entails the compilation of existing statistics on levels of pollution that the contractor is currently carrying out.

- (3) No. It is agreed that such steps would alleviate the problem. Implementation thereof rests with the various local authorities.

- (4) (a) Monitoring of stack emissions is determined by the nature of the process and pollutants. Various techniques are used such as continuous optical or laser instruments or periodic extraction of samples for analysis.

- (b) Safe levels of emissions are such that it causes ground level concentrations that are not harmful to health or the environment.

- (5) Yes.

- (a) Latest surveys 1991 to 1994.

(56) HANS SQUIDS

the part of the Masters and/or crew. When serious safety deficiencies are noted on board ship the classification society, the flag state representative, the authorities at the next port of call and the IMO are advised when required.

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- (2) whether the Government has a policy aimed at ensuring passenger safety in respect of minibus taxi users; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N391E

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Yes, there is a definite decrease in the number of road accidents where minibuses are involved. The number of registered minibuses rose from 173 860 in 1988 to 209 891 in 1992. The distance travelled (per hundred million kilometres travelled) by minibuses has increased by 3,7% from that of 5 276 in 1991 to 5 470 in 1992. The collision rate for minibuses (the number of collisions on the road expressed in terms of a 100 million km travelled within a specific time) has increased by 11,9% from 988 in 1991 to 1 106 in 1992 whilst the death rate (the number of people killed on the road expressed per 100 million km travelled within a specific time) has increased from 18,4% in 1991 to 20,3% in 1992.

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The Task Team will investigate problems such as a regulation system, the lack of facilities, the need for financial stability and the need to improve the standard of training in the industry. A panel of specialist advisers to assist the Task Team members in their investigation is proposed. The safety of passengers will be high on the agenda of this Task Team. The Task Team will make recommendations on how general taxi violence may be addressed.

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- (4) (a) Monitoring of stack emissions is determined by the nature of the process and pollutants. Various techniques are used such as continuous optical or laser instruments or periodic extraction of samples for analysis.

(b) Safe levels of emissions are such that it causes ground level concentrations that are not harmful to health or the environment.

- (5) Yes.

- (a) Latest surveys 1991 to 1994.

(56) HANS GARDAS

(b) Vaal Triangle and Kempton Park, Edenvale area.

(c) In the Vaal Triangle it was found that the risk of respiratory illnesses is higher than in areas such as Klerksdorp and that risks in unelectrified areas in particular are very high. In the Kempton Park area the occurrences of respiratory illnesses are lower than the Vaal Triangle and the pollution levels are mainly related to motor vehicle emissions.

Development and/or construction of roads in rural areas: provision in Budget

208. Mr D K PADIAACHEY asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether any provision has been made in the 1995-96 Budget for the development and/or construction of roads in rural areas; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in respect of each of the provinces?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

N424E

The development of the provincial road network is a provincial matter and falls under the jurisdiction of the nine provinces. Enquiries in

this regard should be addressed to the relevant Ministers in the Provinces. However the issue of funding such roads is being addressed both by the Province and the RDP process.

Provision has been made in the Department's 1995-1996 budget for the construction of National Roads in rural areas. Examples of road in rural areas under construction or due to start in this financial year are:

(a) N1: Upgrading of Windburg—Venterburg; (Province: Free State)

(b) N1: Warmbaths to Pietersburg Toll Road; (Province: Northern Transvaal)

(c) N1: Matoks to Louis Trichardt; (Province: Northern Transvaal)

(d) N2: South Coast Toll Road between Hibberdene and Port Shepstone; (Province: KwaZulu/Natal)

(e) N2: North Coast Toll Road between Stanger and Mfunzini; (Province KwaZulu-Natal); and

(f) N8: De Brug to Petrusburg; (Province: Free State)

These projects form a part of the National Road Network.

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

Handwritten signature and date: 4/5/95

For written reply:

Privately-owned land for pilot land reform programme

142. Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister for Land Affairs:

(1) Whether he will furnish particulars in respect of privately-owned land which has been (a) identified and (b) offered for the pilot land reform programme in each of the provinces; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether any transactions involved in this regard will be conducted on a willing buyer/willing seller basis; if not, why not; if so, on what conditions;

(3) whether he will make a statement as to how the pilot land reform programme will be reconciled with the restitution of land programme in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No 22 of 1994)?

N265E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) and (b) A pilot district has been identified within each Province. A planning process involving all stakeholders within these districts will determine what basic needs exist and which land is available to meet these needs. Planning grants are being made available for this purpose. Planning is to be done in accordance with a framework for planning contained in the RDP approved Core Business Plan of the Programme.

(2) Yes, as long as it does not exceed a reasonable market value.

(3) No. The Commission which is appointed in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No 22 of 1994) will act within its mandate in terms of the Act.

School cadet training conducted in schools in Republic

154. Dr I M PHILLIPS asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether school cadet training is still conducted at schools in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, (a) for what purposes, (b) in terms of what (i) statutes, (ii) regulations, (iii) government notices, (iv) directives and/or (v) inter-departmental agreements, (c) (i) how many and (ii) which schools are involved, (d) how frequently does such training take place, (e) what is the content of such training and (f) what was the total cost of conducting such training in respect of the latest specified calendar year for which information is available;

(2) whether such training applies to all pupils irrespective of (a) race, (b) gender, (c) religious persuasion and (d) conscience; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N300E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes. Cadet training is still being conducted at 581 schools on a voluntary basis.

(a) The training forms part of a Citizenship Training Programme under the auspices of the Department of Education.

(b) (i) to (v) Originally school cadet training was compulsory and conducted in accordance with the Defence Act, Act No 44 of 1957 as amended, and the Cadet Corps Regulations as published in a Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 21 November 1958 as amended.

In December 1993, the then Minister of National Education announced that cadet training would no longer be compulsory but voluntary with effect 1 January 1994.

The University of Cape Town is one of South Africa's foremost environmental organisations and as such should be practising what it preaches. This is the message to the university's management team from a group of academics who include some of the most respected names in their fields in the country. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD looks at the letter in which their demands are set out.

'Clean up UCT green policy'

(56) ~~(57)~~

ARLT 3/7/95

THE University of Cape Town is a leader in the field of environmental science, but loses credibility because it fails to measure up to its own standards and wastes natural resources such as water and energy.

An environmental assessment of the university — co-ordinated by outside professionals — should be held this year.

This is the message to vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders from a group of academics who include some of UCT's best-known names in several disciplines.

In an open letter in *Monday Paper*, the university's weekly newsletter, the signatories said UCT was one of South Africa's foremost organisations in the broad environmental field, with highly-respected teachers, researchers and consultants in most of its disciplines.

"How do we stand up to scrutiny in the way we conduct our own environmental affairs?" they asked.

They outlined a number of areas where they believed UCT's performance could be improved:

- The inefficient management of water and energy consumption, despite UCT's expertise in these areas;

- Chemical pollution — a serious problem at UCT;

- Alien vegetation on the campus;

- UCT caused complex socio-economic and planning impact, but this had not been subjected to an environmental assessment;

- No formal commitment by the university to conduct environmental impact assessments (EIAs) of its own developments; and

- No policy on curbing emissions of "greenhouse gases" on campus, despite expertise in the potential threats of global warming.

The signatories acknowledged that UCT had taken many steps to make the university a more environmentally sensitive institution.

Efforts had included the recycling of waste, the removal of gender discrimination, Aids awareness, and the accommodation of disabled people, among others.

"Nevertheless, we at UCT lose credibility when we are seen to condone a wasteful use of resources.

"Our ability to advise other organisations is compromised when there are such obvious question marks against our own efficiency and effectiveness."

The university was an embarrassing role model for its own students, rather than being an educator which could be seen to be practising what it preached.

The skills of UCT staff could be harnessed to help with an environmental assessment of the university, but this needed to be co-ordinated by outside professionals so that the study was not compromised.

Asking Dr Saunders to respond, through the *Monday Paper*, to their request for an assessment, the signatories said: "In order to be a centre of excellence, we have to aspire to excellence. In order to promote real equity in society, we must aspire to socially-just behaviour."

Signatories included Roy Siegfried and Peter Ryan (ornithology), William Bond and Richard Cowling (botany), Patti Wickens and Coleen Maloney (zoology), Kathryn Jagoe (disability unit), Rob Millar (chemical pathology), Jim Petrie (chemical engineering), Bryan Davies and Jenny Day (Fresh Water Research Institute), Mary Simons (political studies), and Farieda Khan, Merle Sowman and Rachel Wynberg (Environmental Evaluation Unit).

Several more people had been asked to sign, but could not be contacted before the deadline for the newsletter, the signatories pointed out.

- A university spokesman said Dr Saunders would reply to the letter, but because of pressure from graduation last week, could not respond immediately.

Poverty 'poses biggest threat to the environment'

□ Canadian warns of urban decay
ARG 3/7/95 (56) (277)

Staff Reporter

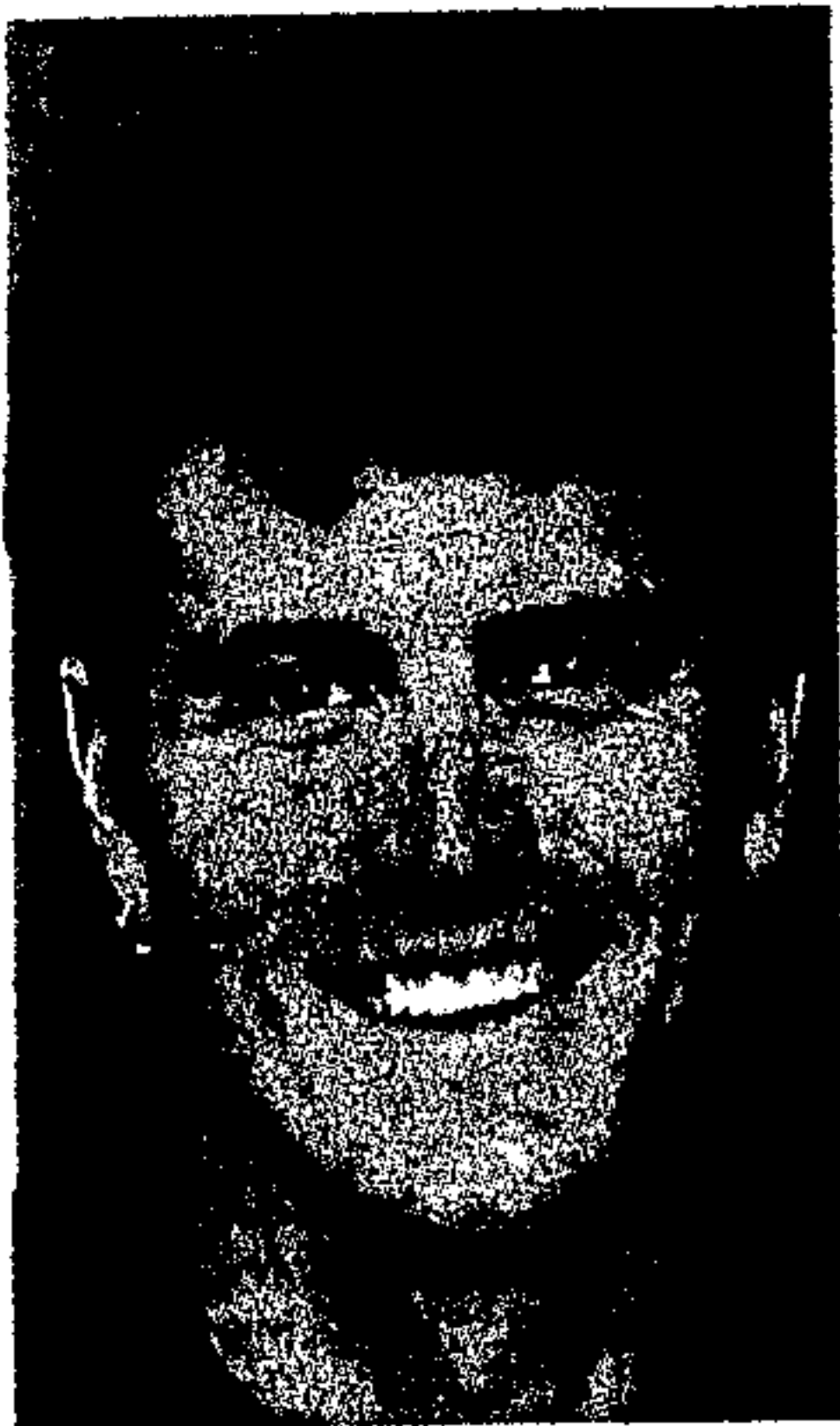
SOUTH AFRICA was an environmental Armageddon in which 21 million people lived without toilets, 12 million without access to clean water, and seven million without houses, according to a Canadian environmentalist.

Sewage and refuse removal systems in townships such as Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga had collapsed and it was estimated that two thirds of Cape Town's population was homeless and almost a third lived without adequate water supply, said the visiting expert, David McDonald, of the University of Toronto, who is doing a doctorate research project here about the impact of urban poverty on the environment.

"Environmental issues focus too much on broader green issues relating to nature instead of the living conditions of people — the urban sprawl, the enormous poverty, the groundwater contamination and piles of refuse. This undermines the environmental integrity of the city as a whole.

"Kids, inadvertently, are playing in sewage water.

"Ikapa (Nyanga, Guguletu and Langa), with a population of 400 000, has 10 working re-



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

EXPERT: Canadian environmentalist David McDonald believes urban poverty affects the majority of South Africans and poses the biggest threat to the country's environment.

fuse vehicles. Cape Town, with a population of 1.2 million, has 300."

"Forty percent of the water in the Cape Peninsula was being used for "watering white gardens", while an estimated

26 percent of its population had no access to clean water.

The majority of people were under-consuming and the minority over-consuming.

"One needs to challenge the consumption patterns of white South Africans. White South Africa has created a standard of living based on cheap labour. They are saying they can give up racism, but that they must maintain their standard of living. They're willing to give up the country, but not to give up their backyards.

"The suburban middle classes want the townships to be upgraded, but when it comes to the crunch, they're not prepared to pay the bill for it. There is an enormous fear of huge rates increases.

"Big business needs the townships developed because they need new consumers who can start buying appliances."

Strong local authorities were needed to co-ordinate services and redistribute already existing public assets in Cape Town.

● Mr McDonald said he was refused access to submissions made to the Demarcation Board of the Western Cape government, which were public information.

He was told by the secretary of the Demarcation Board that the matter was "too sensitive".

'ISSUE OF INDUSTRIAL CITY DODGED'

Profits show mill

'could be moved'

CT 20/7/95 (56) (RZA)

APPROVING Iscor's project at Saldanha would be the first step towards creating an "Iscor industrial city", the Steyn inquiry was told yesterday. **CLAIRE BISSEKER** reports.

INCOME from spin-off industries and a projected profit of R500 million a year from the proposed Iscor steel mill invalidated Saldanha Steel's claim that the mill could not be moved 10km inland as this would mean a loss of competitive edge, a city lawyer told the Steyn inquiry yesterday.

Mr Alastair van Huyssteen said Saldanha Steel had "expertly dodged" the most important issues in an attempt to push through the development of a mill that would ultimately turn the town of Saldanha into an industrial city.

The Steyn board of inquiry was appointed by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr

Dawie de Villiers, to investigate the proposed Saldanha Steel project.

Mr Van Huyssteen said he had staked his entire estate on the Supreme Court application he brought which had halted Saldanha Steel's rezoning application and led to the creation of the board.

Excluded

Mr Van Huyssteen, who has a cottage near Saldanha, said Saldanha Steel had failed to disclose to provincial authorities that they had chosen the controversial site for the R4,7bn steel mill because of its potential for downstream industrial development.

Information on potential spin-off industries had been "very expertly dodged" by Saldanha Steel, which had presented reports to provincial authorities knowing they excluded the broader impact of the proposed plant, he alleged.

Giving the plant the go-ahead on the proposed site would be the first step towards the creation of "Iscor industrial city", he said.

"My concern is the precedent created by putting up an iron ore terminal, a railway line, Namakwa Sands ... how far do we allow this to creep until we put our foot down?" Mr Van Huyssteen asked.

● The city branch of the environmental group Earthlife Africa yesterday expressed concerns about the transparency of the board of inquiry into the Saldanha steel mill project, in a letter to board chairman Judge Jan Steyn.

Speedy verdict crucial — Iscor

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JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A DECISION must be taken on Iscor's proposed R4,7 billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay by the end of August, otherwise there will be a "very real" financial impact on the project.

This was the testimony of Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith to the Steyn board of inquiry which is sitting in the Supreme Court this week.

The board was appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, following increasingly strong opposition to the proposed project.

It is headed by former Supreme Court judge Jan Steyn, and the other members are University of Cape Town environmental professor Richard Fuggle and environmental adviser Rufus Maruma.

At the start of the inquiry yesterday, Mr Steyn said there had been questions about Professor Fuggle's fitness to serve on the board because of his previous involvement with the impact assessment by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

But this had been in a professional capacity relating to the study and Professor Fuggle had not been involved in any decisions leading from it.

"He is not disqualified but is eminently qualified ... Speaking for myself, I think we are really fortunate to have someone of his stature," Mr Steyn said.

Mr Smith testified that the project would generate R3,6 billion in corporate tax in real terms, and R46 million a year in local and regional taxes, and would buy coal valued at R100 million each year, as well as power from Eskom.

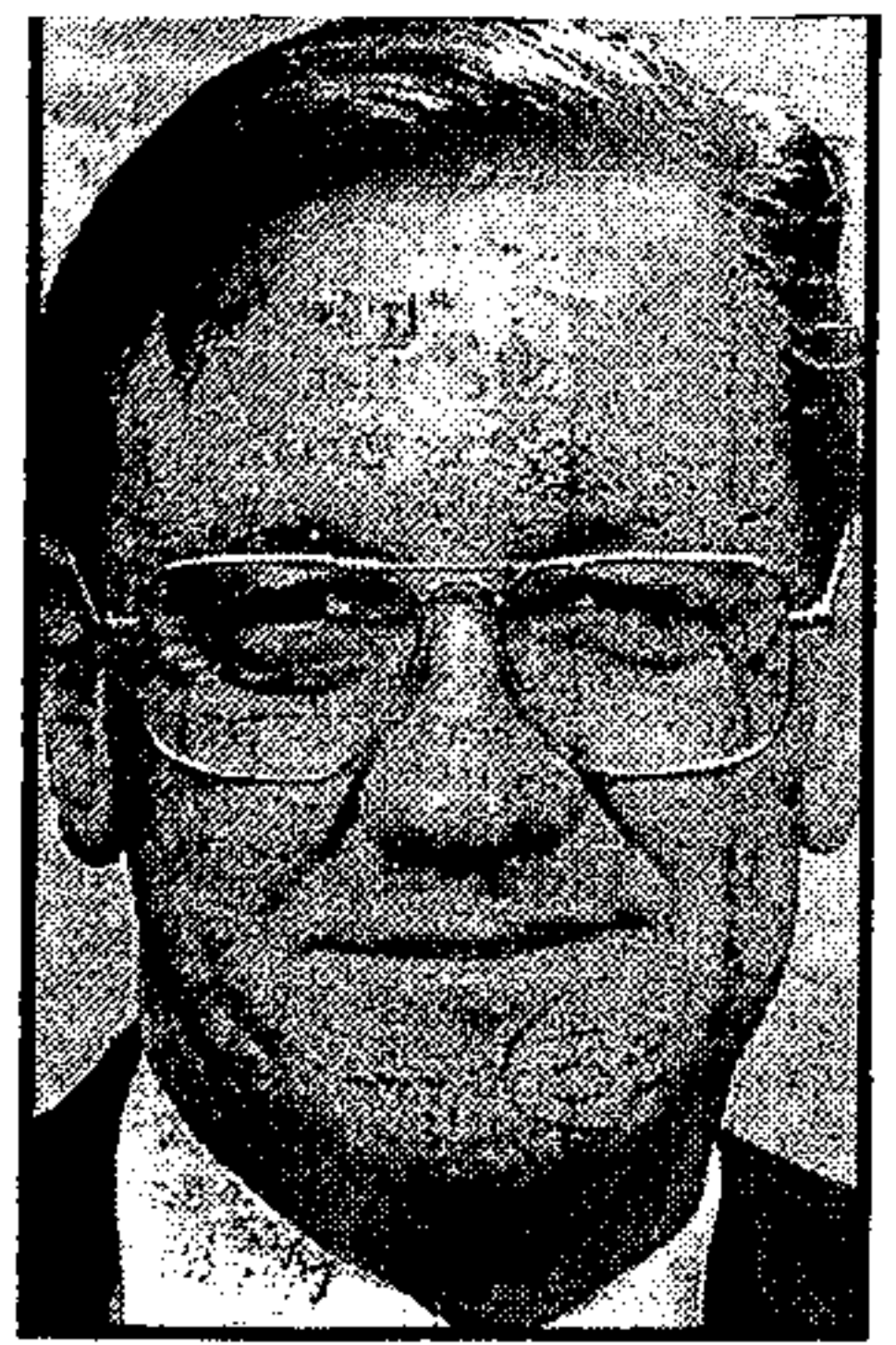
"There is a very real impact on the country from a development like this project."

Saldanha Steel had already spent R51 million and would spend another R23,8 million by the end of September.

A study of international projects had shown that where delays had been caused by "quasi-government" activities, including environmental assessments, capital costs could increase by a factor of 1,8 — "and that's what drives my concern", he said.

The company hoped to place orders for major items of equipment by September.

"Hence my plea to the board to complete its work as expedi-



Mr Jan Steyn

tiously as possible," Mr Smith said.

Alex Holmes, Saldanha Steel's manager of energy and environmental affairs, testified they had decided to remove from the site 26 tons of sludge containing heavy metal residues generated each day.

This was because of the possibility that the heavy metals could eventually contaminate Saldanha Bay.

The decision, to remove the sludge to the Class 1 waste facility at Vissershok outside Cape Town was "an important gesture from our side to satisfy the concerns of the mariculture industry".

He said Iscor would probably help to develop a new Class 1 waste facility site, closer to the proposed steel plant.

Iscor had also decided to use treated sewage effluent from the area which was presently being released into Saldanha Bay where it was causing problems.

The company would therefore be helping to keep the bay clean, Mr Holmes said.

Analytical chemist and air pollution specialist Nico Boegman, who served as South Africa's chief air pollution control officer for a decade during the 1970s, said he had conducted a study of the potential dust and air pollution of the proposed steel plant as part of the CSIR's environmental impact assessment of the proposal.

There could be "reasonably high" dust deposits close to the point of origin on the proposed site of the steel plant, particularly when the wind was strong.

But this dust concentration would diminish rapidly and would be low — according to the Department of Health's classification — by the time it reached the boundary fence.

(Proceeding)

New figures sought in Saldanha Steel wrangle

ARCT 20/7/95 (56) (1872)

□ Independent financial fundis brought in to do the arithmetic

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

INDEPENDENT financial experts are to check Saldanha Steel's figures to verify the steel producer's claim that it cannot profitably build its proposed steel plant anywhere other than at the preferred site at Saldanha Bay.

Also, the company has been asked to urgently produce a draft outline of its proposed trust to monitor production at the new steel plant and a document outlining changes like new safety and mitigatory measures to which it has agreed.

The company has proposed that the trust will have the legal authority to close the steel plant for repeated violations of anti-pollution standards.

These were two of the points to emerge yesterday during the second day of oral evidence to the Steyn board of inquiry into the proposed steel plant and related issues.

The board, headed by former Supreme Court judge Jan Steyn, was appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister

Dawie de Villiers in terms of the Environment Conservation Act.

It is hoping to complete its investigation by the middle of next month.

Yesterday, Mr Steyn announced that Clive Hirschsohn, former managing director of the Foschini Group, and Gerhard Krone, retired chairman of accounting firm Pim Goldby, had agreed to review Saldanha Steel's figures relating to the cost of moving the proposed steel plant to an alternative site about 10km to 15km inland.

The company has said the move would cost about R50 million a year extra, mainly for transport, and that this would put the project at risk if there was a downturn in the highly competitive international steel market in the short-term.

Mr Steyn said yesterday the two financial experts would start work next week.

The appointment was not a reflection on financial evidence by Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith, but the board believed it was necessary to obtain an objective

view of the figures relating to the cost differentials between the two sites.

"There is always a subjectivity that creeps in to these things," said Mr Steyn.

Also, there had been "very considerable change" in Saldanha Steel's proposal since it applied formally for a rezoning in January. Mr Steyn was concerned that objectors would not be aware of additional safety, precautionary and mitigatory measures to which the company had agreed.

These measures could change or even eliminate some objections, said Mr Steyn.

He therefore wanted the changes to be put into a "digestible format" to see to what extent disputed issues could be reduced.

Mr Steyn also asked Saldanha Steel to produce a preliminary draft of its proposed trust to monitor the new plant's operation.

That would be "very helpful to us" and would demonstrate the company's *bona fides*.

"I'm looking for something so that people can have a handle on what it (the trust) means,"

said Mr Steyn.

Mr Smith said there would be four levels of environmental monitoring at the proposed plant: By the company itself because of its corporate philosophy, by a monitoring committee, by the proposed trust and by government departments.

It also would adopt the International Standards Organisation's standards for environmental performance, ISO 14 000.

"We are preparing to be totally open about all these monitoring activities," he said.

On Tuesday, toxicologist Ockie Fourie testified that three examples of slag from Iscor's steel-making operations, similar to those expected to be produced at the new plant, had proved non-toxic to groundwater, the lagoon and Saldanha Bay under "worst-case" scenario testing.

It was normal for these heavy metals to accumulate in marine organisms, but concentrations would be so low as to be insignificant, he said.

● The board sits again tomorrow in the Supreme Court building.

Saldanha Steel proposes mill watchdog

CAPE TOWN — Saldhana Steel says it is prepared to give opponents of its steel mill project at Saldhana Bay the legal authority to close it down if it repeatedly breaches environmental regulations.

Sapa reports that Saldhana Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith told the Steyn board of inquiry yesterday that this authority would be vested in a private trust consisting of representatives from concerned individuals and organisations.

Saldhana Steel would enter into a legal contract with the trust which would give it the power to take action against the com-

pany if it breached self-imposed environmental regulations modelled on Canadian legislation. The operations of the trust and any legal costs arising from court actions which it might undertake against Saldhana Steel would be met by the company.

"There would be three to four levels of action. If we breached the first level, say with dust, we would be given a period of time to rectify it. If we breached the fourth level, they would have the ultimate sanction of closing the plant," Smith said.

Judge Jan Steyn, who is heading the three-man board of inquiry appointed by

Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers to investigate the project, said he would need to study the proposal before commenting.

Edward West reports that Steyn said the board of inquiry was considering appointing an independent study into the operational costs and possible alternative sites for the plant.

The board began its first day of inquiry yesterday with evidence from a number of specialists representing the Iscor and Industrial Development Corporation joint

Continued on Page 2

Saldanha

Continued from Page 1

venture, Saldanha Steel.

Steyn said the board would hear evidence until Friday and then adjourn until July 31 for an on-site inspection and further evidence at Saldanha Bay.

He outlined a number of issues to be tackled by the board initially.

These included the preferred location and possible alternative locations; the extent and nature of tourism facilities in the area; the extent and effect on mariculture; the impact of secondary industry, water, dust air and visual pollution and the impact on the Ramsar convention. Other related issues were the oil storage facilities nearby, the controls and activities of Portnet in the area and the future extension of Portnet activities.

Energy and environment affairs manager Alex Holmes told the commission the water affairs department had assured Iscor there would be no shortage of water for the plant from the Berg River and from a big subterranean source east of Saldanha.

The use of an air cooling system instead of the originally envisaged water evapora-

tion system would reduce the water usage from the Berg River by half. This would make a big difference to the river during drought, said Holmes. Hazardous waste would be disposed of at waste disposal sites to prevent heavy metals from getting into the groundwater system and affecting mariculture.

About 90% of the 706 tons of cover slag produced by the plant every day would be sold for use by the cement industry, while the rest would be used for dust control and later transported to a waste disposal site.

Former national air pollution control director Nico Boegman, who was asked by the CSIR to study dust emission for Iscor's environmental impact assessment study of the plant, said all his assumptions, based on worst-case scenarios, indicated emissions well below national and international standards. "I could not find a single cause for concern," he said.

Toxicology expert Ockie Fourie said the three types of possible waste slags at the plant, if disposed of on site, would not have a detrimental effect on groundwater in the context of marine and mammalian life.

● See Page 3

Saldanha steel hearings begin

(SB) (HANNES) ARG 15/7/95

■ Crucial hearings begin next week on whether the controversial Iscor steel project gets the go-ahead.

ADELE BALETA

Staff Reporter

JUDGE Jan Steyn has been inundated by a mountain of written evidence and submissions on the controversial Saldanha steel project in the run-up to next week's hearings on the controversial scheme.

But the substantial volume of written evidence, which he says "means lots of work", has not affected his humour. "You must come and see, you won't be able to get into my office, let alone a photographer," he said.

Judge Steyn is chairing the board of enquiry into the project, appointed by Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dawie de Villiers. The board will sit in Cape Town from July 18 to 21 and meets in Court 19 of the Cape Town Supreme Court.

"The quantity of written evidence we have received enhances the open, participative nature of the enquiry," said Judge Steyn.

Richard Fuggle, professor of environmental studies at the University of Cape Town and a member of the advisory board, and the Judge began to wade through the material yesterday.

"We are very grateful that people have responded," he said.

Depending on the progress made during the hearings and the convenience of those involved, the board intends sitting in Saldhana Bay from August 1 to 3.

A venue in the coastal town will be announced next week. The hearings, in Cape Town and Saldanha, will begin at 9 am.

Judge Steyn has indicated that further meetings will be scheduled if necessary.

Oral evidence to supplement written submissions should be completed by mid-August.

Judge Steyn said that although July 14 was the closing date for written submissions to the board, late submissions would be considered on their merits. No submissions would, however, be accepted after July 31.



Picture: HANNES THIART, Staff Photographer.

□ **HARD WORK:** Richard Fuggle, left, and Jan Steyn get to grips with heaps of written evidence on the Saldanha steel project.

Lessons in cleanliness

(56)

A NEW law will bar thousands of Germans from using their cars on days when the ozone content of air is too high.

Passed by the Bonn parliament last week, the law will make it illegal for cars without catalytic converters to be used when the ozone level is more than 240 micrograms a cubic metre.

"It means that if your car has no catalytic converter you cannot drive when it is not raining," said federal environment ministry official Franz Emde.

The step is the latest against pollution caused by petrol-driven engines, a problem familiar to Cape Town residents.

The brown haze that envelops the Peninsula is caused by inversion, a process which traps a layer of polluted air near the ground.

CAPE TOWN, choking in photochemical smog, could learn from bold new steps in the German government's clean air campaign reports Political Correspondent **CLIVE SAWYER** in Bonn.

South Africa, in the next few years, is to follow the developed world by introducing lead-free petrol, removing one of the main causes of pollution.

For lead-free petrol to be effective, a catalytic converter has to be fitted to a car.

Converting to lead-free is not cheap, which has meant limited success for the campaign in Germany, a pioneer of the lead-free campaign. Half of the cars on the road have catalytic converters.

Last week's decision could have far-reaching consequences.

The only exemption to the law barring the use of leaded petrol

cars on potentially smoggy days is if the motorist is travelling on business or is going on holiday.

The definition of travelling on business will not mean public transport close to home.

"I think many people will be buying a new car," said Mr Emde.

Strict rules even for cars with catalytic converters may also prompt visits to the showrooms.

New cars' catalytic converters will have to be tested after three years, and older models annually.

With cars not the only cause of air pollution, Germany has intro-

duced a new legislative proposal to keep industry in line.

To ensure factories operate in a clean and safe manner, their owners will be made fully liable for damage if anything goes wrong.

The sweetener for industry will be a speeded-up process of issuing licences for factories, a process which until now has taken years in some cases where nearby residents' opposition has been vociferous.

Companies will have to insure themselves against damages. The ministry hopes the cost will serve as inspiration to keep industrial plants safe and clean.

The proposal coincides with debate among German federal and second-tier governments about future energy sources.

With the future uncertain about how it will dispose of its unrecyclable nuclear waste, Germany has yet to decide whether to shut its ageing nuclear power stations or to build new ones.

Whatever the future of Germany's nukes, hopes are that the next century will see a major shift in sources of power.

At present the country gets about 60 percent of its energy from coal, 30 percent from oil and gas and 10 percent from nuclear reactors.

Mr Emde said it was expected that by 2050 about 30 percent of energy would come from wind-driven generators, biomass technology and the use of solar power for heating.

New marine law body will target sea poachers

~~SECRET~~ (56)
Crime Reporter

A CRACKDOWN on sea-life poachers is looming with the appointment of a joint marine law enforcement committee, consisting of police and the sea fisheries department. *ARU 6/7/95*

Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers today announced the formation of the new committee to combat poaching and protect the marine environment.

The committee will pool the efforts of specialised police units and sea fisheries' marine control services, and will nationally co-ordinate the activities of policing agencies in an effort to curb poaching of abalone and rock lobster.

The crackdown on organised syndicates active locally and internationally is poised to be the "mother of all onslaughts" on poachers and will be helped by a countrywide network of information to be managed by the new joint committee.

Poachers should not expect any mercy in the future, said Dr De Villiers.

Earlier this year he lashed out at law-breakers and urged people to resist the criminal element who undermined the community's long-term interests.

He referred to the perlemoen-poaching crisis in Hawston earlier this year which appeared to have been fanned by organised crime syndicates, possibly with links to the Far East.

Dr De Villiers's appeals and efforts opened the way for major changes in the allocation of the perlemoen quota.

He offered to negotiate the structure of the fishing industry to solve the organised poaching problem and to create an acceptable balance in the quota system between the coastal communities and the large fishing companies.

The quota system, which was biased towards the fishing giants and left the traditional fishing communities out in the cold, contributed to organised poaching but Dr De Villiers came out strongly against a "free-for-all" situation.

He urged the community to co-operate in the total onslaught against lawlessness by supplying information directly to Crime-Stop at ☎ 0800 11 12 13. Substantial rewards are offered.

Rooi Els rocket motor test site to be dismantled this year

CJ 7/7/95

(56)

STAFF REPORTER

SOMERSET WEST industrial giant Somchem must dismantle its controversial rocket motor test site near Rooi Els before South Africa can sign an international agreement on missile technology, a meeting in Gordon's Bay was told last night.

Somchem shelved its controversial space rocket programme last year and has not used its static test facility since then.

However, it still uses its nearby dynamic test facility for testing artillery ammunition.

Somchem managing director Mr Ferdi Herbst told local residents, environmental groups and scientists that SA would sign the Missile Technology Control Regime later this year and had to dismantle the static test facility beforehand.

The company planned the environmental rehabilitation of the site, Mr Herbst said.

No mercy for poachers

ET 7/7/95

~~Z. FISHING~~ (5b)

STAFF REPORTER

"NO MERCY" is the message sent out to poachers yesterday, with the appointment of a joint marine law enforcement committee.

The committee, comprising the police and Department of Sea Fisheries officials, was appointed by Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Dawie de Villiers to combat poachers operating in South African waters.

Sea Fisheries deputy director Dr

Johan van Zyl said poachers should expect "no mercy" as the committee would be working to clamp down on their activities.

Dr Van Zyl said the committee consisted of various units of the police and marine law enforcement agencies.

"Everyone will now be kept informed of progress made in investigations. The committee will manage joint operations against large-scale poaching and international syndicates."

Dr De Villiers said in a statement the committee would coordinate the activities of various police agencies, specifically their efforts to curb the poaching of perlemoen and kreef by local and international crime syndicates.

The appointment of the committee should be seen as another step to "protect our valuable marine environment ... against indiscriminate elements who are harvesting resources unlawfully for selfish gain".

Holomisa calls for St Lucia mining debate

(56) (270)
DURBAN. — Interested parties must meet soon to discuss the future of Lake St Lucia, says Bantu Holomisa, Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs. *AR 6/8/95*

"The national and provincial government, the relevant standing committees, Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), environmental groups and non-governmental organisations all need to meet," he said after he visited the St Lucia area of KwaZulu-Natal.

Environmentalists are strongly opposed to RBM's proposal to mine dunes on the eastern shores of the lake for titanium.

We believe Iscor's success is assured

ST(BT)9/7/95 (56) (1997)

I CANNOT understand what underlies Ian Moultrie's fears that Iscor has as its agenda a "desire to own its own dedicated harbour at Saldanha Bay", but our letter to Minister Roelf Botha simply refers to the fact that most of Saldanha Steel's international competitors have direct access to harbour facilities, thus giving them an advantage if our project was located inland.

I am totally unaware of any desire by the shareholders to own a dedicated harbour at Saldanha Bay, but we would like to have direct access to a harbour facility — any export steel producer would.

The economics of the feasibility study was based on the premise that steel prices would remain constant in real terms, and would on average equal real prices over the past few years.

We have tested the project against other price scenarios. This evaluation has led Saldanha's shareholders to conclude that the project is viable (and the Industrial Development Corporation has an enviable reputation for picking natural resource winners).

We are determined to avoid any unnecessary or inessential operating costs — such as moving the site which puts the project at a

disadvantage to its competitors and incurs additional operating costs. This prejudices the project's robustness and is just not good for business.

We are not at all sure that the proposed alternative sites are more desirable in terms of any other criteria used to evaluate them, including the ecological sensitivity of the area.

The downsizing of the Vanderbijlpark operations neither had nor has anything to do with Saldanha Steel. The operations which were closed were uneconomic.

Saldanha's export gain relates to the fact that Vanderbijlpark's production was closed in any event.

Mr Moultrie's funding on the project is wrong. The loans to the project are predominantly offshore in the form of export credits and commercial offshore loans, the repayments of which commence six months after commencement of forex earnings.

The 37E tax concession was specifically put in place to promote larger projects that benefit raw materials. South Africa is well behind most countries when it comes to fiscal incentives to promote exports.

Corex technology is state of the art when it

comes to proven technology. We like the Corex process because it is intrinsically environmentally friendly.

Mossgas was developed for strategic reasons as perceived by the government at the time. It required a significant increase in oil prices to justify itself on a commercial basis; and gas reserves have proved to be limited.

On the other hand, we believe Saldanha Steel will be competitive and so do our advisers. Iron ore reserves in the North West Province could last for 100 years.

Mr Moultrie should be aware that the feasibility study has cost some R20-million. The project has achieved a momentum that if slowed or destroyed will result in large unrecoverable costs.

South Africa needs major industrial projects to meet the aspirations of its people.

Perhaps a small proportion of its privileged population can afford to be cavalier about getting on with development. For how much longer should we continue to export iron ore valued at between \$15 to \$20 a ton when we can upgrade it to quality steel products valued at \$340 a ton? — BERNARD SMITH, executive chairman, Saldanha Steel.

Park 'squatters' toe the line

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A NATIONAL park in Namaqualand is on track again after Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom helped persuade illegal white "squatters" to dismantle shacks on state land inside the planned coastal reserve.

His intervention followed complaints that the squatters at Groenriviermond were frustrating negotiations towards setting up the country's 18th national park.

In terms of a deal brokered last week, Mr Hanekom managed to

ST(CM) 9/7/95 (27#) (56)
rally the former antagonists behind a plan to clear the area of illegal structures.

Stakeholders also agreed to principles that stressed maximum local participation in planning around the area's future development as a national resource.

Mr Hanekom's visit to the desolate seaside settlement followed a recent rash of pegging by whites who marked scores of "plots" and built up to 100 holiday shacks on land they don't own.

Speaking at Kamieskroon last week, Mr Hanekom slammed the invasion.

"We're not going to privatise this land. It belongs to the state and is a national resource."

Stakeholders subsequently agreed to an immediate ban on further illegal building at Groenriviermond and decided that all "plot" markers should be destroyed without delay.

Also, all structures built without Mr Hanekom's permission since April 27 last year had to be dismantled before October 2.

Nzimande, Y P	Sid 10	Receptionist
Philippopoulos, L S	National Dipl. in Theatre Technology	Stage Supervisor
Potgieter, D J	BA (Hons) Journalism	Journalist
Rahlhobo, T N	Sid 10	Junior Vision Controller
Reddy, S	MA (Communications)	Audio Journalist
Seane, E M	Sid 10	Junior Security Officer
Sebasa, J M	BA (Social Sciences)	Researcher: TNP
Seema, T D	Sid 10	Junior Video Tape Operator
Shaikh, M	BA (Hons) Psychology; BA (Hons) Journalism	Executive Producer (R)
Shibambu, T M	Sid 10	Announcer/Producer/Translator
Shikoane, T V	Sid 10	Learner Production Assistant
Sibiya, N E	2A (ED): Snr Secondary Teacher's Diploma	Senior Production Assistant
Singo, S S	Sid 10	Junior Security Officer
Sobolev, A A	Sid 10	Associate Principal Double Bass
Thomas, A P	Sid 10: Diploma Journalism	Junior Producer (R)
Van der Mescht, J	BA (Communication)	Production Assistant
Zeekeoi, W F	Sid 10	Junior Security Officer

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*Positions were advertised and will be filled in due course.

Negotiations with squatters in the (56) DUKUDUKU State Forest
The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS (on behalf of the Minister of Housing):

*5. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Housing: *HAN SAND 11/5/95*

- (1) Whether any progress has been made in negotiations with squatters in the Dukuduku State Forest; if not, why not; if so, what progress;
 - (2) whether any squatters are currently living in the forest; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how many;
 - (3) whether any squatters have been moved to an alternative development site; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how many?
- S184E

- (2) Yes, squatters are presently resident in the forest. However, the number of squatters is unknown.
- (3) 541 families have moved to the alternative Dukuduku development site.

Threatened disruption of broadcasts of the World Cup Rugby Tournament

*6. Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

- (1) Whether a certain trade union, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, has threatened to disrupt broadcasts of the World Cup Rugby Tournament; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (2) whether he intends taking any steps with a view to (a) preventing the said trade union from carrying out this threat and (b) ensuring that confidence in the Post Office is not undermined by threats of this nature; if not, why not; if so, what steps? S185E

THE MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

Background

Telkom is currently engaged in negotiations with recognised trade unions on the National Bargaining Forum. During the very early stages of the negotiations the South African Telecommunications Association (SATA) and the Mine Workers Union (MWU), staged a protest march during which some banners displayed "No increase, no world rugby" slogans.

In subsequent discussions with the unions involved the unions indicated to Telkom that their members do not intend disrupting the Rugby World Cup broadcasts.

A week after the said protest march, Post and Telecommunications Workers Association (POTWA) staged a rally of similar marches throughout the country, culminating in a march to the company's head office in Pretoria. These marches were accompanied by press releases which also threatened that the union would disrupt the rugby broadcasts if its wage demands were not met.

Telkom management engaged the union in discussions on the matter where officials of POTWA indicated that they fully understood the implications of any disruptions on such an historical event on the country's image abroad as well as the implications that held for the possibility of hosting the Olympic Games.

Telkom cannot provide ironclad guarantees that no disruptions, or at least attempts, will be perpetrated by either the union members or some other parties. In this regard Telkom has formulated extensive contingency plans to ensure as far as humanly possible no disruption of this important broadcasting event.

- (1) Telkom has assured me that they have sufficient contingency plans in place, the nature of which is highly technical and detailed and can therefore, not be divulged for obvious reasons.
- (2) *Wage settlement*

This matter deals with Telkom and not the Post Office. Telkom believes that it has gone a long way towards addressing the concerns of the unions during the current wage negotiations.

Telkom is confident that its position in the wage negotiations is defensible and reasonable. Lobbying between Telkom negotiators and union officials are ongoing in an attempt to obtain agreement and minimise conflict between the parties.

A clear distinction needs to be drawn between the negotiations between POTWA et al and Telkom, on the one hand, and POTWA with the SA Postal Services, on the other. SA Post Office has declared a dispute with POTWA on wages whilst Telkom has not formerly deadlocked with the said union.

- (a) *Contingencies*
- Various contingency plans are being put into place by Telkom to reduce any likelihood of disruptions to the Rugby World Cup broadcasts. The nature of the highly technical and detailed contingencies cannot be divulged for obvious reasons.

- (b) *The image of Telkom*
- As is stated above, Telkom's position in the wage negotiations is defensible and reasonable. Telkom is also continually engaged with union officials to moderate their behaviour in

council member, with representation limited to a maximum of 10% of the seats. A minimum of 80% of the

tropolis, Miller said the board had proposed the retention of apartheid

meeting the November 1 deadline.

Marais 'was aware of crimes'

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — There was uncontested prima facie evidence that former Fundstrust chairman Jan Marais had known about the crimes being perpetrated in the company, counsel for the state Billy Downer said yesterday. Downer was presenting his closing arguments before the Cape Supreme Court where Marais has pleaded not guilty to a total of seven charges relating to contraventions of the Banks and Deposit Taking Acts, including two charges of reckless trading and fraud, following the collapse of Fundstrust in November 1991.

He said there had been various warning signals

over the years — such as the failure to produce financial statements — which ought to have informed Marais of what was going on in the company.

Downer argued that although Marais had chosen not to testify, and in spite of his constitutional right not to testify, the establishment of prima facie evidence meant that the onus now rested on the accused to bring evidence to the contrary.

Judge Selwyn Selikowitz told the court the key to the illegality in the case was the deposit-taking by Fundstrust. "Everybody was investing on a deposit basis in Fundstrust for a year at 20% interest. The argument is, did the accused know this?" he said.

Downer said there was a litany from investors who had said they would not have invested in Fundstrust if they had known about the contraventions. "We submit the facts were concealed from investors and if they had known they would not have invested."

He said a letter of demand to Fundstrust on October 28 1991 had informed the reader that R45m had been invested in Fundstrust by Gilbeys in contravention of the Deposit Taking Act and the accused had not only signed the contract, but was party to the negotiations for the contract.

"Despite this knowledge, the accused allowed the business to operate as before by taking in new investments," Downer said.

Water supply radioactivity levels probed

(56)
Kathryn Strachan

20/11/95
THE water affairs and forestry department is conducting a survey of SA's water resources to determine whether there are harmful levels of radioactivity in the country's drinking supplies.

Certain radioactive substances, which occurred either naturally or as a consequence of human activities, could pose a health risk to consumers, a spokesman said.

An initial study, which focused on different areas across SA where elevated levels were expected, had been completed.

Listing areas as places of low, intermediate or high radioactivity levels had enabled the department to identify sites where further investigations were necessary, the spokesman said.

However, the type of substance emitting the radioactivity had an important bearing on the possible associated health risks.

Any final judgment on the potential health effects could be made only after a number of investigative studies had been completed, the spokesman said.

The department said initial results could be expected within six months.

In addition, statutory responsibilities and the roles of the various bodies concerned with the monitoring and control of radioactivity in water sources had to be clarified.

Discussions in this regard would be held with the various roleplayers, the spokesman said.

IFP to press on with launch plans

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The IFP yesterday vowed to go ahead with plans to launch branches in ANC strongholds despite the fact that violence erupted at a launch in Clermont, near Pinetown, on Sunday.

IFP spokesman Ed Tillett said the IFP would be "undeterred" by the attack on its followers, and the IFP was simply following President Nelson Mandela's lead in seeking to eradicate no-go areas.

An ANC-supporting sniper allegedly fired on IFP supporters trying to gather at the Clermont stadium, injuring three people. ANC supporters occupied the stadium, forcing the IFP to abandon the launch.

The IFP had transported several thousand people into Clermont for the launch, and as they returned to Umlazi ANC snipers again opened fire, Tillett said.

He said this led to IFP supporters returning fire, killing three of the snipers.

IFP KwaZulu-Natal local government caucus head John Aulsebrook claimed that a mob almost lynched him, and he was forced to speed off in his car.

ANC KwaZulu-Natal spokesman Dumisani Makhaye said: "We are not going to allow the invasion of communities under the disguise of free political activity."

He blamed a white IFP member for the "invasion", saying the intention was to cause the "slaughter" of blacks. No whites were bussed in as their lives were seen to be more valuable than black lives.

Tillett called on ANC KwaZulu-Natal chairman Jacob Zuma to revoke the "licence to destabilise" issued to ANC supporters, and to condemn the "assault" on free political activity.

Sapa reports Mandela appealed for political tolerance and ordered an investigation into the clash.

Mandela called for free political activity and said "no-go" areas for any political party should not exist.

KwaZulu-Natal premier Frank Mdlalose condemned the shooting of IFP supporters.

He also called on ANC leaders in the province to address their followers to ensure that all political parties enjoyed their right to free political activity.

'PERMANENT' SOLUTION BY SUMMER

Major clean-up effort as oil spoils beaches

THE MUNICIPALITY has decided to dig up Clifton's beaches to get down to the buried oil and clean it up "once and for all". **CLAIRE BISSEKER** reports.

HAVY earth-moving equipment is to be airlifted to Clifton to mine the sand for residual Apollo Sea oil after weekend storms redeposited buried oil on the Cape's premier beaches.

The chief engineer in charge of cleansing, Mr Bruce Black, said a private company had been employed to rid Clifton of oil "once and for all" and would be digging down as deep as three metres to uncover pools of oil that were up to half a metre thick.

Camps Bay and Fourth Beach had been successfully mined in this way but unless buried oil was also excavated from Clifton's First, Second and Third beaches, storms would continue to redeposit oil along the coastline, he said.

Mr Black said summer wave action deposited sand on Clifton's beaches, burying the oil, but in winter the reverse occurred and westerly winds and stormy seas depleted the beaches and exposed pockets of oil.

Yesterday about 50 labourers were hard at work removing oil-soaked sand at Clifton where weekend storms had carried a thick oily sludge as far as the retaining wall on Fourth Beach.

Rocks were again encrusted with oil.

"We have until summer and I can promise Capetonians and visitors that the beaches will be clean for the season, we hope once and for all," Mr Black said.

The Apollo Sea, a Panamarian

(56) ET 11/7/95
registered bulk carrier, sank 14 miles south-west of Dassen Island a year ago with all hands on board. She was carrying 2 470 tons of heavy fuel and 670 tons of light gas oil and a cargo of iron ore. The loss resulted in the worst ecological damage yet to the Cape coast.

R5m bill

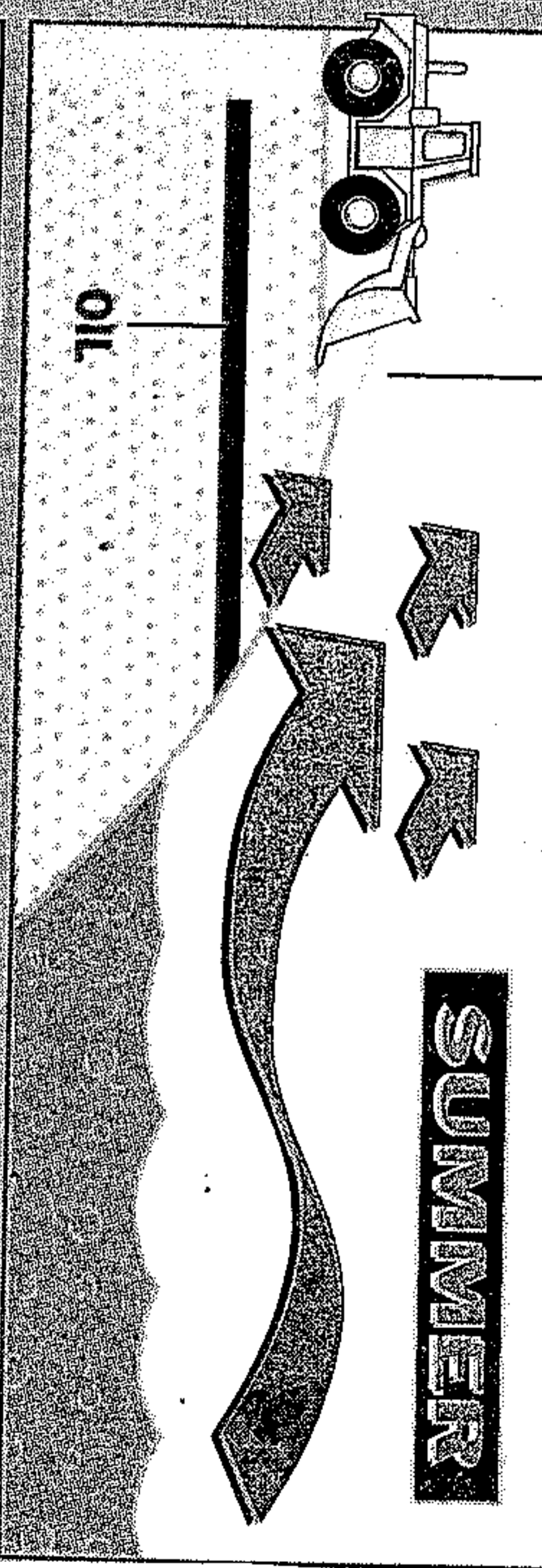
The bill for the clean-up has already topped R5 million. Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said last night the Apollo Sea insurers were still assessing the extent of the claim.

Teams of council workers aided by police and volunteers have removed 16 000 tons of oil, soiled sand and oily debris from Clifton's beaches in the past year.

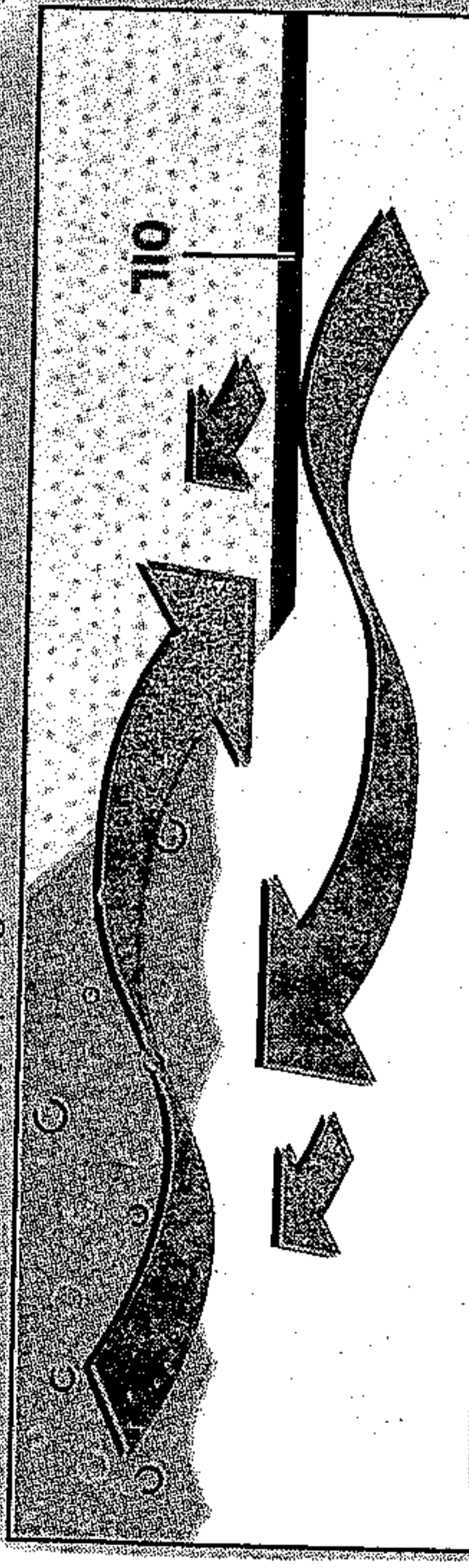
"Capetonians have been magnificent in their support of the clean-up effort," Mr Black said.

Bulldozer mines the beach to remove trapped oil to prevent it being redispersed by winter wave action.

CLIFTON'S OIL HAZARD
In summer the wave action builds up sand on Clifton's beaches.



In winter wave action drags sand out to sea, exposing the oil buried beneath.



Graphic: Mathys Moss Cape Times

Radioactive 60 12/9/95 mine water

Vusi Khoza

(56)
ELEVATED radioactive minerals in groundwater in gold mines and mine dumps on the West Rand, and in the Free State and Western Cape, could increase the risk of cancer, water affairs department principal specialist scientist Phillip Kempster has said.

Radioactive minerals in water varied from "not detectable to intermediate, neither of which were high enough to cause immediate concern".

For this reason the department had not yet stopped people from using the water. Kempster said that would be premature.

He identified two types of radioactivity: natural, and that which is a result of human activities.

The department planned to conduct further studies and to hold discussions with various role players.

Statutory responsibilities and the roles of the various bodies in the monitoring and control of radioactivity in water sources had to be clarified.

Jumbos to return to St Lucia

ET 13/7/95

(56)

DURBAN: Elephants will soon return to the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, almost 70 years after the last of them were wiped out by hunters there, the Natal Parks Board (NPB) said yesterday.

"The re-introduction will primarily be done for conservation measures, but it will be a tremendous boost for tourism in the area," NPB spokesman Mr Jeff Gaisford said.

"We want to reintroduce two family groups and supplement them with orphans from culling (operations) in the Kruger National Park."

Mr Gaisford said the park could now boast four of the Big Five game types with the introduction of elephants. "We already have leopard, black rhino and buffalo," he said, adding that lions might also be introduced at a later stage.

He said the "core" area of the recently proclaimed Greater St Lucia Wetland Park was, together with the nearby Hluhluwe/-Umfolozzi park, the oldest reserve in Africa.

Environmentalists have been campaigning for the area to be left in its present state, and have mobilised resistance to proposed dune mining on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia. — Reuter

IsCOR's Saldanha Steel project 'built on sand'

(56) ST (BT) 9/3/95

WHY would Saldanha Steel abort a R4,7-billion project rather than incur an extra annual cost of R50-million by relocating its planned steel mill 13km inland from the ecologically sensitive coast?

Ian Moultrie, IsCOR's largest individual shareholder, answers this question by saying that IsCOR, which has a 50% stake in Saldanha Steel, "has a bigger agenda."

Mr Moultrie quotes from a letter written on February 21 by Saldanha Steel to Roelf Botha of the Ministry of Environmental Affairs. The letter lists the advantages of locating the steel plant at Saldanha Bay, and says that all major steel exporters in the world have their own dedicated port.

"IsCOR wants its own dedicated harbour at Saldanha Bay," says Mr Moultrie.

Saldanha Steel spokesman have said that the nature of the steel business is that there are lean years during the bottom of the commodity cycle. It is for this reason that the plant has to cut its costs to the bone.

Its spokesmen have also

An IsCOR shareholder believes that, apart from the concerns raised by environmentalists, the corporation's Saldanha Steel project does not make sense on economic grounds either. **KEVIN DAVIE** reports.

...that delays in commissioning the plant, such as would be caused by relocating 13km inland, would result that the project could suffer adversely as it will not maximise earnings during its start-up phase.

Mr Moultrie questions some of the key claims made by the developers.

While Saldanha Steel will boost exports by R1,6-billion, partial closure of IsCOR's Vanderbijlpark plant will lead to a loss of steel exports of the same amount, meaning that there will be no net export gain.

Carel van der Merwe of the Industrial Development Corporation responds that Saldanha Steel "has nothing to do with the closure of Vanderbijlpark. It will manufacture a product not yet produced by IsCOR."

Mr Moultrie says there will be a net job loss as Saldanha Steel will create fewer jobs than those lost at Vanderbijlpark.

Saldanha Steel's 600 jobs

come at a hefty price: R6-million each.

Compare this, says Mr Moultrie, who in the past has invested in the clothing sector, with a clothing job cost of R60 000.

"Investing in clothing could create 100 times as many jobs than those created by Saldanha Steel."

His point is that while private companies such as IsCOR are more than at liberty to make investments on behalf of their shareholders, the state's involvement in Saldanha Steel through the IDC's 50% equity stake, is questionable.

The state-owned IDC and privatised IsCOR have put up R750-million each for a 50% equity stake in Saldanha Steel. Peak funding required is expected to be R4,7-billion, much of the R3,2-billion difference being supplied by the IDC in the form of loans, says Mr Moultrie.

The government has also extended the so-called 37E tax concessions to the project.

"This is an interest-free loan from the state. Saldanha Steel will get tax credit certificates which it can sell to others. It amounts to getting a R1-billion loan interest free," says Mr Moultrie.

While the IDC has not disclosed the return on investment it expects from the project, IsCOR, in presentations to stockbrokers, has said it expects a 12% real return.

Mr Moultrie says this is a "superb" return, but nonetheless questions some of the assumptions underlying this assessment. He says IsCOR has projected that the real price of steel will remain the same during the 25-year life of the plant. But new technologies and developments in steel-making suggest that the real price may actually decline.

"The Corex technology which IsCOR wants to use is not state of the art. There is newer, more efficient technology now coming on stream.

"There is also a trend worldwide to establish smaller plants with a shorter life, of say, 15 years.

"These are true min-mill operations. The competition could go haywire, causing steel prices to fall in real terms."

Mr Moultrie says his worst fear is that Saldanha Steel could turn into another Mossgas, with the state having to foot half the bill.

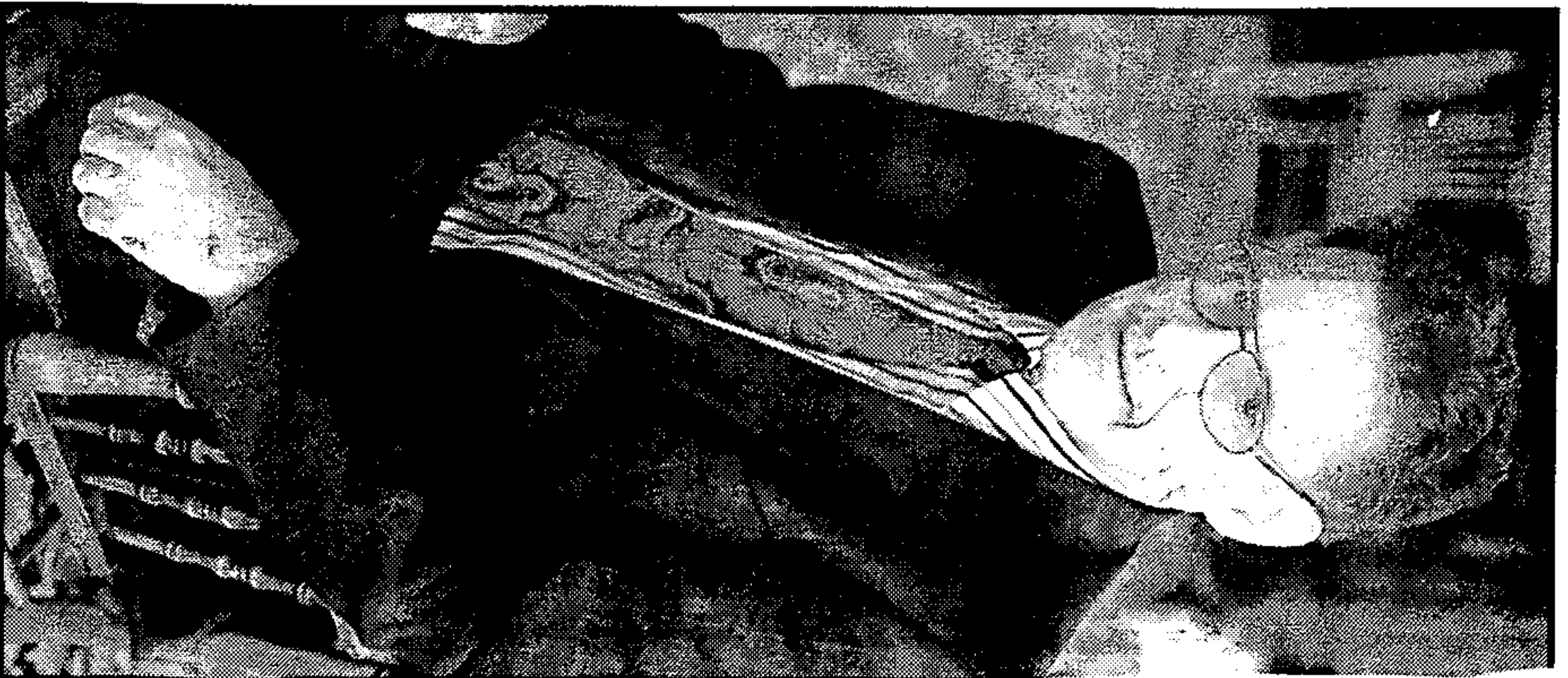
"If spending just R50-million a year to move the plant changes its economics, that concerns me as a shareholder."

Mr Moultrie also questions the IDC's haste to push ahead with the project. He says it appears that the IDC has rushed into the project before funds under its control are re-directed towards the reconstruction and development programme.

Mr van der Merwe says the IDC's involvement in project goes back more than five years.

"We have been reporting progress in each of our last three annual reports.

"If this means 'rushing into the project', perhaps we should be slowing down our project investigations."



IAN MOULTRIE: IsCOR's largest individual shareholder

Polifin to spend R40m on clean-up

CT (13/7/95) (56) (18/92)

BY DEREK TOMMEY

MINING EDITOR

Polifin, the new plastic and chemical company formed by AECI and Sasol, is spending R40 million on environmental controls at its Midland, Sasolburg, plant.

It is installing advanced emission-control technologies, many of which are world firsts.

Polifin will spend another R10 million next year cleaning up when it closes old plants following the

completion of facilities.

New "closed-circuit" processes will reduce the Midland site's emission to 30 percent of their previous levels, solid emissions to 20 percent and gaseous emissions to 17 percent of past levels.

Emissions to the area's rivers are being reduced to one-fourteenth of globally accepted standards.

Freek van Heerden, Polifin's engineering manager on the Midland Restructuring Project, says these levels are mere fractions of those permit-

ted by the strictest emission controls on earth.

Gaseous emissions are traditionally vented into the atmosphere, says van Heerden.

"But the days of the tall chimney stacks are over."

These developments form part of Polifin's R650 million Midland restructuring development.

The project will improve Polifin's international competitiveness as a manufacturer and supplier of Polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Council debris threatens beaches

□ *Milkwood trees become victims too*

(56) AR 13/9/95

Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council's engineering department has come under fire after dumping rubble, soil and stones above two small and pristine Camps Bay beaches — and allegedly destroying milkwood trees in the process.

Camps Bay artist and environmentally-conscious resident, Chrisman Stander, said council workers dug a huge hole in the Camps Bay tidal pool on Tuesday, apparently to enlarge it.

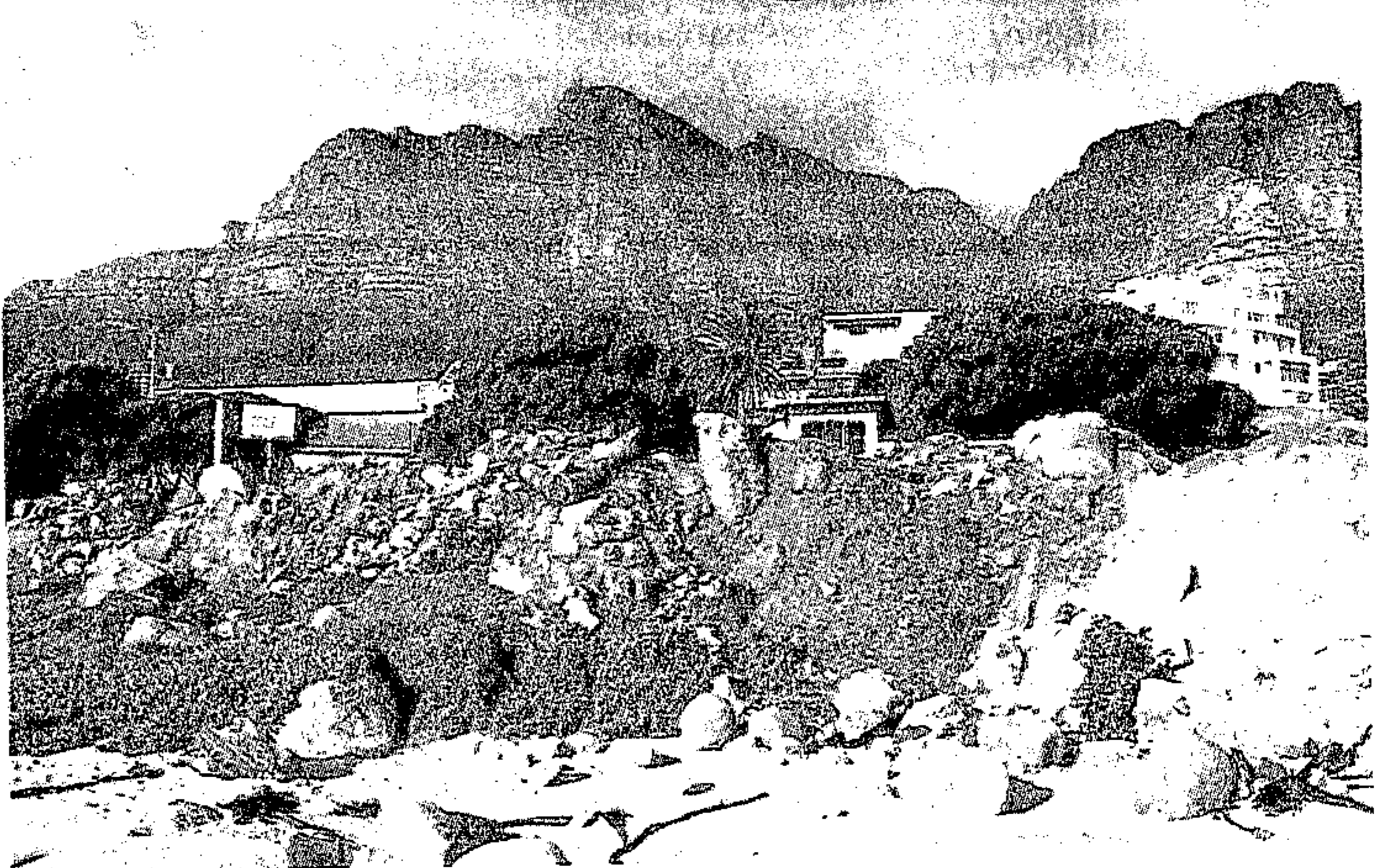
Then they dumped the truck-loads of soil, stones and large chunks of building rubble about 100 metres away, opposite the police station, and right on the edge of two small beaches.

"As soon as we get high seas or heavy rains it will wash right onto the beaches and spoil them forever. They've also dumped earth and rocks onto milkwood trees. I am infuriated.

"One would not expect the city council, who have gone to enormous expense and effort to clean-up beaches and to prevent further pollution, to be totally insensitive to the environment.

"Holidaymakers picnic under the trees, relax on the rocks or on the beautiful white sands, which will now become muddy.

"This is no example to young people of today, who are also making great efforts to be aware of the environment and to become involved in campaigns to clean up their envi-



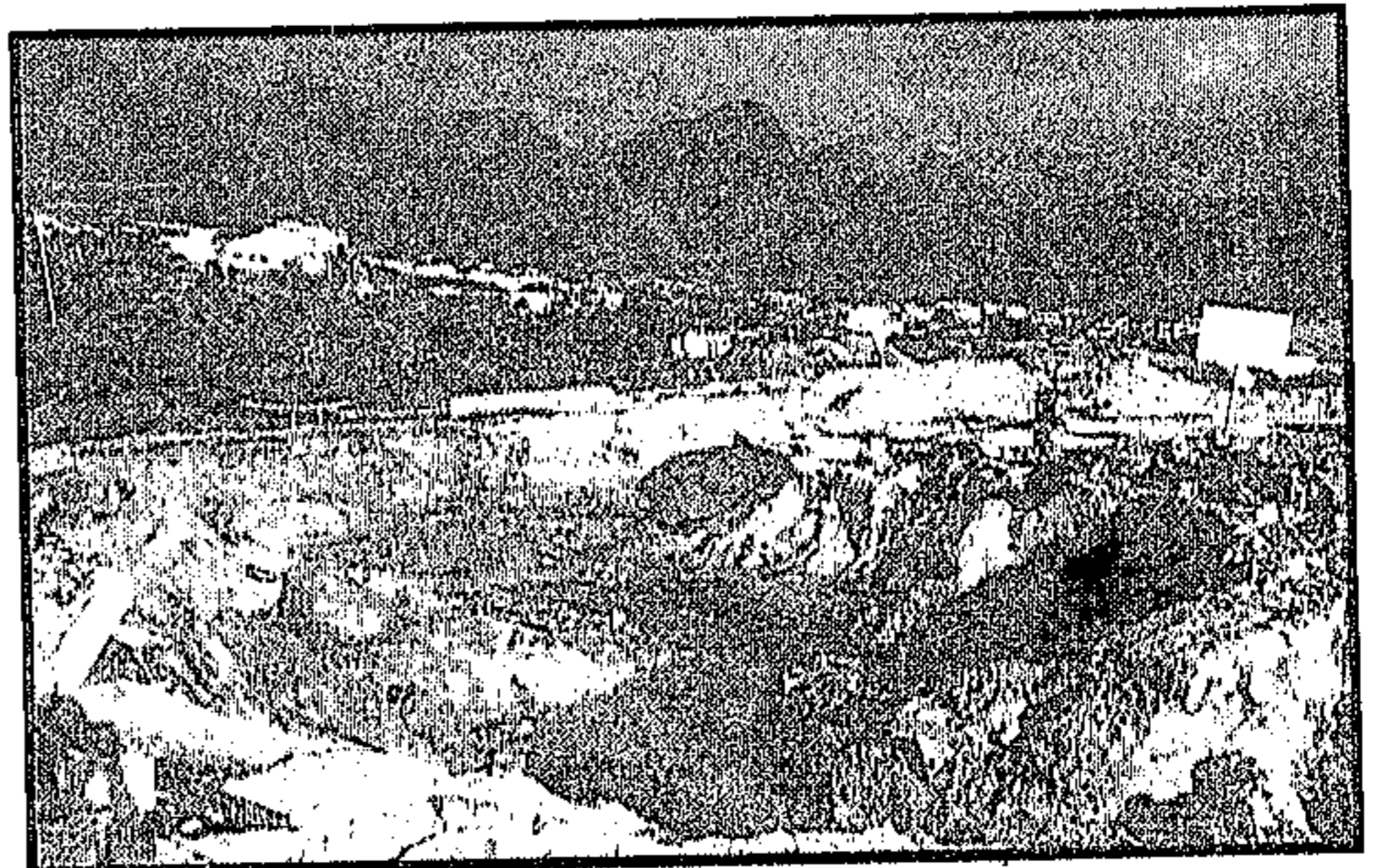
DUMPING GROUND: The site above two Camps Bay beaches where rubble has been dumped by the Cape Town City Council, raising the ire of a resident.

ronment and to plant trees," said an upset Mr Stander.

City council spokesman Ted Doman said the council was working in a confined area and that there was a problem of where to put the fill which was being cleared out of the tidal pool.

However, after the complaint, workers had been reminded that they should be careful, particularly of the milkwood trees.

The work, which involved rebuilding a retaining wall, would take about six weeks and debris would be cleared, he said.



WORK SITE: The work site where fill is being cleared out of the tidal pool at Camps Bay. Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM.

Scientists find way to re-use contaminated water

JOHANNESBURG. — It is no longer necessary to pump certain effluent from electroplating plants into sewers or rivers, the Water Research Commission (WRC) has said.

In a statement last week, it said Council for Scientific and Industrial Research scientists

had made a breakthrough in treating industrial effluent.

“Extensive research has shown the effective use of membrane technology in the electroplating industry can remove sufficient quantities of heavy metals from effluent to allow the recovered water to

be re-used in the plant,” the WRC said.

A successful pilot project was already in operation at an electroplating plant.

Effluent from electroplating has been responsible for many of South Africa’s pollution

(56) ARG 3/7/95
problems. About 80 percent of the water used in such plants has been disposed of as industrial effluent, usually in sewers.

In the past, legal restrictions on the concentration of heavy metals in effluent was overcome by dilution. — Sapa.

Storm erupts at shops plan for wetlands

□ Residents fear noise, more traffic

AR4 5/7/95 (56)

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

THE controversial Dreyersdal Farm development in Tokai, close to the Blue Route shopping centre, is to be advertised for objections before the Cape Town City Council takes a decision on a rezoning application.

The rezoning of the site, part of the old Louw family farm and the Dreyersdal wetlands, is key to the development. The zoning will have to be changed from public open space to subdivisional area.

The proposed development, a shopping complex of about 12 000 square metres and about 200 houses, has raised a storm of protest from surrounding residents, who may grudgingly

accept the houses but oppose another shopping centre in the area.

They have made their views known at several public meetings held as part of the development's public participation programme.

They fear additional traffic generated by the shopping complex, more noise, the effect on their view and the fact that the project's initial environmental impact assessment report said the houses would have a severe impact on the environment.

The housing section would be built on part of the wetlands that would first have to be filled in.

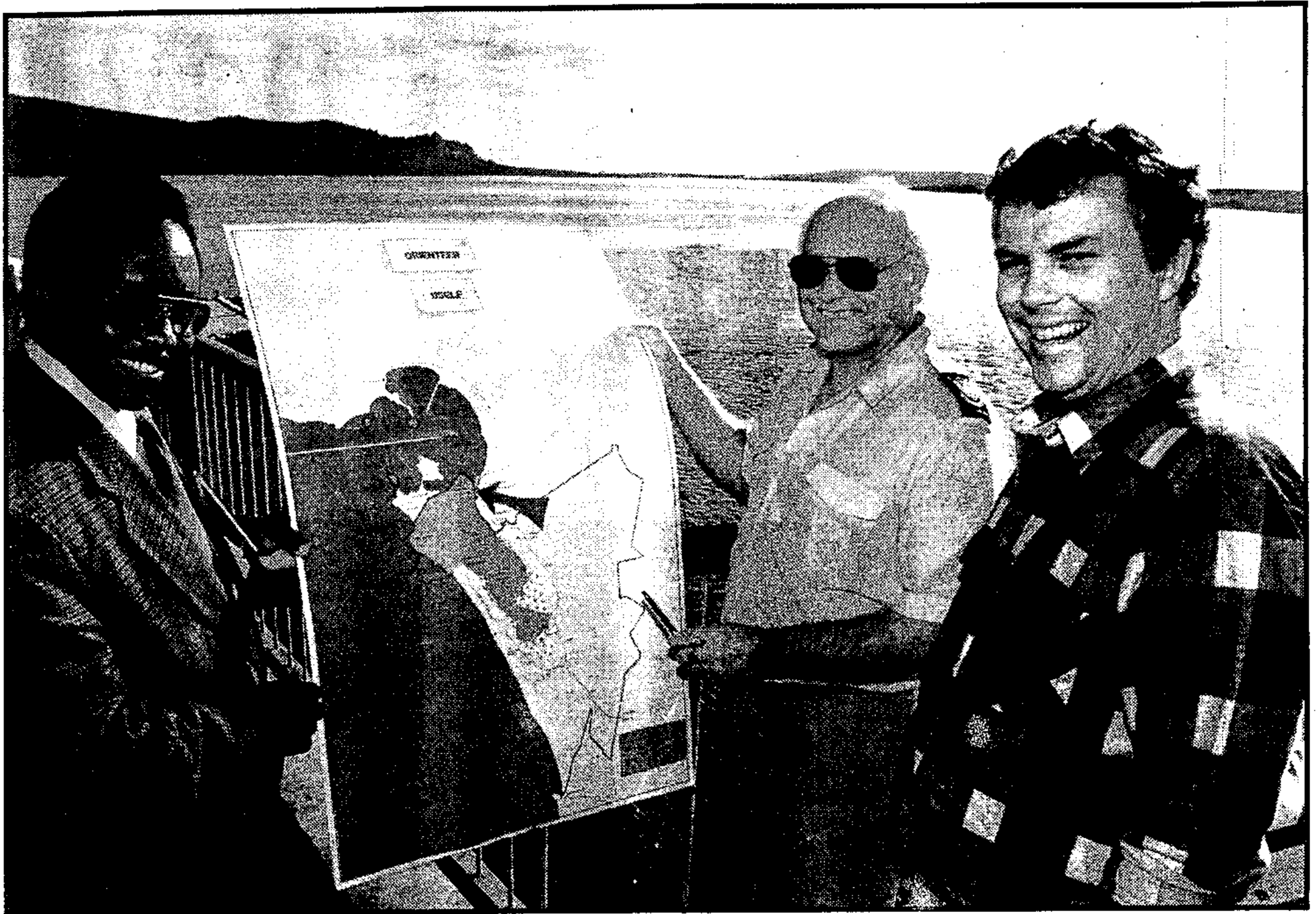
The area where the shopping complex would be built has already been filled in.

The residents are also concerned by the possibility of flooding after the filling in of the wetlands and changes to the adjoining Keyser's River canal. A man-made landscaped detour of the Keyser's River is planned to flow through the residential part of the scheme.

However, the developers claim that the Blue Route has reached its capacity, that there is a growing demand for more shop space and that the development would also provide much-needed housing.

For details of the scheme, contact C Draper at 400 2999 or P Papadopoulos at 400 2667 and quote file reference TP 3038.

Comments can be sent to the Town Clerk, Box 298, Cape Town 8 000 before August 4.



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

CHECKING POINTS: Ramsar Convention officer Tom Kabii, West Coast National Park warden Otto von Kaschke and Geoff Cowan, director of natural environment of the Department of Environmental Affairs, inspect a map of the Saldanha Bay/Langebaan Lagoon area where Iscor is proposing a steel mill.

ARLT 27/6/95

(1297) (56)

World wetland experts ready to advise on mill

Staff Reporter

INTERNATIONAL wetland experts would be willing to visit South Africa — if invited by the government — to give advice on possible impacts on Langebaan Lagoon from Iscor's proposed steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

This was disclosed during a site inspection by Tom Kabii, technical officer for Africa of the Ramsar Convention secretariat in Geneva.

The convention is an international agreement to protect wetlands, adopted at Ramsar, Iran in 1971. South Africa

signed in 1975, and is one of 88 signatory nations.

Mr Kabii, in South Africa as guest of the Department of Environmental Affairs, met West Coast National Park warden Otto von Kaschke in Langebaan to discuss Iscor's controversial proposal to build a R4,7 billion steel mill two kilometres from Saldanha Bay.

He said Ramsar would be willing to send a mission to the area "to assist and give technical advice" about the mill's possible impact on the environment, if requested by the South African government.

He said he did not have sufficient information to comment about possible threats to the 5 000 hectares of wetlands in Langebaan Lagoon.

Mr Von Kaschke said the proposed development at Saldanha Bay would affect the wetlands.

Mr Kabii's brief visit during his tour of Africa follows notification to the Ramsar Convention bureau in Geneva by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers of a possible threat to the area.

Dr De Villiers has appointed a board of inquiry, headed by

former Supreme Court judge Jan Steyn, into the proposed steel mill.

● A national assembly environment and tourism committee delegation will visit Saldanha Bay today to acquaint itself with the issues surrounding the proposed steel mill project, Sapa reports.

Chairman Peter Mokaba said the committee planned to meet and listen to "all stakeholders" in and around Saldanha and the Langebaan area, and would listen to representations from the mayors of the Saldanha/Vredenberg area and Langebaan.

Argus 3/7/95
56



Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

BROWN IS GREEN TOO: Environmental issues are not only about trees and animals in nature reserves — “brown” issues like community health, housing, sewerage, refuse removal and water provision are also an essential part of the equation. This reminder comes from Canadian researcher David McDonald of the University of Toronto, who is doing doctorate research on the impact of urban poverty on environmental degradation and who pointed out that sewage and refuse removal systems in townships such as Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga had virtually collapsed. Here, urban poor scuffle through a waste site on the Cape Flats. Numerous small unregulated dumps and associated activities are causing pollution problems for the metropolitan area.

Plant resources need more protection

Environment Reporter

THERE is an urgent need to develop a policy which will protect South Africa's genetic resources, says Deputy Environmental Affairs minister Bantu Holomisa.

His call is being supported by the Land and Agricultural Policy Centre, which wants an end to the unregulated exploitation of the country's plant resources.

Environmentalists have previously pointed out that the Netherlands and Belgium together make more money each year from plants which originated in South Africa, than this country does from its entire gold mining industry.

The Johannesburg-based centre is planning a policy development initiative, and wants all interested parties to take part.

“Genetic resources are a national asset and must be managed wisely,” says Saliem Fakir, manager of its natural resources management programme.

“We cannot have an open access situation where our traditional knowledge systems are exploited without adequate compensation.

“These are vital economic and ecological assets.”

● Anyone wanting to take part in the policy initiative or further information can contact Mr Fakir at ☎ 011 403-7272, fax 011 339-6423.

Still time to comment on people policy

Environment Reporter

THE deadline for comment and proposals on the government's green paper for a population policy has been extended by a month to August 31.

This was announced by Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams, who said there had been overwhelming response to the discussion document.

More than 17 000 copies had been distributed to groups and another 1 100 to individuals.

The green paper was compiled by a working group of experts as a forerunner the formation of an official population development policy.

“Although the RDP addresses many population development issues, it does not deal with certain specific issues in relation to population trends,” Mr Williams said.

● Copies of the green paper are available from the Ministry of Welfare and Population Development, Private Bag X901, Pretoria 0001. ☎ (012) 320-1080 or fax (012) 322-3702.

Water research site to be closed

CT 14/7/95 (56)
STAFF REPORTER

MONITORING at Africa's only mountain catchment research site is being scrapped because of lack of government funding.

The research station at Jonkershoek is to be closed.

Dr Dave Scott, who heads the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research catchment hydrologi-

cal research at Jonkershoek, described the move yesterday as a major setback for the country.

"This research has been particularly important in guiding policy for managing water catchments and for forestry."

He said the research also provided information to assess global climate change, which needed data collected over a long period.

Steel mill: Both sides will benefit from inquiry's wide brief

THE drama unfolding around the controversial steel mill proposal at Saldanha Bay has taken an altogether happier turn (although Iscor would probably disagree strongly).

It's not exactly comedy yet but there has been some relief, and the players can take off those tragic masks — at least for the present.

It might have taken some strong prompting — there are those who would say threats — to persuade Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to exercise his prerogative and appoint a board of inquiry, but that process is now firmly underway.

Chairman Jan Steyn has promised an entirely open and transparent investigation, and his board has an exceedingly wide brief.

Among other things, it must advise Dr De Villiers on "any other issue which in its opinion is a relevant consideration in the

evaluation of the matter".
Now there's an open invitation for you.

Those strongly opposed to the planned steel mill should welcome the board's hearings as a public platform — probably the most spacious and prominent one they're ever likely to get — on which to air their views and strut their stuff.

Naturally, that applies equally to the protagonists of the scheme (of whom there are many), and these players will no doubt also be speaking their lines just as forcefully.

I do not agree with those who object to the presence of Rufus Maruma and Richard Fuggle on the board of inquiry.

In the case of Mr Maruma, the objection — based on the fact that he worked for Eskom, which stood to gain from putting in power-lines to the proposed plant — is facile.

Eskom is a non-profit parastatal, and any "profit" it makes will — or at least

GREEN SCENE



John Yeld

should — go towards making the organisation more able to provide power in those vast areas of the country still without electricity.

In any event, my understanding is that Mr Maruma is no longer directly employed by Eskom, but works as environmental adviser to the premier of the Northern Province.

Professor Fuggle may well have been party to compiling the report of the Council for the Environment which, in essence, gave the nod to the CSIR's environmental

impact assessment of Iscor's proposed plant. *RAY 3/7/95*

As such, he might be inclined to view the project favourably — at this stage.

But who is entirely neutral who could take his place?

Trying to find someone suitably qualified but without at least an initial opinion on the matter could result in a tortuous, drawn-out affair, rather like the jury selection for the "O.J." murder case.

What is more important is whether one considers Professor Fuggle to have sufficient integrity to be willing to consider all new or previously unavailable information and, if persuaded, to change his mind — and I have no doubts on that score.

What those opposed to Professor Fuggle's presence should do instead is accept the challenge of proving the earlier assessment of the Council for the Environment faulty, if that's what they believe.

By the same token, Dr De Villiers may well have added one or two board mem-

bers from the "non-establishment" environmental lobby to provide a balance.

And if he doesn't want to now, perhaps the board should itself decide to co-opt others who may hold contrary views (although they too will need to acknowledge the possibility of being persuaded to a different view).

Personally, I think all available time and energy should be concentrated on ensuring that Langebaan Lagoon and Saldanha Bay (if one can distinguish between the two) are not ever put at risk — by any development.

And for me, that includes the much more horrifying spectacle of increased oil tanker traffic in the bay, through the lease of the oil storage facilities next to Iscor's proposed site to foreigners.

Now that's an issue that really needs to be tackled head-on — and soon.

● John Yeld will be on leave for the next three weeks. This column will resume on his return.

Saldanha: Parks chief takes stand

CLAIRE BISSEKER
STAFF REPORTER

~~13/7/95~~
56

NATIONAL Parks Board executive director Dr Robbie Robinson is to speak against the controversial Saldanha steel mill before the government-appointed board of inquiry under Mr Justice Jan Steyn.

Dr Robinson, who was censured earlier this year by National Parks Board chairman Mr Naas Steenkamp for criticising plans for the mill, said he had agreed to approach the board at the request of the Campaign for Saldanha.

Whether Dr Robinson makes his submission in the name of the National Parks Board or in his private capacity will depend on a meeting today with the acting chairman Mr Theuns Erasmus.

Mr Steenkamp is on sick leave.

Threat

CT 13/7/95

Dr Robinson said he thought his submission would have the "total support" of the board.

"I am very strongly against the development of the steel mill. I spent a lot of my career developing the West Coast National Park and Langebaan Lagoon and I will outline the threat to that area which supports over 70 000 migratory waders," he said.

"We should not jeopardise an internationally acclaimed wetland. There is a universal management principle stating that an industry which doesn't have to be in a coastal zone should not be.

"The area should be developed for eco-tourism.

"I think the mill should be developed elsewhere. Other sites have not been given serious enough consideration."



NEW TOURIST ATTRACTION? No, a temporary cable-car system has been set up to haul oily sand off Clifton beach.

Cableways to help (56) clean ^{ARL 7/7/95} up beaches

Staff Reporter

CABLEWAYS to lift bags of sludge cleared off oily beaches by heavy machinery is part of the strategy to restore Clifton beaches to their former glory — permanently.

Last week the beaches were transformed into a quagmire when the coast was hit by a storm. The strong winds and high seas once again exposed the oil packets three metres beneath the sand.

The oil originated with the sinking, on June 25 last year, of the Apollo Sea with about 2 400 tons of heavy fuel oil. Although cleaning teams worked round the clock last year to remove the sludge from the beaches, oil continues to surface when a storm hits the coast.

Clifford Harris, the company that will launch the major



GOOEY! Each storm that brushes the Cape transforms Clifton into an oily quagmire.

clean-up operation at Clifton beaches, will lower equipment on to the beaches to uncover pools of oil.

Engineer Mike Ralph said they were busy constructing cableways to speed up the

cleaning. The cableways would be used to lift the bags of sludge off the beaches.

Mr Ralph said: "This technique will be used on all the oil-spoilt beaches and the beaches will be clean in time

for the summer season."

The cost of cleaning up has already run into millions of rands, which has been paid by the department of transport. The Apollo Sea insurers are still assessing the claim.

'Close us down if we pollute'

(183) (56) Star 19/7/95
Cape Town — Saldanha Steel says it is prepared to give opponents of its R4,7-billion steel mill project at Saldanha Bay the legal authority to close it down if it repeatedly breaches environmental regulations.

Giving evidence before the Steyn board of inquiry which opened in Cape Town on Monday, Saldanha Steel executive chairman Bernard Smith

said the authority would be vested in a private trust comprising mainly representatives from concerned individuals and organisations.

Saldanha Steel would enter into a legal contract with the trust, giving it the power to act against the company if it breached self-imposed environmental regulations modelled on Canadian legislation. — Sapa.

'Close plant if we break agreement'

~~1997~~ (56)
SALDANHA STEEL says it is prepared to give opponents to its R4,7 billion steel mill project the legal authority to close it down if it repeatedly breached environmental regulations.

Giving evidence before the Steyn board of inquiry yesterday, Saldanha Steel executive chairman Mr Bernard Smith said the authority would be vested in a private trust comprising mainly representatives from concerned individuals and organisations.

Trust

CT 19/7/95
Saldanha Steel would enter into a contract enabling the trust to act against the company if it breached environmental regulations based on Canadian legislation.

The operations of the trust and any legal costs arising from court actions would be met by Saldanha Steel, Mr Smith said.

"There would be three to four levels of action. If we breached the first level we would be given time to rectify it. If we breached the fourth level, they would be allowed to close the plant."

Inquiry head Judge Jan Steyn said he would study the proposal before commenting. — Sapa

River plan is sidelined

PHALABORWA — The fight against pollution of the Olifants River system, a major supporter of agriculture in the region, was being hamstrung by a lack of funds, a representative of the Olifants River Forum said yesterday.

Finance originally intended for the rehabilitation of the river system was now being channelled into other "more urgent" reconstruction and development programmes.

Phalaborwa task team leader Fritz Bekker said the most costly and challenging task facing the anti-pollution operation was the education of local communities in proper soil management and sound agricultural practices.

A forum meeting last year identified the large quantity of silt being washed into the river as a result of poor farming methods as a major cause of pollution. Industrial effluent was also singled out as a threat.

Kruger National Park researcher Andrew Deacon had informed delegates that millions of fish were dying in the river.

Environmental magazine On Track reported recently that the Olifants River system was one of the most polluted in the country. The river's catchment area generated 55% of SA's electricity and was home to about 2.5-million people. — Sapa (56)

Parks board prepares for invaders

DURBAN — The Natal Parks Board said yesterday it was preparing to deal with would-be land invaders at St Lucia Park in northeastern KwaZulu-Natal tomorrow.

Parks board chief conservator for the St Lucia region Drummond Densham said the board was working with the police to ensure would-be land invaders were kept out of the park.

This follows a threat from the Mkhwanazi clan, who live in surrounding areas, to move as many as

5 000 people on to the park's eastern shores area.

The clan claims the entire eastern shores area north of the park's crocodile centre. Clan leaders say the Mkhwanazi were forcibly removed from the area in the apartheid era.

Densham said the parks board had every intention of defending its boundaries.

"We have a mandate to prevent people coming on to a protected area. They (the clan) have been told about our plans... and they know it would be in their best interests to stay out."

He said the parks board was hoping for a speedy decision on the land dispute by the Land Affairs Commission. The board had also appealed to the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for conservation and traditional authorities for a decision in favour of retaining the disputed territory as parks board property.

The clan had also made submissions to the MEC.

Densham said it was unlikely a final decision would be reached before tomorrow's threatened land invasion. — Sapa.

Hospitals face theft crisis

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON — Theft from provincial hospitals and clinics is reaching crisis proportions, with losses running into millions of rands a year.

At Frere Hospital, theft of a copper water pipe resulted in extensive flooding, causing damage estimated at more than R250 000 to sensitive radiology equipment.

Duncan Village Day Hospital was hardest hit by burglaries — eight in the past year alone.

Cecilia Makiwane Hospital chief superintendent Dr Goodall Maholwana said the Mdantsane Hospital's maintenance department was forced to order replacement taps and toilet seats virtually on a weekly basis. "It's crazy. They take almost everything they can lay their hands on," he said.

Hospital security was virtually non-existent, with a maximum of five security personnel guarding the entire hospital compound "when there should be at least

20" on duty. Pedestrians and vehicles moved freely through the compound.

Both Cecilia and Frere Hospitals suffered heavy losses in their kitchens and linen departments.

A Frere Hospital superintendent, Dr Esme Erasmus, said: "Theft of laundry has become a major problem.

"There are also always huge losses in the kitchen."

Frere Hospital had lost close on R100 000 through theft in its laundry and kitchen, but these were conservative estimates, Erasmus said.

Col Dave Walker, head of the East London CID, confirmed yesterday police had received at least 24 reports of theft and housebreaking at Frere Hospital in the last six months.

Thieves had targeted "virtually anything that wasn't nailed down, and some things that were".

Reported thefts had included wall clocks and telephones to car batteries and even a stove.

Cold weather is 'the best policeman'

Call to train healers about plants

(56) Star 20/7/95

■ BY PATRICK WADULA

There is an urgent need for training centres to teach traditional healers how to gather and use medicinal plants, conservationists said yesterday.

This follows the seizure last week of a bakkie full of medicinal plants from 10 people who raided the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve, south of Johannesburg.

Wade Berning, a horticultural expert at the Johannesburg Zoo, said some of the plants had been dug out with

picks and were completely destroyed.

Zoo spokesman Jacqui Thompson explained that the gatherers of the plants were unemployed and that young sangomas were not taught the techniques of sustainable use of these plants.

According to Berning there is a huge market for medicinal roots and bulbs.

In the city, the main selling points are in Diagonal Street and Louis Botha Avenue.

Berning made the point that KwaZulu-Natal was far ahead of Gauteng in creating

awareness about the importance of conserving South Africa's indigenous plants.

The Silver Glen Nursery in Natal functions as an educational centre for sangomas, teaching them how to value and protect indigenous plants, especially those that are endangered.

Gauteng and North West province are behind Natal in nature conservation regarding indigenous plants, because Natal has a reserve where traditional healers are allowed to go and gather plants, said Berning.

THURSDAY
JULY 20, 1995 ★

Parks board to keep out invaders

(56)
CT 20/7/95

DURBAN: The Natal Parks Board said yesterday it was preparing itself to deal with potential land invaders at St Lucia Park in north-eastern kwaZulu/Natal tomorrow.

Parks board chief conservator for the St Lucia region Mr Drummond Densham said the board was working with police to keep land invaders out of the park.

This follows a threat from the Mkhwanazi clan who inhabit surrounding areas to move as many as 5 000 people on to the park's eastern shores area tomorrow.

Removed

The clan claims the entire eastern shores area north of the park's crocodile centre. Clan leaders say the Mkhwanazi were forcibly removed from the area in the apartheid era.

Mr Densham said the parks board had every intention of defending its boundaries.

He said the parks board was hoping for a speedy decision on the land dispute by the Land Affairs Commission. — Sapa

Independents will assess mill's costs

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — The Steyn board of inquiry has appointed Protea Assurance chairman Clive Hirschson and former Pim Goldby partner Gerhard Krone to conduct an assessment of the cost of siting a steel mill at Saldanha Bay.

On the second day of hearings yesterday, Judge Jan Steyn said the assessment of figures presented by Saldanha Steel would begin next week.

Saldanha Steel has said an additional annual cost of about R50m would be incurred if the mill was built away from the proposed location, about 2km from the Saldanha Bay shoreline.

This location has been strongly opposed by environmental and property interest groups.

CSIR project manager Keith Wiseman, who has been conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for Portnet on the expansion of harbour facilities at Saldanha Bay, told the board the harbour would probably have to be extended irrespective of where the steel mill was sited.

He said the scope of the EIA had been

M 20/7/95
extended to quantify the commercialisation of oil storage facilities in the bay, which would increase the number of tankers berthing in the bay to 75 from 25 a year.

Increased production at Namakwa Sands and the 60 additional vessels a year envisaged by the Saldanha steel project would mean more than 300 vessels a year, compared with about 225 as at present.

Wiseman concurred with a remark by Judge Steyn that increased transport of fuel to vessels, should the Strategic Fuel Fund be commercialised, would be more ecologically hazardous than the steel mill.

Portnet's EIA was expected to be completed by the end of August, he said.

The board heard evidence from two property owners in the area, Zolia Rumble and Alistair van Huyssteen.

Rumble questioned how it was possible for Saldanha Steel to investigate alternative sites in Saldanha from December 6 1994 to January 13 1995.

She also questioned why no studies had been conducted on the possible effect of the steel plant on tourism.

It was "unfair" of Saldanha Steel to ask government to accept its own EIA only.

Church wants

Oil tanker risk part of impact study

Environment Reporter

AN environmental impact assessment of Portnet's proposal to extend its general cargo quay at Saldanha Bay — partly to accommodate Iscor's proposed new steel plant — is to include a study of the risk of increased oil tanker traffic.

This was evidence to the Steyn board of inquiry by Keith Wiseman of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) ~~(CSIR)~~ (56)

Mr Wiseman, who was project manager for the CSIR's impact assessment of the proposed Saldanha Steel plant, is also managing the CSIR study of Portnet's proposal.

He told the board he had been contacted by the Strategic Fuel Fund which manages the 19 million-barrel oil storage facility next to the Saldanha Steel property.

The fund was considering commercialising the oil storage facility, although no contracts had been signed and no final decision taken yet.

The fund had asked for the risk of increased tanker traffic associated with the proposed commercialisation to be included in the overall Portnet assessment.

Last year, a total of 225 vessels had docked at the Saldanha quay. ARG 20/7/95

These included 12 general cargo vessels.

When the Saldanha Steel plant was producing its full 1,25 million tons of hot rolled coil steel annually, a further 60 vessels a year would use the general cargo quay.

A draft impact assessment report, including an assessment of dredging and blasting, was expected to be ready by the middle of next month.

Iran to store oil at Saldanha facility

Mungo Soggot

(56)

SA HAD struck a deal with the Iranian government to store 15-million barrels of Iranian oil at the oil storage facilities in Saldanha Bay, Central Energy Fund MD Kobus van Zyl said last night.

The deal followed Cabinet's decision to cut SA's strategic oil stock built up during the sanctions era. MD 2/7/95

The move "could generate upwards of R50m a year for the local economy through trading on the world market". Econometrics economist Tony Twine said this implied that the CEF had "some kind of lien" over the Iranian oil which CEF would be able to trade. Van Zyl could not be

reached to elaborate on his statement. It is understood that the CEF would also earn rental income from the deal.

The joint venture would be signed at the month-end. The sale of oil stocks to free up space for the Iranians had raised R750m.

Van Zyl said the storage of oil was not intended to contravene current US sanctions against Iran. "The US sanctions simply prevent American companies and their subsidiaries from trading with Iran."

Twine said the Iranians' motivation for the deal was probably to give them quicker access to European markets during times of sudden shortage.

Van Zyl said the first oil delivery was expected in August.

NEWS

Eco policy⁽⁵⁶⁾ conference

STAR 21/7/95

■ BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

Attendance at the national conference to develop a new environment policy for South Africa will be by invitation only, according to a statement by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism yesterday.

Members of the public interested in either attending the conference — being held on August 17 and 18 — or having input into the process are advised to contact their provincial department of environment.

A 25-member conference organising committee consisting of representatives from labour, the provinces, the DEA&T, industry, civics and non-governmental organisations has compiled an invitation list of approximately 500 organisations.



Sun Inter

No help with asbestos roofing for Soweto's new home owners

STW 11/7/95

■ BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
CITY REPORTER

Soweto residents, soon to have their houses transferred into their names, should forget about having the roofs of their homes replaced by the Soweto council despite the risk of disease from asbestos covers.

About 65% of council-owned houses had asbestos roofs which the council would not replace with alternative roofing, said acting town clerk, Louis

(56) (127)

Geldenhuis.

"The houses will be transferred in the their present condition and the new owners will be responsible for the roofs," he said.

Geldenhuis said the council was aware of the dangers presented by asbestos, but no investigation had been carried out in the township to check cases of asbestos-related disease.

Although it has been proved that lengthy expo-

sure to asbestos causes several incurable diseases, thousands of Sowetans have been risking their lives in houses roofed with asbestos.

According to the Environmental Occupational Health Organisation (EOHO), inhalation of asbestos can lead to thickening and scarring of the lung tissue, lung cancer and cancer of the pleura or perineum.

The EOHO warned residents not to disturb the materials.

Pollution: 13 rushed to hospital

(56) WMT 21-27/7/95

Anne Eveleth

THIRTEEN people, including two children, were rushed to hospital this week after inhaling petrol fumes following a pipeline leak in the Durban South Industrial Basin.

Residents of Merebank complained on Monday of strong odours from an underground pipeline connected to the South African Petroleum Refineries of Shell and British Petroleum (Sapref) in their neighbourhood. By Monday night, the odour was reported to be "almost choking". The victims were treated at the RK Khan hospital and one woman was hospitalised. Her condition was described as stable.

Sapref agreed to pay for the hospital expenses.

Pollution problems in the basin were the subject of an environment ministry workshop earlier this year after residents — including the Merebank Ratepayers' Association (MRA) — staged a protest outside Engen's refineries during a visit by President Nelson Mandela.]

Community-based organisations told the workshop their communities were "islands surrounded by a sea of polluting industries".

The MRA has called for a commission of inquiry into the incident.

N Cape calls again for steel mill

ET 21/7/95

(56)

(789)

KIMBERLEY: Northern Cape Premier Mr Manne Dipico objected again yesterday to the proposed Iscor steel mill at Saldanha Bay and urged Iscor to reconsider locating the plant in his province instead.

The environmental outcry vindicated his province's position that alternative sites had never been considered, Mr Dipi-

co's office said.

It intended to make written and oral submissions to the Steyn commission of inquiry that Sishen in the Northern Cape and not Saldanha offered a technically feasible and economically viable location.

There was also less potential for negative environmental consequences. — Sapa

Judge stunned by deal to store oil at Saldanha

The Central Energy Fund's deal with Iran to store 15-million barrels of oil at Saldanha Bay's oil storage facilities drew surprise criticism yesterday from Saldanha Steel board of inquiry chairman Mr Justice Jan Steyn.

Judge Steyn, appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to investigate objections to Saldanha Steel's proposed R4,7-billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay, said he found it "extraordi-

STAV 22/7/95 (56)
nary" that the public had not been involved in the oil storage decision.

Keith Wiseman, project manager of an environmental impact study of Portnet's proposal to extend its general cargo quay at Saldanha Bay, told the board of inquiry on Wednesday he had been contacted by the Strategic Fuel Fund, which manages the oil storage facility, and asked to study the risk of increased oil tanker traffic. — Sapa

Military won't give up Donkergat

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

THE SA National Defence Force will not give its Donkergat base to the National Parks Board, saying the secluded peninsula near Langebaan is ideal for special forces training.

It would, however, welcome further talks on possible options for co-operation with the NPB, defence force spokesman Colonel John Rolt said this week.

His remarks followed renewed NPB hopes that Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers would persuade the military to give the board greater access, to the ter-

rain, enlarging the 27 000 ha West Coast National Park.

Army and parks board competition for Donkergat, the headquarters of 453 Parachute Battalion, dates back to the reign of former President P W Botha, a senior military source said this week.

NPB executive director Robbie Robinson believes the terrain makes a logical addition to the adjoining national park, and could be jointly managed with the defence force.

But according to Col Rolt, security and safety considerations prevented public access to the former 4 Reconnaissance Regi-

ment's training grounds.

The SANDF was, nonetheless, aware of Dr de Villiers' recent suggestion to Defence Minister Joe Modise that Dr Robinson deal directly with senior military staff "regarding future options for further co-operation".

"The SANDF supports this suggestion and would welcome further discussions," he added.

He said Donkergat was ideally suited for the type of military training and force preparation activities which occurred there. Believed to be used for training seaward commandos, it has maritime facilities.

(56) ST(CM) 23/97/95

Star 24/7/95

Land claims delay

La Lucia decision

BY ANITA ALLEN
SCIENCE WRITER

A decision on mining at Lake St Lucia is not possible until the land claims by various people who were forcibly removed has been decided, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

He was reacting to a call by the Campaign for St Lucia for the Government to make a "decision without further delay".

"The position is that the Leon Commission identified the grave and urgent need to attend to the problem surrounding the claims of indigenous people removed from the land. While mineral rights have not been separated from surface rights, ownership of the land is part and parcel of the decision," the Mineral and Energy spokesman said.

Cheryl Walker, commissioner on restitution of land rights for KwaZulu-Natal, told The Star that at this stage it was

impossible to give a timetable about the land claims.

"It is quite a complex matter, with more than one claimant. The process of resolution can't be done on the basis of only some of the issues..." Walker said.

She added that the matter would more than likely have to go to the Land Claims Court.

The Campaign for St Lucia claimed that there was no justifiable reason for not making a decision on the mining issue.

"The delay is preventing the development of the St Lucia region into the most important conservation and ecotourism area in southern Africa.

"The result of this delay is to the detriment of the KwaZulu-Natal region and to South Africa as a whole in that the obvious economic benefits are being prevented from occurring now when they are most needed," Campaign for St Lucia co-ordinator Oliff d'Oliveira said in a statement.

Poison threatens blue crane flocks

STAFF REPORTER

SIX blue cranes and an Egyptian goose have died in the Caledon area after being poisoned by agricultural chemicals, raising fears that flocks of up to 3 000 blue cranes could be in danger.

Last week four more cranes

were reported to be in a weak condition at Klipdale but these had apparently recovered and flown off by the time Cape Nature Conservation (CNC) officials arrived.

CNC confirmed that the other birds had died from organophosphate poisoning, and expressed concern that mass deaths could

CT 24/7/95
follow among blue crane flocks in the nearby Rietpoel area.

The situation is "critical" according to CNC, which fears that illegal control measures being used to stop Egyptian geese from causing damage to young wheat crops could be harming the blue cranes.

(56)
Blue cranes are globally threatened and fines for harming them run to R10 000 or two years' imprisonment.

They occur almost exclusively in South Africa and about half of the remaining 23 000 birds are found in the agricultural areas of the Cape Overberg.

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, has stated that South Africa will not allow foreign waste in general, but toxic waste in particular, to be dumped in this country. NEIL LURSSSEN reports from Washington.

Africa not a dumping site, says De Villiers

AKL 24/7/95

(56)

&
YOUR
EARTH

THERE is no way foreign companies or agencies would be allowed to dump waste, especially toxic waste, in South Africa, according to Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Dr De Villiers was speaking to reporters in Washington after a meeting of a committee of the United States-South Africa bi-national commission which deals with issues covered by his department.

Flanked by his deputy Bantu Holomisa and departmental director-general Dr C M Cameron, Dr De Villiers said the issue of waste dumping had not come up during the meeting with American officials, but in response to a reporter's question he made it clear the South African government would never agree to such a plan.

"There are many companies, agencies or operations in the world which want to use Africa (and South Africa) as a dumping ground," he said. "The problem is they come up with very nice projects and how much they will invest and how it will be safe waste ...

"But once you allow that, how do you differentiate between how the waste is packaged and so on? You can't do it.

"So the answer to them is that if they want to come and put up a plant for southern Africa, fine. But we are not going to take waste from anywhere in the world.

"There is no way we will allow foreign waste in general, and toxic waste in particular, to be dumped in South Africa."

Dr De Villiers said the main purpose of the Washington meeting was to prepare for the full meeting of the bi-national commission in South Africa in October under the co-chairmanship of Vice-President Al Gore and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

Areas of mutual interest between the two countries included nature conservation and eco-tourism, elements of environmental management and education, sustainable fishing resources, international co-operation on climate change and water management.

The plan now was to develop policies and programmes in these and other areas for bilateral discussion.

Asked about the impact of violence and crime on South Africa's image as an international tourist destination, Dr De Villiers said it was true tourists gave personal safety high priority.

Political violence was confined mostly to KwaZulu/Natal and the problem of criminality was complex and could not be solved overnight. — Sapa.



□ FYNBOS FOREVER! Part of the fynbos-clad "Kirstenbosch South Africa" exhibit, above, which took two awards at the world-famous Hampton Court Palace Flower Show — a gold medal and the coveted Tudor Rose award presented in recognition of exhibits which make a unique contribution to the show. The exhibit, also took a gold medal at the earlier Chelsea Flower Show.

Pictures:
NATIONAL BOTANICAL INSTITUTE

□ WINNING SMILES: Members of the Kirstenbosch team, left, who put together the winning exhibit at the Chelsea and Hampton Court flower shows — back, from left, Koos Myburgh, Gaby Palmer and Rob Nichol; middle, Wilhelmina During; David Davidson and Nicky Coningsby; and, front, James Townsend.

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Poisons are killing our national bird

Environment Reporter

24/7/95

THE blue crane, South Africa's national bird, is still being severely threatened by indiscriminate poisoning, despite intense efforts by conservation authorities.

The species is now regarded as globally endangered.

Cape Nature Conservation reported this week that six of the beautiful blue cranes and an Egyptian goose had been poisoned at Klipdale, near Caledon.

Four more cranes were in a weak condition, but had apparently recovered sufficiently to fly away when conservation officials arrived at the scene.

They appealed to farmers in the Overberg area to support efforts to conserve the blue crane by using agricultural pesticides with the utmost discretion.

"Despite the positive efforts of the Overberg Crane Group... indirect poisoning resulting from the misuse of agrochemicals is a constant threat to the blue cranes," a spokesman said.

Blue cranes are found almost exclusively in South Africa, and about half of the remaining 23 000 birds are found in the agricultural areas of the Cape Overberg.

"The current situation is regarded as critical. Egyptian geese are causing damage to young wheat crops in some areas, and there is a danger that illegal control measures for the geese could have an adverse effect on the cranes."

"The use of poison, in particular, is irresponsible and cannot be condoned under any circumstances," the spokesman said.

Crop spraying for the control of lice and other insects on wheat was also taking place, and this could result in indirect poisoning to cranes if chemicals other than those prescribed by responsible agrochemical companies were used.

Large concentrations of up to 3 000 blue cranes had been counted in the Rietpoel area, near Klipdale, and the potential for a mass mortality was great if poisons were used indiscriminately.

The department was seeking solutions to the Egyptian geese problem in co-operation with the farming community, the spokesman said.

The maximum fines for harming blue cranes was R10 000 and/or two years' imprisonment.

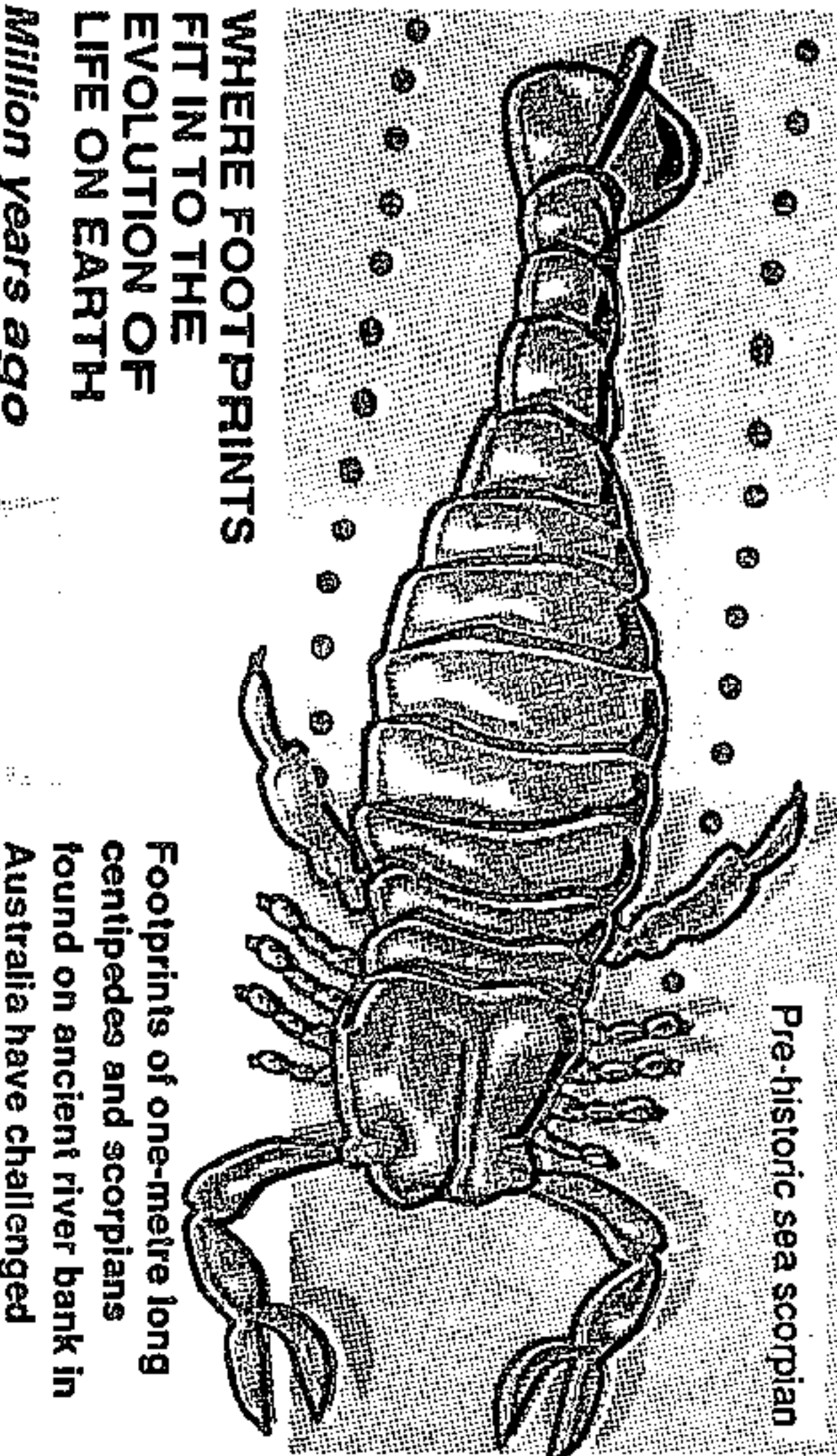
Fast and featherless fossil

Dateline: CALGARY (Western Canada)

FOSSIL hunters have discovered the skeleton of a 75-million-year-old ostrich-like dinosaur. The beaked and taloned animal belongs to the family of ornithomids or "bird-mimic" dinosaurs.

"These guys look like ostriches without the feathers - they were built to move fast," said palaeontologist Philip Currie, whose team found the perfectly preserved skeleton. - Sapa.

WHERE FOOTPRINTS FIT IN TO THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE ON EARTH



Footprints of one-metre long centipedes and scorpions found on ancient river bank in Australia have challenged classical evolutionary theory that plants were earth's first colonisers.

420 million years old, before first known land plants

Trilobites, worms, molluscs, sponges

Jawless fish, trilobites, brachiopods

Armoured fish, corals, simple land plants

Previously known first land animals, rhipidistian fish

Conifers, giant dragonflies, spiders, early sharks

Giant ferns, fish

Early dinosaurs, mammal-like reptiles

Dinosaurs, modern fish, first birds

Flowering plants, modern plants, dinosaurs, bees, turtles, birds

Whales, horses, marsupials, grasses, primates, elephants, mammoths

Humans

Source: The Times Atlas of the World

Aussie discover steps on evolution theories

Dateline: PERTH

AUSTRALIAN and British scientists have found what they say are the world's oldest footprints in ancient rock in west Australia, upsetting classic evolutionary theory that plants were earth's first colonisers.

The footprints, made by giant one-metre-long scorpions and centipedes, were dated to at least 420 million years ago, well before the first higher plants took root, Australian palaeontologist Ken McNamara said.

"It's changing the sequence of events," said Mr McNamara, of the Western Australia Museum in Perth.

"The classic view of evolution of life on land is not really held up in the fossil evidence," he added.

The fossil record of these huge, scuttling arthropods is the earliest evidence of an animal walking on land, he said, adding they were found in a gully in a national park about 600km north of Perth.

"We are looking at rocks of about 420 million to 430 million years ago, but they could be older than that," Mr McNamara said.

The larger arthropods probably fed on smaller animals that in turn survived on bacteria, lower plants like mosses and on scum at the water's edge, he said.

"These animals were known to be around but were thought to be entirely aquatic," said Mr McNamara, who has been studying the fossils with British palaeontologist Nigel Trewhin, of the University of Aberdeen.

The inland area where the footprints were found was once part of a river system with sand flats. Mr McNamara said, adding that prints had been perfectly preserved. - Reuter.

Local govt warned on Caltex

CT 26/7/95

(183) (51)

STAFF REPORTER

THE future of local government depends on it holding Caltex accountable for pollution, a group of Milnerton residents who met earlier this week to discuss the proposed Caltex modernising project said yesterday.

The modernising project, Calref 2 000, is aimed at improving the Milnerton refinery's economic

and environmental performance.

In April, the company announced its plans to establish a review panel which would include representatives from community organisations, non-governmental organisation and relevant authorities.

But according to residents, Caltex would be able to ignore suggestions by the panel.

Last night Caltex Media Manager Mr Terry O'Donovan denied

this, saying: "We see the panel as an integral part of the process."

Bothasig Ratepayers and Residents' Association representative, Mr Robbie Upton, said: "Pollution from Caltex is one of the biggest problems in Milnerton. Caltex must negotiate a good neighbour agreement, failing that, local government should be on notice that their political future depends on holding Caltex accountable."

'Progress on mountain chain'

Environment Reporter

THE "Kahn" committee, appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to make recommendations on a future management authority for the Peninsula mountain chain, is making good progress, says chairman Brian Huntley.

But he acknowledged that the "really difficult questions" still lay ahead.

Also, the committee is concerned about the non-appearance of "Rams" Rammutla of the National Parks Board at its three meetings so far, and Professor Huntley is to ask Parks Board chief executive Robbie Robinson for clarity.

The 16-person committee was selected by Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn, following nominations from organisations and the public.

Mr Kahn is on record as saying he hoped the committee would complete its work by the end of October.

After yesterday's meeting at Kirstenbosch, Professor Huntley, chief executive of the National Botanical Institute, said there had been initial concern about "in-fighting and conflict".

"But now everyone is working well and taking things seriously, and I

think it's moving along pretty well."

At its first three meetings, the committee had attempted to achieve consensus on the philosophy of, and criteria for, the proposed new management authority.

"And secondly, we're well on the way to defining its functions — the kind of job it will do."

A third "tricky" area of deliberation concerned defining boundaries of the authority's area of responsibility and possible complications in this regard.

In early August, the committee would hear advice on what the legal options were for the proposed authority, Professor Huntley said.

"And after that we should have a shortish document that describes our thinking, and we will circulate that for comment — and particularly to the professional managers' association for comment on the practicalities involved."

Towards the end of August the committee would have a draft framework for the new authority, and would hold public hearings on this proposal.

● The next meeting is at 9 am on Monday, July 31, at the Gold Fields Educational Centre at Kirstenbosch.

(56) ARL 26/7/95

DREDGER CLEANS CLIFTON SAND

World first in oil clean-up ^{ET 27/1/95} ₍₅₁₎

OLD TECHNOLOGY used in a new way is returning the sparkle to Cape Town's beaches as residual oil from the Apollo Sea is removed. **CLAIRE BISSEKER** reports.

THE City Council has achieved a breakthrough in eradicating the oil pollution on Clifton's beaches with a world-first dredging technique that had been dismissed by some international experts.

Chief engineer, cleansing, Mr Bruce Black celebrated with champagne on Clifton's Second Beach yesterday when a Genflow Jet Pump successfully sucked up pools of sand and oil, scoured the sand clean and separated it from the oil.

A delighted Mr Black said the technique was a "breakthrough" in

the city's battle against oil pollution from the Apollo Sea and assured Capetonians that Clifton would be free of oil "once and for all" by the summer holiday season.

The Genflow Jet Pump has never been used to treat oil pollution in this way and Mr Black said an international expert had told him it could not be done.

The pump had been used to pump oil, but had never before been used to rid beaches of oil.

At Clifton, polluted sand and oil are being pumped into a "mixing box" where the sand particles

are rubbed together under extreme force and scoured clean.

The clean sand and oil are then pumped together into a pond where the sand sinks to the bottom. The oil floats and is easily removed with specially-designed sieves and placed in plastic bags.

The creator of the Genflow Jet Pump, Mr Tony Wakefield, said from his home in Stamford, England, yesterday that he had always known that the pump could be used to rid beaches of oil and was "jolly pleased" it had been achieved at Clifton.

Mr Wakefield, who has been developing the design for the past 32 years, said: "I'm delighted. I knew it would work but people are very conservative and don't want

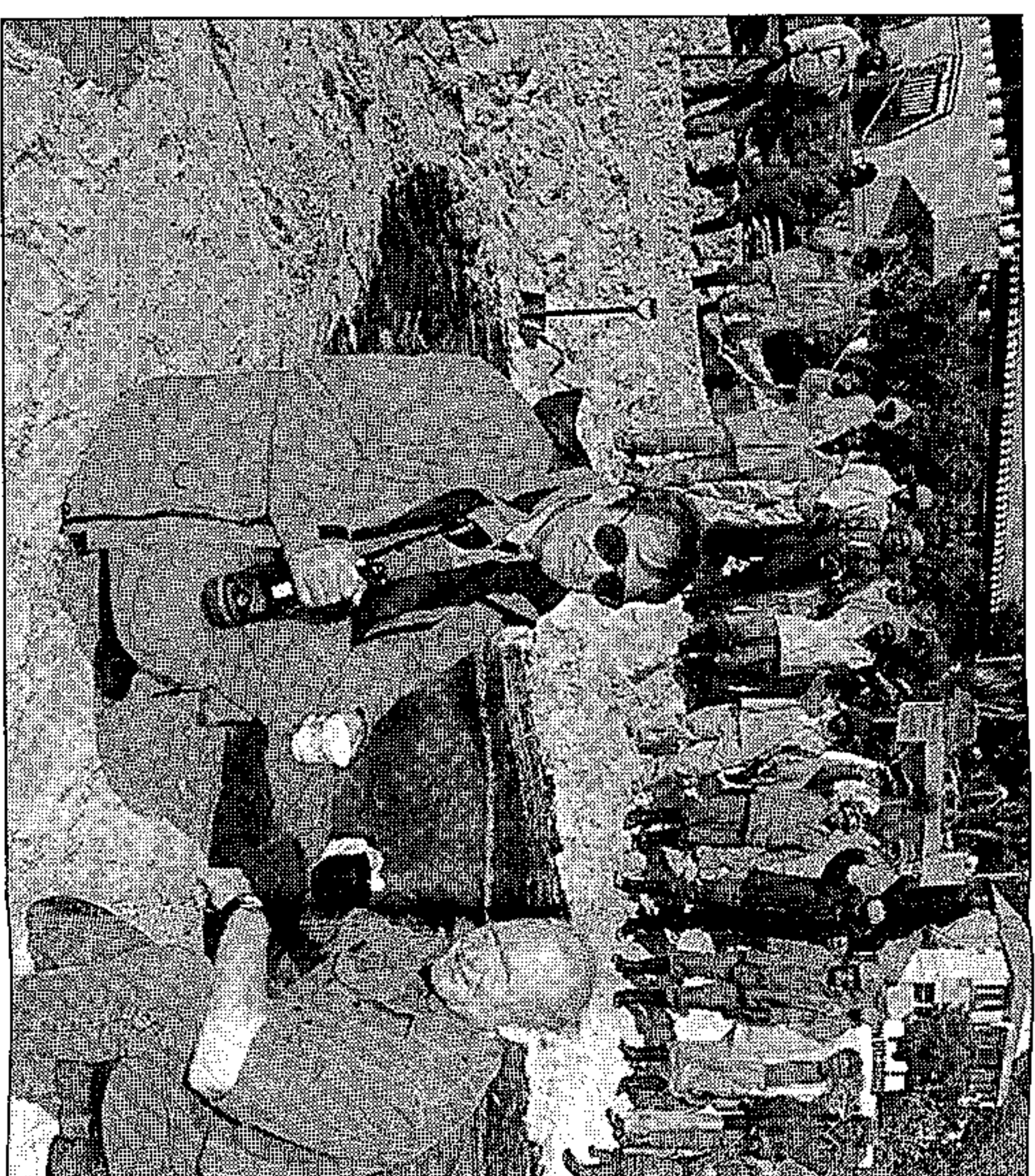
to try anything new."

The pump is widely used in industry to suck up mixtures of sand and water and has been used in South African mines and on coastal dredging projects.

Cape Town coastal engineer Mr Gordon Prestedge had suggested to the council that the jet pump could be used to end the recurring oil pollution at Clifton by pumping out pools of residual Apollo Sea oil that have lain buried beneath the sand since summer.

"It was really an experiment. It was a question of how sticky the oil was and whether it could be liberated from the sand," he said.

The operation would probably add a further R2 million to the R15m clean-up bill.



BREAKTHROUGH: Mr Bruce Black celebrated with Clifford Harris contract engineer Mr Clifton's Second Beach yesterday where a unique method is being successfully applied.

Mining to start at Noordhoek

(5b) CT 27/7/95

KAOLIN mining at Serina's controversial Noordhoek site is to start next week.

Serina chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy said yesterday it was necessary to start mining before the completion of a washing plant and a kaolin transportation pipeline as deposits at the nearby Trentham site had been exhausted.

Own Correspondent, Reuter, Sapa-AFP

Anger over industrial township plan

ARG 27/7/95 (56)

□ *Haven for birdlife is threatened*

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

A PLAN to develop vacant land adjoining Thornton into an industrial township with a small residential component has residents up in arms.

At stake is the future of a 16 hectare portion of land — bounded by Viking Way, Jan Smuts Drive and the Elsieksraal River canal — which is one of the few vacant sites left in the area.

One of its neighbours is the SOS Children's Village.

Owners Heideveld Investments plan to develop the land with homes in the northern quadrant and industrial development to the south. Two commercial sites in the south-eastern corner are proposed. The residential component includes single dwellings as well as two and three storey "walk up" apartments.

Thornton Ratepayers' Association chairman Gilbert Laing said his members were "dead against" an industrial area on the land, historically set aside for homes of the "garden city" type. They were fully supported by the city councillor for the area, Clive Justus.

The area, which included a small wetland, was one of the few havens for birds, and supported a large colony of sacred ibis, waterfowl and barn owls. Residents were horrified when the land was cleared of vegetation recently.

The ratepayers' association collected 1 500 signatures on a

petition against the development and handed it to Cape Town's city planning department.

"We foresee the current traffic congestion being exacerbated... Heavy industrial development would result in noise and air pollution," said Mr Justus.

"We believe commercial and industrial development should be confined to the Epping Industrial area."

It was of great concern that the title deed restriction on a portion of the site, which stipulated it could only be used for a "garden city" type housing development, had been lifted by the minister of public works soon after the site was bought by the present developers.

He also felt that the environmental impact study commissioned by the developers was superficial at best and the traf-

fic impact study raised many questions.

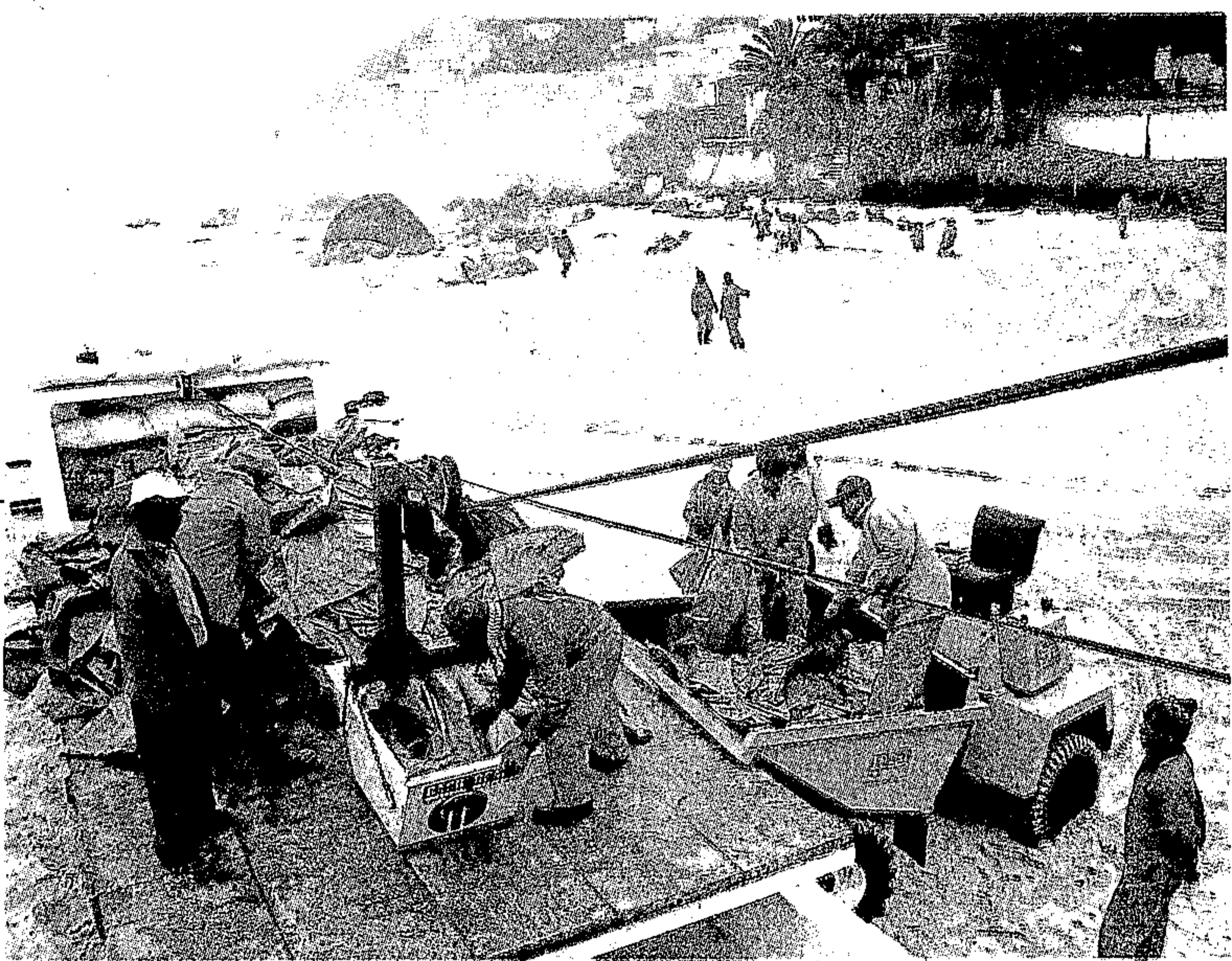
In its report, the developer's consultants said: "Thorough research of the developmental and planning context of the property substantiates the desirability of industrial development on the site."

Loss of privacy and the perception that property values would diminish were respected and taken into account. In the proposed layout, the existing Thornton residential township abutting the site had been accommodated by providing a residential component which would create a "desirable interface".

"The safety and welfare of the existing community as well as their privacy are respected by providing no link between the residential land uses and the remainder the the development."



RATEPAYERS' IRE: Clive Justus, left, city councillor for Thornton, accepts a petition protesting a proposed industrial area, from Gilbert Laing, chairman of the ratepayers' association while Dennis Willey, centre, looks on.



Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

GOING UP: The cableway hoist used to take oil recovered from the beach to Victoria Road in bags for disposal at the Vissershok hazardous waste site.

'Mining' oil at clogged-up Clifton

(56) ARG 27/7/95

Environment Reporter

OPERATION "oil mop-up" is in full swing at Clifton with the city council determined to eliminate the Apollo Sea problem that has led to buried oil being redeposited on the beaches after each major storm.

The oil residue — the remains of 2 500 tons of bunker fuel from the ill-fated Chinese ore carrier which went down off Saldanha Bay with the loss of all its crew last June — is buried up to two metres beneath the sand.

It is exposed by wind and tides as the profile of the beaches change during stormy weather.

A major building contractor has won the tender to "mine" the oil from Clifton's Second, Third and Fourth beaches, and the rocky areas between will be cleaned using more conventional means.

A powerful jet-pump — the key to the operation — was demonstrated to the media yesterday.

The equipment includes a "high-head" pump, which can raise 25 cubic metres of water an hour to a height of 80 m — Victoria Road is 30 m above the beach.

This powers a vacuum nozzle, which sucks up a mixture of polluted sand and water.

The mixture is then deposited into a pond area on the beach, and the oily residue is scooped off with nets or scraped from the sand after the water has filtered away.

The oil is collected in bags, lifted by cableway to Victoria Road, and taken to the Class 1 (hazardous material) waste disposal site at Vissershok, north of Killarney.

The use of the British-designed jet-pump was suggested by Graham Prestedge, partner in a firm of consulting engineers specialising in coastal projects.

"It's used on the mines in Johannesburg and in coastal engineering applications throughout the world, but this is the first time it's been used like this, as



ONE SCOOP, PLEASE: Gladstone Malima holds a bag for co-worker Stanford Donas during oil cleaning operations on Clifton's Second Beach.

far as we know," he said.

Bruce Black, the chief engineer for cleansing, who heads the city council's beach cleaning teams, said the operation was working well, despite negative comments from an international oil pollution expert who predicted the pump would not be successful.

The pump was the key to the council's plan to remove the oil, Mr Black said.

The Apollo Sea's insurers, who are paying for the operation agreed to the plan. Costs have already reached more than R12 million.

Mr Black paid tribute to the more than 100 labourers and supervisors of contractor Clifford Harris, who were doing an "absolutely magnificent job".

City engineer Arthur Clayton, who watched the operation yesterday, expressed satisfaction with progress, although the whole job could take up to three months, he said.

"At times this (pollution) has been very disheartening," Mr Clayton said.

"Just a little bit of oil can make a huge mess."

SA to make R50m out of oil deal with Iran

MELANIE GOSLING

CT 28/7/95

SOUTH AFRICA is about to clinch a deal with Iran to store 15 million barrels of oil at Saldanha — taking 50% of the profits of selling the oil — to boost the country's oil-dealing profits by R50 million a year, to R100m.

According to Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) general manager Mr Kobus van Zyl, SA will also "liquidate" about 20m of the 58m barrels built up during the apartheid years, generating over R1,15 billion at today's oil prices.

The news sent international oil prices down by 10c a barrel in volatile markets yesterday, while fears were raised for possible pollution in Langebaan as shipping will increase from 25 to 75 tankers a year.

Mr Van Zyl said the proposed deal involved:

- An agreement with the National Iran Oil Corporation to store crude oil at Saldanha, in the secret bunkers built during the apartheid era;
- A joint venture with a London-based Iranian company to trade the crude out of Saldanha, with SFF taking at least a 50% share of profits.

The deal is likely to be clinched by the end of the month.

"Once the operation is up and running we can afford to further reduce strategic stocks. We can then bring in more Iranian oil or other clients," Mr Van Zyl said.

He said SFF currently had about 58 million barrels of strategic stock. Of this 40m were at Ogies in the Eastern Transvaal, between 15m and 18m at Saldanha and two million at Milnerton.

"Our objective is to have about 35m barrels of strategic stock in total, so we need to liquidate about 20m," Mr Van Zyl said.

He said Iran would "not pay a cent" for using the storage facilities. If SFF charged rent for storage the company could only make a flat rate, but by storing it free and taking 50% of the profits from commercial sales, SFF could make about R50m.

He added that the company was "busy with an environmental impact assessment which will look at the increased shipping traffic ... We are asking 'what must I do to execute my responsibility to the environment?'" Mr Van Zyl said.

He said he had been summonsed by Mr Justice Jan Steyn, who is heading the Department of Environment's inquiry into the controversial proposed Saldanha Steel project, and would give evidence next Wednesday.

Saldanha steel mill probe slammed

56
2
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ARG 21/7/95

□ *Earthlife questions board's composition*

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE environmental group Earthlife Africa has hit out at the Steyn board of inquiry into the proposed R4,6 billion steel plant at Saldanha Bay, saying concerns about the board's composition have not been addressed.

In an open letter to board chairman Jan Steyn, the group also alleges certain parties appear to be favoured over others, and that because the board's hearings are during office hours, the inquiry is not fully accessible to the public.

Mr Steyn confirmed getting Earthlife's letter and said he would reply, although he would not release his response as he did not want to conduct a debate through the media.

But he said many of the allegations "do not accord with the facts" and he found it "extraordinary" that an organisation professing to have a vital interest in the issue had not even managed to register at the

start of the inquiry.

The inquiry was "as fair and open and participatory as possible", Mr Steyn said.

Earthlife's letter said the history of the Saldanha Steel Project had been characterised by a lack of openness and transparency, and superficial public participation.

"From the outset, the original environmental impact assessment is missing vital data requested from Iscor on several occasions but not forthcoming.

"It is our understanding that no record of decision was made public, a standard procedure in the integrated environmental management (IEM) process."

Earthlife had raised concerns about the composition of the board, "both in terms of existing members and people we feel need to be co-opted to it.

"These have yet to be addressed."

The board was discussing matters with legal representatives to the exclusion of those interested and affected parties which did not have legal repre-

sentation, Earthlife's letter stated.

Also, the process the board was following in conducting the hearings had been determined unilaterally.

To make its proceedings accessible to the public, the board should *inter alia*:

- Provide each interested and affected party with a transcript of the previous day's proceedings, if requested;

- Continue to allow written questions;

- Hold proceedings at a time of day suitable to all parties, "or at least agreed after consultation with all parties";

- Allow cross-examination on substantive issues at the end of all the submissions.

"As we are all aware, this board is setting a precedent which will affect future large-scale industrial development in South Africa.

"These issues have been raised in the interests of ensuring that such a precedent is sound," Earthlife's letter stated.

The inquiry continues today.

Inquiry to hear of oil deal

□ *Iscor probe to focus on huge trade deal with Iran*

ARLT 28/7/95

(56)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE Strategic Fuel Fund is to present evidence about a proposed joint venture with Iran to the Steyn board of inquiry next week.

The board has been appointed to investigate the proposed R4.7 billion steel plant on a site adjacent to the fuel fund's oil storage facility. Last week chairman Jan Steyn described the Iranian contract — under which the SFF would trade 15 million barrels of oil from its 45-million-barrel oil storage facility at Saldanha Bay — as “an extraordinary state of affairs”, and queried the lack of opportunity for public comment on it.

But fuel fund general manager Kobus van Zyl told an on-site media briefing yesterday he would give evidence to the board next week, and that the Iranian contract had not yet been finally concluded.

He said he expected to sign the deal — which was probably worth at least R50 million a year to South Africa — within a month.

He was adamant that neither the existing six-tank facility — started in 1976 and completed in 1982 — nor the increased tanker shipping required for commercialisation of the facility, posed any environmental threat.

“We've treated the environment in the past with the necessary respect and responsibility,” Mr van Zyl said.

He was not aware of any environmental impact assessment at the time of construction of the oil storage facility, and agreed



UNDERGROUND STORAGE: A bird's-eye view of the vast oil storage facility at Saldanha Bay. The six tanks, each 240 m x 240 m and 31 m deep, have a total capacity of 45 million barrels (7,2 billion litres) of crude oil.

Picture: CHARL PAAUW.

that the Iranian contract would probably be concluded before the final impact assessment report on increased tanker traffic in Saldanha Bay, currently being undertaken by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

But it would have been “criminal” for the Steyn board of inquiry not to have known about the Iranian contract, which would see annual tanker traffic in the bay increase from 25 to 75 VLCCs (Very Large Crude Carriers) of up to 250 000 tons deadweight, Mr Van Zyl said.

This was why he had last week released a statement about the contract.

Mr van Zyl said he had been “summoned” by Mr Steyn after his statement and that he

would give evidence to the board when it sat in Saldanha Bay next week.

The board would also visit the oil storage facility.

In 19 years, there had only been eight pollution incidents at the facility.

“I think this is an excellent record,” Mr van Zyl said.

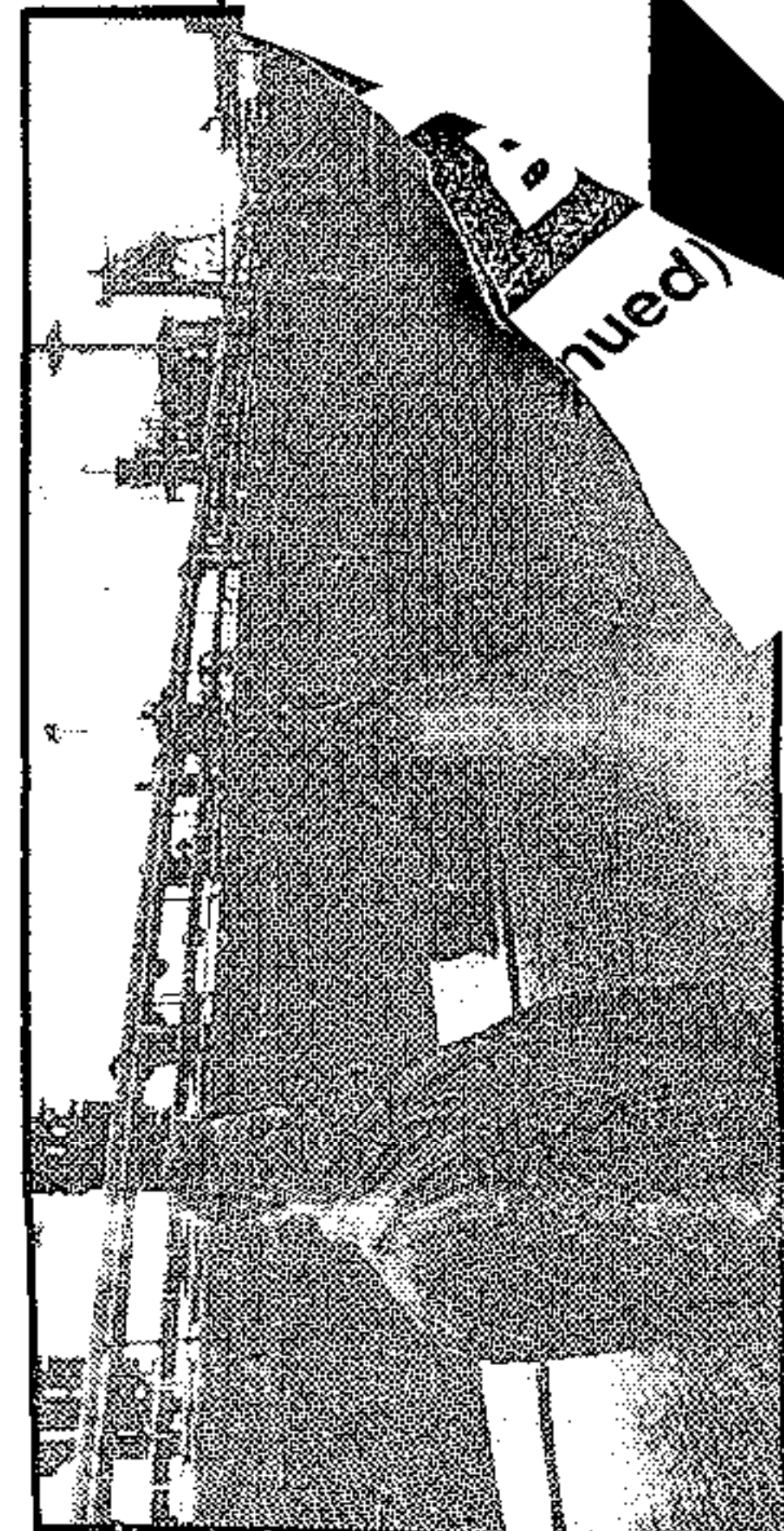
The environmental impact assessment commissioned by the Strategic Fuel Fund was not the same as that commissioned by the Saldanha Steel project, Mr van Zyl said.

“Our business is the shipping business — we're in no way a threat to the land — and for that reason Portnet is closely involved (in the study).”



Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

FIRE CONTROL: Saldanha Bay port captain Dave Duncan stands in front of one of the oil jetty's four overhead fire-fighting monitors which deliver a foam-seawater mixture.



“NO POLLUTION PROBLEMS”: Str. eral manager Kobus van Zyl watches fire-fighting and oil containment equip. on the Saldanha Bay qu.

Bureaucracy stalling seabird rehab centre — Moss gas

Environment Reporter

A PLAN by the Strategic Fuel Fund to establish a major seabird rehabilitation centre close to the Saldanha Bay quay's oil jetty has run into bureaucratic stalling by nature conservation officials, fund general manager Kobus van Zyl charged.

"We've invited them (nature conservation) and really their reaction has been poor," he told a media briefing yesterday while re-

sponding to a question about the future of the Moss gas-owned property adjoining the quay. Mr Van Zyl is also general manager of the state-owned Central Energy Fund, of which both Moss gas and the fuel fund are 100 per cent-owned subsidiaries.

Moss gas had acquired the property to build the huge jacket for its offshore oil platform operating off Mossel Bay, and was "definitely not" considering constructing any oil or gas production or storage facilities there, he said.

It would only be used to house workers, for Portnet storage and "environmentally friendly" projects like washing seabirds. (66)

The fuel fund had proposed developing a seabird rehabilitation centre that could cope with mass numbers of oiled birds — "We don't want a facility for just one or two."

The proposal had been tied up in red tape by conservation authorities — "(But) I haven't given up hope," Mr Van Zyl said.

ARG 28/9/95

Straw 21/7/95

Saldanha oil storage plan slated

~~1800~~ (51)
Cape Town — Environmentalists have hit out at the Strategic Fuel Fund's proposed plan to store 15-million barrels of Iranian crude at Saldanha, claiming that the increase in tanker traffic in the bay would boost the risk of spills and pollution.

National Parks Board chief Dr Robbie Robinson slammed the move at the weekend and said he had asked the Steyn board of inquiry for permission to resubmit evidence to address the new issue of the oil deal.

"I am devastated by the news. I can't stress strongly enough that I am totally opposed to it. The risks involved in terms of oil spillages has risen drastically."

The Steyn inquiry has been appointed to investigate a proposed steel plant at Saldanha. The factory is likely to increase the number of bulk carriers by 60 a year while the oil storage deal will increase the number of tankers from 25 to 75 a year.

Earthlife Africa commented: "There is no point in setting up a board of inquiry to investigate the environmental impacts of one development if another right next door is given the green light and its environmental consequences ignored." — Own Correspondent.

Slick move

FM 28/7/95

Opponents of the R4,7bn mini steel mill at Saldanha Bay have been thrown into disarray following the disclosure that the Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) is set to conclude an agreement with Iran to store 15m barrels of oil at the bay's storage facility.

The environmentally sensitive steel mill issue is being probed by a commission headed by Judge Jan Steyn.

A surprised Steyn says he finds it "an extraordinary state of affairs" that the public had not been involved in the decision to hold oil at the strategic storage facility.

But SFF GM Kobus van Zyl says the deal received Cabinet's blessing last September.

He adds government was kept fully informed of the negotiations with Iran.

The increased oil tanker traffic might, in fact, take some of the heat off the environmental focus on the steel mill — especially as it might now be seen as the lesser risk to the bay's sensitive wetlands areas.

The mill — a joint venture between Iscor and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) — "poses no risk to the environment. It is a myth that it poses a threat to the bay's ecosystems," says IDC MD Carel van der Merwe.

"All necessary steps have been taken to ensure that the proposed steel mill will produce no pollution, no smoke and no liquid effluent at all. I would have thought that the movement of oil tankers in the bay would always pose some risk."

Meanwhile, Iscor MD Hans Smith says all activities at the site of the proposed mill will stop unless the commission reaches a favourable conclusion by mid-August.

The reason is that the mini-mill — design capacity 1,2 Mt hot rolled coil a year — will take three years to reach full production. Unless the first sod is turned in time, the export-dedicated plant will miss the current upturn in global steel markets. ■

Free electric fill-up 'could curb pollution'

150 21/7/95
FREE inner city "fill-up" points for electric vehicles would curb pollution, Eskom suggested yesterday.

Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers, at a recent international global environmental conference, had mooted taxation or penalties for those responsible for urban pollution, the utility company said.

De Villiers felt a road fuel duty and other penalties could lead to faster development of electrical transport and better use of other options for private transport and deliveries.

Eskom national electric vehicle programme head Carel Snyman said: "It's encouraging to see our government representatives adopt a positive attitude.

"While we are not a vehicle manufacturer, we have for several years conducted an awareness programme to alert the public to the environmental and cost benefits of electric transport options."

Eskom was facilitating a process to deliver affordable electric vehicles and the appropriate infrastructure, said Snyman.

"For example, service stations could accept the concept of selling electric fuel alongside the traditional petrol pump."

A free "electrical fill-up" would cost the government less than combating greenhouse gases. It could also be an effective way to subsidise the taxi industry.

Home owners could have "smart plug" recharging systems that automatically topped up vehicles during less expensive off-peak periods late at night.

Eskom expected that most electric vehicles were likely to be charged at low-demand times, helping to contain the electricity price at peak usage times. California had found that by the age of 12, children had lost about 15% of their lung capacity because of air pollution. — Sapa.

Eskom plan for cars

CT 21/7/95

(192) (56)

JOHANNESBURG: Eskom suggested yesterday that free inner city "fill-up" points for electric vehicles would curb pollution.

Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers had recently mooted taxation or penalties for those responsible for urban pollution, Eskom said.

Dr De Villiers felt a road fuel duty and other penalties could lead to faster development of electrical transport and better use of other options for private transport and deliveries.

Eskom's national electric vehicle programme head Mr Carel Snyman said that for several years Eskom had been alerting

the South African public to the environmental and cost benefits of electric transport.

Eskom was also working to help deliver affordable electric vehicles and the appropriate infrastructure.

For example, service stations could sell electric fuel alongside the traditional petrol pump.

A free "electrical fill-up" would cost the government less than combating greenhouse gases. This could also be an effective way to subsidise the taxi industry.

Home-owners could have a "smart-plug" re-charging system.

Concern Over Athlone power station pollution

ARG 21/7/95

(58)

A DISTURBING pattern of increased pollution levels had been noted in Pinelands since the Athlone power station began operating again on a daily basis at the beginning of the year, according to a Pinelands councillor. Deputy mayor Brian Watkyns claimed that since January this was most noticeable in noise and air pollution and also in visibly increased soiling levels. "This has led to increased respiratory complaints," he said.

Among other toxins, the sulphuric dioxide content of the air had risen by more than 400 percent. Mr Watkyns, who earlier initiated a private investigation into the problem, invited residents, through his newsletter, to comment on the fall out. He received an overwhelming response and in a follow-up article he wrote about the detrimental health and environmental effects the Athlone power station might have on residents in Langa, Athlone and Pinelands.

Mr Watkyns claimed the situation would deteriorate as the power station increased its load to full power over the next three years. He said valid scientific data showed pollution levels to be within international standards. However, when air pollution data from January to March 1994 was compared to data of the same period in 1995, it showed an increase in sulphuric dioxide in the air of more than 400 percent.

"It will be difficult to prove that the power station detrimentally affects the environment and the health of residents beyond international standards of pollution, but these standards are obviously unacceptable to Pinelands residents," said Mr Watkyns.

Joe Coetzee, chief air pollution control officer, Western Cape, said that within the next three years six of the eight boilers at Athlone would be equipped with bag filters which would drastically reduce dust emissions. Athlone power station would then comply with the more stringent measures of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act. The City Council has approved R30 million for various projects aimed at upgrading and improving operations at the Athlone power station.

Staff Reporter