

PUBLIC SECTOR - GOVT. - DEFENCE

1995

JANUARY - MAY.

Chemical plant tested nerve gas for SADF

WM 6-12/1195 (254)

A chemical plant developing nerve gas was one of the front companies set up by the SADF, writes **Eddie Koch**

THE South African Defence Force conducted an expensive programme to test and develop state-of-the-art nerve gases at a secret plant called Delta G in Midrand near Johannesburg as part of a chemical warfare programme that was developed by Pretoria during the apartheid era

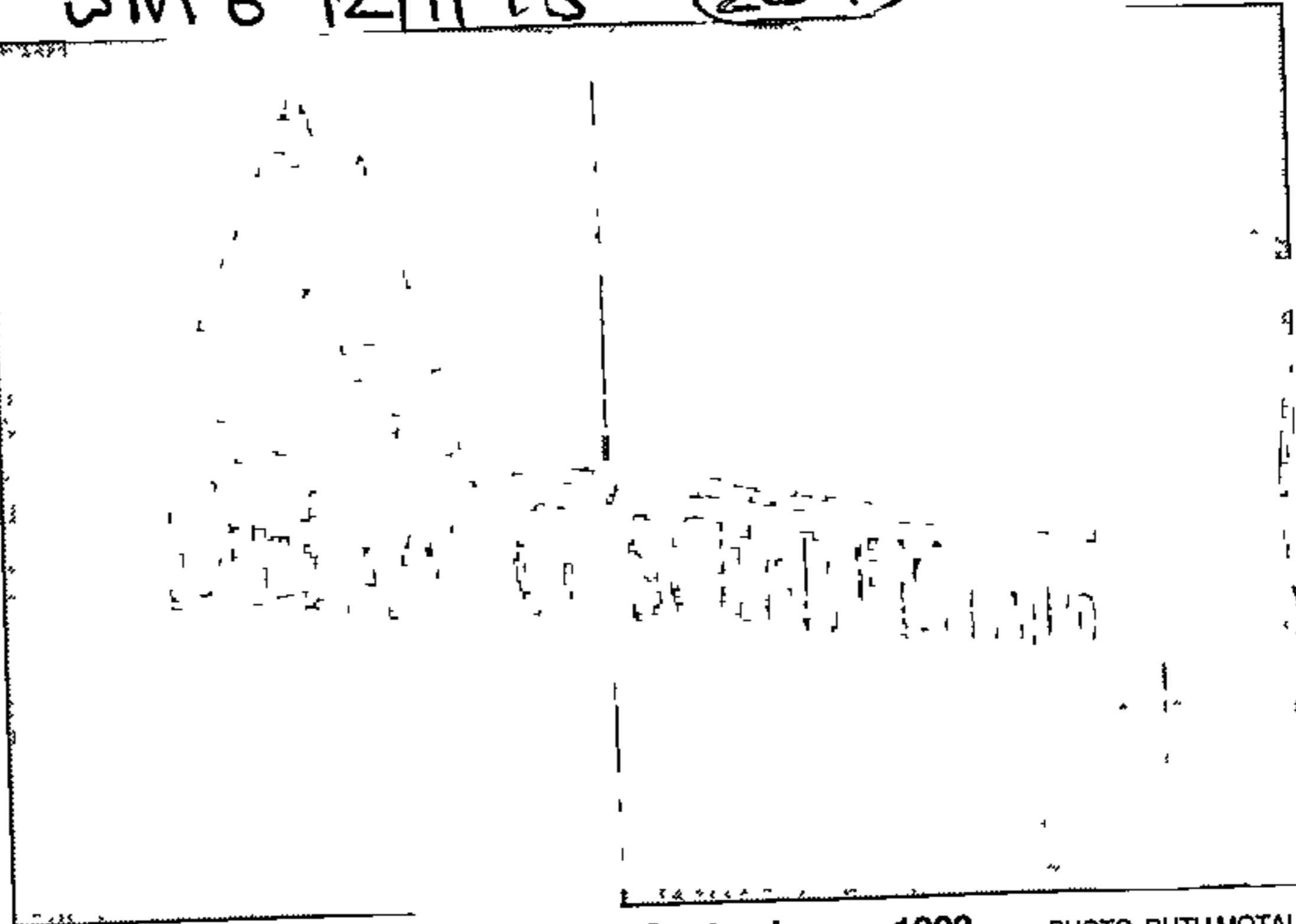
The research and development programme was designed to create nerve gases that could immobilise enemy forces for a number of hours but not kill them, making it possible to overrun and occupy strategic installations without exposing friendly forces to dangerous compounds

The Delta G plant — which operated as a privately owned pharmaceutical company in the 1980s — was one of numerous front companies set up by the SADF to develop chemical and biological warfare capabilities. The factory was taken over by the industrial chemicals company Sentrachem late in 1993 and converted for normal industrial purposes

The existence of a network of companies that developed chemical warfare equipment for the military has emerged from various sources. These include a probe by the attorney general's office into possible irregularities in the finances of some of the front companies and an investigation being conducted by the *Sunday Tribune* newspaper

Jan Swanepoel, head of the office for Serious Economic Offences in the AG's office, confirmed that the network is under investigation in connection with a "flow of funds connected with an army project". A top-secret report has been handed to Justice Minister Dullah Omar on the matter

Environmental activists from Earth-life Africa, one of South Africa's largest green groups, have long suspected that the Midrand plant was used for



What a nerve: Delta G was bought by Sentrachem in 1993

PHOTO RUTH MOTAU

chemical warfare purposes. The suspicions were aroused in early 1992, when the organisation found that Delta G had polluted a local stormwater drain with highly toxic phenol substances

An investigation was launched into the matter — with the co-operation of the Department of Water Affairs — and the company was prosecuted for breaching local environmental regulations. Now sources who worked inside Delta G before it was taken over by Sentrachem have confirmed some of the work there involved the development of sophisticated nerve gases

The sources say the programme did not reach the stage of mass production by the time it was abandoned. Senior officials in the military have confirmed that Delta G was a front company for the SADF's medical services but insist that the work done there — and also at other firms in the secret network — was only to develop a defensive capacity against the use of chemical agents by enemy forces

However, the officials admit that it was necessary to develop the toxic compounds being used in chemical warfare in order to create defensive systems against them. They insist that no large stockpiles of offensive chemi-

cal or biological agents were produced as part of the programme — but concede that it would have been possible to convert from a defensive to offensive chemical weapons mode

Sentrachem purchased Delta G in August 1993. At the time Delta G was formally run as a private company owned by its directors. However some of these officials were former employees of the SADF's medical services and took over the company in order to privatise aspects of the chemical weapons research programme

"When we bought the company it was privately owned by some of its directors," says Delta's current MD, Anthony Corn. "At the time the work that had been conducted there was protected by industrial confidentiality and secrecy agreements so we were not entitled to any information."

He added this was normal commercial practice and did not appear sinister

The plant is currently used by Sentrachem solely for civilian purposes in the agrochemical, pharmaceutical and various speciality markets. Commercial products now made at Delta G include fungicides, intermediate compounds used in the manufacture of herbicides, and ingredients for the manufacture of antiseptic medicines.

Star #1195 (254)

Curse of the captain who



DAWIE Uys was not the sort of person to take chances with his life, the lives of his crew, and those of his passengers. That is the conviction of men and women who knew the captain of the SAA Boeing 747, the Helderberg, which crashed into the Indian Ocean seven years ago.

Many people who have spoken to WeekendStar about South Africa's worst air disaster in which 159 people were killed after two mysterious fires broke out aboard the airliner have also given an insight into Uys the Man.

"Uys was like many of the other pilots,

a good guy who plodded along his chosen career path. He was not someone to buck authority," said one of his colleagues. "He would do as he was told if whoever was telling him to do so was important enough." That could mean that despite his misgivings about the cargo he was carrying Uys did obey an instruction to take off from Taipei International airport on November 27 1987.

WeekendStar has been told that a similar incident had happened a few months before when, about to fly out of Heathrow Airport in London, he questioned a load of "prohibited" cargo. On that occasion, however, he had taken the precaution of photocopying the cargo manifest and posting it back to himself in South Africa. This came to light after WeekendStar

had highlighted the actions of an unknown South African senior government official who had apparently instructed Uys to take off from Taipei's Chang-ka Shek airport with his cargo of Super Mercure Cyanate. That official has not come forward.

Of deep concern to Uys' colleagues is why he never diverted to Madras, the Indian city on the sub-continent's east coast, when the first fire broke out. It was the closest major airport for him. They speculate that the reason may have been that had he done so the Helderberg would naturally have been searched and the mystery cargo discovered, which could have presented a major political problem for SA, at that time in the stranglehold of international sanctions.

Uys would have been fully entitled to divert, in terms of international aviation safety regulations which are under normal circumstances strictly adhered to by all pilots flying international routes.

Said a senior South African Airways pilot speaking on condition of anonymity:

"It is as simple as this: you land at the nearest airport. Political expediency goes

never swore

out the window. You don't play games (when you have a fire)." That being the case, and given Uys' reputation for responsibility, it is feasible that the only reason he did not put down is that he received a second instruction that night, this time to remain airborne.

Had Uys received such an instruction, it would have had to have come via someone in flight operations who in turn may have been acting on instructions.

Uys was regarded by his contemporaries as a stickler for discipline on the flight deck and on his aircraft in general. His colleagues are unanimous that he

never swore - he was regarded by many as "very religious" - and never tried to circumvent regulations.

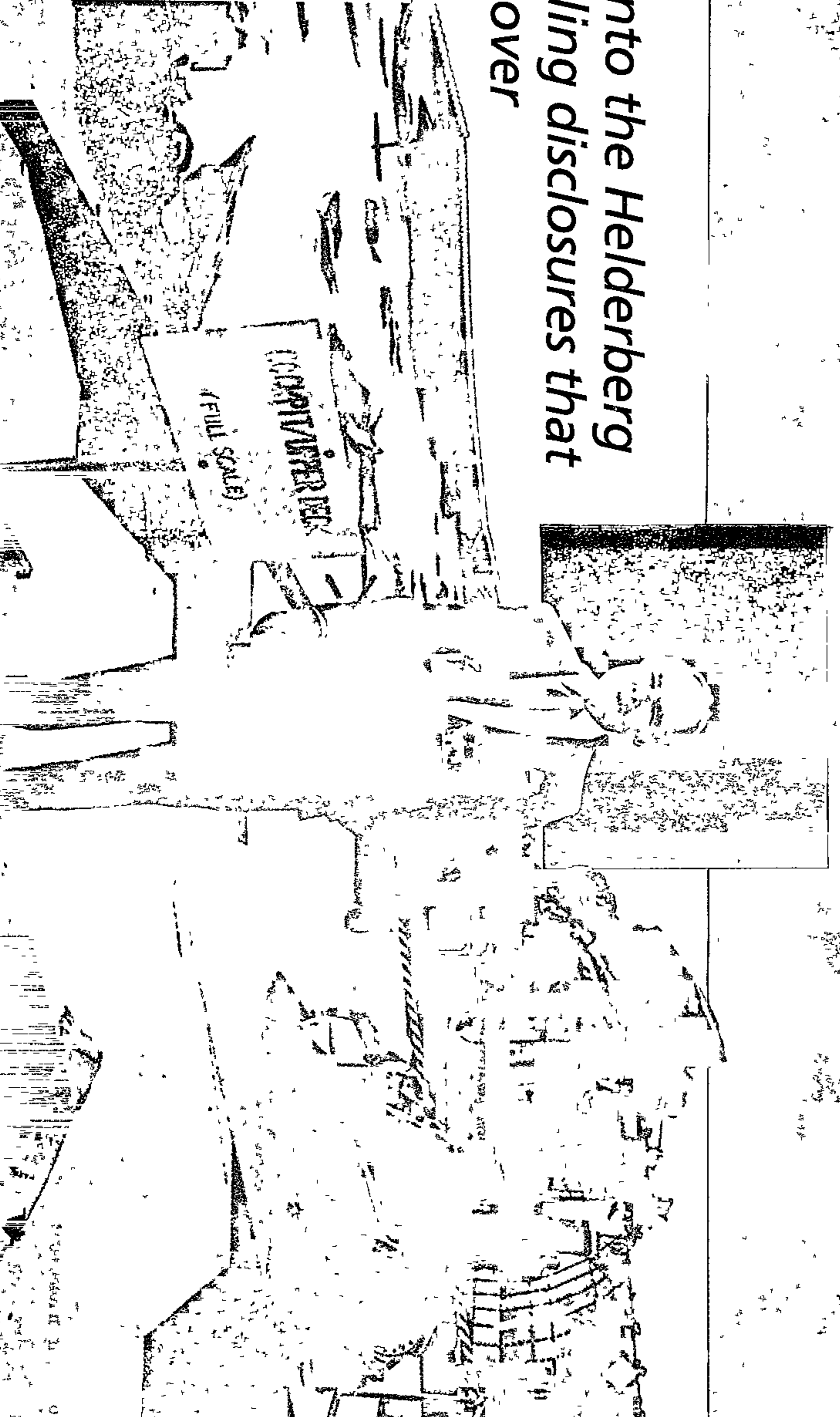
But a number of pilots have called WeekendStar to say that they were monitoring radio broadcasts that night and heard Uys "sweating like a trooper". One described Uys as "cursing" the people who put the cargo on his plane and cursing the people who forced him to take off.

And then, calmly and in a detached voice - the Margo accident inquiry report actually described Uys' voice as "logical and consistent" - the captain began to reel off the speed of the aircraft as it went into its death dive into the ocean - "950 knots, 400, 450, 500, 550 600." This means the plane hit the sea at approximately 1111 km/h.

WeekendStar investigations into the Helderberg disaster have uncovered startling disclosures that have cast a shadow of doubt over the Margo inquiry findings

CONCLUSIONS regarding the Helderberg crash reached by the Margo inquiry into the accident differ in certain aspects from those so far reported to WeekendStar by sources. The Margo and WeekendStar reports differ in at least 11 areas. These are the differences (the Margo findings are given first):

1. At the time of take off from Chiang Kai-shek airport, Taipei, the aircraft was serviceable with no reported carried forward defects. It was



The eyes of Dawie Uys: Now WeekendStar has taken a new look at the Helderberg disaster and the findings of Mr Justice Margo, pictured left with some of the wreckage of the airliner recovered from the seabed.

Pilots back call for new probe

SOUTH Africa's top airline pilots have backed suggestions that a new inquiry into the Helderberg disaster should be held.

Members of the Airline Pilots' Association-South Africa say new information being uncovered by the WeekendStar could benefit international aviation safety.

■ A technician who claims to have worked on the Helderberg prior to its departure from the Straits airport on its return flight to Taipei says that the smoke detection system was not fully operational

2. The flight proceeded normally until some time hours after the aircraft had left Chang Kai-shek airport, when an intense fire developed in the right-hand forward pallet.

■ WeekendStar has been told there were two fires. The first occurred about 4 hours out of Taipei, north-west of Singapore, and that this fire was extinguished by crew members. At least two crew members were either injured or killed in fighting the blaze. According to sources, the crew used up all available firefighting equipment. Several hours later, the fire flared up again. It may have been smoldering as a result of the first fire.

3. The substances involved in the combustion included plastic and cardboard packing materials, but the actual source of ignition cannot be determined.

■ WeekendStar has been told that the plane was carrying a consignment of Super Merveur Cyanate, a highly combustible substance which ignites when exposed to air.

It was being carried, illegally, as the sludge at the bottom of tropical fish tanks, and became dislodged when the aircraft more than likely hit severe upper air turbulence, a common occurrence in the region.

NEWSPAPER readers and radio listeners have given WeekendStar unprecedented support in the attempt to uncover the truth about the cargo which caused the crash of the Helderberg.

What is now coming to light, after exhaustive inquiries in South Africa, Mauritius and Taiwan and discussions with British experts intelligence sources in a number of countries, are inconsistencies in many aspects of the official findings. It has been found, in particular, that unknown people, probably working on behalf of the national armaments procurement agency, Armscor, had placed aboard the Boeing 747 tropical fish tanks containing a rocket fuel sludge identified by a source as Super Merveur Cyanate. This claim has since been verified by an informant well-placed in government circles.

Also, it has emerged that a second consignment of the fuel was sought immediately after the crash because the South Africa missile research and development programme had been seriously affected by the crash of the Helderberg. This new consignment was obtained from a South American country. Special precautions were taken to pre-

MARGO MYSTERIES

THE HELDERBERG A SPECIAL WEEKENDSTAR INVESTIGATION



By NORMAN CHANDLER

4. The fire generated smoke, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide which penetrated the passenger cabin and possibly to the cockpit.

■ Super Merveur Cyanate is highly toxic. It kills on inhalation, according to chemical industry sources. The heat generated can reach 4,000 deg C. The inquiry report found that heat generated was in excess of 700 deg C.

5. The fire caused extensive heat damage to the fuselage structure, the insulation blankets and electric wiring in the main cargo deck area, including the wires serving the power supply to the cockpit voice recorder.

6. The fire/smoke detection systems

in the Boeing 747 244B Combi main deck compartment were inadequate. Although the evidence indicates that the fire/smoke detection systems functioned, the extent to which the fire developed and the fact that smoke penetrated the passenger cabin suggested that the fire was not discovered early enough to prevent these consequences.

■ A source says the smoke detection system on the Helderberg was not working correctly. It has also been stated there were two fires aboard the plane.

7. The fire fighting facilities provided for the main deck cargo compartment were inadequate.

8. The aircraft crashed into the sea some three minutes after the last transmission from the captain, acknowledging clearance for a further descent to flight level 50.

9. The only possible causes for the

firefighting equipment was utilised, and used up, in fighting the first fire. There was apparently nothing left with which to fight the second blaze.

10. There was no connection between the accident and the omission of Station ZUR to communicate with the Helderberg at the pre-arranged

time. Nor is there any significance in the fact that the ZUR tape covering that time was mislaid or wiped out by later use.

11. Despite intensive investigation, the board was unable to find or conclude that fireworks or any other illegal cargo were on board.

12. The aircraft was carrying an illegal cargo of Super Merveur Cyanate, a substance which has nuclear applications. It had been purchased in the United States, taken to Japan and then to Taiwan under the code name of "tropical fish" and loaded aboard the Helderberg.

vent a repeat of the Helderberg crash. More than 80 people - ranging from airline pilots to relatives of the passengers - have contacted WeekendStar to voice their concerns and provide information, some of which is regarded as vital to the investigation.

THE NAME WITH NO LUCK...

IT was incredible bad luck which saw the aircraft carrying the name "Helderberg" crash into the Indian Ocean seven years ago.

Luck for the plane ran out when South African Airways purchased two Boeing 747 Combi aircraft in the early 1980s. One was to be designated Helderberg and the other, Waterberg.

But, by a quirk of fate, the plane to be designated Waterberg actually became

the Helderberg because of a bureaucratic blunder over its registration papers. Instead of writing the correct name of the plane on the papers, the clerk involved wrote in "Waterberg" on

the Helderberg's papers, and "Helderberg" on the Waterberg's papers. And another "Helderberg" which sank into the ocean depths was a ship, the Helderberg sank after a fierce fire had raged in its cargo hold four years before the aircraft met a similar fate.



Outrage as more and more readers tell what they know

Many others telephoned Radio 702 when two talk shows featured the WeekendStar's investigation. This is a sample of some of the information relayed.

■ There were definitely two fires aboard Airline pilots, contacting WeekendStar

under strict conditions of anonymity, said they had heard tape recordings which made this clear.

■ A senior official involved in the "missing tapes" mystery at the ZUR radio station, which links South African Airways to its aircraft anywhere in the world, was

promoted and now has an overseas posting.

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■ Theurnus Jonker (originally identified as Jacobs) was the SAA manager at Taipei when the plane left for South Africa. Jonker has so far declined to come forward, although he has been asked to do so by a former colleague with whom he had coffee at a Johannesburg shopping centre last Saturday.

■ There was further corroboration of information received earlier that representatives of Armscor had rushed to Mauritius to allegedly "search the beaches" for drums. One caller claimed that the island had been "sealed off" and that the men had remained on the island for weeks. Armscor claims they were working for the Institute for Marine Technology at Simon's Town and were on the island "looking for the black box".

■ An aviation insurance representative said that "minor fires" occurred from time to time in the cargo holds of airliners and he could not believe that no one had sued the Boeing Aircraft Co. of Seattle, United States.

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Uys had on two previous occasions balked at carrying what is known in aviation circles as "restricted" or "embargoed" cargo. He apparently made photocopies of the cargo manifests and posted these back to himself in South Africa.

Despite widespread attempts, it has not yet been possible to obtain these copies.

In a new development following WeekendStar's disclosure last week that SAA had carried a cargo of missiles destined for the military from Tel Aviv to Jan Smuts, independent sources have told of how the practice continued "until at least four years ago".

In the first known incident, the missiles had been placed in containers marked with the words "munnungmachinery".

The information corroborates details published last week of how Armscor staff or associates were successful in smuggling in armaments and other war materials needed by the defence establishment.

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Phone call

Mystery surrounds the take-off of the Helderberg from Taipei on November 27 1987. WeekendStar has been told that Uys was very unhappy with his cargo and it took a telephone call or a fax from a highly-placed South African government official to "persuade" him to fly the plane.

More than four hours out of Taipei, the first of two fires occurred. The crew apparently successfully fought that blaze but the second fire, when the plane was over the Indian Ocean, resulted in the downing of the aircraft 145 nautical miles north-east of Mauritius.

Uys is understood to have asked for permission to divert to Madras, India. Earlier reports had said Singapore had been the alternative airport but this has since been discounted.

The request was apparently refused by South African Airways flight operations at Jan Smuts airport, and the plane then continued his journey.

Inspection fear

According to the source, the reason for the refusal was being "the cargo would be inspected".

WeekendStar has also been told that Uys had on two previous occasions balked at carrying what is known in aviation circles as "restricted" or "embargoed" cargo. He apparently made photocopies of the cargo manifests and posted these back to himself in South Africa.

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'Re-open Helderberg inquiry'

(254)

ARLT 2/12/94

7-8/1/95

Weekend Argus Reporter

SOUTH Africa's top airline pilots have backed suggestions that a new inquiry into the Helderberg air disaster should be held.

Members of the Airline Pilots' Association-South Africa say new information being uncovered by Weekend Argus could benefit international aviation safety

They are concerned about the information that is emerging and, because of this, support the re-opening of the inquiry into the accident.

The association's executive is to take a formal decision on the matter within a few days.

The original hearing was under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Cecil Margo and reached the conclusion that "a fire" had occurred on board the plane but that no one could be blamed. At the time, Armscor and the then-South African Defence Force denied having any cargo whatsoever aboard the plane

The pilots say claims that Dawie Uys, captain of the ill-fated Boeing 747, had been "forced" to take off from Taipei with a cargo containing super mercuric cyanate — used in various nuclear applications — hidden in tropical fish tanks have to be investigated

"The authority of the aircraft commander is sacrosanct and is defined in the South African Air Navigation Regulations, the Tokyo Convention and International Civil Aviation Organisation annexures," the association said in a statement

■ New evidence about the Helderberg air disaster which the Margo inquiry did not take into account may be examined more closely.

"The association would find it totally unacceptable should any pressure be brought to bear on an aircraft commander to carry prohibited or dangerous cargo. The public can rest assured that we will protect our members with every means at our disposal from any attempt by an operator to undermine the captain's legally entrenched authority to ensure safe completion of the flight," the statement said

Mystery surrounds the Helderberg's take-off from Taipei international airport on November 27, 1987

Weekend Argus has been told Captain Uys was very unhappy with his cargo and it took a telephone call or a fax from a highly-placed South African government official to "persuade" him to fly the aircraft

More than four hours out of Taipei, the first of two fires is alleged to have broken out. The crew apparently successfully fought that blaze but a second fire resulted in the plane crashing into the Indian Ocean

Captain Uys is understood to have asked for permission to divert to Madras, India. Earlier reports said Singapore had been the alternative airport but this has since been discounted

The request was apparently refused by South African Airways flight operations at Jan Smuts Airport

According to the source, the

reason for the refusal was that "the cargo would be inspected", This is international practice when an aircraft reports problems with its cargo

The conversation was overheard by other airline pilots flying in the vicinity

Weekend Argus has also been told that Captain Uys had twice previously balked at carrying what is known in aviation circles as "restricted" or "embargoed" cargo. He apparently made photocopies of the cargo manifests and posted them to himself in South Africa

In spite of widespread attempts, it has not yet been possible to obtain these copies

In a new development, after Weekend Argus's disclosure last week that SAA had carried a cargo of missiles destined for the military from Tel Aviv to Jan Smuts, independent sources have said the practice continued "until four years ago"

In the first known incident, the missiles had been placed in containers marked with the words "mining machinery". One container accidentally fell on to the tarmac and broke open, spilling the contents

An eye-witness told Weekend Argus "Everyone scattered."

The information corroborates details published last week of how Armscor staff or associates were successful in smuggling in armaments and other war materials needed by the defence force

How US helped SA beat nuclear ban

AT 8/1/95
(254)

By DIANA STREAK

A SECRET deal brokered by the United States kept South Africa supplied with enriched uranium for its nuclear programme during the sanctions era.

The deal gave South Africa \$250-million worth of enriched uranium from France, sidestepping US laws forbidding nuclear trade with South Africa.

In return, South Africa agreed to begin "good faith" negotiations for the independence of Namibia and allow US inspectors access to its Valindaba enrichment plant

Within two weeks of the shipment of the uranium to the Koeberg nuclear power station in the Cape, US inspectors were in Valindaba and within four weeks South Africa was talking seriously to Chester Crocker about Namibia, which became an independent nation in 1990.

The remarkable deal has been disclosed in a book released this week — *Koeberg — Eskom's Nuclear Success Story* by financial journalist Stuart Murray

The breakthrough which gave South Africa its enriched uranium was confirmed yesterday by Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha, then Foreign Minister

The deal — in 1981 — came only 18 months before the completion date for Koeberg's first reactor and at a time when it looked likely that South Africa's whole nuclear project would collapse.

The disclosures can now be made public as a result of changes to the Atomic Energy Act last year, which stripped away virtually all the secrecy which shrouded nuclear activity in South Africa.

In 1981 the South African energy programme was entangled in a web of international intrigue and hostility.

South Africa was desperate to end a deadlock over a 1974 contract with the US, in which a deposit of \$5-million had been paid for enriched uranium

But in 1978 Congress passed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act, which stipulated that US-enriched uranium could not be supplied to any country which failed to open all of its nuclear facilities to inspection by the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency.

A Washington firm of nuclear brokers, Edlow Resources Limited, was brought in to negotiate an end to the deadlock

Secret talks between South Africa and US State Department officials in Paris failed, but South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs was confident that France could be persuaded to provide enriched uranium for Koeberg

But the French government would not permit the export of nuclear fuel without a specific go-ahead from the US State Department.

Broker Sam Edlow talked with both the US State Department and the Department of Energy and sensed that they wanted to find a solution to the problem

Mr Edlow said at the time. "I think we can find a key. The only restricting thing here is that we can't use US-enriched uranium. But that isn't the only uranium in the world"

He told then South African Ambassador to the US Donald Sole that to get the US government to make a concession and permit the purchase of fuel from France would require "some serious quid pro quos"

"Eventually the word came down if South Africa would seriously pursue negotiations for South West Africa/Namibia's freedom and would allow US inspectors to have access to the South African uranium enrichment process at Valindaba, things might be worked out," the book claims.

South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs

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P.T.O.

□ US 'facilitated' sale of fuel — Crocker

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PETER FABRICIUS
The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — Chester Crocker — former President Reagan's chief diplomat in Africa — has acknowledged that the United States government helped "facilitate" France's sale of enriched uranium fuel to South Africa in 1981 in spite of the American nuclear embargo.

But he dismissed suggestions that the deal was explicitly linked to the multi-national negotiations for Namibian independence which he helped mastermind.

Dr Crocker, who was assistant secretary of state for Africa, also insisted that the Reagan administration had not broken the American law which prohibited the sale of nuclear fuel to South Africa.

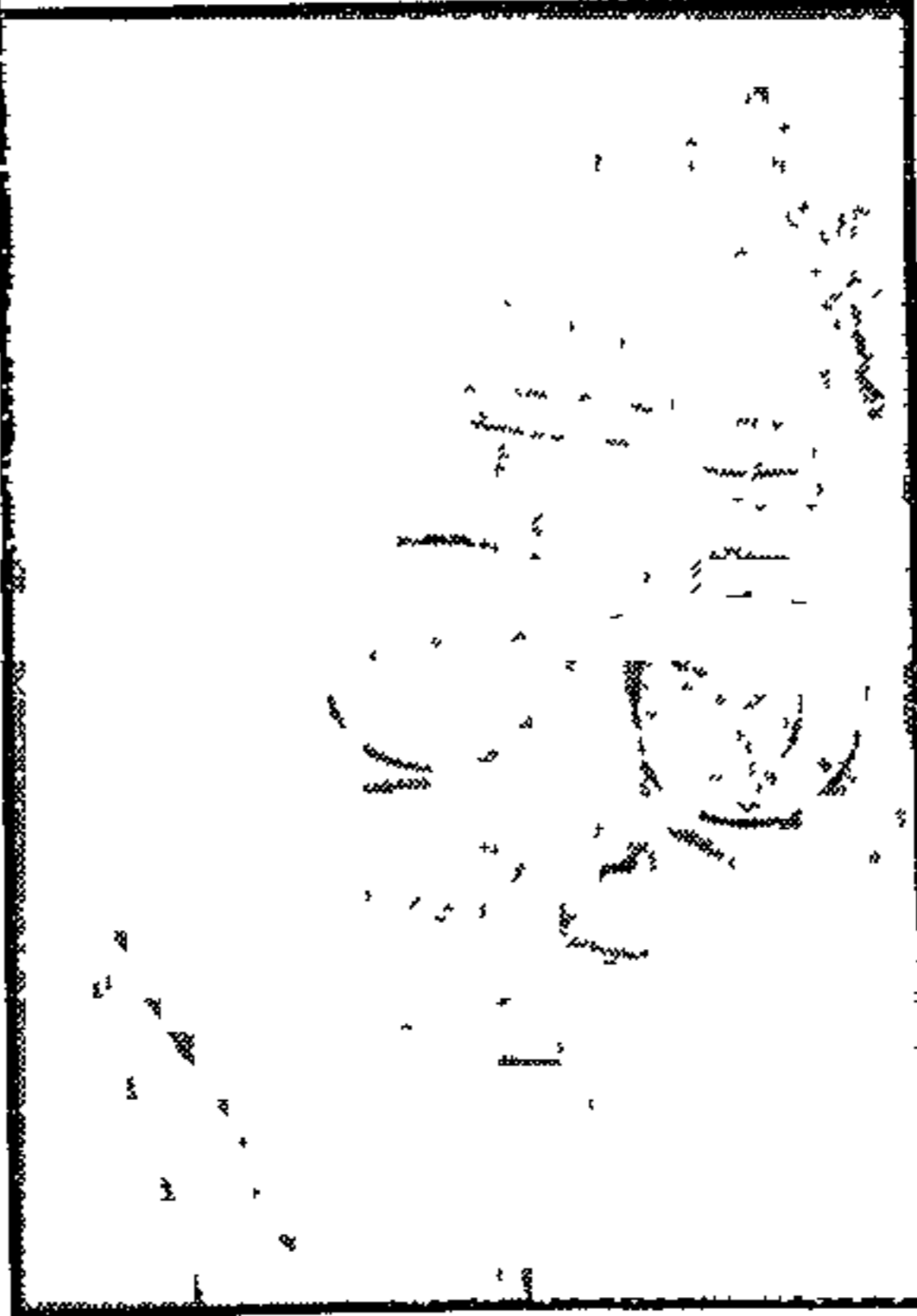
He was commenting on a newspaper report which said the US government "brokered" the French supply of enriched uranium for the Koeberg nuclear power station in exchange for South Africa's agreement to begin negotiations for Namibia's independence.

Dr Crocker, who is now teaching at Georgetown University in Washington, said the deal did not include an explicit agreement that South Africa would agree to negotiations for Namibian independence in exchange for the US allowing the French to supply the enriched uranium.

But he said the nuclear deal was part of an overall change in relations between South Africa and the US under Mr Reagan, which helped create the climate for the Namibian negotiations (in which Dr Crocker played a crucial role).

America's concern was that if South Africa's supply of imported fuel for its Koeberg power station was interrupted, it might begin producing its own fuel, possibly putting it to hostile purposes.

South Africa had had a contract with



Former US assistant secretary of state for Africa Chester Crocker.

the US for the supply of enriched uranium since 1974 for which it had already partly paid. But the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act, passed in 1978, prevented the US from delivering on the contract as it stipulated that US-enriched uranium could not be supplied to any country which did not open all its nuclear facilities to United Nations inspection.

"The South Africans were in a box because they had paid money to the United States for fuel shipments and they were saying to us 'What do we do? Do we take you to court? Can't you find a way round this?'"

The South African government had turned to the French, who did not want to go ahead with the deal unless they got US government permission.

The Reagan administration had "signalled to the French to go ahead", Dr Crocker said. It had not initiated or "brokered" the deal although it had helped "facilitate" it.

Uranium Deal

MOA

SA got fuel from the Swiss

Sowetan 11/1/95

ESKOM acquired uranium fuel for its Koeberg nuclear reactor programme from Switzerland and Belgium, SABC radio news reported yesterday (254). The company was forced to look for alternative sources of nuclear fuel when

the United States banned enriched uranium exports to the country in 1978. Eskom's energy manager, Mr Brian Stratham, said because of cutbacks in European nuclear programmes, South Africa was able to acquire enriched ura-

num from Switzerland and Belgium. A French company, Framatome, was contracted to convert the enriched uranium into nuclear fuel rods. Mr Stratham said the deal was checked by the International Atomic Energy Agency — *Sapa*

Armcor seeks indemnity

■ BY HELEN GRANGE

Armcor has asked the Cameron Commission to assist it in applying for indemnity for some of its employees before they agree to give evidence concerning the arms acquisition agency's aborted sale of weapons through Lebanese middleman Eli Wazan last year.

Armcor counsel Stefan van Nieuwenhuizen, addressing the commission on the first day of hearings following the seasonal recess, said yesterday that the witnesses concerned included employees of Armcor front company Macro Freight (previously called Star Freight)

Macro Freight, it has been established, was the company which oversaw the transportation of the weapons consignment to Port Elizabeth port and compiled the bill of lading for its shipment

The commission was appointed to investigate all Armcor weapons deals since February 1990 after the Wazan-Armcor

transaction was exposed when the vessel carrying the shipment was prevented from offloading its cargo in Yemen in August

South Africa is prohibited from selling weapons to Yemen

Armcor has claimed it was duped by Wazan into believing the weapons consignment — one of two weapons consignments sold to him — was destined for Beirut in Lebanon

Legal privilege

Van Nieuwenhuizen told the commission yesterday that the bill of lading issued by Macro Freight was a "forgery" because it reflected incorrect information about the port of loading.

"It is clear from the evidence that this was a pattern," he said

Last year, commissioner Laurie Nathan queried why one of the bills of lading under investigation identified Singapore and not Port Elizabeth as the loading port for a consignment of weapons

Nathan asked whether concealing the port of origin was not

a method of evading the arms embargo against South Africa.

Van Nieuwenhuizen asked the commission to try to procure indemnity for the Macro employees involved in the compilation of the bills of lading, rather than them resorting to legal privilege entitling them to refuse to answer questions which might incriminate them.

Commission chairman Edwin Cameron replied that the issue of indemnity was still being discussed.

Indemnity is also being sought by the ship's charterer, Michael Steenberg, of Dan-Am Shipping

He has agreed to fly out from the US to testify before the commission on condition of indemnity.

The "forged" bill of lading was signed by Steenberg.

Meanwhile, Wazan has informed the commission that he is prepared to give evidence in Cyprus on January 27, on condition his testimony is heard in camera.

Witnesses seek indemnity

(254) B0111195
THE Cameron commission was asked yesterday to assist in obtaining indemnity from prosecution for Armscor witnesses who could shed light on shipping arrangements for a consignment of AK-47s sold to arms dealer Eli Wazan last year.

Armscor counsel S van Nieuwenhuizen made the request during cross-examination of Eagle Freight regional executive Clive Reed, whose company had acted as agents for Armscor company Makro Freight, the owners of the ship which transported the weapons, and the ship's charterer, Michael Steenberg.

Much of Reid's cross-examination focused on the contents of draft bills of lading issued for the consignment last year as well as for an earlier shipment of weapons sold to Wazan in September 1993.

Commission chairman Judge Edwin Cameron asked Van Nieuwenhuizen if Armscor was able to assist the inquiry by producing witnesses who could clear up questions raised over the contents of draft bills of lading.

Van Nieuwenhuizen indicated these witnesses might incriminate themselves and

SUSAN RUSSELL

would therefore require indemnity.

Cameron said it would assist the commission if Armscor could provide a list of those concerned and the offences for which they might be criminally liable.

Van Nieuwenhuizen said he would have to take instructions from his client before making a decision. He said, however, that the emphasis would be on employees of Armscor front company Makro Freight, who had assisted in compiling bills of lading which were clearly forgeries.

The commission was appointed to investigate all Armscor transactions since February 1990 following an international outcry in August last year when the vessel carrying a second consignment of arms was prevented from offloading its cargo at a Yemeni port.

SA is not allowed to sell arms to Yemen. Armscor has claimed that it sold the two consignments of AK-47s and G-3 rifles to Wazan in the belief the weapons were being purchased on behalf of the Lebanese government.

Document on Armscor sale amended, commission hears

stan 12/1/95 (254)

■ BY HELEN GRANGE

Details of a document referring to Armscor's aborted sale of weapons to Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan in August were changed following media exposure of the deal two months later, the Cameron Commission heard yesterday

Armscor marketing official Deon Bronkhorst told the commission that his superior Marius Vermaak — who brokered the weapons deal with Wazan — had had the document backdated by several weeks following

press reports about the deal

Bronkhorst testified that the identification of the end user had also been changed — from the Lebanese Christian Militia to the Lebanese government.

Bronkhorst said the document was for office use only and he thought the changes were made "to prevent the auditors from whipping us" for discounted prices on the weapons sold

The commission was appointed to investigate all Armscor weapons deals since February 1990 after the Wazan-Armscor transaction was exposed when the vessel carrying the shipment

was prevented from offloading its cargo in Yemen in August

South Africa is prohibited from selling weapons to Yemen

Armscor has claimed it was duped by Wazan into believing the weapons consignment was destined for Beirut, Lebanon

It emerged in documents presented to the commission yesterday that Wazan's principal, Prince Anwar Ahl-Shalaam of Jordan, had asked to have sugar included in the consignment of weapons

To the commission's amusement, Bronkhorst testified "He (Ahl-Shalaam) asked us to in-

clude the sugar as well, but sugar is the white gold of South Africa. It's real hard to come by

"There was no way we could get sugar — except from the Hyperama or somewhere"

He added that although Armscor did not sell sugar, it had played along as an inducement

Meanwhile, indemnity has been granted by the Transvaal Attorney-General's office to the man who chartered the weapons shipment, Michael Steenberg of Dan-Am Shipping.

He is expected to fly out from the US to testify before the commission

Rifle shipping 'was chaotic'

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CT 13/1/95

Packers hired 'off street'

JOHANNESBURG — People had been hired "off the streets" in 1993 to pack a consignment of AK-47 rifles destined for the Middle East, despite the security risk involved, the Cameron Commission of Inquiry heard here yesterday

Armcor senior marketing official Mr Deon Bronkhorst said shipping of the rifles had been chaotic, as it had been arranged in a hurry after Lebanese arms dealer Mr Eli Wazan had said the vessel to carry the rifles was about to dock in Port Elizabeth

Mr Bronkhorst said the Grahamstown army depot, where the rifles were stored, could not provide men to do the packing because it needed to be given three weeks notice

A Sergeant Van Heer-

den had been dissatisfied about the lack of notice but had organised labour from the Department of Manpower

"Bringing strange people in to handle the AKs was a bit rough," said Mr Bronkhorst

He said he was declared "persona non grata" and not allowed back at the depot after mentioning the risk involved to Sgt Van Heerden

The security risk is elaborated in a report before the commission by Mr Eldor Roos, an employee of an Armcor front-company, Makro Freight, which helped Mr Bronkhorst supervise

the packing of the rifles in wooden crates

Replying to a question by commissioner Mr Laurie Nathan, Mr Bronkhorst said the security risk had been minimal, as the packers were supervised

The only risk had been that one of the packers might steal a rifle

Mr Roos' report also claims poor security in the storing overnight of five G3 rifles in the consignment at HF Verwoerd Airport in Port Elizabeth

However, Mr Bronkhorst told the commission the rifles had been locked in a room at the airport offices of the

South African Police, from where their theft was considered "highly unlikely", and the report that they were left unguarded was an exaggeration

In his report Mr Roos also accused Armcor of knowingly shipping five G3 rifles out of the country illegally for its Lebanese agent Mr Wazan

Export

The report said there had been no export permit for the five "sample" G3 rifles included in a 1993 Armcor shipment of almost 10 000 AK-47 rifles to Lebanon

Mr Bronkhorst said all the necessary export documentation had been provided

The commission is looking into two consignments of a total of 23 000 AK-47 rifles and G3s purportedly sold to Lebanon in 1993 and 1994 — Sapa-Reuter

Modise's gunboats are heading for rough seas

(254) WM13-19/11/95

Joe Modise's attempt to gain cabinet approval for four new corvettes will not be plain sailing, reports **Stefaans Brümmer**

DEFENCE Minister Joe Modise is experiencing opposition from the ranks of ANC cabinet colleagues in his quest to buy the navy four new patrol corvettes — at a cost roughly equal to the R2,5-billion Reconstruction and Development Fund set aside in the last Budget.

Early next month the cabinet is expected to approve one of two remaining tenders to supply the corvettes to South Africa, but the decision may not be unanimous. Chief among the opponents of the purchase is understood to be Jay Naidoo, the minister responsible for the reconstruction and development programme (RDP)

The tenders are closed to public scrutiny. Speculative estimates of the price South Africa will pay for the corvettes have diverged substantially, but an Armscor official close to the negotiations with overseas suppliers this week said the maximum cost would be R2,5-billion for the whole programme, including buying the ships, fitting them with armaments and electronics (done locally) and supplying them with helicopters.

This means Naidoo may have to update his own figures. In November, at a breakfast hosted by the *Weekly Mail & Guardian*, he said "reprioritisation" was an important element of the RDP and that tough choices would have to be made. "Do we want to buy corvettes for R1,2-

billion, or build houses with that money? That is the choice," he said.

If the expenditure on the corvettes is in fact closer to R2,5-billion, it will roughly equal the R2,5-billion allocated in the last Budget to kickstart RDP projects

While Naidoo cannot show his dissent too openly, his representative, Thandeka Gqubule, this week explained his stance as follows: "The cabinet will probably decide in early February. As such the time is premature for extensive comment. Even so, we would urge the cabinet to do a full threat analysis to see if the corvettes are necessary. This all occurs in the context of ongoing debate on state spending, in which we take part and will obviously tend towards the side of social spending"

A Defence Ministry official this week said Naidoo had probably "not been briefed" and that once he had the full facts at his disposal he would not oppose the acquisition. Both the ministry and Armscor sought to portray the acquisition of the corvettes as "relevant to the RDP".

Defence Ministry representative Major Muff Andersson argued that a "functional navy" was essential to the RDP, especially after the recent extension of South Africa's coastal waters when authority was assumed over the 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ). "You can't talk about farming the sea and securing the EEZ if you have a pathetic navy."

She said prevention of poaching by foreign vessels could not be stopped without an adequate naval capacity. The navy had suffered so much under cuts to the military budget — proportionally more than the army or air force — that within

six years even the strikecraft fleet would be depleted.

Andersson said regional security and stability was also relevant to the RDP. "We suggest ourselves as a key point of entry to the region from the sea. We cannot do that if we don't have the patrol capability of the corvettes. If we look at it in the short term, of course we should go for houses. But if we look at the long term, security is important."

Andersson said it was unlikely the corvette programme could still be overruled. "The budget has been approved. It just needs the final stamp from the cabinet."

Andersson and Armscor officials pointed out that the final contract would contain substantial guarantees of counter-trade, meaning benefits like local job creation.

Armscor announced in December that of the original five contenders, only Yarrows Shipbuilders of Scotland and Bazan in Spain have progressed to "the next round of proposal refinement". Military analysts believe the only reason Yarrows was included in the shortlist is in the faint hope that it could still reinforce South Africa's bid to supply Britain with the Rooivalk attack helicopter and that it could mean advantageous counter-trade.

But, said analyst Helmoed Römer-Heitman, it now seemed unlikely the Rooivalk deal would go through, and that the Spanish ship was cheaper and more suited to South African conditions anyway. The Spanish counter-trade offer involved buying South African coal, he added.

Heitman said it would be "short-sighted" of Naidoo to oppose the corvettes, as they were not needed only for war

Modise's gunboats are heading for rough seas

(254) WMI3-19/1/95

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Helderberg que just keep piling

NORMAN CHANDLER
Weekend Argus Correspondent

EXHAUSTIVE inquiries over about 17 weeks in three countries — South Africa, Mauritius and Taiwan — into the circumstances surrounding the crash of the SAA Boeing 747

■ Further details surrounding the events which resulted in the Helderberg crashing into the Indian Ocean seven years ago are being uncovered in the investigation by Weekend Argus.

rived in South Africa without mishap had it not been for severe turbulence at some point on the journey which either tipped over, or ruptured, one of

covered off the ocean bed 4,5km below and much of the evidence, in the form of vital documentation and tape recordings, has either "gone miss-

man at the time, says he processed 45 passports for "Armscor passengers" aboard a South African Air Force Hercules C-160 He says two other aircraft flew to Mauritius that day, a Boeing 747 and an Airbus, which also had Armscor people on board
At the time of the accident inquiry, Armscor denied it had had any cargo aboard the aircraft. Similar denials have fr

AL INVESTIGATION

Arm Scor had 45 passports arranged after crash, he says

NORMAN CHANDLER
Weekend Argus Correspondent

ARMSCOR'S claim in an Afrikaans newspaper that it had only five men on Mauritius the day after the Helderberg crash has been debunked by a man who says he arranged passports for some of the agency's employees to fly to the island immediately it became known the SAA airliner had crashed

John Rey, a national serviceman at the time, says he processed 45 passports for "Arm Scor passengers" aboard a South African Air Force Hercules C-160

The plane took off from Waterkloof air force base, Pretoria, to Plaisance airport, near Port Louis, on November 28, 1987

It is also known that, in addition to the C-160, an SAA Airbus and an SAA Boeing 747 flew from Pretoria and Johannesburg to Mauritius the morning after the crash carrying not only representatives of Arm Scor but also of the South African Air Force and other government departments

Mr Rey says he had to organise "planeloads of passports" at the time for people among whom were Arm Scor personnel. He claims to have been told that the Arm Scor contingent had been "tasked to search the beaches"

When asked for comment on this article, Arm Scor's general manager of corporate communications Abba Omar said "We are looking into whether any Arm Scor representatives were on board the flights referred to. Please bear with us while we look through our own records, and that of the broader defence industry"

Weekend Argus has learned

drums" Investigations reveal that the team stayed at a Meridien Hotel and on the Tuesday night after their arrival had "been drunk" in the hotel bar. They were said to have "bragged" about what their role was. Another caller has told of how Arm Scor had leased a helicopter and scoured the beaches in a bid to find the drums

These drums are believed to have been labelled "tropical fish" but to have contained a substance known as Super Mercuric Cyanate (SMC) which was submerged in water. Because it is so highly volatile, SMC has to be transported either in a vacuum or submerged in a liquid

It is surmised that at least one of the drums tipped over as a result of severe upper air turbulence, resulting in the SMC coming into contact with oxygen and resulting in a blaze impossible to fight with the limited fire fighting equipment available to the crew of the Helderberg.

The agency initially told Weekend Argus late in December that it had no comment to make on information that "Arm Scor men had been searching the beaches for drums" But it later conceded in a report in an Afrikaans newspaper that it did have men on the island but that they had been drawn from the Institute for Maritime Technology at Simon's Town

It said its "five" representatives of the Institute for Maritime Technology went to the island and that they had not been searching for drums

Weekend Argus has also been reliably informed that the SAAF conducted its own inquiry using a Puma helicopter but the official accident inquiry, under the chairmanship of Mr



ries
up . . .

said soot had been detected in the throats and lungs of the victims. Expert medical opinion ruled out any possibility of an explosion having occurred.

Asked what he thought, after all these years, about the possibility of an explosion having occurred, Dr Chunnoo rejected this, saying "We (the medical profession) all know what mercury can do, particularly in its state."

er brought before the inquiry. Mr Jacobs, who now lives in Johannesburg where he has established a lucrative travel agency with a Chinese man, KC Wu, was the last person to see Captain Uys before the flight.

Officials at Chiang Kai-Shek (CKS) international airport said they could not recollect such a call having been received by Captain Uys, but, significantly, did not dismiss the possibility

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the official accident inquiry
Combi aircraft, the Helderberg, have thrown up a myriad questions about the disaster

Compelling information has been provided by numerous sources, most of whom are unconnected, to suggest that the aircraft was carrying clandestine cargo. The sources range from ex-SAA employees, those still working for the airline, private citizens and people deep within the security services.

Although a few have revealed their names to the Weekend Argus, almost all have spoken on condition of strict anonymity. They fear not only for their own safety but for the safety of their families as well.

The cargo is believed to have consisted of a substance identified as Super Mercuric Cyanate (SMC) which was wanted for the development of a fuel for South Africa's struggling intercontinental ballistic missile programme. It apparently was obtained in the United States and taken to Taiwan via Japan for loading on to the Helderberg.

SMC, we have been told, is highly volatile and ignites with great intensity when brought into contact with oxygen. Because of this, it has to be transported either in a vacuum or submerged in a liquid.

In the case of the Helderberg, it was submerged in water inside tanks labelled "tropical fish". It is not known how many tanks were loaded on board.

The cargo could have ar-

the tanks exposing the SMC to air and thus generating a raging fire

Information about Super Mercuric Cyanate being aboard the Helderberg, what it does and what it is used for, was first provided by a Pretoria-based engineer who has a special interest in rockets. His information was subsequently supported by a number of other sources. But, the most important confirmation came from a source deep within the security establishment.

It has not yet been possible to piece together the precise sequence of events as it unfolded aboard the doomed aircraft.

But, it seems there were two fires on the aircraft.

The first, Weekend Argus has learned, was extinguished, but it took all the available fire-fighting equipment on board.

Then, at some point later, a second fire broke out, sending the aircraft into the sea only minutes before reaching its destination. It is believed the second fire took only 36 minutes to disable the Helderberg and cause it to crash in the Indian Ocean.

The inquest at the time recorded that death probably had occurred within two minutes of impact with the sea. There were no survivors.

It is on record that about 10 minutes out of Pleasance Airport, Mauritius, Captain Dawie Uys had radioed, saying he had "a smoke problem" and that he had lost "a lot of electrics", preventing him from giving Mauritius an accurate position.

After seven years, there is still no certainty about exactly what took place. Only one per cent of the wreckage was re-

ing" or been destroyed

A widely-held view is that the aircraft broke up on impact. However, two fishermen who were off Pant Island near Mauritius on the night of the disaster claimed they had seen a "fireball" at a time just before the Helderberg plunged into the sea.

At the time of the disaster, South Africa was involved in an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) programme. Although this has been denied consistently, military analysts in South Africa and Britain maintain the development of such missiles forms part of a space research programme in which South Africa had been involved for years, and probably still is.

The propellant believed to have been aboard the Helderberg may have been destined for a company in the Western Cape. This has yet to be confirmed.

Armcor have consistently denied they had any cargo aboard the Helderberg. But, there are consistent claims of Armcor personnel having been on Mauritius the day after the crash, apparently scouring the beaches for "drums". This has been denied by Armcor. They said they had only five representatives on the island from the Institute for Maritime Research.

But, informants have told us how men claiming to be from Armcor got drunk at the bar of their hotel and bragged about what they were doing. And, the man who issued at least 45 Armcor representatives with their passports, has come forward.

John Rey, a national service-

lowed since then. And the then South African Defence Force also denied having any cargo aboard the aircraft.

Documentation about the cargo was destroyed by Taiwanese officials after the accident inquiry had started work. This has been confirmed in Taipei.

Because of space problems, cargo documentation is shredded after two years. However, the official inquiry began 16 months after the disaster. It remains a mystery why South Africa did not subpoena the documentation well before it was destroyed.

A Mauritius medical team assigned to the accident found the bodies of the victims had been strangely mutilated. Information about the state of the bodies when they were found also has never been divulged before.

It is a mystery why this was not done. Dr Indiraduth Chunnoo, formerly head of Mauritius' Hospital of the North and now in private practice, was the pathologist in charge of the Mauritius medical team at the time. He claims to have given full and extensive briefings to the South African investigation team.

He told Weekend Argus of injuries on the bodies and partial bodies of the 15 victims who were eventually found with medical knowledge.

Dr Chunnoo said "I would have thought there would have been a description of the bodies at least, because it was something the likes of which I have not seen in my medical career."

The official accident in-

'If only I hadn't delayed flight' — cargo handler

FORMER South African Airways manager Thinus Jacobs has lived with the memory for seven years — it is a nightmare which will not go away.

The former SAA manager in Taiwan cannot erase the sadness of the night when the Helderberg crashed into the Indian Ocean and 159 people lost their lives.

Mr Jacobs and his colleague K Wu were the last people to close the cargo bay doors of the Boeing 747 and say goodbye to Captain Dawie Uys and his crew.

Unbeknown to Messrs Jacobs and Wu, it was truly a last goodbye.

They were identified by Weekend Argus last week as

the cargo handlers who helped load the Helderberg. They are now in business together and run a travel company, Crown Travel, in Johannesburg.

Mr Jacobs and Mr Wu, who was SAA's cargo sales manager in Taipei, left Taiwan more than three years after the disaster and set up the travel agency, which caters for Chinese and other Far East tourists.

Mr Jacobs is troubled mostly by the fact that the Boeing had been delayed in Taipei because of a late connection with an incoming flight from Tokyo.

"I kept the SAA plane back for one hour and 12 minutes in order to board the 49 passengers from Japan. This means 110 people could still be alive

today had I let the plane go on schedule. But how was I supposed to know there was something on that aircraft?"

"As far as I am aware, when the plane took on the Japanese passengers, no cargo was loaded. I don't think anyone could estimate the pain I have gone through on a personal note."

Both men say they did not have anything to do with the cargo and that all they had done was prepare the documentation and facilitate the departure of the aircraft.

"We have no idea whatsoever if there was undisclosed cargo aboard that aircraft," they said.

"I saw the cargo manifest and, as far as I am concerned, there was nothing untoward

listed on it," Mr Jacobs said when he showed the Weekend Argus a copy of the original manifest, which had earlier been reported to be missing.

Messrs Jacobs and Wu said that to place undeclared goods on the Helderberg in Taipei would have been impossible, particularly as Taiwan was at the time under martial law and the security of the airport was in the hands of the Taiwan Garrison Command.

They agreed, however, whatever brought down the Helderberg could have been via another Far East city as Tokyo or Seoul.

They also said that, according to the manifest, there was no tropical fish listed for flight.

Some of the bodies had been decapitated, others were missing upper limbs. The lower limbs and other limbs were intact. In some instances, the spinal column had been removed and the rest of the body remained, or there was merely the spinal column, but without flesh.

He disputed a claim made by South African medical personnel at the time that sharks may have attacked the bodies.

But, Dr Chunnoo remains puzzled as to why no survivors were found. The search for survivors was called off on November 30, less than 48 hours after the crash.

Johannesburg forensic specialist Dr Vernon Kemp says two of the bodies had enough blood in suitable condition for analysis and the breathing passages of eight bodies contained soot.

The causes of death of six of the victims was given as "multiple injuries" and the other two, from whom the blood had been taken, was put down as "multiple injuries plus carbon monoxide intoxication".

It also has been learned that Captain Uys, may have been "persuaded" by a senior government official over the telephone from Pretoria to take off after he had refused to do so when he apparently discovered the nature of his cargo.

He is also thought to have been ordered by Jan Smuts flight control to continue flying after reporting he had a fire.

Captain Uys's concern about the cargo was said to have been acknowledged at the time by a SAA senior official, Thinus Jacobs, in Taipei, but was nev-

Captain Uys had apparently refused to take off from Heathrow airport, London, with "restricted" cargo earlier in his career with SAA and had, in fact, posted back copies of the manifest to himself in South Africa.

At the time of the second fire, Captain Uys was said to have been told to continue his flight to Mauritius even after he had asked flight operations, SAA, at Jan Smuts airport, that he be allowed to divert to Madras, India.

It is not yet known who ordered him to continue the flight.

The full story of the crash is contained on a key tape recording which appears to have "gone missing". Even the Margo inquiry was unable to find this tape. The explanation given was that it had "unfortunately been re-used".

However, an SAA flight engineer who was waiting, as a member of the relief crew, to fly the Helderberg on the Mauritius-Johannesburg leg of its journey, was dispatched to the control tower when the plane became overdue.

He was able to listen to a tape recording made by air traffic control, Mauritius, of the last minutes of conversation between the ATC officer on duty — who was described as being "hysterical" — and the pilot. Apparently those exchanges were also being recorded by the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR).

But, officers of the Mauritius Police special branch entered the control tower, seized the tape, questioned the ATC officer and locked the flight engineer in a room

from at least three other callers that "Armcor men" had searched the island's north-east coast beaches "looking for

Justice Cecil Margo, asked to accept the SAAF findings. The inquiry report did not say what role the SAAF played.

SAA denies sinister claims about crash

NORMAN CHANDLER
Weekend Argus Correspondent

SEVERAL questions have been put to South African Airways by Weekend Argus in connection with investigations into the Helderberg disaster.

Among questions and the responses of chief executive Mike Myburgh were:

Q: What was the role of Gert van der Veer, then-chief executive, in the ZUR control room (SAA's communication nerve centre) at least two hours prior to the crash of the Helderberg?
A: As far as I can establish, he was not in the control room during this period.

Q: Did Mr Van der Veer instruct Captain Dawie Uys to continue the flight to Mauritius in spite of a fire having broken out?

A: I can find no trace of any communication between Captain Uys and Mr Van der Veer during the ill-fated flight.

Q: Why was the aircraft not ordered to divert to a closer airport as had allegedly been the case when a fire broke out on a flight between Taipei and Johannesburg?

A: In that I can find no evidence of an earlier fire on the

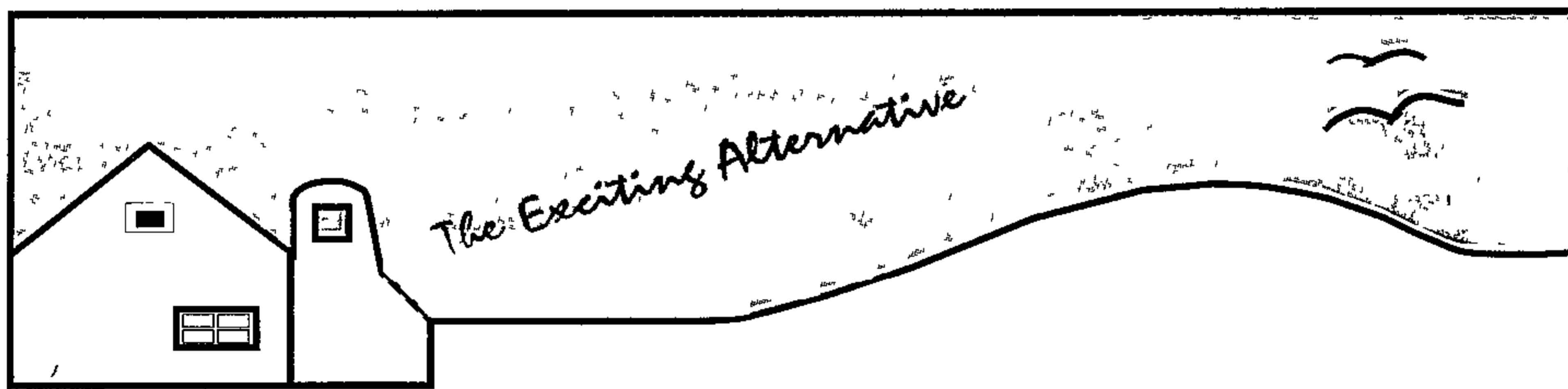
Helderberg, the question of a possible diversion does not really have any relevance.

Q: Relatives of the victims are continuing to come forward alleging "strong-arm tactics" and disgraceful conduct by airline personnel, alleged disinterest by the airline in the welfare of relatives of the South African passengers, and pressure being brought to bear on relatives to accept compensation (In particular, the date of May 11 1988 is mentioned as when such pressure began in earnest).

A: Inquiries into the interaction between South African Airways and the relatives of the passengers who were killed in the crash points to many facets of real empathy and concern.

Q: Interested airline personnel both present and past have alleged senior management strongly advised them not be part of the proceedings of the investigation into the crash. Some also have alleged they were threatened with dismissal from their positions with the airline.

A: I was not able to find any evidence of this. I consider it highly unlikely in that all indications are that SAA had nothing to hide.

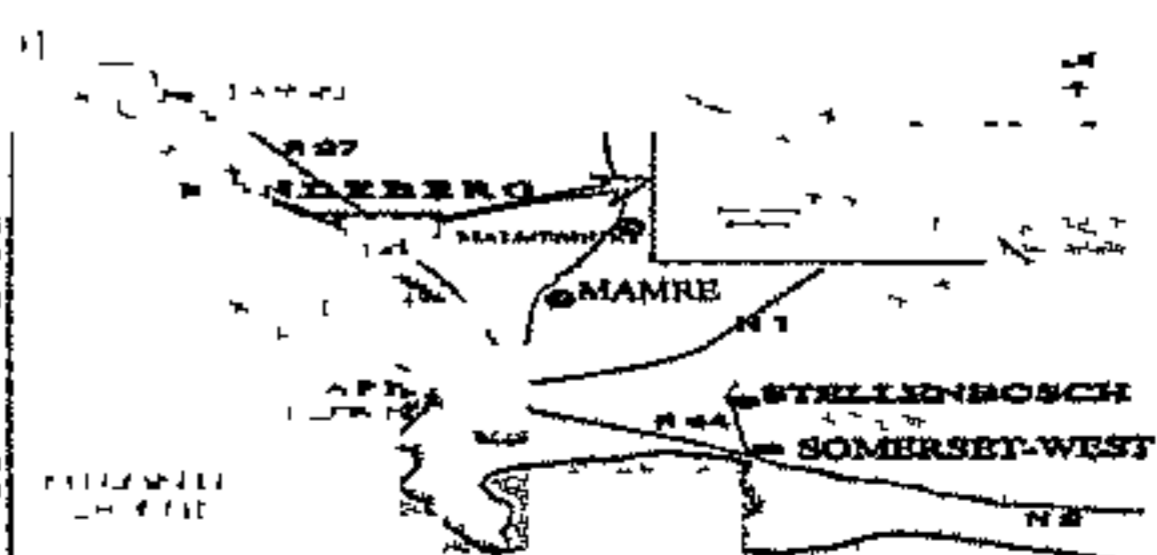


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THE HELDERBERG DISASTER

THE FIRE AND THE FURY

FURTHER details surrounding the events which resulted in the Helderberg crashing into the Indian Ocean seven years ago are being uncovered in a mammoth investigation by WeekendStar.

NORMAN CHANDLER recounts the story to date.

EXHAUSTIVE inquiries over some 17 weeks in three countries - South Africa, Mauritius and Taiwan - into the circumstances surrounding the crash of the SAA Boeing 747 Combi aircraft, the Helderberg, have thrown up a myriad questions about the disaster.

Compelling information has been provided by numerous sources, most of whom are unconnected, to suggest that the aircraft was carrying clandestine cargo.

The sources range from ex-SAA employees, those still working for the airline, private citizens and people deep within the security services.

Although a few have revealed their names to the WeekendStar, almost all have spoken on condition of strict anonymity. They fear not only for their own safety but for the safety of their families as well.

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In the case of the Helderberg, it was submerged in water inside tanks labelled "tropical fish". It is not known how many tanks were loaded on board.

The cargo could have arrived in South Africa without mishap had it not been for severe turbulence at some point on the journey which either tipped over, or ruptured, one of the tanks exposing the SMC to air, thus generating a raging fire.

Information about Super Mercuric Cyanate being aboard the Helderberg, what it does and

what it is used for, was first provided by a Pretoria-based engineer who has a special interest in rockets. His information was subsequently supported by a number of other sources. But the most important confirmation came from a source deep within the security establishment.

It has not yet been possible to piece together the precise sequence of events as it unfolded aboard the doomed aircraft. But it seems that there were two fires on the aircraft.

The first fire, we are told, was extinguished but it required all the available fire-fighting equipment on board. Then at some point later a second fire broke out, sending the aircraft into the sea only minutes before reaching its destination. It is believed that the second fire took only 36 minutes to disable the Helderberg and drive it into the Indian Ocean.

The inquest at the time recorded that death had probably occurred within two minutes of impact with the sea. There were no survivors.

It is a matter of record that some 10 minutes out of Plaisance Airport, Mauritius, Captain Uys had radioed saying he had "a smoke problem" and that he had lost "a lot of electrics", preventing him from giving Mauritius an accurate position.

After seven years there is still no certainty about exactly what took place. Only 1 percent of the wreckage was recovered off the ocean bed 4.5 km below and much of the evidence, in the form of vital documentation and tape recordings, has either "gone missing" or been destroyed.

A widely held view is that the aircraft broke up on impact. However, two fishermen who were fishing off Pant Island near Mauritius on the night of the disaster claimed they had seen a "fireball" at a time just before the Helderberg plunged into the sea.

AT THE time of the Helderberg disaster South Africa was involved in an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) programme. Although this has been consistently denied, military analysts in South Africa and Britain maintain however that the development of such missiles forms part of a space research programme in which South Africa had been involved in for years, and probably still is.

The propellant we believe to have been aboard the Helderberg may have been destined for a company in the Western Cape. This has yet to be confirmed.

Armcor have consistently denied that they had any cargo aboard the Helderberg. But there are consistent claims of Armcor personnel having been on Mauritius the day after the crash, apparently scouring the beaches for "drums". This has been denied by Armcor.

They said they had only five representatives on the Island from the Institute for Maritime

Research

But informants have told us how men claiming to be from Armcor got drunk at the bar of their hotel and bragged about what they were doing. And the man who issued at least 45 Armcor passports with their passports has come forward.

John Rey, a national serviceman at the time, says he processed 45 passports for "Armcor passengers" aboard a South African Air Force Hercules C-160. He says two other aircraft flew to Mauritius that day, a Boeing 747 and an Airbus, which also had Armcor people on board.

At the time of the accident inquiry, Armcor denied it had had any cargo aboard the aircraft. Similar denials have followed since then. And the then South African Defence Force also denied having any cargo aboard the aircraft.

Documentation regarding the cargo was destroyed by Taiwanese officials after the accident inquiry had started work. This has been confirmed in Taipei.

Because of space problems, cargo documentation is shredded after two years. However, the official inquiry began 16 months after the disaster. It remains a mystery why South Africa did not subpoena the documentation well before it was destroyed.

A Mauritius medical team assigned to the accident found the bodies of the victims had been strangely mutilated. Information about the state of the bodies when they were found has also never before been divulged.

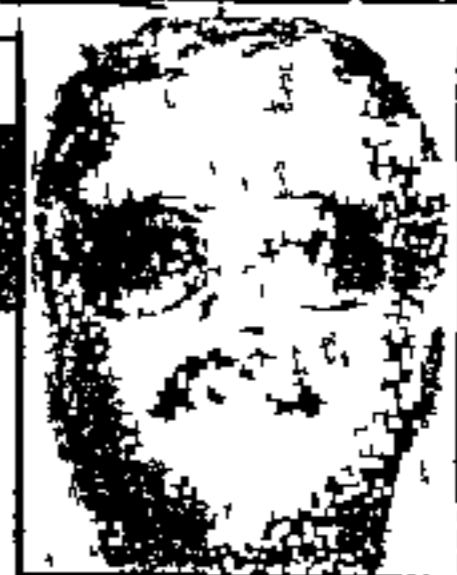
It is a mystery why not seeing that Dr Indraduth Chunnoo, formerly head of Mauritius' Hospital of the North and now in private practice, who

was the pathologist in charge of the Mauritius medical team at the time, claims to have given full and extensive briefings to the South African investigation team.

He told the WeekendStar that the injuries of



By NORMAN



CHANDLER

This is a graphite tennis racket, salvaged from the wreck of the Helderberg at the bottom of the sea off Mauritius seven years ago. It is further proof of the intense heat that destroyed the airliner . . . and 159 lives. WeekendStar disclosures over the past few weeks have sparked outrage about the blaze that should never have happened. This is what lies behind our special investigation

(254) Star 14/11/95

was called off on November 30, less than 48 hours after the crash

Johannesburg forensic specialist Dr Vernon Kemp says two of the bodies contained sufficient blood in suitable condition for analysis and that the breathing passages of eight bodies contained soot

The causes of death of six of the victims was given as "multiple injuries" and the other two, from whom the blood had been taken, was put down as "multiple injuries plus carbon monoxide intoxication"

It has also been learnt that the plane's commander, Captain Dawie Uys, may have been "persuaded" by a senior government official over the telephone from Pretoria to take off after he had refused to do so when he apparently discovered the nature of his cargo

He is also thought to have been ordered by Jan Smuts flight control to continue flying after reporting he had a fire

Uys' concern about the cargo was said to have been acknowledged at the time by a SAA senior official, Thinus Jacobs, in Taipei but was never brought before the inquiry

Jacobs, who now lives in Johannesburg where he has established a lucrative travel agency with a Chinese man, KC Wu, was the last person to see Uys before the flight

HE SAID he had been aware of rumours regarding the cargo but did not believe Uys to have been particularly worried about it. WeekendStar interviewed officials at Chang Kar-Shek (CKS) international airport about this allegation

They said they could not recollect such a call having been received by Uys but significantly did not dismiss the possibility

Uys had apparently earlier in his career with SAA refused to take off from Heathrow airport, London, with "restricted" cargo and had in fact posted back to himself in South Africa copies of the manifest.

At the time of the second fire, Uys was said to have been told to continue his flight to Mauritius even after he had requested flight operations, SAA, at Jan Smuts airport, that he be allowed to divert to Madras, India.

It is not yet known who ordered him to continue the flight

The full story of the Helderberg crash is

contained on a key tape recording which appears to have "gone missing". Even the Margo inquiry was unable to find this tape. The explanation given was that it had "unfortunately being re-used"

However, an SAA flight engineer who was waiting, as a member of the relief crew, to fly the Helderberg on the Mauritius-Johannesburg leg of its journey, was dispatched to the control tower when the plane became overdue

He was able to listen to a tape recording made by air traffic control, Mauritius, of the last minutes of conversation between the ATC officer on duty - who was described as being "hysterical" - and the pilot

Apparently those exchanges were also being recorded by the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) on the Helderberg

But officers of the Mauritius Police special branch entered the control tower, seized the tape, questioned the ATC officer, and locked the flight engineer in a room

When he was released he was said to have "looked as white as a sheet", a source said

"To this day, that flight engineer has not said a word about the events at Plaisance airport"

Pilots and other callers to the WeekendStar suspect that the tape may have been tampered with by unknown persons

"The first tape, from my understanding of the events of that night, was not full of silences, as stated by the Margo accident inquiry report, but was in fact non-stop conversation between the plane and ATC

"Those chaps spoke non-stop it is their lifeline after all," a source has said.

The long-range ZUR shortwave radio which links SAA to all its aircraft anywhere in the world was also recording the conversation

"Yet, that tape went missing. The most important tape in SAA's history went missing. That speaks volumes," the pilot said

According to the accident inquiry report, the CVR tape, which was the one simultaneously being recorded on Mauritius, had a period of eight minutes and 44 seconds during which no conversation took place

The Margo report also said "There was no connection between the accident and the omission of Station ZUR to communicate with the Helderberg at the pre-arranged time."

"Nor is there any significance in the fact that the ZUR tape covering that time was mislaid or wiped out by later use"

A former technician with SAA, who identified himself as "G", says that there is no doubt in his mind that the ZUR tape existed

"I know of two men who listened to that tape," he said

"I know there was a ZUR tape. Later the tape disappeared and I was told the tape had been recycled, something which normally takes place every 48 hours"

the bodies and parts of bodies of the 15 victims that were eventually found defied medical knowledge. Dr Chunnoo said "I would have thought there would at least have been a description of the bodies because it was something the likes of which I have not seen in my medical career"

The official accident report said soot had been detected in the throats and lungs of the victims. Expert medical opinion ruled out any possibility of an explosion having occurred.

Asked what he thought after all these years about the possibility of an explosion having occurred, Chunnoo rejected this, saying "We (the medical profession) all know what mercury can do, particularly in its raw state"

Some of the bodies had been decapitated, others were missing upper limbs. The lower trunk and other limbs were intact. In some instances the spinal column had been removed and the rest of the body remained, or there was merely the spinal column but without flesh

Chunnoo disputed a claim made by South African medical personnel at the time that sharks may have attacked the bodies

Chunnoo remains puzzled as to why no survivors were found. The search for survivors

(1/10/87) 911/12/85

SAA execs warned about unsafe cargoes

DAVID ALLEN and
NORMAN CHANDLER

ABOUT 45 of SAA's top executives were told at a conference days before the Helderberg crash that they were gambling with people's lives by not "completely and properly" briefing the airline's captains about the nature of the dangerous cargoes placed aboard their aircraft for transportation to South Africa.

This information has been given by one of the participants at that conference. He will not be identified in any way, because he is "well known" and doesn't want to end up with "a knife in the back".

He said the conference was SAA's annual international managers' conference held at the Wild Coast Sun during November 1987.

No details

It was attended by about 50 people and was chaired by the then assistant director of safety.

A spokesman for the Wild Coast Sun said their records go back only five years, but he confirmed that SAA did hold a conference at the hotel at about that time.

A spokesman for SAA, Leon Els, said he did not know any details of the 1987 conference but said SAA held a "sales and marketing conference" in November every year.

On Thursday, November 18 1987, during a period entitled "post-crash seminar", a highly placed member of SAA's management, who is now in retirement, used question time to warn his colleagues of the possible consequences of what the airline was engaged in.

Nine days later, on Saturday, November 27 1987, the Helderberg, a Boeing 747 combi aircraft, crashed off Mauritius killing 159 people.

It is known that there had been a fire on board but it has never been conclusively established what precisely caused the fire. The WeekendStar has been led to believe that the Helderberg had been carrying a consignment of a new type of rocket fuel which appears to have accidentally ignited.

The WeekendStar's informant said the use of SAA aircraft to transport dangerous cargoes — isotopes, explosives, ammu-

Personnel flew to Mauritius

Helderberg: links to Arm Scor grow

Star 14/11/87 (254)

THE HELDERBERG

A SPECIAL WEEKEND STAR
INVESTIGATION
By NORMAN CHANDLER

ARMSCOR'S claims in an Afrikaans newspaper that it had only five men on Mauritius the day after the Helderberg crash has been debunked by a man who says he arranged passports for some of the agency's employees to fly to the island immediately it became known the SAA airliner had crashed.

John Rey, a national serviceman at the time, says he processed 45 passports for "Arm Scor passengers" aboard a South African Air Force Hercules C-160. It took off from Waterkloof air force base, Pretoria, to Plaisance airport, near Port Louis, on November 28, 1987. It is believed that, in addition to the C-160, an SAA Airbus and an SAA Boeing 747 flew from Pretoria and Johannesburg to Mauritius the morning after the crash carrying representatives of Arm Scor, the South African Air Force and government departments.

Rey says he organised "planeloads of passports" at the time. Among these were Arm Scor personnel, who had been "tasked to search the beaches". Other passengers were from the SAAF's project division.

When asked for comment on this article, Arm Scor's general manager of corporate communications Y Abba Omar said "We are looking into whether any Arm Scor representatives were on board the flights referred to. Please bear with us while we look through our own records, and those of the broader defence industry."

WeekendStar has learned from three callers that "Arm Scor men" had searched the island's north-east coast beaches "looking for drums". They stayed at the Meridien Hotel and on the Tuesday night after their

More reports, pictures — Page 5

arrival had "been drunk" in the hotel bar. They were said to have "bragged" about what their role was. Another caller said Arm Scor had leased a helicopter and scoured the beaches in a bid to find the drums.

These drums are believed to have been labelled "tropical fish" but to have contained Super Mercuric Cyanate (SMC) which was submerged in water. Because it is so highly volatile, SMC has to be transported either in a vacuum or submerged in a liquid. It is surmised that at least one of the drums tipped over as a result of severe upper air turbulence, resulting in the SMC coming into contact with oxygen and unleashing a furious blaze.

The agency initially told WeekendStar late in December that it had no comment to make on information that "Arm Scor men had been searching the beaches for drums". Later, it conceded in a report in an Afrikaans newspaper that the men on the island had been drawn from the Institute for Maritime Technology at Simon's Town. It said the "five" representatives had not been searching for drums.

Another informant, who cannot be identified but whose name is known to WeekendStar, says he had for years arranged for South African Airways identity documents to be issued to Arm Scor personnel.

The man gave as an example a situation which developed a few years ago when staff of the Atlas Aircraft Corporation, a subsidiary at the time of Arm Scor, flew to a US airliner manufacturer as "SAA employees".

This occurred during international arms sanctions in which all dealings with South Africa were suspended, particularly by countries such as the US.

Mechanic hooke

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Most lube grease

P.T.O.

Generals' use of trust fund cash angers union

By PETER De IONNO

THE SA National Defence Union has called on the Defence Ministry to investigate the withdrawal of R30 000 from Army Foundation funds

The money was used to pay for a hunting trip by senior generals and officers after the businessman who had entertained them reneged on the bill

The union's executive officer, Cor van Niekerk, said the incident was a misuse of trust funds contributed largely by junior officers.

"If this trip had not involved generals, no payment would have been allowed."

The three-day trip in July had been for the benefit of chief of the defence force General Georg Meiring, the then chief of the army, Lieutenant-General Hattingh Pretorius, and seven other officers, Mr van Niekerk said.

The defence force said the payment from Army Foundation funds was authorised in mid-December by General Pretorius after Karel Landman of the Leeukop Game Farm had reported the host for the trip, Mr C R "Richard" Bluett, to the police for fraud in November.

The Army Foundation is a private trust set up in the 50s for officers' welfare needs.

This week, Mr Landman returned the foundation's money after he discovered that Mr Bluett had paid R31 916 into his account on December 30.

"We cannot believe there was no favouritism involved, since we know Mr Bluett was interested in receiving permission to exploit diamonds on defence premises," said Mr van Niekerk

But spokesman Colonel John Rolt said: "The defence force demes the hunting trip was arranged to discuss or promote Mr Bluett's interest in prospecting rights. Any speculation in this regard is malicious and devoid of all truth."

Mr Bluett's company, Duo Corporate Developers, was granted permission to prospect for diamonds and precious stones in the military-controlled Madimbo corridor, an area along the Limpopo river west of the Kruger National

Park, by Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha on November 14.

According to the department's Pietersburg office, Mr Bluett's application was the only one presented after November 2 1993, when a long-standing ban on commercial activity in the area was lifted because border tensions had eased

Mr Bluett, a friend of General Meiring's since he had served as a Parachute Battalion section commander in then South West Africa, began lobbying the general to support lifting the prospecting prohibition six months before.

They met on May 6 1993. On May 24, Mr Bluett formally requested permission and asked for details of the conditions the defence force would impose on prospecting. On July 5, Mr Bluett detailed his proposals for a three-year prospecting plan

On November 17, the defence force notified the Department of Works, which administered the land, that it had withdrawn its ban on prospecting, enclosing details of seven applications that had been rejected since September 1990.

Sandton mining engineer Christopher Mumby expressed surprise this week when he heard that prospecting rights had been granted in the Madimbo corridor.

He said his company, Process and Mining Consultants, had spent R500 000 on years of geological research and aerial photography in the area to identify alluvial gravel beds with diamond-bearing potential before lodging an application on September 23 1990.

"Our application should have been there in 1993 when the ban was lifted," he said

"The law allows for discretionary decisions by people who advise the minister. He doesn't know a lot about mining, so he just signs the papers," he said.

"I know of numerous cases where the undeserving and the unlikely acquire valuable concessions through contacts in Pretoria. It is rife in the mining industry"

Mr Bluett is believed to be in the Far East and was unavailable for comment.

254

ST 15/1/95

Parents say son was beaten and shocked

Union slams SANDF over death of private

BY ADAM COOKE

The South African National Defence Union has expressed "shock" and "outrage" at the January 6 death of Private Morne van Deventer in 1 Military Hospital in Pretoria after his arrest by military police for being absent without leave.

In a statement yesterday the union said "the scandal could rock the foundations of the military authorities" who still used "jungle justice to discipline their troops".

The army has appointed a board of inquiry into the death

Van Deventer was arrested on December 28 and, according to

union chief executive officer Cor van Niekerk, should have appeared before his commanding officer within 48 hours.

By the time of his temporary release on January 4 he had still not been brought before the officer concerned.

The union had 4 500 members and was formed in August to be the watchdog of the military, said Van Niekerk.

He said the 24-year-old from Benoni was immediately returned to detention barracks on his release by the officer in command of his unit. That evening he was rushed to 1 Military Hospital in a coma.

The cause of death has still not been established but his par-

ents, who saw the body shortly after his death, said there was evidence he had been beaten and shocked on the feet.

His mother, Helen van Deventer, said she had sent her son's medical report, which contained evidence of a heart condition, to his unit at Voortrekkerhoogte and given a copy to the military police who arrested him.

The union statement said that if the "prescribed procedures" had been followed, "he probably would not have been arrested and his untimely death would have been averted".

The SANDF public relations department referred queries to the military police, who were not available for comment last night.

SAW 16/1/95 (254)

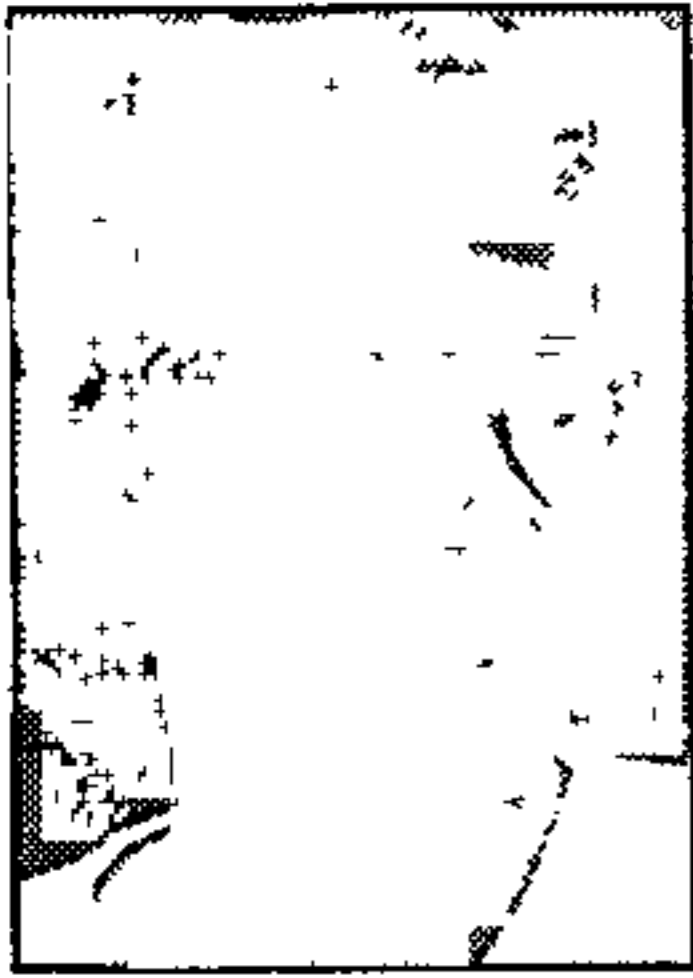
Armcor 'could hide the real destination'

JOHANNESBURG — An Armcor official told the Cameron Commission here yesterday that if the corporation wanted to pull the wool over someone's eyes about the destination of armaments it sold, reference to the real end-user country would not appear in file documentation.

Senior Armcor marketing official Mr Deon Bronkhorst was replying to a question on whether he had seen any documentation identifying Yemen as the end-user country for a consignment of AK-47 and G3 rifles. *(254)*

The commission was established after last year's armaments debacle when weapons which Armcor claimed were destined for Lebanon were turned away at Yemen amid an international furore. *CT 17/1/95*

Mr Bronkhorst told the commission he had not seen any documentation referring to Yemen as the end-user country. — Sapa.



Krish Naidoo argues for the harnessing of Armscor's advanced technology for the benefit of development, instead of shutting down the arms maker

Fifth dimension of arms industry alters equation

SA 17/1/95 (254)

As South Africa winds its way towards democracy, a clutch of moral dilemmas has come to the fore — the arms industry being a primary one

Four options have been presented for the future of South Africa's defence planning and the arms industry. The one is to shut down Armscor and end production. A second is to scale down the arms industry.

A related option is to maintain a small arms manufacturing industry to meet South Africa's defence needs only, without producing for export.

A fourth option is to make the arms industry more transparent and accountable. Needless to say, all four have merit in their own right.

In terms of the constitution at present, the Government is obliged to safeguard the sovereignty of the State. It is also obliged to maintain a force for defensive purposes.

Impinge

Shutting down Armscor and the defence industry engaged in arms manufacture means that equipment for the SA National Defence Force would have to be procured abroad.

If this option is followed, the current unfavourable exchange rate would increase the cost of defence and thereby impinge on other areas of State spending such as health, education and social welfare.

Secondly, the high cost of weapons systems would necessitate a sharp increase in the export of other goods — so as not to adversely affect the balance of payments.

Thus a substantial part of the benefit from increased exports would be offset by the procurement of arms.

Thirdly, it is not clear whether South Africa's indigenous defence

needs could be filled by another country. Finally, security risks — maintenance, spare parts, price stability and continued supplies — usually associated with procurement abroad would negate the viability of this option.

Options two and three would increase the costs of defence at a time when we are exploring all avenues to reduce the defence burden.

Scaling down the arms industry would increase the unit price of locally produced goods. Vertical scaling down could mean that either the navy or air force may have to procure systems from abroad.

Stripping the export potential means that the billion-odd rand accruing to Armscor annually would not be available for any balance of payments calculation.

The fourth option appears to be in line with the culture one is aspiring to cultivate in our emerging democracy. It does not make a major impact on our balance of payments and at the same time meets the needs of defence.

The attraction of this option lies in the basic tenet that Armscor is funded by the taxpayer and therefore ultimately accountable to the people.

A series of transparent procedures could be put in motion to ensure the public is the final arbiter of Armscor's actions.

For example, a representative people's forum could be established to make input on procurement and sales policies. Periodic publication of Armscor's activities would keep the public fully abreast.

This additional cost would burden the taxpayer somewhat, but is incomparable with the benefit of democracy and accountability.

The civilian side of Armscor and the defence manufacturers have

somewhat escaped the attention of analysts. Armscor is an asset of the people and its technological base could be used advantageously in the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

The technology for improved civil aviation, mobile clinics and mobile hospitals, feeding schemes, education, water purification and distribution systems, and information and security systems for practically all State departments is presently available. All that is required is for the public to activate its use.

However, we ought to bear in mind that in transforming South African society, we do not have the luxury of time and resources.

Aspiring towards a higher level of morality or a greater degree of accountability are both necessary and important foundations in our search for an equitable value system.

Equally important to the debate is the urgent need to effectively harness and employ assets of the people for the benefit of the people.

Shaping a secure value system for society is about entitlement to and delivery of food, clean water, health care and education, as much as it is about determining standards and norms. In our circumstances of high demand, available State assets and resources should be judged not by their normal distaste but by their potential contribution.

As we journey ahead along the morality/pragmatic continuum, it may pay not to lose sight of this — the fifth dimension of the arms industry.

■ *Krish Naidoo, an attorney and ANC activist, was recently appointed senior manager to the Armscor corporate communications department.*



Over 500 Job Seekers Association members returned a picket at the New Age Beverages plant today after management had reneged on an agreement two weeks ago which ended a two-month

Armscor official 'ignorant of link' ⁽²⁵⁴⁾

BD 17/1/95

SUSAN RUSSELL

AN ARMSCOR official who helped draft documents for a shipment of AK-47 rifles, purportedly sold to Lebanon, said yesterday he did not know what the relationship was between the middleman — arms dealer Eli Wazan — and the charterer of the ship used to carry the weapons.

Armscor marketing official Deon Bronkhorst was testifying at the Cameron commission of inquiry which is investigating all Armscor transactions since 1991.

The commission was set up after details of the AK-47 deal between Armscor, Wazan and self-styled Jordanian prince Anwar al-Shalaaan were made public.

There was an outcry when it was disclosed the shipment was turned back after an abortive attempt to off-load at a port in Yemen. SA is prohibited from selling arms to Yemen.

Jordan has informed the commission that only members of its royal family are permitted to use the title prince, and have dismissed Anwar's claims that he is a prince.

Bronkhorst worked under Armscor marketing manager Marius Ver-

maak, who concluded the deal with Anwar and Wazan.

He told the commission that he had not known what the relationship was between Wazan and Michael Steenberg, charterer of the Arktis Pioneer which transported the cargo from Port Elizabeth.

Bronkhorst said he also did not know what their relationship was with the rest of the parties involved.

The commission has already heard that the Arktis Pioneer and another vessel, the Vinland Saga, were chartered by Steenberg. The Vinland Saga was chartered to carry an initial shipment of AK-47s and G-3s bought from Armscor by Wazan at the end of 1993, and which Bronkhorst said he understood had been purchased on behalf of the Christian Militia in Lebanon.

The commission has heard that Steenberg is a Danish-American, living in the US.

He is expected to travel to SA to testify at the commission, after being granted immunity from prosecution.

Union accuses army of covering up private's death in detention

254 ARG 18/1/95

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Labour Reporter

THE South African National Defence Union has accused the army of attempting to "cover up" the death in detention of a young private who was arrested for being absent without leave three days after Christmas

The union says Mornay van Deventer, 24, died on January 6 in 1 Military Hospital, Pretoria, after being transferred, unconscious, from Benoni Hospital.

The union's chief executive officer and a former military colonel, Cor van Niekerk said yesterday that Private Van Deventer should never have been arrested in the first place as he had been booked off sick.

Sources in the military, including a doctor, had told the union that Private Van Deventer had been assaulted, had burn marks on the soles of his feet and virtually no skin on his buttocks

But the military hospital's official line was that his death was due to natural causes, Mr Van Niekerk claimed in a statement.

The union also claimed Private Van Deventer had not received a written charge sheet within 24 hours of his arrest, nor had he appeared before his commanding officer within 48 hours — both contraventions of the Military Disciplinary Code.

"These irregularities were apparently due to the fact that he was arrested and kept in detention over the Christmas and New Year period when almost everybody was on leave," the union said.

Private Van Deventer had been booked off work for an undetermined period due to a heart condition and other medical conditions prior to his arrest.

Copies of a sick report were faxed to his unit and handed to

military police on Private Van Deventer's arrest.

"Sandu is of the opinion that should Mornay have appeared in front of a responsible person, and should the prescribed procedures have been followed — as well as taking his sick report into account — he would probably not have been arrested and his untimely death could have been avoided."

A spokesman for the army, Alan Visser, confirmed Private Van Deventer's death which formed the subject of a "formal investigation"

No further information was forthcoming as the matter was sub judice

But the union has demanded that the Ministers of Justice and Defence jointly appoint an independent commission of inquiry.

"An investigation by a military board is sure to lead to nothing, as seen in similar cases in the past"

1992 Lebanon arms deal netted millions

JOHANNESBURG — Armscor sold weapons worth over \$2 million (about R7m) to the Christian Militia in Lebanon and about 40 000 British-made Lee-Enfield rifles to a United States buyer in June 1992, the Cameron commission of inquiry heard yesterday.

Armscor marketing official Mr Deon Bronkhorst said the Lee-Enfield rifles were sold to Danish-US citizen Mr Michael Steenberg who planned to sell them as "collector's items" in the US. The agent involved in the Christian Militia deal was Lebanese arms dealer Mr Eli Wazan (254).

The transactions took place in spite of a United Nations arms embargo against South Africa, lifted in May last year. Both men were involved in last year's Armscor deal in which AK-47 rifles ostensibly destined for Lebanon were turned away by Yemen amid an international furore.

According to documents before the commission the June 1992 consignment for the Christian Militia included missiles, ammunition, silencers and night-sight equipment.

Mr Wazan has said he would testify outside South Africa if the media was barred — Sapa

Hundreds line up for SANDF intake

Sowetan 18/1/95 (254)

HUNDREDS of volunteers reported at the South African National Defence Force intake centres in Bloemfontein and Johannesburg yesterday for the start of their 12-month military service period.

The service periods will be followed by eight camps of 30 days each in the part-time forces. In a statement, SANDF headquarters said this year's expected intake for the entire force was 2 402, "not the speculated figure of 10 000".

Because of budgetary constraints the figure was considerably less than in previous years.

The SANDF said the Volunteer Military Service (MSV) system was essential as it served as a source of manpower for the part-time forces who could no longer rely on compulsory national call-up.

Witwatersrand Army Command was yesterday processing queues of volunteers at the

National Exhibition Centre, Johannesburg. Recruits will be allocated to 1 Special Service Battalion, 1 SA Infantry Battalion, the Navy, the Army Gymnasium and the Medical Service Training Centre.

"The intake will bring together for the first time the many cultures of our country. The recruits are a select group of keen young volunteers and a special *esprit de corps* will quickly develop," spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Mannie Alho said.

In KwaZulu-Natal a group of 182 recruits from all parts of the province reported for their one-year voluntary service yesterday.

They assembled at King's Park Soccer Stadium and were transported to 5 South African Infantry Battalion near Ladysmith.

From there they will be split up and transported to other bases — *Sapa*.

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The SANDF said the Volunteer Military Service (MSV) system was essential as it served as a source of manpower for the part-time forces who could no longer rely on compulsory national call-up.

Witwatersrand Army Command was yesterday processing queues of volunteers at the

National Exhibition Centre, Johannesburg. Recruits will be allocated to 1 Special Service Battalion, 1 SA Infantry Battalion, the Navy, the Army Gymnasium and the Medical Service Training Centre.

"The intake will bring together for the first time the many cultures of our country. The recruits are a select group of keen young volunteers and a special *esprit de corps* will quickly develop," spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Mannie Alho said.

In KwaZulu-Natal a group of 182 recruits from all parts of the province reported for their one-year voluntary service yesterday.

They assembled at King's Park Soccer Stadium and were transported to 5 South African Infantry Battalion near Ladysmith.

From there they will be split up and transported to other bases. — Sapa



New army chief Lt-Gen Reg Otto

Picture NICKY DE BLOS

New army chief keen to work with police

BONILE NGUYAZA

BP 18/11/95

254

SA FACED threats to its internal stability and it was the SANDF's task to get involved in matters of security and protection alongside the SAPS, the new SA army chief said in Pretoria yesterday.

Lt-Gen Reginald Otto said the army was capable of a peacekeeping role in Angola but necessity would decide the issue. He said the matter was being discussed at Ministerial level.

Otto said SA's role in the sub-Saharan region also depended on UN specifications. He said the integration of the army was going smoothly. More than 7 000 Umkhonto we Sizwe members and about 1 000 Apia men had been inducted. He did not envisage problems as the army had learnt from its mistakes.

Otto said he was not opposed to the new political dispensation. "If I had any ill feelings about the matter I would not be sitting here this afternoon." On the issue of affirmative action, Otto

said "People must be trained to reach a certain standard of training."

Otto was promoted from the post of officer commanding Eastern Transvaal Command. His predecessor, Lt-Gen JH Pretorius, resigned in December citing ill-health.

Sapa reports hundreds of volunteers reported at SANDF centres in Bloemfontein and Johannesburg yesterday for the start of their 12-month military service.

SANDF headquarters said the expected intake this year for the entire force was 2 402, "not the speculated figure of 10 000".

The Volunteer Military Service system was essential as it served as a source of manpower for the part-time forces who could no longer rely on compulsory national call-up, the SANDF said.

Spokesman Lt-Col Mammie Alho said "the intake will bring together for the first time the many cultures of our country".

Inherstate
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AUCTION

Dispute over depot security

(254)
SUSAN RUSSELL

DISAGREEMENT between SANDF and Armscor personnel over the packing of a consignment of AK-47 rifles purportedly destined for Lebanon led to an Armscor official being temporarily declared persona non grata at the storage depot, the Cameron commission heard yesterday.

Armscor marketing official Deon Bronkhorst, said his superior, Marius Vermaak, sent him to the Grahamstown depot to ensure the packing and transportation of the arms was done properly after they were obliged to get the consignment ready at short notice.

Bronkhorst said as far as he understood, the unusual haste was caused by the fact that middleman, Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan, had informed them his ship was already on its way to pick up the cargo at Port Elizabeth.

Wazan and an associate, Prince Anwar al-Shalaan, took delivery of the first consignment of 10 000 AK-47s in October 1993.

Details of the transaction came to light in September last year after a vessel carrying a second consignment, also sold through Wazan, was prevented from off-loading its cargo in Yemen. Armscor is prohibited from dealing with Yemen.

Bronkhorst said there had been problems between himself and the SANDF personnel at the depot over the security risk

created by having to hire outside labour to pack the weapons at short notice.

He told the commission he had questioned the use of hired labour. Conflict between himself and the SANDF officer involved led to Bronkhorst being declared persona non grata at the depot.

Vermaak subsequently met SANDF representatives to discuss the complaints levelled at Bronkhorst, but they were found to be unwarranted and he was allowed back on to the premises. Bronkhorst said he was unaware at the time that there had also been complaints from the police over the storage arrangement for five G-3s which were added to the consignment.

The police apparently complained that the G-3s had been stored in an "ordinary warehouse" where thefts occurred daily.

This complaint was surprising, Bronkhorst added, since the G-3s were locked in an empty room in police offices.

Bronkhorst remarked that there were "problems in this country" if the police themselves had considered this to be a security risk.

He said he believed subsequent complaints about lax security in transporting the consignment had been exaggerated.

The inquiry continues on Monday.

Report on Armcor deal 'misleading' 254

CT 19/1/95
JOHANNESBURG — An Armcor report to Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise on last year's AK-47 arms deal debacle in the Middle East was "misleading if not downright false", Cameron inquiry commissioner Mr Laurie Nathan said yesterday.

He said the report stated the first shipment of AK-47 rifles in 1993 had been destined for the Christian Militia in Lebanon. However, Armcor officials were aware the shipment had in fact landed up in the hands of individuals in Jordan.

According to a report by Armcor marketing official Mr Marius Vermaak, the weapons were rejected by Jordanian businessman Sheik Anwar al Shalaan ostensibly because of their poor quality.

Sheik Shalaan, who with Lebanese arms dealer Mr Eli Wazan was involved in the Armcor deal, had then given the weapons to "his men" in Jordan.

During questioning of Armcor senior marketing official Mr Deon Bronkhorst, who helped draft the Armcor report to Mr Modise, Mr Nathan said "The report is misleading if not downright false."

He said the report had been "misleading by omission". This omission was that the weapons were destined for Jordan and not Lebanon.

Mr Bronkhorst replied the omission had been an error. It had not been done deliberately — Sapa

Report omitted recipients of arms

AN ARMSCOR report giving Defence Minister Joe Modise details of the sale of 19 000 AK-47s to Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan last year had omitted the fact that the initial shipment ended up in private hands in Jordan, the Cameron commission heard yesterday

The report by Armscor's marketing GM Peet Smith was submitted to Modise last September when the deal became public after an abortive attempt to off-load the second shipment in a Yemeni port

Smith's report informed Modise that the AK-47s had been shipped to Lebanon, but failed to disclose that Armscor marketing officials were aware in January last year that the first consignment, ostensibly sold to Wazan in October 1993, ended up in Jordan

Armscor marketing official Deon

SUSAN RUSSELL

Bronkhorst said during his fifth day of evidence yesterday that the omission had been an error and not an attempt to mislead the minister.

The commission has heard evidence that Armscor concluded the deal with Wazan and a Prince Anwar Al-Shalaan, and that the weapons were supposed to be for the Christian Militia in Lebanon

According to a report by marketing official Marius Vermaak, compiled in January last year, Anwar had informed them the Lebanese were dissatisfied with the weapons. The prince told Armscor he had been forced to distribute the weapons among his own men in Jordan

An export permit had been granted for shipment to a Cabinet classified Group A country, whereas Jordan

was a Group 1 country

There had also been evidence that after the first shipment, Wazan was sidelined and Armscor continued negotiations with Prince Anwar for the second shipment until June last year when he pulled out of the deal

Negotiations were subsequently resumed with Wazan for the sale of the second shipment which was later stopped in Yemen

Bronkhorst told the commission that he had believed the arms were going to the Christian Militia until August last year, when he was told by Vermaak that they were in fact going to the Lebanese government.

He also said that Wazan, not Anwar, had been the purchaser of the weapons and that Wazan was acting on behalf of the end user, the Christian Militia

The inquiry continues today

(254)

2019/11/15

Land commissioners named

PRETORIA — The Cabinet yesterday endorsed the appointment of commissioners to the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, said Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom.

Sapa reports that the commission has been established to redress injustices caused by the dispossession of land rights due to apartheid laws.

The appointments were SA Communication Services assistant director Joe Seremane as chief land claims commissioner; Cape attorney Wallace Mgoqi as regional land claims commissioner for the Western and Northern Cape; Transkei University's Peter Mayende (Eastern Cape); Natal University's Cheryl Walker (KwaZulu/Natal and Free State); and Trans-

vaal Rural Action Committee trustee Emma Mashinini (Gauteng, Northwest, and Northern and Eastern Transvaal)

Hanekom said it was now up to the commission to take the process further by drawing up guidelines, procedures and requirements for lodging land claims and other related measures.

"The commission will have the full support of myself and my department," Hanekom said. "Provision has already been made for the appointment of staff of the Land Affairs Department to serve the commission in an administrative and professional capacity.

The commission's regional offices were also being selected and would be made public once the issue was settled.

He said there had been 202 names received at the closing of nominations on December 31.

Some candidates had been unable to serve on a full-time basis. If the workload required expansion of the commission later on, he would "approach some of the other members on the short list".

INGRID SALGADO reports that Mashinini said she hoped there would be co-operation and assistance from all parties involved.

There were a number of people who had been "cancelled around so much" they did not know when they had been removed and she hoped this would not prove to be a problem.

The commission was likely to operate for three years, she said.

Pupils replace peer's Titian

Own Correspondent

LONDON — The Marquess of Bath has had his stolen £5m Titian replaced by a series of children's impressions of the masterpiece.

The pictures depicting Rest On The Flight To Egypt were given to Lord Bath by pupils at Clough Head School near Huddersfield.

The peer was devastated by the break-in at his home in Wiltshire this month.

Teacher Shirley Scott was telling her children about the biblical story shortly before she heard of the theft. She decided to organise a competition to reproduce the Titian.

She told reporters: "I just hope the paintings can lift Lord Bath's spirits a bit."

Lord Bath sent a message to the school, thanking them for their "lovely gesture".

Army has no plans to recognise union

THE SA Army had no immediate plans to grant the fledgling SA National Defence Union recognition as proper channels of communication already existed, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Col Brian de Toit said "As far as I know there are no negotiations with the union at this point although there have been negotiations with (SANDF) chief Gen Georg Meiring at army headquarters previously."

Union organiser Maj Cor van Niekerk said last year he expected the army to recognise the union by the end of this month.

New army chief Lt-Gen Reginald Otto said on Tuesday there was no necessity for a union within the army.

"It is not necessary for anyone to decide for a soldier

BONILE NGQIYAZA

Proper channels exist," Spokesman Maj Muff Anderson said yesterday the Defence Ministry had yet to finalise its position on unionisation.

She said the SANDF was still operating in terms of the Defence Act clause according to which unionisation was "just out of the picture".

Military analysts and observers warned that, after the elections, the struggle to unionise the military would become a major item on the national political agenda as it pitted the military establishment against the constitution.

Van Niekerk said last year his union had received more than 3 500 membership applications.

Report omitted recipients of arms

(254)

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Armscor marketing official Deon

SUSAN RUSSELL

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The inquiry continues today

LONRHO SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Registration number 70/12727/06)

Results of Lonrho Platinum Division for the year ended 30 September 1994

The combined audited results for the year ended 30 September 1994 of Western Platinum Limited, its subsidiary Western Platinum Refinery Limited and its fellow subsidiary Eastern Platinum Limited are set out below

		1994	1993	% Change
Operations - mining				
Tons milled (excluding slag)	(000)	7 881	7 789	1,2
Centares broken	(000)	1 611	1 643	(1,9)
Noble metals in matte	(kg)	32 450	30 650	5,9
Yield into matte	(g/t)	4,12	3,94	4,6
Working cost per kg of noble metals in matte	(R)	20 755	19 807	4,8

'Something sinister' in Armscor dealings

JOHANNESBURG — Cameron Commission of Inquiry chairman Mr Justice Edwin Cameron said yesterday there was something "sinister" in Armscor's dealings with Lebanese arms dealer Mr Eli Wazan

Mr Wazan was the agent for two Armscor AK-47 rifle shipments in 1993 and last year which went awry in the Middle East

The judge's statement was made at the close of yesterday's proceedings, the sixth day of testimony by senior Armscor marketing official Mr Deon Bronkhorst

Mr Wazan was repaid \$159 825 (about R559 387) by Armscor for the first consignment and \$102455 (about R358 592,5) for the second as he had apparently overpaid Armscor for external shipping costs

Armscor officials have maintained throughout the probe that the money

was mistakenly paid to the corporation by Mr Wazan

Asked why the money had been paid to Armscor, which would not have incurred these costs as the consignment had been shipped free-on-board, Mr Bronkhorst said "I have no idea"

Commissioner Mr Laurie Nathan said it had happened in the case of both shipments and there appeared to be a pattern

Earlier Mr Bronkhorst, under intensive questioning by Mr Nathan, admitted he had lied to the South African Defence Force, which supplied Armscor with the surplus AK-47s for resale

When questioned further by Mr Nathan "on the deliberate false information", Mr Bronkhorst's counsel Mr J Louw objected on the grounds that his client might incriminate himself

The inquiry continues on Monday

Service corps set to help the unemployed

(254)

APR 23/1/95

□ Taiwanese provide know-how for RDP plan

JOHANNESBURG — The defence ministry will today present MPs with plans for an unarmed service corps to provide jobs and training for the unemployed, military sources said.

They said the size of the corps, expected to be launched formally at the end of the month, had yet to be established and many other details were still being discussed.

"It will include soldiers who are to lose their posts in rationalisation of the defence force proper," one source said.

"It will also absorb members

of township self-defence units. It will help to get the kids off the streets," the source said.

The corps would be used to build roads and in other labour intensive projects, the sources said. The basic salary offered would be about rand a month.

Only one in ten black school leavers is expected to find employment this year and thousands of black youths received little or no education under apartheid.

The sources said the defence ministry saw the plan as an important contribution to the government's flagship, the Re-

construction and Development Programme.

They said members of the corps, to be based initially at an unused military camp outside Pretoria, would receive basic drill training, but would not have weapons.

The defence ministry hoped to fund the scheme at least partly with money set aside for the RDP and with contributions from the private sector.

Defence Minister Joe Modise studied a similar scheme during a visit to Taiwan this month, the sources said. They said further co-operation on the project was expected from Taipei. — Reuter

Official testifies to commission

Arm Scor deal called a set-up

254 24/1/95

A senior Arm Scor marketing official told the Cameron Commission yesterday he believed the AK-47 rifle deal which went awry in the Middle East last year was a set-up to sabotage South Africa's multimillion-rand Rooivalk helicopter deal with Britain.

Deon Bronkhorst denied during his seventh day of testimony in Sandton that Arm Scor had consciously devised a scheme to bypass the United Nations arms embargo and to sell armaments on the black market.

He told commission chairman Mr Justice Edwn Cameron: "We (Arm Scor) did not attempt to hide anything."

He claimed instead that Arm Scor had been "gerook" (conned).

Bronkhorst said Arm Scor had believed the weapons consignment was destined for Lebanon "but it never got there".

"Something is not right there. To tell you the truth, the whole thing is not right," he said, referring to the AK-47 transaction with Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan, which was turned away at Yemen amid an international furore.

He said it was "strange and peculiar" that last year's con-

signment which had formed part of an earlier transaction with Wazan and Jordanian businessman Sheik Anwar Al Shalaan had dragged on indefinitely.

Bronkhorst said no one knew why the second consignment had been delayed. Initially it was to have been shipped in December 1993 but was dispatched only eight months later.

He said it was peculiar the shipment had finally been made soon after the Rooivalk offer.

He added that many parties had been involved and Arm Scor had been unable to keep track of the consignment, which had been "all over the world".

Even more peculiar was that soon after the cargo had been turned away at Yemen, South Africa had been unable to acquire a component for the Rooivalk, thus jeopardising the deal with Britain, Bronkhorst said.

"I think we were conned. I think the whole thing was planned," he added.

Asked who he suspected was behind the "sabotage", Bronkhorst said: "I'd rather not say," adding he was not sure what the people involved were capable of.

Asked what he thought of

Danish-American citizen Michael Steenberg, who had been involved in both consignments, Bronkhorst said "Hy het ons verneuk" (he cheated us).

He added he believed both Sheik Anwar and Wazan were aware of the weapons' true destination.

Earlier yesterday Bronkhorst denied any knowledge of Arm Scor supplying AK-47 and G3 rifles to the Angolan rebel movement Unita.

In an Arm Scor report on the Middle-Eastern deals to Defence Minister Joe Modise, Arm Scor marketing head Peet Smith confirmed that weapons had been supplied to Unita.

This had been done on "instructions from the Special Forces and was primarily intended for assistance to Unita, until such assistance was stopped by the South African government".

Questioned about the report, which he had helped draft, Bronkhorst amended his reply, saying he had had no prior knowledge of the Unita deal.

He said he had been amazed that the SADF's Special Forces were assisting Unita and supplying it with weapons — Sapa

KwaZulu brigadier to meet Mufamadi about graduates

(254)

BD 24/1/95

KWAZULU Police Brig CP Mzimela is to meet Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi today in Cape Town to explain his announcement, in defiance of the Minister, that the passing-out parade of 600 KwaZulu police graduates would go ahead next month.

This was confirmed yesterday by a KwaZulu Police spokesman in Ulundi.

Neither Mzimela nor KwaZulu/Natal safety and security minister CJ Mtetwa — on whose instructions Mzimela reportedly acted — were available for comment yesterday.

Mufamadi said last month the parade would not take place until investigations into graduates of the Ulundi Police College had been completed. The special task unit he had appointed to investigate alleged hit-squad activity in the force had established that 28 trainees had criminal records and three were fugitives from justice.

Task group member Howard Var-

DREW FORREST

ney said the probe was close to being finalised. The unit was still waiting for the force to supply the fingerprint records of a further 219 trainees.

Mzimela's announcement last week on television that the parade would take place on February 3 apparently flows from an Inkatha Freedom Party belief that Mufamadi is indirectly attacking it by waging a campaign against the KwaZulu Police.

It might also reflect Inkatha's broader push for the maximum devolution of powers to the province, and resentment at perceived central government meddling.

At a rally in Lindelani, near Durban, at the weekend, Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi said the intention was to demonise the entire force. This made Inkatha "uncomfortable" about its continued role in the government of national unity.

Mufamadi's legal adviser, Azhar Cachalia, stressed that as all SA's

police forces fell under Mufamadi, he had the ultimate say on the timing of the parade.

In terms of the interim constitution, provincial powers in respect of the police can be drawn down only once provinces are competent to exercise them.

This will require the appointment of a new national commissioner, expected within days, the appointment of regional commissioners and the amalgamation of apartheid police forces.

"The process is understood and accepted by all the provincial ministers and has not been an issue at their meetings with the Mufamadi," Cachalia said.

Asked why all the graduations had been blocked because a minority of trainees were tainted, a Ministerial insider said it made no sense to stage the graduation "in dribs and drabs".

"Once graduation has happened and the trainees are policemen, it will be hard to reverse," he said. "There will have to be boards of inquiry for each individual case."

English takes over as language of new army

THE SA National Defence Force was phasing in English as a vehicle for communication in its ranks, spokesman Col Brian du Toit said yesterday. **254**

Addressing a news conference at Wonderboom army base near Pretoria, Du Toit said the move would do away with the past practice of using Afrikaans one month and English the next. **BD 25/1/95**

It appeared the common language among soldiers of the new army was English, he said.

Wallmannstal assembly point communications chief Col Connie van Rensburg said a number of former guerrillas were illiterate. The army, he said, had asked Defence Minister Joe Modise for guidance on what

JOHANNES NGCOBO

should be done with these soldiers as they could not read or write English.

Van Rensburg said there were 3 030 recruits who still had to be integrated into the army at Wallmannstal.

The first batch of about 1 600 would be processed next month.

An army instructor said most of the people attending bridging courses were women. These women were taught how to handle automatic rifles, such as R-4s.

The instructor said the women who were being trained at present had shown commitment and a potential to develop into good soldiers.

Forum hopes to end taxi dispute

A FORUM of representatives from civics, Gauteng's public transport department and the SA Black Taxi Association (Sabta) meets today to try and resolve the Soweto taxi dispute. **BD 25/1/95**

Sabta national conflict-resolution manager Knox Matjila said rival taxi associations were not included in the forum. They would be consulted after a programme had been drafted.

Sapa reports that Matjila suggested strong police action against those involved in the dispute.

"We cannot handle taxi feuds on an ad hoc basis. Unfortunately there is a criminal element in these conflicts. If people don't come to the conference table they must be subject to vigorous police action."

Soweto Transport Services chairman Mmaniki Kwenaitse requested government

BONILE NGQIYAZA

to mediate in the dispute. He said his organisation was willing to negotiate with the rival Soweto Taxi Association, but "we cannot come together yet".

Gauteng transport minister Olaus van Zyl reportedly sent a message to rival associations urging them to talk.

Police spokesman Lt-Col Joseph Ngobeni said there had been few reported incidents of taxi violence yesterday. A taxi dispute in Soweto entered its second day with thousands of commuters stranded at ranks in Chiawelo, Protea, Naledi, Merafe, Phiri and Mapetla.

Inkatha Freedom Party Youth Brigade spokesman Dlangezwa Mvelase said the taxi industry was vital to the country's economy and should be run professionally.

Pelindaba uranium plant to close soon

214 MUNGO SOGGOT

THE Atomic Energy Corporation's uranium enrichment plant at Pelindaba would be closed on April 1, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said yesterday.

Its closure would save the AEC up to R210m a year, while 500 jobs would be lost.

The plant, which supplied Eskom's Koeberg nuclear power station, was commissioned in 1987 after the US banned exports of enriched uranium to SA.

He said the Cabinet yesterday approved the closure a year earlier than originally planned. "With the normalisation of SA's international relations, Eskom will soon be able to obtain enriched uranium on the world market at prices substantially lower than the production cost of the plant." The closure would not affect Koeberg.

The plant, known as the Z plant, had a cash flow deficit of R85m a year, which would jump to R210m from next year when the contract with Eskom for cut-price electricity expired. Retrenchment packages would cost R25m. The plant would incur an operating loss of about R29m in 1995/96 and R47m in 1996/97 as it would operate less efficiently during the four-year shutdown period.

A Mineral and Energy Affairs Department spokesman said state grants to the AEC would fall to less than R100m a year by 1998 from about R250m.

Botha said the AEC was moving from being a "virtually fully state-funded parastatal" to a commercial organisation.

Pelindaba uranium plant to shut down

(254) star 26/11/95

■ POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet has approved the shutdown of the Atomic Energy Corporation's (AEC) uranium enrichment plant, known as the Z-Plant, at Pelindaba outside Pretoria, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha announced yesterday.

In a statement issued in Pretoria, Botha said the decision,

taken at the Cabinet's special meeting yesterday, will take effect on March 1, a year earlier than originally planned.

However, the plant's shutdown will not interrupt the continued operation of Koeberg because enriched uranium will be imported from abroad at a far lower price.

Botha said the decision would affect 2 700 employees, for whose severance packages

R25 million will be needed in 1995/96 and 1996/97.

Botha said that in 1978 the US government had refused the export of enriched uranium which was to be sent to South Africa under a contract between the US Department of Energy and Eskom.

"This meant that Koeberg, then under construction, would not have been commissioned

► To Page 3

Uranium plant shutdown

◀ From Page 1

due to a lack of fuel.

"It would have entailed a loss to Eskom of approximately R1 million per day, in addition to the unutilised capital expenditure of about R4 000 million at that time," Botha said.

Pretoria subsequently instructed the then UCOR (later incorporated into the AEC) to design and construct an enrichment plant to provide for Eskom's needs.

Botha said it was known then that the plant would not be commercially viable and that a more cost-effective fuel supply strategy would have to be adopted.

He said now that South Africa was no longer an international pariah, Eskom will soon be able to obtain enriched ura-

anium on the world markets at prices "substantially lower than the production cost at the Z-Plant".

Botha said the plant's cash-flow deficit amounts to R85 million a year, and would increase to at least R210 million if operations were to be continued because the current low electrical power tariffs enjoyed by the plant will end on March 31 next year.

Botha also said the AEC has been repositioning itself from "a virtually fully State-owned or State-funded parastatal into a commercially driven organisation.

"Grants from the State for this financial year amount to R576 million less than in 1990—only four years ago," Botha said.

Armcor mistakes 'a comedy'

JOHANNESBURG — "A comedy of errors" was how Cameron commissioner Mr Laurie Nathan described yesterday a litany of mistakes in Armcor documents relating to the AK-47 rifle deal which went awry in the Middle East last year. CP 26/1195

"It was a mistake" has been the constant explanation by Armcor marketing employee Mr Deon Bronkhorst in his nine days of testimony.

These include errors in quotations, price determinations, income and expenditure statements, faxes to the South African Defence Force, shipping costs and even the cargo's final price.

Referring to the errors not being picked up by any of Mr Bronkhorst's superiors who also signed the documents, Mr Nathan said "This is a comedy of errors."

—Sapa

Armcor official saw vital telex 'too late'

SUSAN RUSSELL

AN ARMSCOR official told the Cameron commission yesterday that a telex, informing him that the Wazan AK-47 shipment was stuck outside a port in Yemen, came to his attention only after a statement had been issued saying the consignment was in Lebanon

Marketing official Deon Bronkhorst defended his failure to pass on the telex sent to him shortly after 9am on September 21 last year — hours before the statement, drafted by his superior, Marius Vermaak, was issued.

Bronkhorst said he had spent the morning of that day helping marketing GM Peet Smith to organise a function and saw the telex only the following day.

He said the documentation sent to him by the shippers had stated that the ship carrying the AK-47s, the Arktis Pioneer, had been refused entry into the port of Hodeida after the consignee who had presented a bill of lading, inspected the cargo and then refused to take delivery

Bronkhorst said when he saw the documentation, he only glanced at it because as far as he was concerned the problems with delivering the cargo were not his. Armcor had delivered the consignment "free on board" to Port Elizabeth harbour. That meant it had no control of the cargo once it was on the ship.

He also told the commission he had still believed the consignment was going to Lebanon and he had no reason to believe Hodeida was not in that country

Bronkhorst said he was also unaware on September 21 that Vermaak was preparing a statement. He said he had realised the importance of the telex but "too late".

Bronkhorst was also cross-examined by Armcor counsel S van Nieuwenhousen about a telephone conversation he had had with ship's agent Clive Reed on September 20. Bronkhorst said the agent had informed him that the vessel was stuck outside the port, but that Reed had not told him at which port. He had no reason to think the vessel was not outside a Lebanese port.

In search of a...
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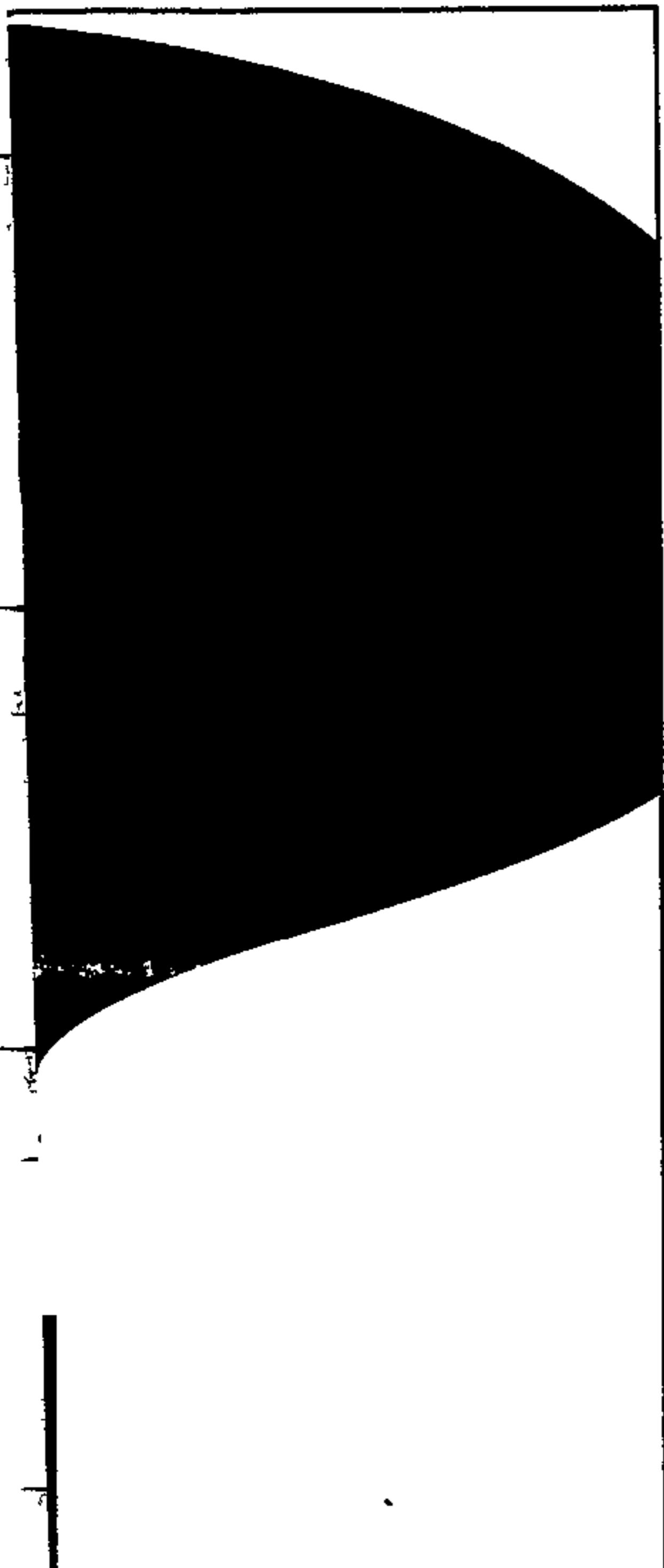
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Uranium plant to close early

CT 26/11/95

JOHANNESBURG — The government decided yesterday to shut down the country's uranium enrichment plant in March, a year earlier than planned, Minerals and Energy Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said.

He said the plant, at Pelindaba, known as the Z Plant and commissioned in 1987, had pro-

vided enriched uranium for Koeberg's nuclear reactor.

"With the normalisation of South Africa's international relations, Eskom will soon be able to obtain enriched uranium on the world market at prices substantially lower than the production cost of the Z Plant," he said. — Reuter

Probe crash

(254) CT 27/11/95

— Armscor

PRETORIA. — Armscor yesterday called for a televised public inquiry into the Helderberg plane crash in a bid to clear its name.

The arms company has been linked to possible causes of the accident which killed 159 people seven years ago.

Armscor said "irresponsible and unconfirmed allegations" in the press had tarnished its reputation "at a time when SA is trying to cure overseas defence contracts".

Armscor said it would welcome a re-opening of the Margo commission of inquiry, adding that no part should be held in camera. — Sapa

Armcor used front companies,

JOHANNESBURG. — Armcor used private front companies because of the United Nations' arms embargo against South Africa, the Cameron Commission heard in Sandton yesterday.

The commission is probing two Armcor AK-47 weapons deals in the Middle East.

The commission yesterday began hearing testimony from Macro Freight general manager, Mr. Dirk Robinson. Macro Freight, previously named Star Freight, was the Armcor front company involved in the shipment of both AK-47 consignments in a forwarding and clearing capacity.

Mr. Robinson said several private companies had been established for "historical reasons". Asked to elaborate, he said this was because of the arms embargo against South Africa.

It was well known in the shipping industry that Macro Freight was an Armcor front company. Other front companies included Bay Freight Services and Freight World Warehousing.

The hearing continues on Wednesday. — Sapa

Arm Scor 'used front companies for deals'

ARMSCOR made use of private front companies because of the UN arms embargo against SA, the Cameron commission heard yesterday.

The commission is investigating two Arm Scor AK-47 weapons deals in the Middle East.

Arm Scor has claimed the first shipment in 1993 was destined for the Christian Militia in Lebanon. Evidence before the commission shows, however, the arms landed up in Jordan.

The corporation also claimed last year's second consignment of AK-47 and G3 rifles was destined for the Lebanese government. The armaments were turned away at strife-torn Yemen instead, prompting the probe.

The commission yesterday began hearing testimony from Macro Freight GM Dirk Robinson. Macro Freight, previously named Star Freight, was the Arm Scor front company involved in the shipment of both AK-47 consignments in a forwarding and clearing capacity.

Robinson said several private companies had been established for "historical reasons".

Asked to elaborate, he said Arm Scor established private companies because of the arms embargo against SA.

He said that in spite of attempts to conceal the company's true identity, it was well known in the shipping industry that Macro Freight was an Arm Scor front

company. (25) AD 27/1/95
Other shipping front companies included Bay Freight Services and Freight World Warehousing.

Robinson said that after former president FW De Klerk's watershed speech in February 1992 Arm Scor decided the companies would no longer operate clandestinely. However, it was only in January 1994 that Arm Scor made the fact public.

Asked whether he had ever met Danish-American citizen Michael Steenberg, who chartered ships for both consignments, Robinson said he met him briefly.

He said Arm Scor official Marius Vermaak introduced Steenberg to him, claiming Steenberg was a shipowner.

Asked whether Steenberg did in fact own ships, Robinson said many industry people made out they owned ships.

Steenberg has been granted indemnity from prosecution by Transvaal attorney-general Jan D'Oliveira.

It is not clear when he will testify before the commission.

Other foreigners involved in the two transactions are Jordanian businessman Sheik Anwar al' Shalaan who took delivery of the first consignment and claims to be the owner of the second, and Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan who negotiated both transactions with Arm Scor.

The hearing will continue on Wednesday. — Sapa.

Defence force becomes battleground for gay rights

By EDYTH BULBRING

DEFENCE MINISTER Joe Modise and army authorities from the old guard are at odds over the treatment of homosexuals in the army.

The issue of anti-gay attitudes in the military will come to a head this year as a campaign gets underway by a national gay coalition which will lobby the writers of the new constitution and challenge

anti-gay legislation

Defence Ministry spokesman Major Muff Andersson said this week that the National Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Equality, would meet defence ministry officials in February.

She said Mr Modise felt that there should be no discrimination against gay people as gay rights were a human right protected in the existing constitution

But the official policy on homosexuals in the army, issued from Defence Force headquarters this week in response to a query, shows a different attitude.

The statement emphasised that people of different races, religions and sexual preferences were not discriminated against during recruitment.

However, the statement continued: "Any socially-related behaviour not nor-

mally accepted by all the members of the SANDF can have a detrimental influence on esprit de corps and morale.

Although the community is however becoming more tolerant, immoral behaviour is not accepted unconditionally.

Coalition representative Nigel Crawhall said yesterday: "We don't want special rights, we just want equality

ST 29/11/95

(254)

No trade unions for soldiers, says Kasrils

■ BY ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Soldiers in the South African National Defence Force will not be allowed to join trade unions, says Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils.

Speaking yesterday to a visiting delegation of the French Institute for Advanced Defence Studies, he said: "We take the position that we cannot accept trade unions in the defence force."

Kasrils said some of the civilians employed in the SANDF belonged to trade unions and there had recently been strikes in military hospitals. He called for a streamlined process to deal with soldiers' complaints.

He said the SANDF had learnt from mistakes made in last year's integration process.

Delays in the administration of the integration process which led to frustration would be avoided by integrating 1 500 former Apla and Umkhonto we

Sizwe members every six weeks instead of 10 000 at once as was the case last year.

Kasrils said the extent to which the SANDF would be representative of society would change as more voluntary recruits joined for one year's training. Thereafter they would serve a month every year for eight years.

Kasrils said South Africa's arms industry could grow from 0,3 percent to 1 percent of the world arms market.

This would increase the almost R1 billion the country earned in foreign exchange from arms sales as well as the 70 000 jobs currently linked to the industry.

He said a draft defence policy document as well as a conventional arms control policy document were almost complete.

The draft defence White Paper would be submitted to the parliamentary defence committee.

(254) Star 31/1/95

No trade unions for defence force

CT 31/11/95

Special Correspondent

SOLDIERS in the South African National Defence Force will not be allowed to join trade unions, says deputy Defence Minister Mr Ronnie Kasrils

Mr Kasrils was addressing a visiting delegation of the French Institute for Advanced Defence Studies

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Mr Kasrils also told the group that South Africa's arms industry could be increased from 0,3% to 1% of the world arms market. This would boost the almost R1-billion the country earned in foreign exchange from arms sales, as well as the 70 000 jobs presently linked to the industry.

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Skills training for ex-SANDF members launched

BY MICHAEL SPARKS

The SANDF's service corps — to provide skills training for former soldiers — was officially launched at Dunnottar, east of Johannesburg, by Defence Minister Joe Modise yesterday.

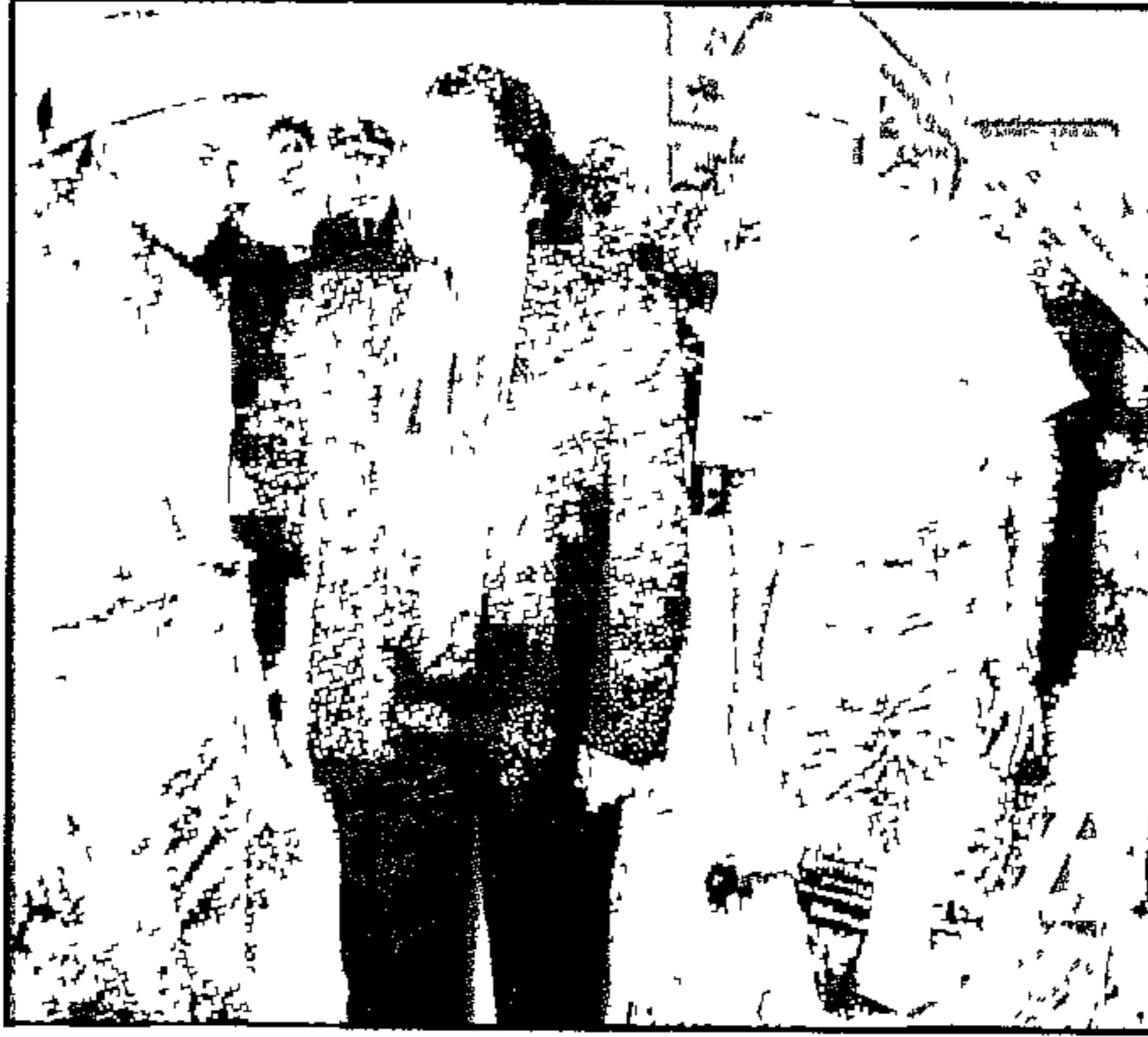
The ambitious programme's lift-off has been boosted by a R141 million pledge by Taiwan for the building of a vocational training centre.

The corps will have an initial intake of 400 demobilised SANDF members but is expected to grow to 3 000 a year.

It will offer voluntary re-training to SANDF members who lost their service through rationalisation.

Modise described the creation of the corps as one of the largest contributions the military could make towards the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

He said it was not easy for people trained for war to return to civilian life, but providing them with life skills was very important to the future stability of the country.



In training . . . Defence Minister Joe Modise in discussion with service corps recruits. PICTURE PETER MOGAKI

Besides its financial assistance, Taiwan will train 100 trainers and administrators in that country and send a team of 20 Taiwanese to South Africa to assist in the planning of

the training centre.

Modise also called on all sectors of South Africa, in particular the business community, to make a contribution towards this training.

(254) (79)
The centre will offer three to six-month training courses in building skills, the service industry and other types of artisan training.

Next year all army commands in the nine provinces are expected to launch their own service corps centres.

It is expected that 35 000 former soldiers could be out of jobs over the next three years, increasing the demand for further training, Modise said.

RDP Minister Jay Naidoo — who pointed out that his attendance of the launch marked the first time he had entered a military base — said his office was working towards a national strategy to standardise training qualifications so that skills earned at such centres would be recognised and used elsewhere.

Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils strongly denied that the corps would become a dumping ground for those who could not be soldiers, saying the country would need the valuable skills the trainees would possess.

New corps to retrain troops

GAVIN STAFFORD

20 112 195
THE Service Corps of the SA National Defence Force, which will provide training for more than 30 000 demobilised military personnel during the rationalisation of the force, was launched by Defence Minister Joe Modise at Dunnottar military base on the East Rand yesterday.

He said the Service Corps would give SANDF members the skills to enable them to be employed in development and maintenance projects. (254)

Modise announced that Taiwan had given R141m towards establishing a vocational training centre at Marievale military base, adjacent to Dunnottar.

Modise said the first intake of the Service Corps would be 400 and up to 6 000 would be taken on in 1996

Teachers reject politics in class

KATHRYN STRACHAN

A NEW teacher association was launched at the weekend with the aim of taking the focus away from politics and back into the classroom.

The Association of Professional Teachers represents about 10 000 teachers. It is an amalgamation of the former Transvaal Teachers' Association, the Transvaal Association of Teachers and other bodies.

President Anthony Swartz said while the new association would fight for improved teacher salaries and service conditions, members believed schooling should not be disrupted by teacher politics and striking would be a last resort.

He said many teachers were fed up with the politicisation of education and wanted a body which enhanced their profession, upgraded their skills and made the education of the child paramount.

Members came from all races, he said, and the association would focus on building a nonracial education fraternity.

One of the first projects was to launch a national teacher education programme which would supplement distance learning with seminars held at the workplace. At present most in-service training is done by correspondence.

EDWARD WEST reports that the Western Cape education department and the

National Education Co-ordinating Committee yesterday agreed to form joint sub-committees to oversee the occupation by pupils of four underutilised schools, education department head Johan Knoetze said yesterday. This follows the occupation of two schools in the Western Cape since schools opened earlier this month.

Sapa reports Deputy Education Minister Remier Schoeman said yesterday that community perceptions should be strengthened so that the new education system was accepted as legitimate and fair.

Schoeman said four steps were required to ensure that the transition in education proceeded smoothly.

These included the restoration of the human rights balance and acknowledgement of the right of communities to associate freely and to determine the ethos of the schools which served them.

The other steps were to spell out the inability of the state to fund compulsory education while acknowledging the concept of state-aided education as a legitimate and cost-effective way of providing education at all levels; and the phasing in of affordable teacher-pupil ratios over a period of time.

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NEWS

Roads jammed as flee

11/12/95

Hundreds of human bones washed up on Mauritius

New twist to crash ^{Saga}

WEEKENDSTAR'S report that a number of bodies of victims of the Helderberg crash were washed up on Madagascar and buried by superstitious villagers was given a new twist this week when it was revealed that hundreds of human bones had been washed up on Mauritius — and thrown back into the sea.

Relatives of Helderberg passengers told WeekendStar about telephone calls from persons, who identified themselves as members of South African Airways' public relations department, asking for permission to dispose of the bones in weighted sacks.

SAA chief executive Mike Myburgh says he knows nothing about human remains on Mauritius.

But he has been asked by WeekendStar to investigate these reports further because one of the relatives says she will testify in court about this and a telephone call she said was made to her by a representative of the airline.

"I was so angry at receiving that call that I tore a strip off the woman who spoke to me," she said.

"I found it very distasteful that no public announcement was made about the discovery."

Bones collected

It is understood that the bones washed up on Mauritius beaches to the horror of local inhabitants and, after complaints, authorities there arranged for their collection.

The discovery of the bones came after human remains were buried on Madagascar beaches by superstitious villagers.

The burials were confirmed by Lutheran church minister Origene Sinary in an interview with WeekendStar in Fort Dauphin on the southern tip of the island.

But what could not be explained at the time was why the bodies had not been consumed by sharks before they reached the coast of Madagascar.

It now appears almost certain that the 159 passengers and crew aboard the Boeing 747 were dead by the time the aircraft hit the sea.

According to shark expert Jeremy Cliff, who was interviewed by WeekendStar in Durban, bodies trapped in the wreckage would have taken about two days to float to the surface from the aircraft's last resting place, on the seabed 4.5 km below.

He said the bodies would in all probability have been attacked by sharks and other scavengers early on but then left alone as they floated immediately below the surface.

Cliff, who is assistant director of the Natal Sharks Board, said it was

RELATIVES of victims of the Helderberg crash told the WeekendStar about telephone calls from persons who identified themselves as employees of South African Airways, asking for permission to dispose of the bones in weighted sacks, reports NORMAN CHANDLER.

recognised in scientific and oceanographic circles that sharks did not usually consume corpses.

"Bodies attacked by sharks are found fairly intact," he said.

This could explain why the remains of some of the passengers were washed up on Madagascar beaches days after the crash.

"Some sharks find decomposing tissue less palatable than other fish," Cliff said. "In addition, clothing worn by victims inhibits sharks."

He said that what had probably happened was that the bodies were still intact when washed ashore

When the plane went down, the sharks would have been attracted by the noise, and the bleeding of the victims would have provided further arousal for the sharks. But this should only be regarded as a localised situation.

even though there was a major shark problem around Madagascar. "In the open ocean there are fewer sharks than near the coast, so the bodies would have drifted unmolested."

"When the plane went down, the sharks would have been attracted by the noise, and the bleeding of the victims would have provided further arousal for the sharks. But this should only be regarded as a localised situation," he added.

Sharks which would have investigated the bodies were Oceanic White Tipped sharks, blue sharks, Zambesi sharks and tiger sharks.

According to Lutheran minister Sinary, the villagers were traditionally very superstitious about strange bodies.

He said they had undertaken the burial because they did not recognise any of the people as being

from their tribe.

An official Mauritius medical team assigned to the accident found the bodies of the victims had been strangely mutilated.

Information about the state of the bodies when they were found has also never been officially divulged.

In some instances the spinal column had been removed and the rest of the body remained, and in others there was merely the spinal column but no flesh.

The official accident report said soot had been detected in the throats and lungs of the victims found, and the causes of death of at least six of the victims was given as "multiple injuries".

The search for survivors was called off on November 30, less than 48 hours after the crash.

There is still at least one missing tape-recording which allegedly tells the full story of the Helderberg.

WeekendStar's informants believe this recording is still available but is being kept secret because of its contents.

Even the Margo inquiry was unable to find the so-called ZUR tape, which recorded the conversations between the flight deck and flight operations over SAA's own internal shortwave radio station at Jan Smuts Airport.

The inquiry found the tape had been inexplicably lost or re-used.

There is also mystery about the conduct of persons connected with the aircraft and its possible cargo.

Telephones tapped

Families of four of the passengers have told WeekendStar how they had been — and in some cases, still were — questioned and shadowed and had their telephones tapped, their homes bugged and their personal affairs pried into in the wake of the crash.

They have directly blamed SAA and at least one of the relatives is prepared to provide a sworn affidavit relating to the allegations.

SAA says it is shocked about the claims and has asked relatives to contact it.

The Margo inquiry found it could not reach a conclusion about the cause of the accident beyond that there had been a fire, but the WeekendStar was told that rocket fuel was apparently aboard the plane. The substance may well have ignited.

Debris was found on two sections of the ocean bed 4.5 km below the surface, leading credence to the theory that the plane had broken up on impact (other reports say it broke in two while plunging towards the sea).

Also, two people fishing off Pant Island, near Mauritius, said they had seen a "fireball" just before the time recorded as having been when the Helderberg plunged into the sea.



QUAKE SURVIVOR. Rescuers pull Mercedes Coronado from the Pereira, Colombia, which collapsed after Wednesday's 6.5 magnitude earthquake. Thank God Thank God, Corona moaned as she was loaded. At least 38 people died in the earthquake.

254

SAW 11/2/95

Saga

2

Modise launches pilot service corps

JOHANNESBURG — Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise yesterday launched the SA National Defence Force service corps at Dunnottar military base on the East Rand.

He said the corps would have an initial intake of 400 demobilised SANDF members, but it was hoped it would expand to 30 000 a year over the next three years.

The corps would offer voluntary retraining to SANDF members who lost their service through rationalisation of the seven armies comprising the integrated SANDF.

Skills which could be used in the RDP — such as brick-laying and carpentry — would be taught, and recognised certificates would be provided.

Dunnottar was a pilot project,

but all army commands in the nine provinces were planning service corps in their regions.

Mr Modise announced the Republic of China (Taiwan) had pledged R141 million to establish a vocational training centre at Dunnottar.

The RoC had also agreed to train 100 instructors and administrators in Taiwan and would send 20 Taiwanese to South

Africa to help plan the vocational training centre.

He said other foreign grants, including R5 million from a British institution, were in the pipeline. The private sector and the public would be asked to assist financially as the corps progressed.

It was not easy for those trained for war to return to civilian life and to contribute to society, Mr Modise said. — Sapa

Official 'knew arms were for black market'

BD 3/2/95

ARMSCOR official Marius Vermaak, the key figure in an aborted AK-47 deal with Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan last year, knew the weapons were intended for resale on the black market, according to a document before the Cameron commission yesterday.

The document, a statement from an interview with Wazan in Geneva in October, also alleges that Vermaak was aware the end user certificate listing the country of destination for the weapons as Lebanon, was "non-checkable".

Wazan is also a central figure in the sale of two shipments of SANDF AK-47s negotiated by Vermaak and under investigation by the commission.

The first consignment ended up in Jordan and the second was stopped at a port in Yemen last year.

SUSAN RUSSELL

The Wazan document was one of three in the commission's possession which Vermaak's counsel, L Wessels, yesterday submitted could eventually lead to prosecution and possible conviction for a range of offences including fraud, corruption and exchange control contravention.

Wessels told the commission it was with these documents in mind that Vermaak was invoking his right to remain silent and not incriminate himself.

He said although the allegations in the documents, which include an affidavit by Armscor security manager Thomas du Toit, had not been tested and might be of limited evidential value, they constituted a multitude of crimes if the allegations were to stand.

provision of water and sanitation facilities for millions of people in disadvantaged communities
REPORTS: Business Day Reporters Sapa-Feuter

Van Burick, who regarded the re-
 uons, reports alleging Van Burick had been spying for the SA Defence Force had made it difficult for him to continue managing Agenda.

wanted Van Burick replaced or demoted as soon as possible. It was understood Van Burick's position was discussed at an SABC board meeting on Wednesday. — Sapa.

Components makers 'missing the point'

MARCIA KLEIN

OPPOSITION by local motor components manufacturers to motor industry restructuring proposals failed to recognise the necessity for the industry to become globally competitive, industry sources said yesterday.

They were reacting to comments by the National Association of Component and Allied Manufacturers (Naacam) that the Board on Tariffs and Trade's proposals would result in the closure of 60 component manufacturers and the loss of 20 000 jobs.

Various sources said components manufacturers, like companies in most manufacturing sectors in SA's economy, had to become internationally competitive as the country came into line with GATT requirements.

Many local industries had thrived during SA's isolation through the protection offered by high duties. There could be rationalisation in the components in-

dustry following the proposed reduction in duties, but a source said it could be argued the industry was sustained locally only because of high levels of protection.

With the removal of this protection, the local components industry would merely rationalise to its correct size in relation to the size of the local market.

One source said it was possible that the number of components manufacturers could reduce sharply unless overseas licensors and parent companies allowed the local companies to produce for global vehicle and spare parts markets.

Local components manufacturers would have to increase economies of scale by selling to a larger market than existed in SA.

Toyota SA executive chairman Bert Wessels said Naacam's recent attack on the proposals "is based on a misunderstanding of the immediate and longer term impact of the proposals on the local motor industry."

A core element of the proposal is an increase in the duty free allowance on imported components from currently 25% to 35%, he said.

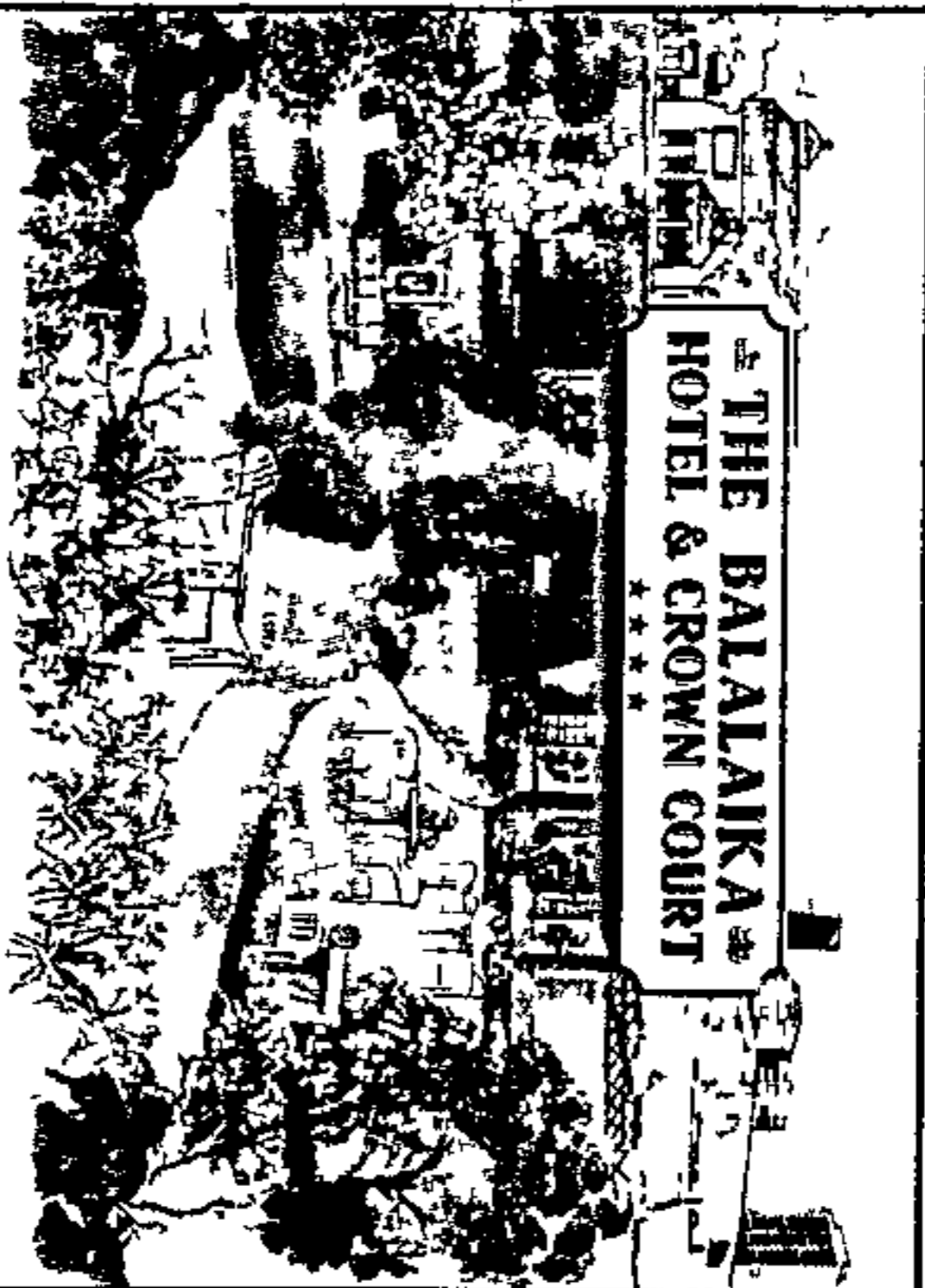
This would result in an immediate manufacturing input cost saving of about 5%, which could be passed on to the consumer. At the same time, the local component manufacturers' level of protection remained a high 49%. This would reduce to 30% over eight years.

He pointed out that the industry was expecting a much better year, and this had "positive implications" for components manufacturers as well.

Instead of worrying about imports of completely built up vehicles "Naacam should rather attack the greater threat to its survival and to the balance of payments of the unrestrained importation of semi-knocked down (SKD) vehicles under rebate of duty".

Wessels said: "The use of a loophole in the current local and manufacturing programme without any commitment to reasonable localisation or assembly is not only destabilising the industry, but harming the balance of payments through the under-payment of duties".

Hyundai was one company using this loophole. Wessels said high protective tariffs would prevent the local industry from reversing the trend that has seen total vehicle sales fall from a peak of 405 190 units in 1984 to the 303 164 sales of 1994.



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Official 'knew arms were for black market'

SUSAN RUSSELL

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Waharak 20/24	Petraburg 19/28
Wans Bay 15/23	Neserut 21/27
Keertraboop 22/31	Phelona 21/29
Ungathon 21/40	Jobaburg 15/25
Beaufort West 20/35	Krabbey 18/35
Cape Town 14/29	Boortfontein 17/32
George 14/21	Queenstown 17/33
Port Elizabeth 18/25	East London 18/27
	Durban 22/30
	Stellenbosch 18/31

Guns were 'meant' for black market

(254)

CT 3/2/95

JOHANNESBURG - The commission probing South Africa's murky arms deals with the Middle East released documents yesterday describing attempted bribery, black market transactions and donations to handicapped children.

Judge Edwin Cameron, probing Armscor's activities, released for publication statements by Armscor salesman Mr Marius Vermaak and Lebanese arms dealer Mr Eli Wazen.

The commission was set up last year after two consignments of AK-47 rifles and ammunition, which Armscor said it thought it had sold to Lebanon, ended up in Jordan and Yemen. Yemen rejected the arms it received and they were shipped back to South Africa.

Judge Cameron has heard that the deal was set up between Mr Vermaak, Mr Wazen and a Jordanian businessman Prince Anwar al-Shalaan.

Mr Wazen told the commission that Mr Vermaak knew the arms were meant for the black market and that the end-user certificate he gave them was "non-checkable".

The Lebanese arms dealer said he had made a donation of about R24 500 to the Horison Sorgentrum, an institution for handicapped children where Mr Vermaak's daughter was being treated. He did not consider this a bribe.

Mr Vermaak denied knowing the weapons were meant for the black market.

Armcor man opts for 'silence of the damned'

ARG 4/2/95 (254)

JOHANNESBURG — Armcor official Marius Vermaak's refusal to answer questions for fear of self-incrimination tended only to damn him, Cameron Commission of Inquiry chairman Mr Justice Edwin Cameron said during yesterday's proceedings

Mr Vermaak, the key South African involved with Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan in an Armcor AK-47 rifle debacle in the Middle East last year, invoked his right against self-incriminatory evidence for the first time

Asked by Armcor legal counsel Mr S van Nieuwenhuizen where and when he had met Mr Wazan, Mr Vermaak declined to answer

Mr Van Nieuwenhuizen then charged that Mr Vermaak's right against self-incrimination had been spur-

iously claimed as the question was innocuous

Mr Vermaak's attorney, Mr L G T Wessels, replied that although the question appeared innocent, the line of questioning was dangerous for his client

Any response could be used later as a factual building block to show a crime had potentially been committed by his client, he said

He added that any question relating to Mr Vermaak's relationship with Mr Wazan and any of the transactions under investigation would be met with the right to remain silent for fear of prosecution

Mr Justice Cameron warned Mr Vermaak there was plenty of oral and documentary evidence before the commission which could be used to make negative infer-

ences about his conduct

"Prima facie, the inferences about your involvement in the transactions and the transfer of money will be detrimental"

He said Mr Vermaak's refusal to testify "tends to damn only himself"

In an attempt to bypass the claim against self-incrimination, it was suggested by Mr Van Nieuwenhuizen that the commission seek indemnity from prosecution for Mr Vermaak

Alternatively, he said, the commission should seek a guarantee from the Attorney-General that any testimony by Mr Vermaak would not be used against him in any criminal proceedings

If a solution was not found and Mr Vermaak proceeded to rely on his right against

self-incrimination the commission would be ham-strung "and we'll all be sitting here until the year 2000"

Mr Justice Cameron rejected both options, saying there was sufficient evidence before the commission to make "a useful report to the executive about the transactions"

The commission's interim report is to be submitted to President Mandela

Mr Justice Cameron added that the commission found Mr Vermaak's attitude regrettable

Earlier, he ruled that a statement made by Mr Vermaak to Armcor legal representatives in October last year was not privileged and was admissible as evidence

Mr Wessels had sought to suppress the statement because it might incriminate Mr Vermaak — Sapa

Modise: New code needed

PRETORIA — Defence Minister Joe Modise has called for public submissions on a new Defence Act and Military Disciplinary Code.

He said he had appointed a team to revise the Act and the MDC by end-July and invited individuals and organisations to make submissions by March 10.

(254) ARU 4/5 4/2/98

MK protests over lack of integration

APG 6/2/95 (254)

DURBAN. — Former Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) guerrillas, demanding to be integrated into the new defence force, dispersed from KwaZulu-Natal's army headquarters after a protest march, an SANDF officer said.

"They have dispersed peacefully," Captain Kim van Niekerk said.

The former MK cadres said they wanted to be integrated into the new South African army but complained about problems at the Walmansthal assembly point near Pretoria.

"We were promised we would be integrated, but nothing has happened," said one.

"We are now living without income.

"We are fed up. We fought for Nelson Mandela. Now that he is in power he has forgotten us."

An MK spokesman, who asked not to be named, said the protesters had come from townships and rural areas throughout KwaZulu-Natal.

(254)

'I did not call Cameron probe a waste of time'

S/NW 7/2/95

Marius Vermaak, the key South African witness involved in two Armscor AK-47 rifle deals which went awry in the Middle East, yesterday categorically denied calling the Cameron Commission of Inquiry established to probe the deals "a waste of time and money"

At a hearing in Johannesburg, Vermaak was reacting to a newspaper report alleging he had "confidently predicted that the inquiry would find no evidence of wrongdoing"

He was quoted as claiming: "It (the commission) is a waste of time and money"

Asked by commissioner Laurie Nathan why he had said this, Vermaak replied: "I deny I used those words to anyone."

Asked by Nathan whether he believed the commission was in fact a waste of time and money, Vermaak said he believed

the money could be better utilised for the Reconstruction and Development Programme

Throughout his testimony, Vermaak has exercised his constitutional right to refuse to answer incriminating questions.

He has claimed this privilege in respect of the two Middle Eastern deals, his relationship with Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan who was involved in the deals, and foreign exchange controls

Nathan yesterday nevertheless questioned him about the two deals.

He questioned the apparent flow of funds between Armscor's marketing department, of which Vermaak is war reserves manager, and Wazan

Nathan asked why, in respect of the two shipments, payment to Armscor exceeded the contract price by \$262 455 (R788 000)

He also asked why there appeared to be three apparently unjustified repayments by Armscor to Wazan totalling about \$312 280 (R1,09 million).

Vermaak, however, invoked his right against self-incrimination

Nathan then gave what he thought was a possible explanation for the discrepancies.

He said the possibility existed that there was a "scheme of over-invoicing" the client or buyer of the weapons. In this way the agent liaising between Armscor and the buyer would get a "kick-back" from Armscor.

Nathan then queried if Wazan as agent was making "a substantial profit" from the deals, well in excess of a 15 percent commission — whether Vermaak himself was also not benefiting.

The hearing continues.
— Sapa

Armcor presents its peaceable new face

STW 7/2/95 (254)

Armcor's new senior manager of corporate communications, Krish Naidoo, jokes. "One gets the impression that when people think of Armcor, they have a vision of white-coated men skulking in dark corridors carrying vials of red mercury."

There is a gurgle of laughter around the room from his colleagues, among them Armcor's GM corporate communications director Abba Omar, a former Umkhonto we Sizwe soldier.

Recent revelations about Armcor's past activities — emerging simultaneously via newspaper investigations into the red mercury trail, the Helderberg crash and, most comprehensively, through the Cameron Commission, have apparently spiced up conversation within Armcor's austere tenements in Pretoria.

But the Frederick Forsyth dimension of Armcor, while making good teatime chat, is largely based on ignorance, says Naidoo

Breached

"There is no doubt Armcor breached international sanctions and procured arms illicitly, but that we have already known for some time. And the fact that it was excessively secretive has exacerbated its negative public perception

"But the mystery removed, Armcor is essentially an incredibly complicated undertaking making up a valuable State asset — one which can make a huge contribution to the country's economic future"

AS Armcor's indiscretions are being revealed, the corporation is busy trying to avoid repeating them. Helen Grange reports

Still, against the background of allegations being made to the Cameron Commission, which has heard evidence about Armcor's sales of weapons to a number of war-ravaged countries until as recently as late last year, there is justifiable public concern over whether these lethal indiscretions will continue.

Naidoo argues that to reduce arms manufacturing could increase the costs of defending the country. A smaller domestic arms industry would give rise to increased importing and even higher costs

He insists, though, that the secrecy which enabled Armcor to conduct illicit international trade without an effective

moral code will come swiftly to an end with the introduction of new transparency measures

Currently on the table is a proposal to secure public participation in Armcor's procurements and sales contracts

Naidoo envisages that the public would be represented on a consultative committee, but the difficulties in finding suitably qualified individuals and budgeting for this additional feature have yet to be thrashed out

Recently, Armcor started publishing booklets containing details of all its acquisitions and contracts. These are on sale to the public

To tighten up internal accountability, which has been all but absent judging by the sorry state of the control systems as they have been presented by various Armcor officials to the Cameron Commission, a secretariat headed by General Pierre Steyn and accountable directly to Defence Minister Joe Modise is being established

Naidoo says there is surprisingly little resistance among Armcor's "old guard" whites towards the transparency and affirmative action initiatives.

Naidoo feels strongly that the purging of Armcor's past through the Cameron Commission is critical — at least in the psychological sense.

Unfortunately, the reality of this process — starkly evident at the commission's hearings in Sandton — is that it is laborious, very expensive and ultimately spins out little more than confirmation of what has already been exposed.

Naidoo, formerly a civil rights lawyer and ANC activist, and Omar have extensive knowledge in defence matters. Their informal style stands out against that of their mostly Afrikaans-speaking colleagues but, in observing the two in their routine interactions, one is left with the impression that they are respectfully received, albeit with trepidation.

Another protest in Cape Town today (254)

4/10/15 7/2/15

ANC condemns MK behaviour

The ANC has slammed the behaviour of former Umkhonto we Sizwe cadres who smashed car and shop windows while beating a hasty retreat from police in downtown Durban.

However, about 100 other former MK cadres began a march today to Parliament and the ANC's Western Cape office in Cape Town to protest against their exclusion from integration into the SANDF.

Yesterday, about 200 cadres assembled outside the ANC's St George Street, Durban, office demanding incorporation in the South African National Defence Force. Earlier they had protested outside the SANDF's Natal Command offices.

Police held lengthy discussions with representatives of the cadres and ANC leaders, and when the cadres refused to accept an explanation about integration, police were asked to

disperse them.

A senior officer involved in talks with the cadres, Brigadier Irvine Kitching, said the order to clear the area had come "from the highest level". He said the ANC had been in touch with President Mandela.

According to SABC-TV news, the order came from Mandela.

Police used loudhailers to inform the crowd they had five minutes to disperse. Cadres began moving out of the area, taunting police and shouting abuse.

When they rounded a corner near the ANC offices, they broke into a run, smashing at least six car windows, throwing bricks into offices and overturning rubbish bins.

Police chased them into a nearby railway station.

Earlier yesterday a defence force spokesman said it was unlikely the cadres would be accepted into the army immediately

despite their threats to camp outside Natal Command until they were enlisted.

Colonel Franz Verfuss said the SANDF's February intake had been completed last week and MK command had selected its quota of 350 soldiers in KwaZulu/Natal.

When they gathered outside Natal Command yesterday morning, one cadre, Gerry Dlamini, said they had come from southern KwaZulu/Natal — some on Sunday night — because they had heard a radio broadcast saying a defence force intake was under way.

ANC spokesman Cyril Xaba said the ANC condemned the vandalism in the strongest possible terms.

"It's unfortunate that we had to turn away some of our members," he said. "We will do everything in our power to resolve the problem" — Sapa.

Viljoen offers to take the rap

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

FREEDOM FRONT leader and former SA Defence Force chief General Constand Viljoen yesterday dramatically offered to take the rap for all officially sanctioned human rights violations ordered by the SADF from 1980-85

"I was the Defence Force commander responsible in total for my force and I gave them orders and they executed my orders," he said in an interview

"As long as they stayed within those orders, what happened is my full responsibility"

Gen Viljoen also disclosed that he had already approached Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar with the proposal that "if it comes to the push and my orders were wrong, then I don't want my people to be prosecuted"

"For that, I will take the full rap myself"

Asked whether he was offer-

'SADF
acted on
my orders'

CT 7/2/95

ing to carry the can for all official instructions issued while he was head of the Defence Force, he said that the Civil Co-operation Bureau responsible for dirty tricks operations had not been formed during his tenure.

He added "I know of no dirty tricks — my hands are clean."

However, he said that this did not include cross-border operations, for which he implicitly accepted responsibility.

Giving evidence earlier before the Justice Committee hearings on the proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission,

(254)
Gen Viljoen said that he did not feel it was proper that "the buck should be passed lower down" when it was the commanders and the politicians who issued the orders

Gen Viljoen emphasised that the political and security force masters — as opposed to the operators who were carrying out official instructions — should "carry the brunt" of the Truth Commission deliberations

"We were all in a way responsible for violence and all have a dark side in our past. Violence had become a way of life for us"

Gen Viljoen said that it was important for reconciliation that South Africans know what happened in terms of human rights abuses "and not whether A, B or C was responsible"

During his submission, Gen Viljoen argued that "to invite individual confessions only and tie them up with prescribed amnesty will be a long, drawn-out process and very costly"

'Kickbacks' claim in Armscor probe

JOHANNESBURG - One of the commissioners probing Armscor weapons sales said yesterday that agency salesman Mr Marius Vermaak was the chief architect of an apparent scheme to provide kickbacks to a Lebanese arms dealer

Mr Laurie Nathan, one of three commissioners inquiring into Armscor's abortive sale of AK-47 rifles and ammunition worth \$700 000 (R2,4 million) to Lebanon last year, said he wanted to allow Mr Vermaak the opportunity to answer propositions he had prepared from documentation and other evidence

Mr Nathan said payments to Armscor exceeded the contract price by \$262 455 (about R917,000) and Lebanese dealer Mr Eli Wazen had received \$484 780 (R1 69m) - equal to 42% of the contract price and 34% of payments to Armscor. The official agent commission was 15%

Mr Wazen's payment was equivalent to 70% of the R2,4m paid to the South African Defence Force (SADF), which had sold the weapons, Mr Nathan said

"There are two questions which arise. Why are the payments substantially in excess of the contract price and why are there the apparently

CT 7/2/95 (254)
unjustified payments to Mr Wazen?" Mr Nathan asked

"It makes sense only if there is a scheme of over-invoicing the clients and then giving a kickback to the agent," he said

"This scheme is obscured from the SADF and Armscor in the documentation before us, the marketing department is making false statements to the finance department of Armscor to make available the funds to Mr Wazen, and Mr Wazen is profiting at the expense of the SADF"

Mr Vermaak refused to answer, saying "I claim my privilege not to comment"

Mr Vermaak's lawyer, Mr Louis Wessels, said it was possible the payments had been made to Mr Wazen for his "extra effort" during the arms embargo against South Africa rather than shipping or insurance costs as referred to in the documents

Mr Nathan replied: "As principal architect of the transaction, Mr Vermaak has decided not to shed any light on it. That is a plausible explanation, except it is not what the documentation says. I see no justification for the argument that the wording (in the documents) was accidental or a wrong choice of words" - Reuter

Mandela orders cops to disperse MK mob

Own Correspondent

DURBAN - President Nelson Mandela acted on his promise to get tough with any dissenting members of Umkhonto weSizwe yesterday when he gave an order to police to disperse a group of 100 protesting members outside the ANC's Durban offices

However, despite obeying the order to disperse, angry MK soldiers threw stones and other missiles at police and smashed several car windows. CT 7/2/95

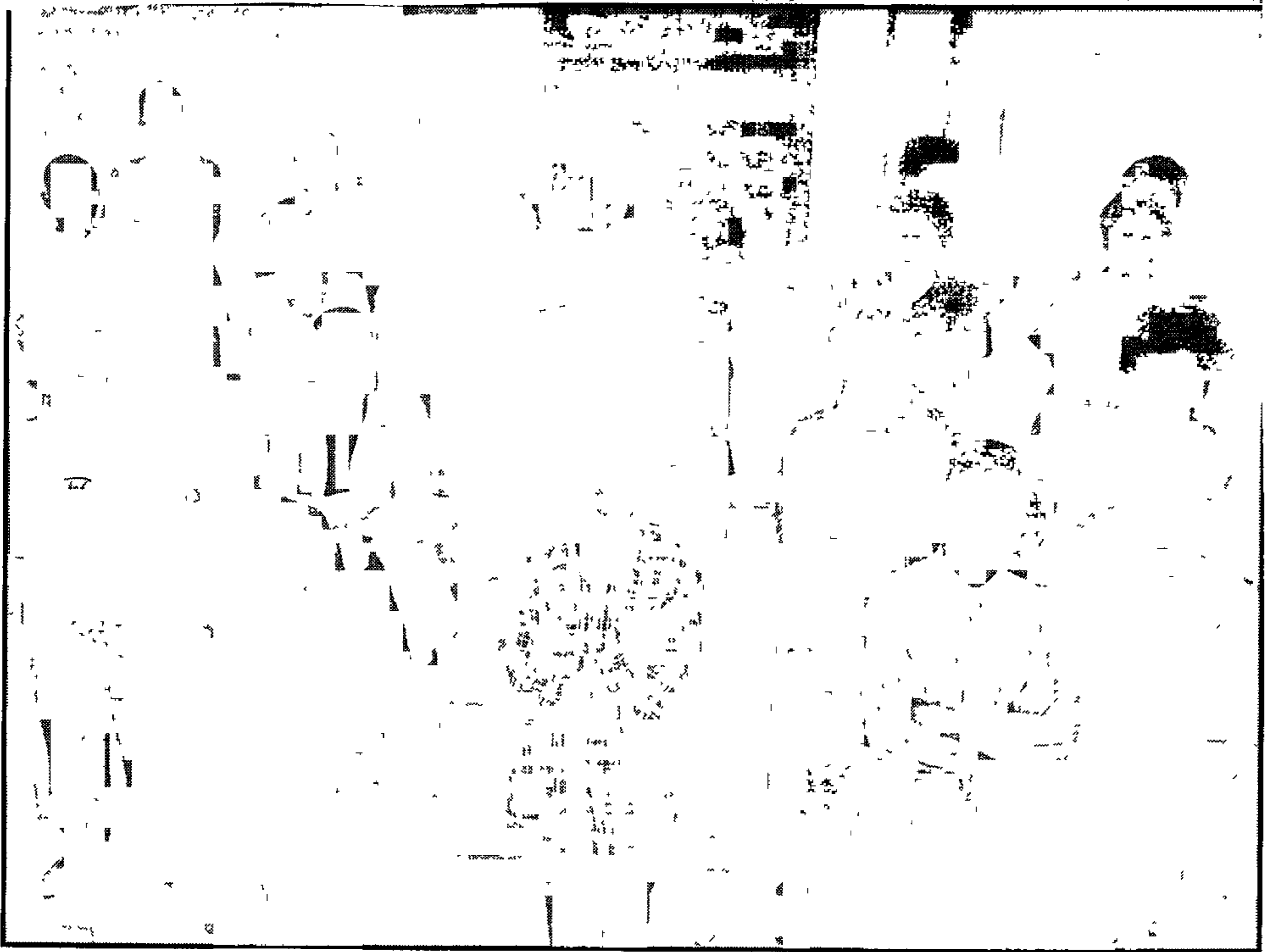
Their violent retreat followed an early morning march from the N3 at

Tollgate, on the Berea, to the offices of Natal Command on the beachfront

The soldiers were demanding their integration into the SA National Defence Force. (254)

After meeting officials at the military base the group marched to St Georges' Street, where they demanded to see the ANC leaders. A strong police contingent kept watch

The protesters left the ANC offices peacefully but after retreating several hundred metres, began smashing car windows and taunting the police



Picture NICK BOTHMA

FRUSTRATED: Part of a group of more than 100 former MK soldiers march to the ANC Western Cape offices to demand their immediate integration into the Defence Force.

W Cape MKs protest against exclusion from integration into Defence Force

(254)

ARC 7/2/95

MXOLISI MGXASHE
Staff Reporter

MORE than 100 former Umkhonto we Sizwe soldiers have marched to the ANC's Western Cape office and parliament to protest against their exclusion from integration into the South African National Defence Force

The MK members, who were trained in the townships during the anti-apartheid struggle, were sent to Wallmannsthal near Pretoria in May last year, and had been training for a month when they were told to return to their regions, spokesperson Esther Siyatha said dur-

ing yesterday's march.

They were not given any reasons and were told the ANC Western Cape office would inform them

"On our arrival here, the ANC men in charge of our integration into the SANDF expressed surprise that we were returned," she said

"They have since promised many times that we would be sent back to complete our training and integration

"Instead we see their relatives, friends and girlfriends going for training

"We have cancelled plans to

go back to school because of the promises, and we can't get jobs"

They had therefore decided to march to the ANC's regional office in Woodstock and to see ANC MP Tony Yengeni.

The 19 women in the group claimed personnel officer Richard Wana, responsible for integrating MK soldiers into the SANDF, had told them women would no longer go to the camps because some women there had become pregnant

This was disputed by Mr Yengeni when he addressed a delegation of protesters yesterday, saying such discrimination

was not in line with ANC policy

Mr Wana denied having said that to the women

He said he had explained to them it was impossible for anyone whose name was not on the SANDF's verified registered personnel list to be accepted for integration.

Those whose names were on the list would definitely be in the next intake in March, he said

The protesters, who had anticipated leaving for Wallmannsthal with today's intake, said they were not satisfied with the explanations

Former cadres allege integration nepotism

Star 8/2/95

(254)

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — More than 100 former Umkhonto we Sizwe cadres marched to the ANC's Western Cape office and Parliament yesterday to protest against their not being integrated into the South African National Defence Force.

The MK soldiers, who were trained in the townships during the anti-apartheid struggle, were sent to Wallmannstal near Pretoria in May and had been training for a month when they were told to go back to their respective regions, spokesman Esther Siyatha said

No reasons

They were not given any reasons and were told the ANC Western Cape office would inform them of developments

"On our arrival here, the ANC men in charge of our integration into the SANDF expressed surprise that we had returned," she said

"They have promised so many times that we would be sent back to complete our training and integration

"Instead we see their relatives, friends and girlfriends go for training

"We have had to cancel plans to go back to school because of the promises, and we can't get any jobs," she said.

They had therefore decided to march to the ANC's regional office in Woodstock to see ANC MP Tony Yengeni

The 19 women in the group claimed

personnel officer Richard Wana, responsible for integrating MK cadres into the defence force, had told them that women would no longer go to the camps because some of the women had become pregnant.

This was disputed by Yengeni when he addressed a delegation from the protesters.

He said such discrimination was not in line with ANC policy.

Wana demed having said this to the women

He said he had explained to them that it was impossible for anyone whose name was not on the SANDF's verified registered personnel list to be accepted for integration

Next intake

Those whose names were on the list would definitely be in the next intake in March

The protesters, who had expected to leave for Wallmannstal with today's intake, said they were not satisfied with the explanations.

■ Former MK soldiers who damaged vehicles and smashed office windows in Durban on Monday would not be accepted into the defence force, Minister of Defence Joe Modise said yesterday

He condemned the behaviour of the group of about 200 former cadres and urged police to arrest and charge them with damage to property

Members of probe not paid

254
Sowetan
8/2/95

CAMERON Commission chairman Mr Justice Edwin Cameron has warned that the commission — which is probing two Armscor AK-47 rifle deals which went awry in the Middle East — will not be able to continue unless his commissioners were paid.

Before the start of Tuesday morning's proceedings, Cameron said it was regrettable that commission members Laurie Nathan and Vincent Maleka had not received payment for two months.

He was referring to remuneration authorised by Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise over and above the set daily rates prescribed by Treasury regulations.

Modise called for a commission of inquiry late last year after a consignment of AK-47 and G3 rifles, ostensibly destined for Lebanon, was turned away at Yemen amid an international furor.

The South African National Defence Force is footing the commission's bill.

Cameron said the commission was facing a "bureaucratic thicket".

"I don't know if it is wilfulness on the part of SANDF personnel or just bureaucratic obstruction."

He noted both commissioners were private individuals who did not receive a salary from the state.

Cameron said certain SANDF officials were claiming that written authorisation was required, but that the Ministry of Defence had said such authorisation had already been given by Modise.

He said the failure to pay the commissioners was a "bureaucratic farce" and an "embarrassment".

SANDF legal representative Mr. Barnard Knoetze said an appointment had been scheduled for Wednesday morning for the commission to resolve the issue with SANDF finance chief-of-staff Lieutenant-General Ben Raubenheimer. — Sapa

Cameron commission members not paid

TWO Cameron commissioners had not been paid for two months and the inquiry would not be able to proceed unless they were remunerated, commission chairman Judge Edwin Cameron said yesterday.

It was announced shortly afterwards that SANDF finance chief of staff Lt-Gen B Raubenheimer would meet Cameron before the commission — which is probing Armscor arms deals — resumed today.

Cameron said commissioners Laurie Nathan and Vincent Maleka had not been paid since December 15. Lawyers acting for the SANDF, which is paying for the

SUSAN RUSSELL

commission, expressed concern about media reports earlier in the day which they said "created the impression that the SANDF was at fault".

SANDF counsel B Knoetze submitted a letter from Raubenheimer saying Treasury regulations stipulated that commission members not in state service (as in the case of Maleka and Nathan), were paid R567 a day. The SANDF received invoices on December 14 covering the period October 20 to December 15 and had paid Ma-

leka R30 618 for 54 days and Nathan R29 484 for 52 days. The funds were paid into their personal accounts on December 15, after which no further claims were received (254) BD 8/2/95

Raubenheimer said Cameron had asked the Justice Minister on November 16 to authorise pay for Maleka and Nathan at a higher rate than stipulated in treasury regulations. The request was referred to the SANDF through the Defence Minister.

The SANDF could pay only the approved rates and a request for a higher amount

To Page 2

Cameron

BD 8/2/95 (254)

From Page 1

had been turned down by the Treasury on grounds that this had to be authorised by the Cabinet. The SANDF was trying to get Cabinet authorisation.

Cameron said Raubenheimer's letter was the first "unequivocal statement" received by the commission that his request had been turned down by the Treasury. The commission members had made sustained and unsuccessful attempts to resolve the issue. The matter had been embarrassing and frustrating for commission members.

Meanwhile, one of the key figures in the two AK-47 transactions being investigated by the commission, Prince Anwar Al Shalan, broke his silence in a statement submitted by his counsel, P Louw, yesterday.

The status and nationality of the prince and his role in the weapons sales is also being investigated by the commission. He

described himself as head of the Shalan family who were "the sheiks of the Rwala people who reside in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republics of Syria and Iraq".

Shalan said he had interests in the Panamanian registered company, Eastern Discovery SA, which had bought the second weapons consignment. He also said the first consignment was sold on to Yemen, delivered to Yemen and never left Yemen. "It was never taken to Jordan or distributed among my men as has been alleged".

Armscor claims that it gave the go-ahead for the sale, negotiated by Armscor marketing manager Marius Vermaak with Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan, in the belief that they were being bought on behalf of Lebanon. Cabinet policy prohibits Armscor from selling weapons to Yemen.

Red tape trips up commission

■ BY HELEN GRANGE and SAPA

The Cameron Commission, probing all Armscor weapons deals since 1991, is facing collapse unless a bureaucratic bottleneck, which has deprived two commissioners of their wages for two months, is unblocked.

Chairman Mr Justice Edwin Cameron warned yesterday that the commission would not be able to continue unless commissioners Laurie Nathan and Vincent Maleka were paid.

The SANDF is footing the commission's bill, since it was at the insistence of Defence Minister Joe Modise that the inquiry was established late last year.

It followed revelations of an Armscor weapons consignment supposedly destined for Lebanon

being turned away in Yemen. South Africa is prohibited from selling arms to Yemen.

"I don't know if it is willfulness on the part of SANDF personnel or just bureaucratic obstruction," Cameron said. The failure to pay the commissioners was a "bureaucratic farce" and an "embarrassment".

Defence force legal representative Barnard Knoetze said a meeting was scheduled for today between the commission and finance chief of staff Lieutenant-General Ben Raubenheimer.

According to a letter from Raubenheimer, bureaucratic problems apparently arose after Cameron requested Justice Minister Dullah Omar in November for authorisation of remunera-

tion higher than the prescribed Treasury rate.

The matter was referred via Modise to the SANDF, which in turn approached the Treasury. It turned down the request "with the comment that only the Cabinet could authorise such a deviation from the approved tariffs", Raubenheimer said.

The SANDF was in the process of requesting the Cabinet to consider the request, he said.

Knoetze said that, according to Raubenheimer, certified invoices for Maleka and Nathan covering October 15 to December 15 had been received — and R30 618 had been paid to Maleka and R29 484 to Nathan.

No further claims for payment to either had been received since then, Raubenheimer said.

pg

(254)

STAV 8/2/95

Pay hitch may halt arms probe

CT 8/2/95

(254)

Special Correspondent
and Sapa

SANDF defaults on salaries

THE Cameron Commission, probing Armscor's weapons deals since 1991, is facing collapse unless a bureaucratic bottleneck, which has deprived two commissioners of their wages for two months, is unblocked

Before the start of proceedings yesterday, commission chairman Mr Justice Edwin Cameron warned that the probe would not be able to continue unless his commissioners, Mr Laurie Nathan and Mr Vincent Maleka, were paid by the SANDF

The SANDF is footing the commission's bill, since it was at the instance of Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise that the inquiry was established late last year.

It followed revelations of an Armscor weapons' consignment, mainly AK-47 rifles, supposedly destined for Lebanon being turned away at Yemen South Africa is prohibited from selling arms to Yemen

Mr Justice Cameron said the commission was facing a "bureaucratic thicket"

"I don't know if it is willful-

ness on the part of SANDF personnel or just bureaucratic obstruction

The failure to pay the commissioners was a bureaucratic farce and an embarrassment

SANDF legal representative Mr Barnard Knoetze told the commission later yesterday that an appointment had been scheduled for today for the commission to resolve the issue with SANDF finance chief of staff Lt-Gen Ben Raubenheimer.

According to a letter by Gen Raubenheimer, which was placed on record by Mr Knoetze, bureaucratic problems apparently arose after Mr Justice Cameron requested Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar on November 16 last year for authorisation

of remuneration higher than the prescribed Treasury rate.

The matter was referred via Mr Modise to the SANDF, which in turn approached the treasury. The treasury had turned down the request for higher than approved rates, "with the comment that only the cabinet could authorise a deviation from the approved tariffs", according to Gen Raubenheimer

The SANDF was in the process of requesting the cabinet to consider the request, he said

Mr Knoetze told the commission that according to Treasury instructions, commission members not in the service of the state were paid R567 a day.

Invoices

According to Gen Raubenheimer, certified invoices for Mr Maleka and Mr Nathan covering the period from October 15 to December 15 had been received — and amounts of R30 618 to Mr Maleka and R29 484 to Mr Nathan had been paid

No further claims for payment to either commissioner had been received since then, Gen Raubenheimer said

'No role for unruly MK elements'

(254)

8/2/95

JOHANNESBURG — Defence Minister Mr. Joe Modise said yesterday that the former uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) soldiers who damaged vehicles and smashed office windows in Durban on Monday, would not be accepted into the defence force.

Mr Modise condemned the behaviour of the group of about 200 former cadres and urged police to arrest them and charge them with damage to property.

"I condemn and reject the unruly conduct of former MK cadres who protested outside the SANDF's Natal Command offices and damaged property," the minister said in a statement.

"I wish to emphatically state that there is no place in the South African National Defence Force for undisciplined soldiers or prospective soldiers," said Mr Modise, once a senior MK commander in exile.

"I have given instructions to the chief of the SANDF to instruct commands throughout the country not to accept former MK members who behave this way."

The group of former MK soldiers were protesting to demand immediate integration into the new army and said they wanted to be trained in kwa-Zulu/Natal instead of at the Wallmannstal base north of Pretoria.

2000
670

2/65
32 + 33

8L7
208
8L1

Angry MKs want action

Protesters spend night at parliament

THABO MABASO and
MXOLISI MGXASHE

Staff Reporters

ABOUT 80 irate former MK soldiers who spent the night outside parliament in a bid to be integrated into the SA National Defence Force, today threatened to mobilise voters against the ANC if their demands were not met.

The former guerrillas are part of a group which marched to parliament yesterday to try to find out why they had been rejected by the SANDF and to demand their immediate integration into the force.

The demonstrations formed part of a countrywide protest by former MK militants who have claimed their promised dates of integration had not been honoured by the ANC.

In Cape Town yesterday, about 100 MK members arrived to be sent for training at the SANDF's Wallmannsthal training base near Pretoria, but they were turned down because their names were not on



Picture NIC BOTHMA, The Argus

ALERT: Security personnel keep a close watch as former MK soldiers gathered outside parliament yesterday.

the list of those approved for integration.

The MK cadres, who slept next to the parliament gates last night, said ANC MP Tony Yengeni, who seemed to show some concern with their plight, had spoken to their spokesman by phone today.

Mr Yengeni had told them he was trying to contact SANDF chief of

staff Sipho Nyande and that he would respond as soon as he had managed to do so.

One of the group, Castro Nene, said they were "not moving an inch from here."

"We have not eaten since yesterday morning, and some of us have come from as far as Paarl, Worcester and Oudshoorn.

"We feel we have been used. The

AR9 8/2/95 (544)
politicians who used us are now living a better life, but we are not enjoying that better life they promised us."

If their demands were not met, the MK group would wage a campaign against the ANC — initially with their families, relatives and friends, and then nation-wide, Mr Nene said.

"The ANC leadership does not seem to realise the power we have. We are the ones who did the real work in the struggle against apartheid — they should not forget that."

Yesterday, one of the protesters, Mthuzeli Ngogo, said they would remain at parliament "until we get a positive response."

Mr Ngogo, who trained in Tanzania in 1990, said if they did not get a response they would "do something to make us visible" in the city.

Mxolisi Yekwani said the protesters were "frustrated and angered" by the ANC leadership.

"They used us for political gains and then threw us in the dustbin."

An angry MK protester said "It seems the same people we voted for to be in this parliament have forgotten about us now because they live very comfortably. We don't have jobs and no means of making a living."

Armcor 'hid truth from SA public'

(254)

JOHANNESBURG — Ministerial orders led Armcor to delay telling the public the truth about last year's controversial arms consignment ostensibly destined for the Lebanese government, the Cameron Commission of Inquiry heard yesterday.

During yesterday's proceedings, media statements by Armcor's corporate communications division were scrutinised during the examination of two witnesses, Mr Bertrand Retief and Mr Bertus Cilliers.

Mr Retief, Armcor senior manager public relations, testified that it became clear on September 26 that the ship Arktis Pioneer, transporting the second consignment of AK-47 and G3 rifles, was in Yemen and not in Beirut as was previously reported.

Both he and Mr Cilliers told the commission they were shocked to learn that they had been given incorrect information by their line managers, which in turn had been supplied to the media. The line managers concerned included Brigadier Anthony Savides, Mr Marius Vermaak and

Mr Peet Smith

CT 9/2/95

On September 21 both Danish and South African media had reported that the ship was not at Beirut but at Al Hudaydah in Yemen.

Mr Retief said a decision was made to call a press conference to "get this out in the open", but it was delayed for five days because Defence Minister Joe Modise first had to study the Smith report on the matter.

Mr Retief said "it was a great pity that we had to be silent at that stage".

Following the South African press reports that the ship was in Yemen, Defence Ministry spokesman Dr Das Herbst deleted two paragraphs from Armcor's initial statement about the deal, Mr Retief said.

The first concerned a statement by customs officials in Port Elizabeth, while the second was a denial "that the consignment was ever intended for Yemen or that the ship ever called at a Yemeni port".

Mr Retief conceded yesterday that blaming the press for the international debacle was "unfair" — Sapa

SANDEF still has the bug

(254) WM 10-16/2/95

Gavin Evans and Stefaans Brummer

SOUTH AFRICAN National Defence Force military intelligence is still interested in bugging its enemies, although these days it prefers to call them "opponents".

This much emerged from a "feeling out" session monitored by the *Weekly Mail & Guardian*, between a Wits student "spotted" by an SANDF talent scout, and a senior Airforce intelligence officer this week.

Hennie van Vuuren (20), a second year BA student and South African Liberal Students Association (Salsa) activist, was working at the Getaway Holiday Outdoor Adventure show in Kyalami late last year when he received what he saw as an extraordinary proposal by an airforce sergeant major, Johan Nel, who was doing a spot of moonlighting there.

"After learning I was studying politics and international relations he pricked up his ears and said they might have a job for me, explaining they had to keep their eyes open to find out what was happening in the country generally and in the universities, and asked me to phone him at work to make an appointment."

Van Vuuren immediately approached the WM&G and it was agreed he would go ahead with the contact to find out more. Nel appeared enthusiastic when his intended recruit phoned, and asked him to report to Airforce headquarters on Wednesday.

"I told him I was reluctant to go there but he reassured me, and told me not to worry because they now had several ANC and PAC people there."

Van Vuuren was ushered to the office of an Airforce Intelligence officer, Commander Prinsloo, who interviewed him.

"He seemed disappointed I hadn't completed my studies and stressed they were looking either for a graduate or for someone studying part-time who could work fulltime, though he said they did use part-time information gatherers. I asked him whether they wanted people who were currently at university and he said that such activities had to be sanctioned from above."

They then discussed the possibilities of full time intelligence work after Van Vuuren had graduated, with Prinsloo showing particular interest in the young student's intention to pursue legal studies.

"He explained there were three essential divisions: information analysis for intelligence, where he said a political studies and geography background would be of particular interest, media and public relations and surveillance. He said they no longer liked to use the word enemies, and preferred to talk of 'opponents'. He stressed a legal background could be of great use here, particularly when it came to making decisions on bugging these opponents."

When they departed, Prinsloo suggested further contact on graduation.

● Since new intelligence legislation took effect on January 1 this year, it has become illegal for the SANDF to gather information covertly within the borders of South Africa.

Only the new National Intelligence Agency, and the police in purely criminal matters, are empowered to use covert methods of intelligence gathering, such as bugging — and then only under strictly regulated conditions, and often only with the concurrence of a magistrate.

Man who blew Unisa whistle in the dog box

The man who exposed the 'Verwoedian' methods of Unisa's education faculty now faces disciplinary action **Pat Sidley reports**

AFTER 25 years of editing and translating University of South Africa (Unisa) study guides, Sam van den Berg blew the whistle on the "morally outrageous" material the correspondence university was providing to education students

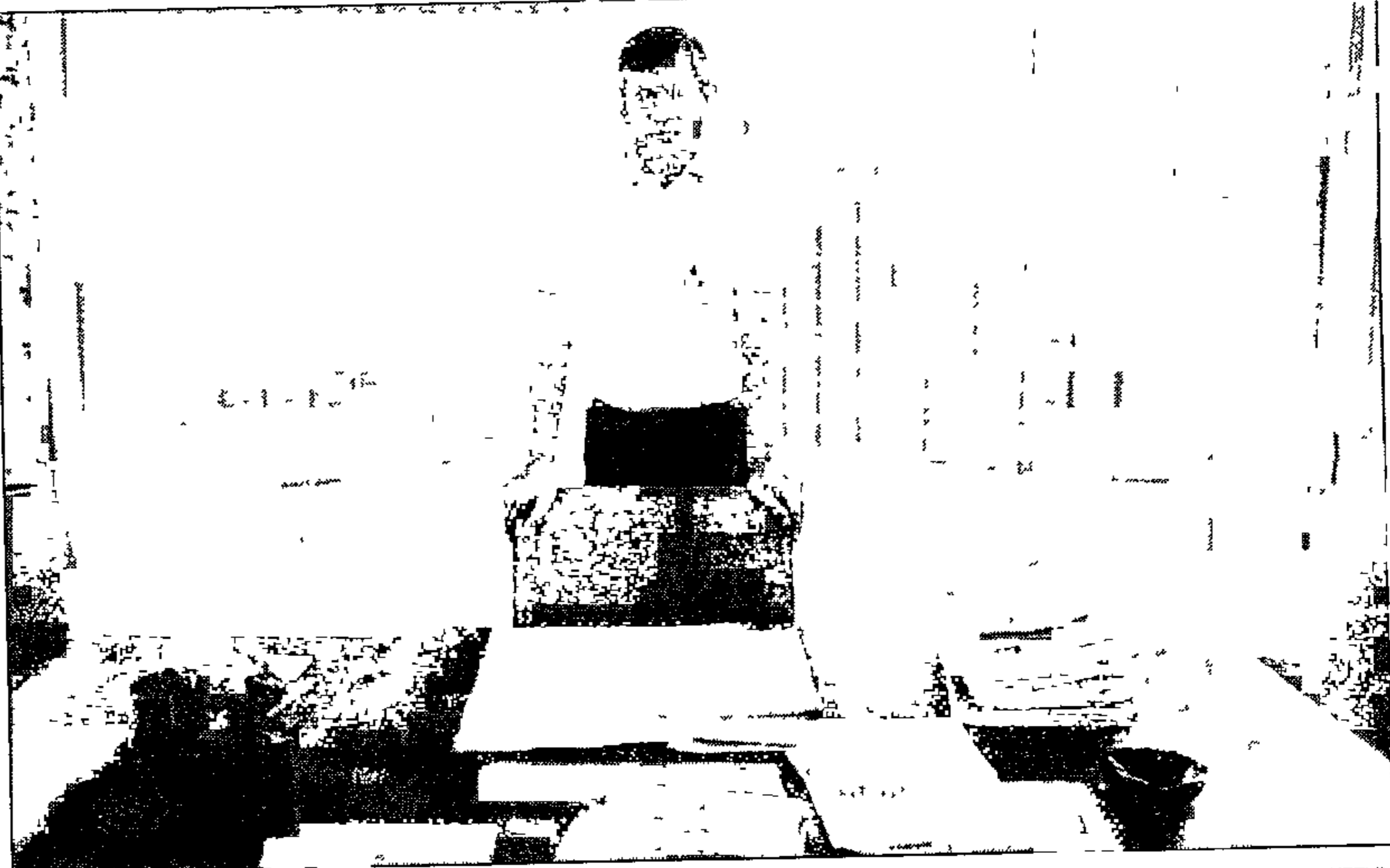
As a result, Unisa this week announced the redesign of its education faculty curricula and all the material it provides to the 18 000 students in its courses

But within an hour of this announcement, Unisa officials informed Van den Berg that he would face disciplinary measures for misconduct — a charge that could cost him his job

Last week, the *Weekly Mail & Guardian* exposed the "Verwoedian" lessons still being taught to would-be teachers, many of them black, by the education faculty

Van den Berg was by then in deep trouble, having been singled out by Unisa principal Marinus Wiechers, who insisted to the *WM&G* that Van den Berg must be its source of information

This was a point Wiechers raised again at a press conference this week, when he told journalists that Van den Berg, with colleague Stephen Hayes, had been responsible for the press coverage — adding that he would not impede the right of freedom of expression of anybody



Sam van den Berg: 'Morally outraged' that 18 000 students should be sacrificed

PHOTO HENNER FRANKENFELD

who wished to go to the press

Wiechers was surrounded at the press conference by the commissioners of the all-white male and Afrikaans internal inquiry called to decide the future of education teaching. He announced that significant changes would be made to the faculty's courses and teaching — and that the faculty itself would handle the changes.

"It would be unthinkable that the faculty of education does not assume the responsibility to lead our reform." It was "certainly not a place of resurrection of past apartheid ideologies," he said

Despite the display for the press of an intimation of changes to come and the vague hint of enlightenment, as the press headed off to meet deadlines, Van den Berg, a normally reticent man who shies away from publicity, received a letter which could spell the end of a long and solid career at Unisa

The department he heads carries out most of the editing and translation of all material sent out to 130,000 students. This was why he

intervene. The editorial department provides the last chance for quality control before educational material goes out to students

Van den Berg was finding some of that material, often from the education faculty, beyond the pale. His own dissatisfaction had grown over the past 10 to 15 years but it was only in the past five years that he and a group of colleagues had stepped up their challenge, both to the faculty of education and to the university

After years of discussions, it became clear to him last year that the talk was going nowhere. He'd sat back for a while when Wiechers became Unisa principal, believing he would carry the fight forward. But nothing had changed

When the university began to register the 1995 education-student intake, Van den Berg said he realised the faculty had no real desire to change itself drastically

He was, he said, "morally outraged" that 18 000 students should be sacrificed for the sake of the education faculty's staff. So he told the

or translate its work any longer

It was this move, he believes, which has brought upon him the wrath of the principal

Although this was not made explicit to him, Wiechers confirmed to the *WM&G* that the reason for the disciplinary hearing related to this issue and that "it involved insubordination"

The letter, sent to Van den Berg once the journalists had left the campus, told him that the university had received written and signed complaints about him as head of department.

Wiechers had concluded, said the letter, that there were grounds for a charge of misconduct. Accordingly, a disciplinary committee had been convened and he would be told what the charges were "in due course"

Wiechers said the timing of the letter was coincidental, and that the issue had been building up over time. He did not want to comment on whether Van den Berg was being victimised as he would be charging the hearing and it would be up to Van den Berg to raise the issue himself if

WM 10-16/2/95 254

Security jobs for troopies (254) after service

JOHANNESBURG — Private security companies will employ soldiers completing their two-year service at the end of March, Witwatersrand Army Command said.

It said it had negotiated employment possibilities with security companies which had "shown a particular interest for trained personnel".

"Members interested will receive training to enable them to take up such employment immediately after expiry of contract (on March 31)," the command said in a statement. ARU 10/2/95

Employment opportunities existed within the army, it said, adding that soldiers could apply for a limited number of specialist posts.

South African National Defence Force members also had the option of joining the Service Corps to develop occupational skills aimed at support for reconstruction and development programme projects.

The command said an assistance programme for members experiencing adaption problems would be offered — Sapa

The helpful neighbour at centre of arms inquiry

By PETER De IONNO

254

IN SPITE of hopes to quickly resolve the Armscor AK-47 shipment debacle, Judge Edwin Cameron has found his inquiry becalmed and his guns spiked

A key witness's refusal to answer questions and "embarrassing" delays caused the judge to wonder aloud this week about what might happen next. He quipped that a witness could disappear into the Bermuda Triangle.

Meanwhile, Marius Vermaak, the Armscor official at the centre of the events the commission has been examining since October 14, sits patiently.

He shows remarkable fortitude. 5T/2/95

For two days, invoking his right against self-incrimination, he steadfastly refused to answer questions about the sale of two shipments of SANDF AK-47 rifles he negotiated with Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan, or any questions about Mr Wazan. The commission has been asked to seek an extension of its powers to compel Mr Vermaak to answer questions from Armscor.

Suspended from his job, possibly facing criminal charges for fraud and foreign exchange irregularities, blamed by his colleagues and bosses, Mr Vermaak is living a nightmare but he is always calm and usually genial.

His haven and, no doubt, his source of strength, is his home in Roseville, north of Pretoria, where he braaied for Mr Wazan, the man who has reportedly given Armscor damaging evidence against Mr Vermaak.

Mr Vermaak lives in a house with three garages and a pool, with his wife, his disabled 15-year-old daughter who cannot walk or speak, two sons, aged 11 and seven, and his widowed mother.

He is secure here. His wife's parents stay three houses down the street. All around, his neighbours speak well of him.

"He goes out of his way to help other people," says the woman next door. She refuses to give her name.

Mr Vermaak's mother is his staunchest defender.

"His work was everything to him. He worked late, he worked on weekends and this is the thanks he gets," she says. "We know that he did nothing wrong."

Mr Vermaak, 37, grew up in Nelspruit where his parents ran a funeral business. When he was 13 his father died. He matriculated in 1973 and married four years later. He joined Armscor in 1978 as an administrative assistant in the radar and computer section.

In 1983 Mr Vermaak moved into marketing and gained business administration qualifications in 1987 and 1990. As a grade 6 manager at Armscor, he has a salary package of about R150 000.

Mr Vermaak, who neither smokes nor drinks, is a churchgoer who attends the Christian Apostolic Faith Mission and works constantly to raise funds for the Horison Care Centre, which his daughter

Commission announces bid to curb escalating costs

By PETER De IONNO

THE Cameron commission of inquiry into illegal weapons deals is to cut back on public sittings to rein in spiralling costs.

The bill for the commission, attended by a swarm of advocates and senior counsel, is estimated to be running at more than R50 000 a day.

Armscor costs are understood to have topped R1,5-million. A corporation spokesman said it had paid R1,25-million to the end of December for lawyers representing the corporation and for separate counsel for a number of staff members, including key figure Marius Vermaak.

The SANDF, responsible for the commission's running costs, which include the R567-a-day fees for the commissioners, advocate Vincent Maleka and Cape Town academic Laurie Nathan, is paying R37 000 a month for the hearings, which began in October.

This week, after talks with SANDF Chief of Staff Finances, Major-General Ben Raubenheimer, over delayed payments to Mr Maleka and Mr Nathan, Judge Edwin Cameron also announced that the commission would take on an investigative role after it completed hearing evidence on last year's aborted illegal attempt to sell 25 000 automatic rifles to Yemen.

The move reflects rising concern by officials and Defence Minister Joe Modise that

attends. He is management committee, vice-chairman and chairman of the fund-raising committee.

The centre was drawn into the commission evidence by Armscor security manager Thomas du Toit, who said Mr Vermaak told him he had been given foreign currency by Mr Wazan as a donation for the school.

Mr Vermaak had stated that he had used the unspecified amount to fund a holiday for himself, his wife and sons in July last year after Mr Wazan had offered him a timeshare option in Cyprus.

He had not informed Armscor because the gift was not for his personal use and he had intended to pay back the money with

his 1994 bonus.

He had said Mr Wazan had made other gifts to the school, including one of R26 431 in September 1993.

School officials would not discuss the payments.

Mr Vermaak's mother said many family friends supported the school.

"We know in our hearts he is innocent. He is being sacrificed by others."



END OF ANOTHER DAY ... Marius Vermaak leaves the Cameron commission in Sandton after a session of the commission. He has refused to answer questions. Picture: JON HRUSA

Billions lost on canned Armscor projects

(254) BD 21/2/95

PRETORIA — Armscor had been forced to cancel several research and development programmes for new weapons systems since 1990 which had resulted in the loss of about 8 000 jobs, the armaments procurement company said last night.

About R5,5bn had already been spent on three of the projects by the time a cut in defence spending and new force designs forced the cancellations, Armscor said.

Projects, including a satellite programme, a satellite launch programme and a naval programme for the former SA Defence Force, were cancelled as defence spending on research and development declined from R1,5bn in 1989 to about R400m in 1993.

“Armscor is pleased to be making a

STEPHANE BOTHMA

fresh start with new priorities” But after 40 years of investment in capital and human resources, especially in SA's defence electronics industry, it was concerned at the level of spending, so critical for retaining development capabilities.

A further loss of technology could substantially reduce the country's competitiveness internationally and herald a greater movement of intensively trained personnel to other countries.

Government had stepped up defence spending in the early 1980s in preparation for what had been seen as a communist onslaught against SA.

□ To Page 2

Armscor (254) BD 21/2/95

□ From Page 1

Armscor said being denied airspace over surrounding states and having a limited capability to gather photographic information by conventional aircraft platforms, resulted in an ambitious programme to develop a low orbit reconnaissance satellite and a space launch vehicle that could place it in a 400km orbit. The satellite launch vehicle programme

had been terminated in March 1993, resulting in a bilateral agreement between SA and the US government, anxious about the further development of the programme, Armscor said.

In October last year, a satellite programme was also terminated because it had proved economically unviable.

Top-secret files found in mounds of rubble

By CAS St LEGER

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE has launched an investigation after a cache of top-secret files was found at a northern suburbs Johannesburg house that is being demolished

Acting on a tip-off, a team of investigators swooped on 90 Barry Hertzog Avenue in Greenside on Wednesday and found piles of military files stamped "Top Secret" amid mounds of rubble and personal papers.

The team spent two more days scouring the place for any other vestiges of military documentation. Even the swimming pool was drained

But defence force spokesman Colonel John Rolt said nothing further had been found. "All the documents pertinent to the military have been removed. They will be scrutinised and there will be an internal investigation to discover how they got there."

He said on first sight the documents appeared to relate mostly to administration and personnel from the mid-70s.

(254) ST 17/2/95

Openness will benefit nuclear industry

254

MARCEL GOLDING

NUCLEAR issues, more than most others, are polarising and controversial. On the one hand, there are the proponents of nuclear power who usually denigrate the anti-nuclear lobby as ill-informed, utopian carrot-eaters, while on the other there is the anti-nuclear lobby which tends to demonise nuclear advocates as megalomaniacs who worship at the high altar of technological advancement.

There is probably some truth in both positions. But this obscures the likelihood that most members of either group have similar desires for a secure and fulfilling existence for themselves and their children. However, they differ in the way they believe these objectives can be attained: for one group nuclear power is an essential component of the social, economic and industrial infrastructure necessary to achieve the objective, for the other it is a technology to be avoided.

Socially, these differences manifest themselves in the form of the nuclear debate, involving protests, referendums, campaigning, sloganeering and so on. It is not only its controversial nature that makes nuclear power a political issue, but also the fact that it is a social undertaking which demands massive financial and technological investment. And because it is a political issue, questions about nuclear power need to be decided upon in a political process, which in a democratic society involves an open, well-informed public debate as opposed to small committees making big decisions.

As SA moves away from its apartheid legacy, the process whereby nuclear policy is made will also need to shift. For an industry long cloaked in secrecy this shift will not be easy, but it does need to happen if the industry is to contribute to SA's reconstruction and development.

The task facing the industry is to establish transparency and credibility. These characteristics are interconnected: a truly transparent institution will automatically gain credibility, while a credible body is more than likely to be transparent. To establish credibility, the industry will need to break with its past, displaying a genuine transparency, but it will have to proceed sensitively so as not to appear insincere or opportunistic. Simple one-sided news releases or sham public affairs exercises will not convince the sceptical public.

Internationally, SA's nuclear authorities have shown an encouraging openness in the extent to which they have divulged information about their earlier nuclear weapons programme and in their quick commitment to various international treaties that are meant to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Some have argued, however, that these steps were taken to increase the previous government's moral advantage on the international stage, particularly during the early stages of the Kempton Park negotiations.

Internally, the nuclear industry has been

much less adept in exposing itself to public scrutiny and debate, and the industry's efforts in this regard are much less convincing than those in the international arena. First steps towards a more transparent interaction with the public were made last February at a conference on nuclear policy, jointly organised by the ANC and the Cape Town-based Environmental Monitoring Group.

That meeting, for the first time, brought together the industry, its detractors, the public, and a wide variety of civic bodies to debate a nuclear policy for a post-apartheid SA.

Despite differences among stakeholders, there emerged a common recognition that SA owned and operated a sizeable and sophisticated nuclear infrastructure with a future that needed to be considered carefully, rather than blindly protected — or blindly shut down.

Unfortunately, the nuclear industry appears to be trying to deny the lessons learnt at last year's conference, as suggested by its handling of the recently held Nuclear Information Conference, co-sponsored by the SA nuclear industry and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Absent were the anti-nuclear lobby, the civic organisations, trade unions and non-government organisations.

The conference organisers had neglected to invite — or given very short notice to — many obvious stakeholders in the industry, as well as groups and individuals with an established interest in it, and they failed, bar one or two exceptions to solicit

papers from quarters outside the industry. Whether this was done wilfully or was an oversight is not at issue. The point is that the nuclear industry missed an opportunity to deepen the process of dialogue begun at last year's ANC/Environmental Monitoring Group conference — a dialogue that is necessary if policy for the nuclear industry is to reflect the complexities surrounding the issue.

Notwithstanding the unrepresentative conference, the industry will not be able to avoid an open discussion about its future role in SA. This is because its historic role in the apartheid regime's dual policies of military supremacy and self-sufficiency cast doubts on its compatibility with the country's new development priorities. And, as with all old apartheid projects such as Moss gas and Armscor, there will be public pressure to establish what role the nuclear industry can play. There can be no doubt that such an investigation is needed, given the extent of investment in the industry.

Rather than trying to limit the extent of the debate about nuclear issues, the industry is more likely to gain credibility by embracing and encouraging that debate.

However, in doing so it must be sensitive to the widespread distrust of the industry, and it should co-operate with all stakeholders to guarantee a safe, secure and environmentally sustainable future for the country.

With an informed public, better decisions can be made.

Golding chairs the parliamentary standing committee on Mineral and Energy Affairs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

General with a listening ear

Star 21/2/95

(254)

MAJOR-GENERAL Reg Otto, selected to lead the SA army into a new era, spoke to Jovial Rantao

Iwanted to become a woodwork teacher," General Otto recalled, "but during winter holidays in 1961 my father, who had friends in the army, made arrangements that I should join the army gymnasium."

Despite his objections, Otto, like an obedient son, listened to his father. Two years later he emerged as a fully qualified officer after undergoing training at army colleges in Potchefstroom. "I don't regret it," he said.

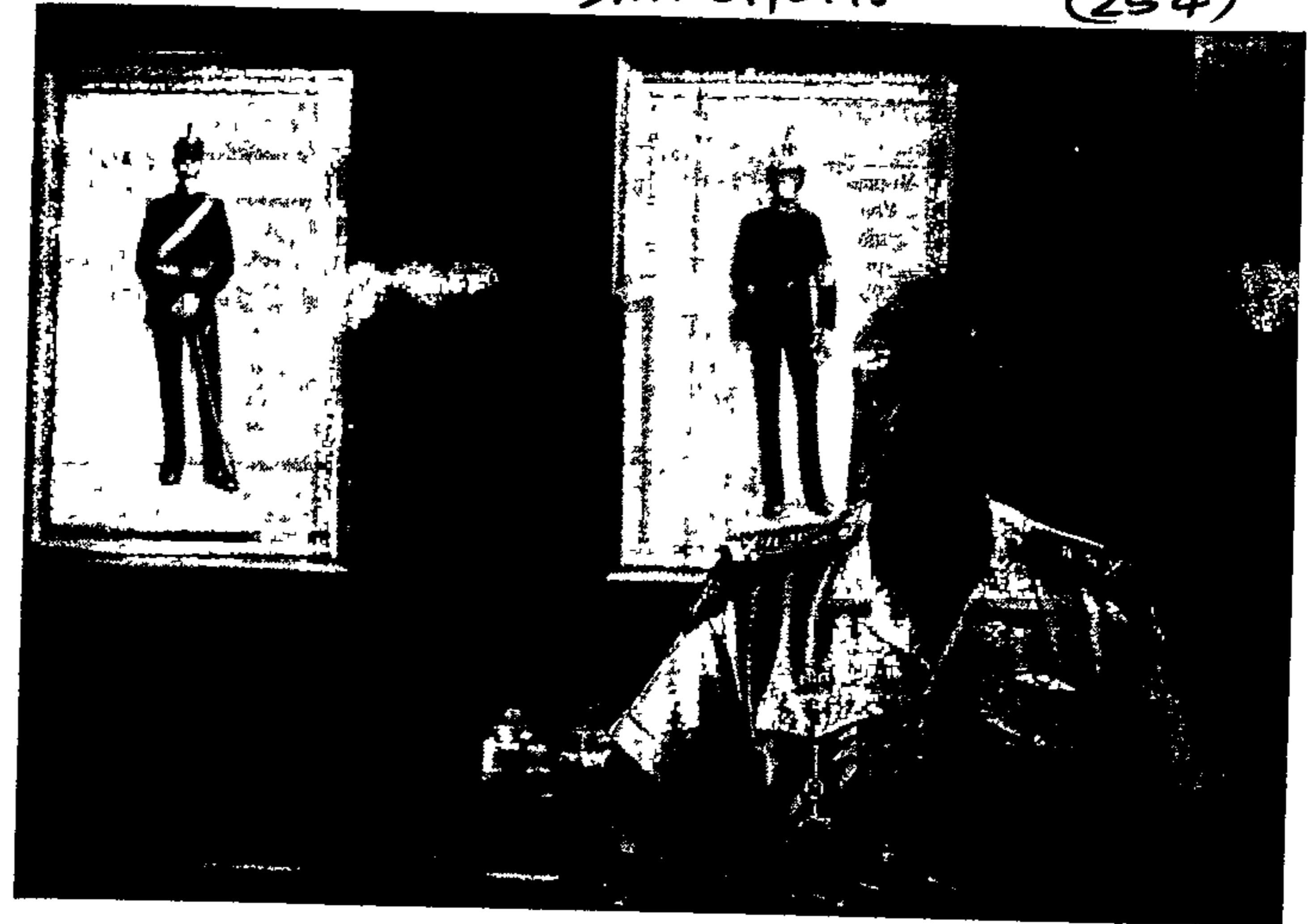
It has been a long road, through several army ranks from January 1962 when he joined the army's permanent forces to the day he received a telephone call from chief of the South African National Defence Force, General Georg Meiring.

The telephone call that was to change Reg Otto's life came on December 16 as he prepared to take his family on an annual Christmas holiday.

"I was in my office, contacting various commands in the area to thank them for the years' work and wish them a merry Christmas when General Meiring called me and told me that the Cabinet had decided that I, as the new head of the army, was the man to lead it into the future," Otto told The Star.

The honour startled Otto.

"My first reaction was one



In command ... the appointment, says Major-General Reg Otto, is the best Christmas present he has ever received.

PICTURE MOTLHALIFI MAHLABE

of disbelief because my mind was focussed on going on holiday and not on taking over the SA Army," the 55-year-old soldier said.

Once the holiday was over and the excitement had subsided, Otto rolled up his sleeves and started work.

He has to manage more than 1,2 million soldiers who form 10 commands and several other formations.

Besides maintaining peace and stability within SA borders and defending the country from any military attack, Otto has, at the top of his priority list, the successful completion of the integration process.

"When you take over the

army you cannot turn it as you want to; the army is run according to military policy," Otto said.

The new chief believes his informal style of management is the one weapon that will make him successful. He believes in thorough consultation, at various levels, to get the information necessary for him to take decisions.

Otto has a clear policy on affirmative action. "We look at all people being integrated into the army and take them through various courses and ranks. We will not drop standards to accommodate people who are untrained. An untrained soldier is a danger to himself, his colleagues and

the community. Merit and nothing else will be the criterion for promotions."

When he is not busy with army issues, the Krugersdorp-born and Pretoria-bred soldier plays golf (his handicap is 22). He is fond of hunting and deep sea fishing. He keeps fit by spending some time in the gymnasium or running a few kilometres.

Although strategically placed for a political career move, Otto has no ambition to take over Joe Modise's post as the country's Minister of Defence.

"I'm a soldier through and through. Politicians and soldiers don't think the same ..."

Call to ban politics in armed forces

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

POLITICAL activity by members of security forces should be prohibited, a constitutional assembly theme committee has agreed

This was disclosed by Jenny Schreiner (ANC) during a report-back to the constitutional assembly on discussions by its six theme committees. Ms Schreiner said there had been agreement that security force members should be well-educated about South African and international laws on human rights. The right of the legislature to overturn the proclamation

of a state of emergency had also been agreed

It was disclosed in the report-back that negotiators were divided over whether the next constitution should spell out the rules for a new South Africa in detail, or merely outline broad principles

Willie Hofmeyr (ANC) said this had emerged during discussions

Issues on which there has been agreement in theme committees include that the constitution will be the supreme law and parliament the supreme law-making body. As at present, there will be a constitutional court with the

power to overturn acts of parliament

Not yet finalised is whether the Appellate Division should hear constitutional cases, and whether the Supreme Court should be allowed to declare laws unconstitutional

While negotiators have agreed that South Africa will be a sovereign, independent and undivided state, they say this agreement does not pre-empt the debate on whether it should be federal or unitary

The assembly's "open time" section of the agenda, set aside for spontaneous comment and questions, drew few responses. Noting that there had been

1 700 submissions to the constitutional assembly, chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said it was clear people had a keen interest in constitution-making.

● During open time, Salie Mame (ANC) asked for clarification on a report recommending provision for cultural and other rights

"If the intention is to make allowances for certain things, it is very ambiguous" Mr Mame said it should be rewritten "so people can understand it"

The clause has been seen by some observers as opening the way to a kind of Volksstaat

Willie Hofmeyr

Part-time force within SANDF

■ BY ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — A representative part-time forces council is to be established by the SANDF

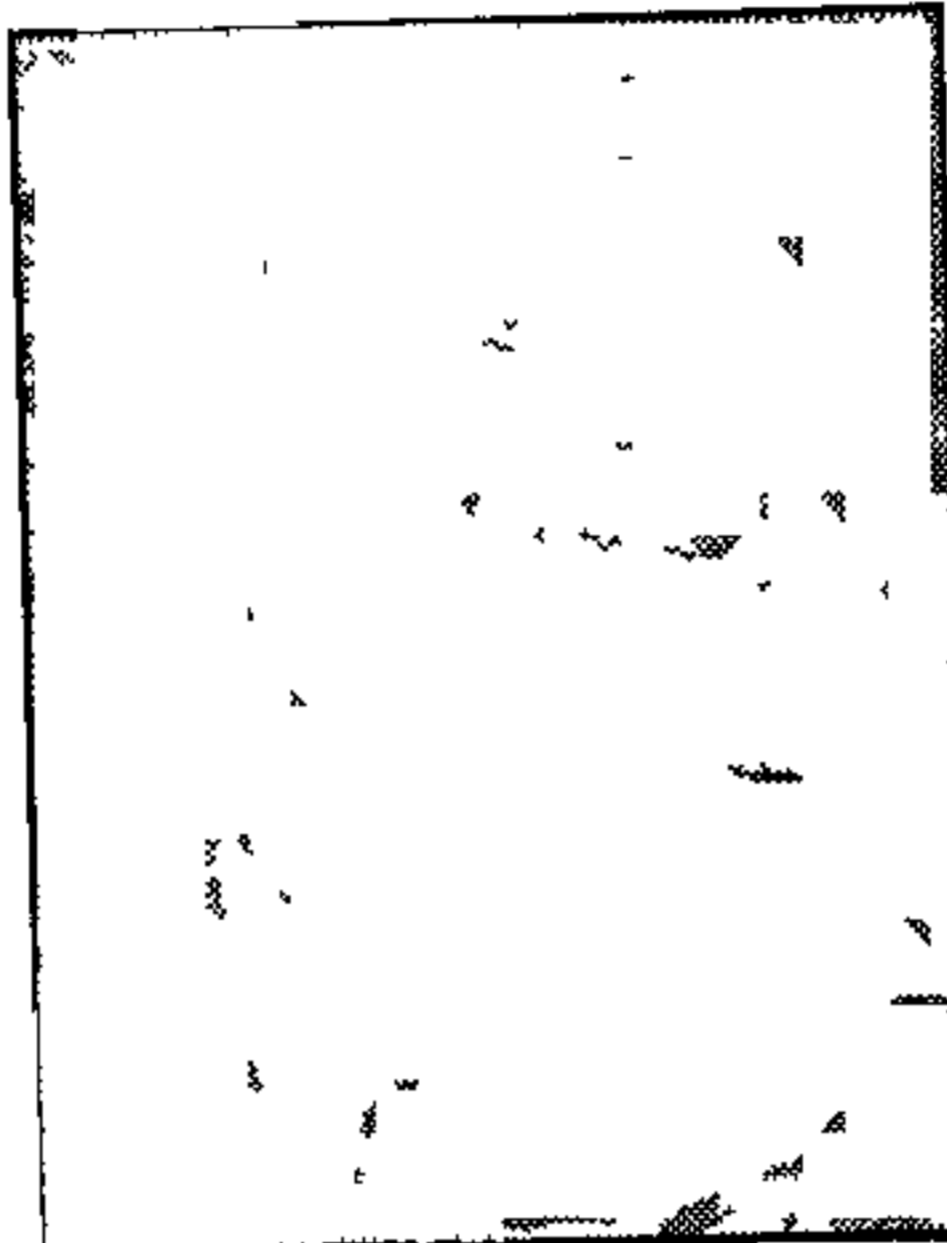
Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils yesterday announced that Colonel Ian Deetlefs, the chairman of the former Citizen Force National Council, had been appointed to head the new body.

The establishment of the new council followed the abolition of conscription last year.

The SANDF is to rely on voluntary part-time forces to supplement its permanent force

Kasrils said the main source for recruitment into the voluntary part-time force would be part-time force members, reserves, and those who had not done military service but were willing to join a voluntary force

"Under such a scheme, volunteers will be provided with incentives as well as greater flexibility with regard to when they might be called upon for service," he said



Ronnie Kasrils . . . incentives.

The deputy minister said the new council would promote the volunteer service as well as facilitate the recruitment, development and maintenance of the part-time force.

Addressing the same briefing, SANDF chief General Georg Meiring said no serving defence force member needed to apply for amnesty or appear before the truth commission

"No one in the defence force need to be afraid of the truth commission," he said

Responding to questions on the proposed purchase of four strike craft by the navy, Kasrils said it was still an "open issue" to be debated in Parliament. The cost of such strike craft would form part of next year's Budget

Five tenders for strike craft had been narrowed down to two, and a final decision would be taken soon.

Meiring said it was necessary to buy the strike craft not only to safeguard the country's coast but also to protect the environment and the fishing industry

In response to a further question, Kasrils said the cost of the strike craft as opposed to using the same money to build houses could not be regarded as a "dog-fight" between the ministries of Defence and Housing

Defence and security went hand in glove with the Reconstruction and Development Programme as they could not be implemented without stability in the country, he said

(254) SAW 22/2/95

In Brief

CT 23/2/95
Soldiers demand back pay

JOHANNESBURG — About 100 disgruntled soldiers from 21 Battalion in Lenasia gathered at the city hall here yesterday to demand at least R30 000 each in back pay

A spokesman for the soldiers, Rifleman Bongani Mashego, said they had received three increases since 1992 and should have received a lump sum of R10 000 in back pay with each increase. The servicemen's contracts expire on March 31 (254) (255)

The SANDF said although there had been pay problems, it was unlikely the soldiers' back-pay could amount to R30 000 — Sapa

Steenberg's evidence 'is necessary'

THE Cameron commission into Armscor sales since 1990 would be failing in its duty if it did not hear the evidence of a witness who could throw light on the aborted AK-47 deal with Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan last year, it was argued yesterday.

(2514)
Armscor counsel S van Nieuwenhuizen SC said his client believed US resident Michael Steenberg's evidence was necessary to counter the commission's prima facie perception that Armscor was party to a conspiracy in respect of the Wazan deal. 20 23/2/95

Steenberg was the charterer of the vessels the Vinland Saga and Arktis Pioneer, which were used to transport the weapons shipped out of Port Elizabeth in two consignments in October 1993 and September last year. His role in the Wazan deal has not yet been explained to the commission.

The commission, chaired by Acting Judge Edwin Cameron, has heard that both consignments ended up in Yemen and were apparently bought by a self-styled Saudi Arabian Prince, Anwar al-Shalaan.

Questions about the legality of the AK-47 deal negotiated by Wazan with Armscor marketing manager Marius Vermaak were raised after it was revealed that the second shipment had been stopped at the Yemen port of Hodeidah. Armscor is prohibited from dealing with Yemen in terms of Cabinet classification. The corporation has also denied that the weapons were intended for Yemen. Armscor believed the AK-47s were destined for Lebanon, which is not a prohibited country.

SUSAN RUSSELL

Steenberg, whose request for indemnity from prosecution has been granted by the Transvaal attorney-general, has agreed to come to SA to testify on condition that the media and various other parties, including al-Shalaan's lawyers, are barred when he testifies.

The judge, although he has agreed with Van Nieuwenhuizen's submission that Steenberg was a relevant witness, has indicated his reluctance to "kowtow" to Steenberg's conditions given the commission's commitment to conducting a transparent and open inquiry.

Van Nieuwenhuizen argued, however, that the commission had a duty to hear Steenberg's evidence on his terms once it had accepted that he was a relevant witness.

Steenberg was not a compellable witness, being a foreign national with no obligation to submit to SA's law and who had volunteered to come to SA to testify.

Van Nieuwenhuizen also submitted that the commission would be misleading the executive to which it had to report if it based its interim findings on evidence which did not present the full picture of the Wazan deal.

Cameron indicated he would make a ruling on the matter as soon as possible.

Soldiers in pay protest

About 100 disgruntled soldiers from 21 Battalion in Lenasia gathered at Johannesburg City Hall yesterday to demand at least R30 000 each in backpay.

A spokesman for the soldiers, Rifleman Bongani Mashego, said they had received three increases since 1992 and should have been given a lump sum of R10 000 in backpay with each increase.

The servicemen, whose contracts expire on March 31, also demanded integration into the police, the ambulance service, fire brigade, the traffic department or private security firms.

The South African National Defence Force said although there had been pay problems it was unlikely the soldiers' backpay could amount to R30 000.

Spokesman Lieutenant Marius Terblanche said the terms of the contract were explained to the battalion by their officer commanding, Colonel C Topper.

At the briefing, a team of psychologists was present for "those who couldn't handle the shock".

Grievances on pay had also been discussed with Witwatersrand commanding officer Major-General Vos Benade.

Their complaints had been submitted to the "highest level".

— Sapa

(254) 

Cameron: No closed hearing

(254) CT 24/2/93

JOHANNESBURG. — The Cameron Commission will not bow to a demand by Mr Michael Steenberg for some parties to be barred from the hearings while he testified, it said yesterday

Mr Steenberg chartered the vessels that carried arms to Yemen in 1993 and last year.

Commission chairman Mr Justice Edwin Cameron said the commission would "immediately investigate alternative means of securing access to (Mr

Steenberg's) evidence".

The absence of the evidence would "require the commission to limit ... the number of inferences it can ... draw".

He said Mr Steenberg had been present when weapons were loaded on the vessels and appeared to have been instrumental in issuing bills of lading.

His evidence "could therefore illuminate the true nature of the deal ostensibly concluded between Armscor and Mr Eli Wazan" — Sapa



MICKEYING AROUND ... Melindi Rossouw, 6, (front) and Rudi Geldenhuis, 7, both of Kulis River, on the Mickey Mouse ride at the Cape Show, which runs until March 5 in Goodwood **Report Page 3.** Picture: ANNE LANGE

ment, civil society and local business

Winnie defies President

Political Staff

CT 24/2/95

JUST a week after deputy minister Mrs Winnie Mandela came within an ace of being fired by her estranged husband President Nelson Mandela, he has again admonished her — for going on a trip to West Africa against his orders. ANC MPs privately expressed concern last night that Mrs Mandela

might not be as sympathetically treated by the President on her return on March 6 and this time could find herself without a job. In a week in which President Mandela has faced a crisis over Inkatha's withdrawal from Parliament, Mrs Mandela flew off as scheduled — apparently on a private tour. President Mandela is believed to be furious. — Sapa

Mandela calls security heads

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

CT 25/2/95

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has summoned the top brass of the security establishment to a meeting amid signs of a hardening of attitudes towards Inkatha's decision to boycott Parliament.

Well-placed sources confirmed last night that Mr Mandela had called security ministers, the head of the SA National Defence Force, the Commissioner of Police, Deputy President F. W. de Klerk and key ministers to a meeting on Monday.

The meeting follows the decision by IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi to turn down an invitation from Mr F. W. de Klerk — initiated by Mr Mandela — to a three-way summit to defuse the crisis.

Chief Buthelezi's rejection of the overture was described by Mr De Klerk as "a pity". "Let's talk — for the sake of the country," he added.

The ANC caucus voiced concern that the boycott could spark a new wave of violence across the country.

Mr Mandela signalled his disdain for the IFP action by assigning Deputy President Thabo Mbeki — who left the country last night and will only return after the IFP's special conference on March 6 — to mediate in the crisis.

Last night Chief Buthelezi said he was willing to meet "anyone at any time of day or night to resolve the present tragic situation".

LIBERATOR



Down and out . . . a protesting soldier is brought to ground by military police at the 21 Infantry Battalion yesterday following a failed march by disgruntled soldiers.

PICTURE DEBBIE YAZBEK

Army base tense after mutiny quelled

■ BY JUSTICE MALALA
LABOUR REPORTER

The situation at the 21 Infantry Battalion base near Lenasia, where a soldier was injured yesterday when military police quelled a midday mutiny by about 150 soldiers, was quiet but tense today.

SANDF spokesman Colonel Neels Visser said this morning a board of inquiry, convened after yesterday's events, would start its work today.

A dramatic 20-minute gun-battle started yesterday after military police tried to encircle a group of chanting soldiers,

some of whom drew their private pistols and started shooting.

Forty soldiers were arrested and 14 privately owned pistols were confiscated, Visser said, adding that the injured soldier had been treated for a calf wound.

The shooting followed a stand-off after soldiers were prevented from leaving the base and from marching to Witwatersrand Command to present a list of demands.

The soldiers have served three years each and their contracts expire at the end of next month. They are demand-

ing R30 000 each for the six years their contracts would have lasted if they had been renewed, according to a defence force system in which a contract is renewed every two years.

This is a summary of yesterday's events.

■ 10.30 am Senior personnel address those soldiers whose contracts are due to expire and tell them of the options open to them.

■ 11.25 am Soldiers move en masse to the main gate where they are prevented from leaving by a human wall of military policemen.

■ 11.45: The soldiers try to push past the MPs, who stand their ground.

■ 11.56 pm Soldiers start singing. Five minutes later, two trucks and three vans pull up with army reinforcements from the East Rand. Five Mambas move in 33 minutes later.

■ 12.15 pm A mutineer is sprayed with a hand-held tear-gas canister. Temper's flare.

■ 12.45 pm MPs move in and encircle the strikers. Three shots are fired in quick succession. The strikers scatter as MPs start arrests. More shots are exchanged as the strikers flee into the veld.

(254) Stan 24/2/95

Madam will still have her maid in the new South Africa, white women still give orders to black servants. But much of the bitterness has gone and for many the relationship offers security and a chance of self-improvement. **TREVOR FISHLACK** reports.

SO FAR so good. Nelson Mandela has been elected South Africa's first black president and none of the jokes cracked by nervous whites has come true. No black hordes pillaging leafy suburbs or squatting in madam's chintzy rooms. The garden-er hasn't commandeered the Merc.

Relief and hope top the agenda. But not far down the list there is anxiety. Old prejudices do not evaporate overnight. Mainstream Afrikaners are not thrilled by what has happened. They fear high taxes, blacks taking white jobs.

Retribution, though, does not appear to be in black minds, at the moment. Those who had the money to live in white suburbs have already moved there in the years since apartheid ended.

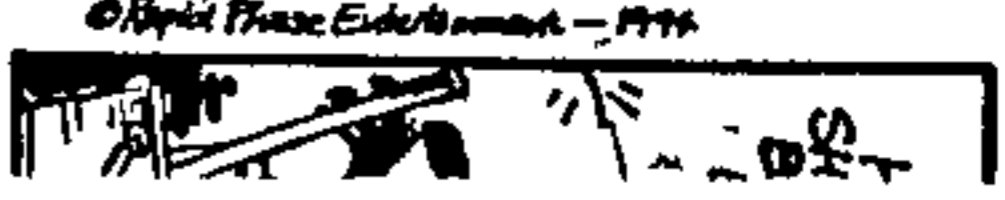
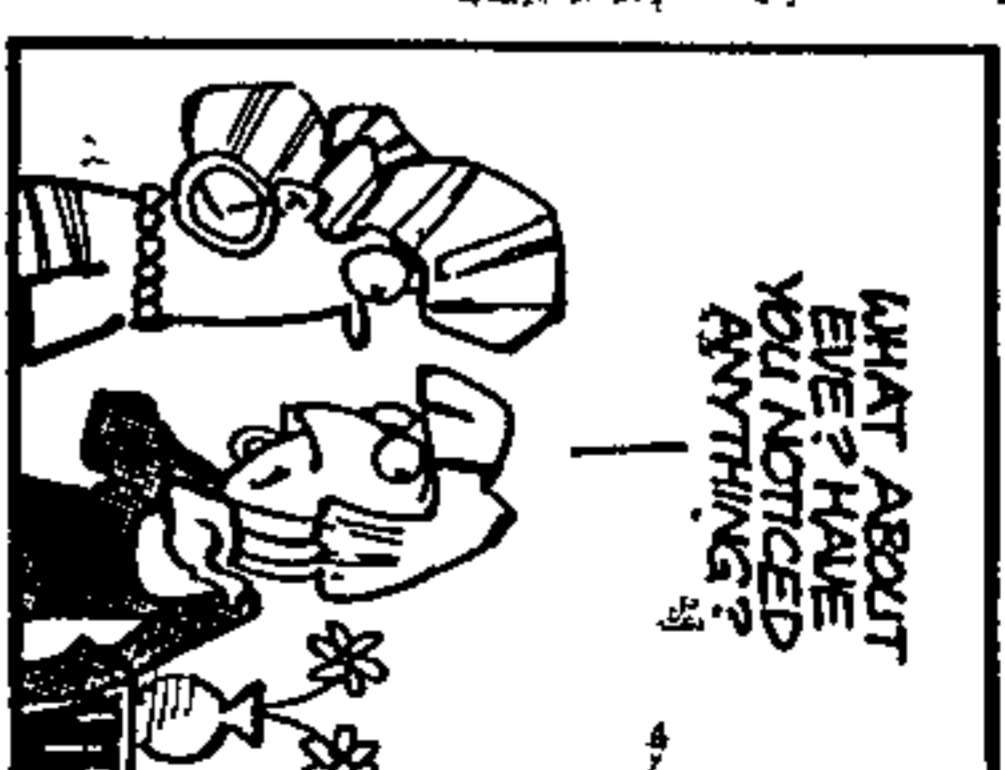
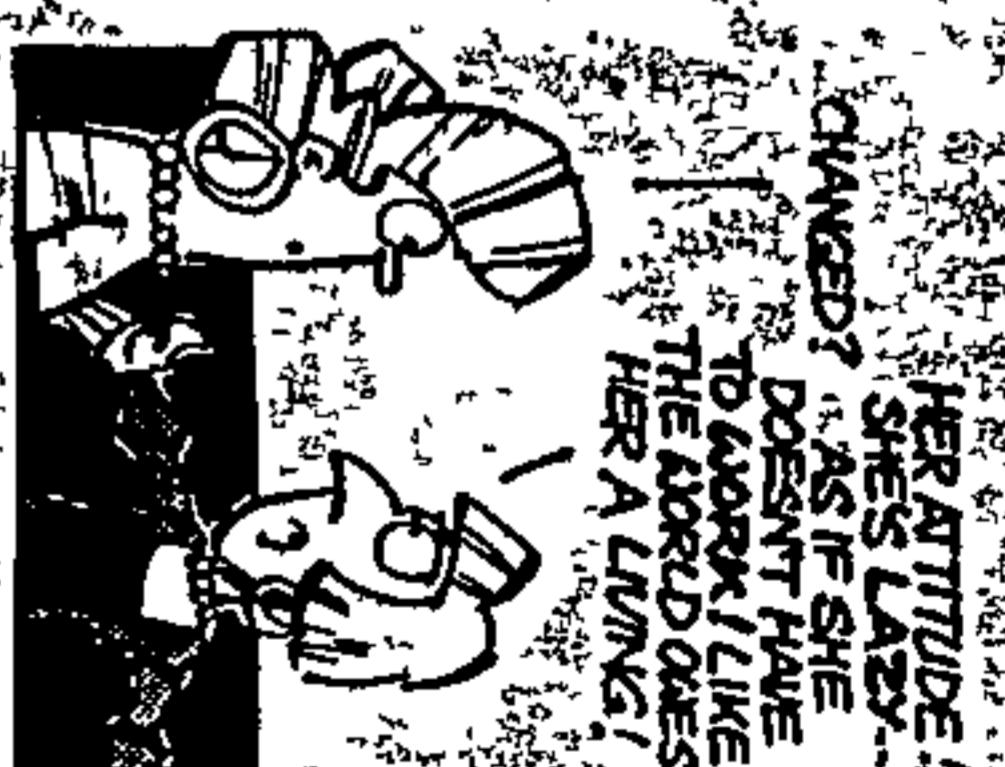
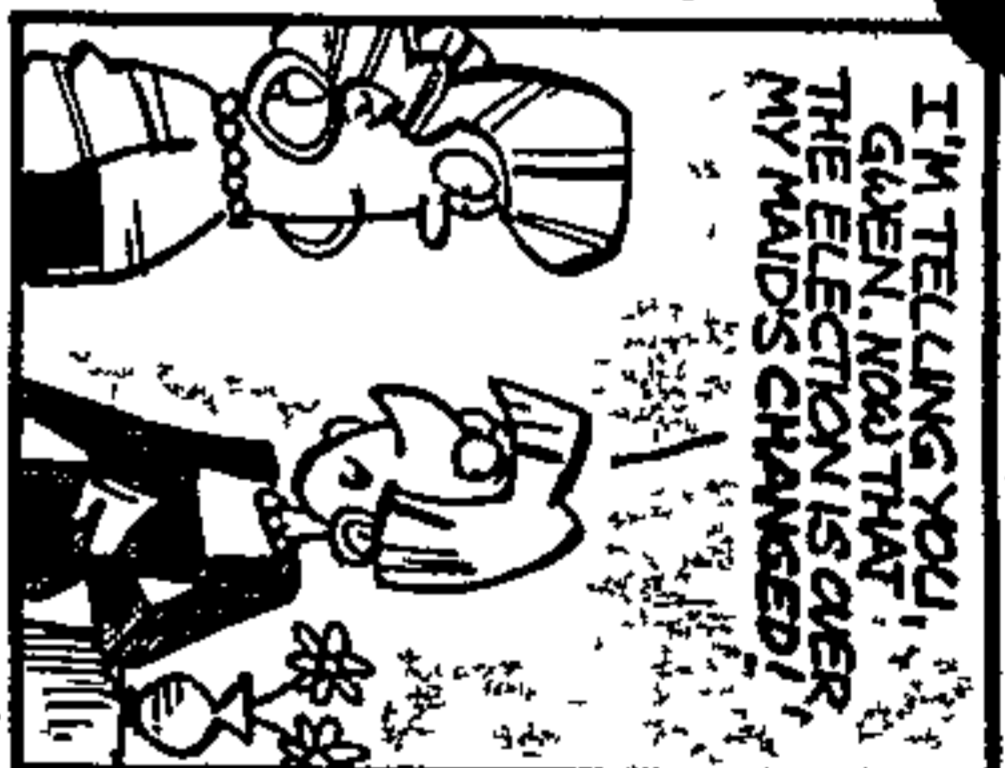
Blacks do not believe their lot will change immediately. There will be a honeymoon but they know euphoria will vanish and the problems are enormous. They look for real improvement, a black-run police force, decent health care and ambulances that come when they are called, proper bus services and schools.

They don't expect more houses and jobs by the end of next week. But they want evidence of progress and stability.

Indispensable

Afrikaners certainly want stability. For all the griping, and the occasional spouting about black inferiority, their tradition is of making things work. They have been making a life alongside Afrikaners for 340 years. They have nowhere else to go.

One thing, however, won't change for a long time. That real insti-



MAID TO MEASURE The madam-and-maid relationship, with its stresses and comedy, is a rich source of material for the popular Madam every day in the Cape Times.

Custom-maid to endure any changes in the land

ST 17/5/94

converted garages or sheds. Maids complain that marinet madams won't allow visitors and exploit them so harshly that they see little of their own families. They risk being dismissed without pay or references. Then there are the employers who act as if servants were almost invisible.

Domestic workers' organisations recommend a minimum wage of £140 (R750) a month for skilled workers, £100 (R535) for unskilled (a shop assistant gets around £240 (R1284) a month, wages and living costs being lower in South Africa than, for example, Britain), but many employers pay less. Many maids, however, are well treated. They have comfortable accommodation

and her indispensable black housemaid — looks solid enough to survive any revolution. Many white households have a live-in black female servant or, at least, a part-timer, entrusted with running the home, caring for children and keeping secrets.

Madam-and-maid is the most common interracial encounter, and its misunderstandings, stresses and comedy are a rich source of material for South Africa's favourite strip cartoon, Madam and Eve.

Madam is a twinset-and-pearls Johannesburg dame, desperate to be liberal in the new South Africa. Eve is the personable maid who addresses her prejudices and preconceptions about blacks. Some madams drive maids like slaves and

going gets rough. But there will be no mass desertion by maids. Domestic service providers work for a million and, as the largest employer of black women, unemployment among blacks is 50%. Each working person has up to 10 dependants. Madam needs Eve as much as Eve needs Madam, and she will be employed as long as she is affordable.

Cally Heal, an Englishwoman who migrated to South Africa 18 years ago with her husband Nick, a shipping broker, has daughters aged 14 and 12 and lives in a thatched house in Rivonia, a suburb of Johannesburg. The Heals love the country and are relieved that elections have at last been held. Their former maid

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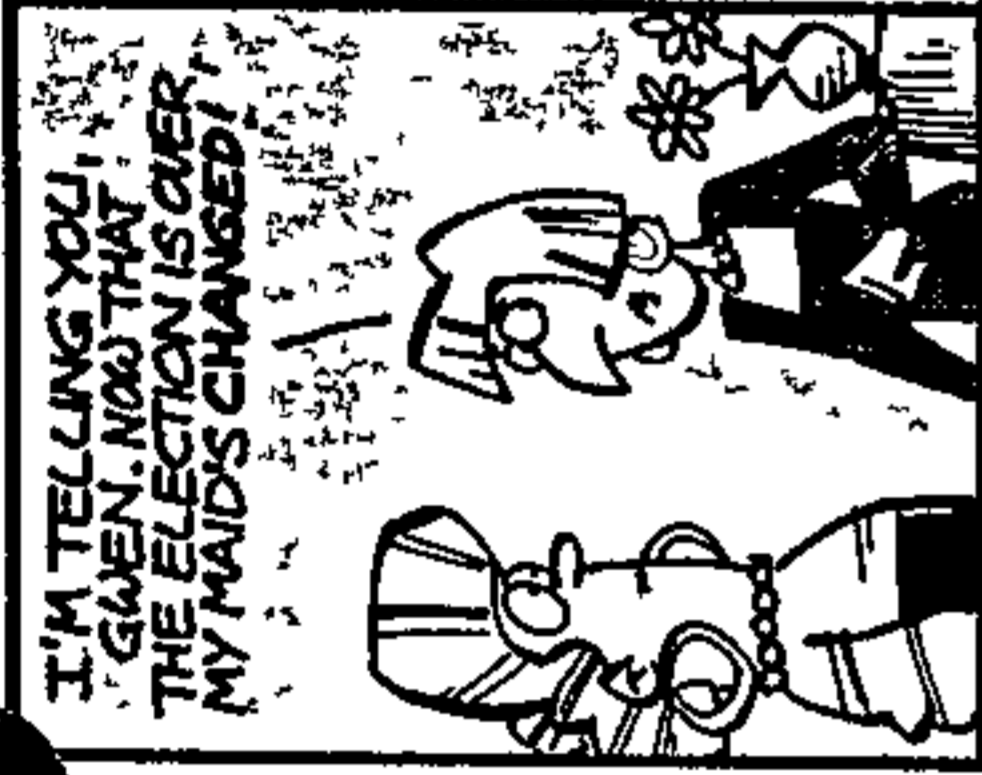
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Custom-maid to endure any changes in the land

converted garages or behind the main house, sheds. Maids complain of food, medical care, a pension and paid holidays. Many are auxiliary members of the household, chums to the children, companions to their mistresses. They have privacy and some have their children living with them, although the children of a live-in maid are usually looked after by their grandmother. Many employers educate both maid and the maid's children. A good domestic job can be a step up the ladder. Some social workers believe that domestic service emphasises inferiority and say it will take years to iron out apartheid attitudes.

Many maids, however, are well treated. This may be the romantic time of the black-white handshake accommodation, but one Afrikaner er-

going gets rough. But there will be no mass desertion by maids. Domestic service provides work for a million and is the largest employer of black women. Unemployment among blacks is 50%. Each working person has up to 10 dependants. Madam needs Eve as much as Eve needs Madam; and Eve will be employed as long as she is affordable. Cally Heat, an Englishwoman who migrated to South Africa 18 years ago with her husband Nick, a shipping broker, has daughters aged 14 and 12 and lives in a detached house in Rivonia, a suburb of Johannesburg. The Heals love the country and are re- flected that elections have at last been held. Their former maid



ARREST: A protesting soldier is arrested by military police at the SA Infantry 21st Battalion in Lenasia yesterday after disgruntled soldiers were prevented from marching to Witwatersrand Army Command to present their demands. The soldiers are unhappy that their contracts will not be renewed due to cuts in defence spending.

Mutinuous troops march, demand to see Tokyo

ARG 24/2/98 (254)

□ *Told to return to base, or else*

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — More than 250 disgruntled soldiers from the 21 Infantry Battalion base near Lenasia, south of Johannesburg, marched on the Gauteng parliament today.

A soldier was injured yesterday when military police quelled a mid-day mutiny at the base.

But the march to present their demands to Premier Tokyo Sexwale bore no fruit as he was unavailable and the soldiers, more than 35 of them with private pistols, were ordered back to base to negotiate their grievances with their superiors.

The march came after all soldiers at the base failed to report for roll-call this morning.

Witwatersrand Army Command spokesman Marius Terblanche said the soldiers had until 4pm today to return to base or they would face disciplinary action.

Gauteng legislature spokesman Chris Vick said as the legislature had

no military competence it would try to facilitate a meeting with national Defence Minister Joe Modise to resolve the issue.

Forty soldiers were arrested yesterday during a 20-minute gun-battle when military police tried to encircle a group of chanting soldiers, some of whom drew their private pistols and started shooting.

Fourteen privately owned pistols were confiscated and the injured soldier was treated for a calf wound.

The shooting followed a stand-off after soldiers were prevented from leaving the base and marching to Witwatersrand Command to present a list of demands.

The soldiers have served three years each and their contracts expire at the end of next month.

They are demanding R30 000 each for the six years their contracts would have lasted if they had been renewed, according to a defence force system in which a contract is renewed every two years.

Soldiers fire on military police

(254)

CT 24/2/95

JOHANNESBURG — A Witwatersrand Command soldier was shot yesterday during a gunfight between soldiers and military police at the Lenasia military base near here

Col Neels Visser said the man was shot in a calf when "dissident" soldiers fired at military police who returned fire

About 200 soldiers gathered at the base yesterday to discuss labour grievances with the Officer Commanding, Lt-Col Andrew Topper

They later stormed out of discussions with Col Topper and headed for the unit's gates, Col Visser said

"Military police were called in to arrest this unruly element and to in-

stil military discipline and order" Dissident troops drew their own civilian firearms and fired at the approaching military police," Col Visser said

SANDF soldiers are prohibited from carrying private firearms at the base He said it appeared they hid the guns under their clothes

The labour dispute was over the renewal of soldiers' contracts, which expire at the end of March

Col Visser said the contracts of 500 soldiers would expire next month but, due to budget cuts, the SANDF could only renew the contracts of two-thirds of the men

Forty soldiers were arrested — 14 of whom were carrying guns — Sapa

Affirmative action name of the game

Big shots on way out at Armscor

NOV 25/2/95

(254)

ARMSCOR'S top whites will be retired at the end of the month to make way for affirmative action appointments . . . despite shortage of qualified blacks, writes BRENDAN SEERY.

THE winds of change are blowing through Armscor, with 23 long-serving employees — including members of senior management — set to go on early retirement at the end of this month to make way for affirmative action appointments.

At the top of the list of early retirees is foreign marketing chief and management board member Peet Smith, the man at the centre of the Cameron Commission inquiry into Armscor's deal to sell AK-47 and G3 automatic assault rifles to the Middle East.

He will take advantage of an early retirement incentive deal offered to employees in the corporation who are older than 55. Although Smith will finish his work on Tuesday, he will be employed on a temporary contract until the Cameron probe is completed. But his departure and those of others have nothing to do with a witch-hunt, according to Armscor's senior human resources manager, Jackie Kgare.

He told WeekendStar that the incentive offers — which were made to take effect before the end of the tax year at the end of the month and thereby save employees tens of thousands of rands in tax deductions — were part of a 10-year affirmative action programme. "The plan was approved by the Armscor board in November last year, before the Cameron Commission had started its hearings," he said.

The other top management board member to opt for early retirement is the board secretary, Johan Kruger.

Another senior man to leave on Tuesday is corporate communications executive Bertrand Retief. With eight years' service in Armscor, Retief was earlier this month called as a witness to the Cameron Commission. He testified that he issued press statements on the arms deal fiasco on the instructions of senior line managers — statements that were later proved to be inaccurate.

The early retirement offer was made to 38 of Armscor's 1 200 employees who are older than 55. Under its terms, the corporation agreed to pay the medical

aid and employers' pension fund contributions as if the retirement was effected at the normal age of 60.

Estimates were that, if all 38 employees aged 55 and over accepted, it would cost the corporation R4,5 million. However, the costs for the 23 people who had actually opted for the offer would be considerably less, said Kgare.

The departure of the 23 will "create space" in the employment structures of an organisation which has an unusually low staff turnover of around 3 percent, he said. The "chain of moves" would create vacancies at the "appropriate level" which could be filled by affirmative action candidates.

In demand elsewhere

Armscor's affirmative action programme aims at filling 70 percent of new permanent appointments with blacks — a figure almost achieved, said Kgare.

He said the affirmative action campaign had "come from within Armscor itself" and was not the result of any orders from Defence Minister Joe Modise, who has political responsibility for the company.

The biggest problem facing the corporation was in recruiting technically qualified black personnel, who were also in great demand in the private sector.

To help alleviate the shortage, Armscor has invested more than R1 million in a bursary scheme for black school-leavers who wish to take technically oriented degrees at university. On completion of their degrees, the bursary holders will be required to work for the corporation for a specified time.



Helderberg: 8 countries offer help

STAR 25/2/95

NORMAN CHANDLER (254)

MILITARY, civil aviation and radio communication experts in eight countries have agreed to help WeekendStar piece together the puzzle of the Helderberg crash.

The countries are the United States, Australia, Sweden, Switzerland, Mauritius, Kenya, the Seychelles, and Thailand. All have agreed to scour their libraries of taped conversations with flight crew to see if among them are any recordings of conversations with the captain of the SAA Boeing 747 before it crashed off Mauritius seven years ago.

In the hours before the crash, Captain Dawie Uys is known to have communicated with Bangkok (Thailand), Colombo (Sri Lanka), the Cocos Islands (Australia) and Mauritius. He should also have reported to Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), but there is no confirmation that he did so.

Also, according to aviation experts, any ZUR conversation would have been listened to, and recorded, at internationally operated listening posts in the immedi-

Anyone with information about the Helderberg is asked to please contact Norman Chandler on 082-455-2821 or David Allen on 082-450-2240 all hours. Confidentiality will be protected.

ate vicinity, particularly military and airport radios. Mauritius began recording cockpit conversations as the plane entered its airspace.

ZUR, more commonly known as Springbok radio, is the long-range shortwave link between SAA aircraft anywhere in the world and the airline's flight operations centre at Jan Smuts. There is supposed to be on-the-hour communication between planes and ZUR on the 8.933 kilohertz upper side-band frequency.

Many shortwave radio hams — enthusiasts who habitually tune in to such broadcasts — would also have been tuned in. It is understood that pilots of passenger aircraft in the vicinity that might also listened, but they have so far not responded to widespread appeals to contact WeekendStar.

WeekendStar asked for international assistance because of a claim that the ZUR tape, according to witnesses before the Justice Cecil Margo inquiry was convened, had "gone missing".

TO PAGE 2.

◆ Helderberg

(254)

STAR 25/2/95

AH Passarella, director of the Freedom of Information and Security Review, in the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defence in the United States, told the WeekendStar this week that he had enlisted the help of the US Navy in the search for the missing recording.

The WeekendStar had asked the Americans whether recordings had been made by the US military base on Diego Garcia, an Indian Ocean island on which the Americans maintain a sophisticated communications establishment.

Two radio communication networks in Europe are also helping. Radio Bern in Switzerland and Sweden's Radio Stockholm — both regarded as among the most powerful shortwave stations and listening posts in the world — have been going through their records and continuing to do so, Passarella told Weekend-

North Radio, the powerful Australian government aviation and shipping radio, is also going through its recordings, along with civil aviation authorities in Thailand,

the Seychelles and Mauritius.

WeekendStar has been given scanty details about what Captain Dawie Uys, the plane's commander, was telling SAA flight operations on the night of November 27/28 1987.

Since WeekendStar began publishing information about the crash, which appears to contradict the official accident inquiry, many people have contacted the paper to say they believed the ZUR tape had not been destroyed.

The accident inquiry found that the plane crashed as a result of a fire, but could not determine the source of ignition. WeekendStar has been told there were probably two fires, and that after the first, the plane's fire-fighting equipment had been inadequate to fight a second blaze.

The cause of the fires is not yet known, but suspicions are that rocket fuel was illegally placed aboard the aircraft before take off from Taipei, Taiwan, on a scheduled flight to Johannesburg. The plane crashed into the sea about 145 nautical miles north-east of Mauritius.

250 army mutineers dispersed

JOHANNESBURG — About 250 mutineers from 21 Infantry Battalion based at Lenasia, south-west of Johannesburg, assembled outside the office of Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale, demanding the release of arrested colleagues

They agreed to disperse yesterday after Witwatersrand Command spokesman Lieutenant Marius Terblanche told them to go back to base where talks would continue

He said the premier's office had nothing to do with military matters

Lieutenant Terblanche said staff in Mr Sexwale's office also advised the troops to raise their grievances with the Ministry of Defence

Later, he confirmed 40 mutineers were in military custody after a shoot-out with military police, which left scores injured, at the base on Thursday. He said their fate would be the subject of talks

Lieutenant Terblanche said one person was taken to hospital after the shooting, but mutineers said four of their colleagues had been critically wounded and taken to 1 Military Hos-

pital in Pretoria

Lieutenant Terblanche said the military was aware of only one injury, although individuals could have been bruised and cut in the fracas

The troops said they wanted to know who gave the order for military police to open fire during their "peaceful protest"

They demanded the payment of outstanding wages by March 15, an end to alleged racism and that a proposed truth commission should probe allegations of battalion murder squads

On Thursday, Witwatersrand Command spokesman Colonel Neels Visser said the mutineers opened fire on military police called to quell an unruly labour protest

After yesterday's protest, the troops returned to base where representatives met the officer commanding 21 Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Topper

Lieutenant Terblanche said talks would continue on Monday and that troops had left the base peacefully — Sapa

254
ARL 25/2/95

Weapons to assassinate opponents of apartheid

FW 'wasn't aware' of abuse

By Claire Keeton

Sowetan 27/2/95
DEPUTY President FW de Klerk was not aware of any detailed abuse of chemical and biological weapons against apartheid opponents, his spokesman Mr Frik Schoombee said yesterday (254)

"He has no information of specific abuse, though he has heard of financial irregularities," said Schoombee. "The Government of National Unity will investigate any substantial

information or allegations of abuse that are brought to its attention"

Responding to reports that the British and US governments are trying to pressure South Africa into destroying this research, he confirmed "the present and previous South African administrations" had held discussions with them.

President Nelson Mandela's spokesman, Mr Parks Mankahlana, said yesterday he knew nothing of the programme or its alleged abuse "I cannot comment," he said

In January 1993, all substances pertaining to the chemical and biological warfare programme in South Africa were destroyed. Earlier in January, orders had been issued that the whole project be terminated.

In March 1990, the then-President De Klerk was fully briefed on the extent of the programme and the process of privatisation which had already begun

He indicated at that time that future research should be confined to non-lethal incapacitators and irritants.

NEWS SA used chemical and biological weapons to assassinate opponents of apartheid

US accuses De Klerk's regime

By Alan Robinson

Sowetan 27/2/95
LONDON — The government of FW de Klerk has been accused by top US officials of using chemical and biological weapons to assassinate opponents of apartheid.

And, the Americans believe, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya is now trying to recruit the South African scientists who developed the weapons programme.

There is concern in Washington that the lethal devices could end up in the hands of the world's most feared "terrorist regime". The Clinton administration is said to be pressing President Nelson Mandela to destroy the weapons and the means to make them.

But US officials fear that Mandela could be meeting with some resistance from the military establishment unwilling to abandon their biological armoury.

Senior officials and sources in the Central Intelligence Agency are adamant that the programme was developed by Pretoria's defence ministry to assassinate opponents of the apartheid regime.

A Pentagon spokesman said "It was a shocking and disgusting episode. The fact that a chemical and biological weapons programme was operating is simply incontestable."

There is bound to be enormous pressure on the former government to come clean and to reveal just how far up knowledge and approval of the scheme went.

In a front-page report yesterday, James Adams, Washington correspondent of the *London Sunday Times*, says both Britain and America are trying to persuade South Africa to destroy the weapons and research documents.

Intelligence reports reaching London and Washington confirm that Gaddafi is trying to recruit the scientists who developed them.

Adams writes "Although production of the weapons by South Africa has now ceased, President Nelson Mandela has been unable, despite repeated requests, to persuade his military to relinquish the blueprint which now risks falling into the hands of states such as Libya."

Adams says America's concern is so great that the White House has sent a special emissary to South Africa to persuade the Government to take action against the military, which, he says, has run the top-secret programme for 10 years.

"Both biological and chemical weapons were used as part of an extensive campaign of assassination against opponents of apartheid at home and abroad."

On April 23 1989 Frank Chikane then

general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, was taken ill on his way to Namibia. He suffered vomiting, diarrhoea and was unable to walk.

A few days later, he travelled to America for talks with President George Bush and congressional leaders.

"Within hours, he fell seriously ill again."

Later investigations, says Adams, revealed that Chikane's suitcase and clothes had been deliberately infected with a toxin that he had either breathed or absorbed through his skin.

"The CIA believes that in the same year Thami Zulu, one of the ANC's most effective guerrilla fighters, was fed poison by a South African agent working against the ANC in Lusaka."

Other ANC officials in Zambia and Mozambique are also believed to have been attacked as part of the campaign.

A senior American intelligence officer told the *Sunday Times* "It was an extensive effort. And we still do not know how effective it was as some of the deaths looked as if the people were ill with everyday sicknesses."

Exactly who authorised the secret biological weapons programme is not known to Western intelligence, though, says Adams, "it is thought to have been officially sanctioned and funded."

"For the past few months, American intelligence has tracked Gaddafi's agents around the world, listening to telephone conversations involving efforts to recruit the South Africans."

"The diplomatic effort to get South Africa to destroy its research have been shrouded in secrecy, in part because the intelligence effort is at a sensitive stage and also because of worries that evidence of Mandela's inability to control his military could undermine his fragile political control."

A Foreign Office official is quoted as saying "Mandela is on the side of the angels on this one."

But there appears to be a limit as to what he can actually do."

According to Adams "Princeton Lyman, the American ambassador to South Africa, and Sir Anthony Reeve, his British counterpart, have both been directly involved in discussions on the subject with senior South African officials."

"President Bill Clinton plans to send Don Mahley, deputy assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, to South Africa shortly to resolve the crisis. Mahley had planned to go earlier this month but the trip was postponed amid concerns that the news of his visit might leak and embarrass Mandela."

FW 'wasn't aware' of abuse

By Claire Keeton

Sowetan 27/2/95
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PROMOTION VALID FROM FEB. 24—MARCH 4 1995

CHARLIE PARKERS	REVLON Relaxers Reg, Mild or Super 450 g 17⁹⁹ each	SPECIAL FEELING Gel, Spray, Cream or Super Soft 250 ml 9⁹⁹ each	CURLING TONGS 2 per customer 9⁹⁹
	PLASTIC TAIL COMBS 39 ^c each	EARBUDS 100s 99^c	LUSTERS Pink Oil Moisturiser 16 oz 16⁹⁹
	T.C.B. Twinpack 200/200 ml 9⁹⁹	PRINCIPAL Oil Moisturiser 250 ml 6⁹⁹	HODISA MORIRI 175 g 3²⁹
	HOLLYWOOD L & S Twinpack 200/200 ml 7⁹⁹	REVLON S/LOOK Relaxer 2 lit 39⁹⁹	CHARLIE PARKERS Twinpack 200/200 ml 7⁹⁹
	CAPES	DARK & LOVELY Reg or Plus KITS	AQUAMARINE SHAMPOO 350 ml

Libya wants SA chemical weapons experts — US claim

German Warfare Scandal

(254) 4/27/2195

DE KLERK'S
government accused
of using chemicals to
kill opponents of
apartheid

BY ALAN ROBINSON

London — The previous SA government, led by F.W. de Klerk, is accused by top US officials of using chemical and biological weapons to assassinate and disable opponents of apartheid.

And the Americans now believe Libya's Colonel Muammar Gaddafi is trying to recruit the South African scientists who developed the weapons programme.

President Clinton and the British government are reported to be pressuring South Africa to destroy the weapons and the means to make them.

Apart from international embargoes on such weapons, there is the deepest concern in Washington about the lethal devices ending up in the control of a Libyan regime that has been linked with terrorism in the past.

But US officials fear President Mandela could be meeting resistance from a South African military establishment unwilling to abandon its biological armory.

A spokesman said just night that De Klerk was not aware of any use of chemical and biological weapons against opponents of apartheid during his administration.

He has no information of specific abuses, though he has heard of financial irregularities," said Pirk Schoonbee.

"The Government of National Unity will investigate any substantial information or allegations of abuse that are brought to its attention."



Poisoned . Frank Chikane



Recruiting Gaddafi

He confirmed that "the present and previous South African administrations" had held discussions with the UK and US governments about ending the arms embargo.

In a front-page story yesterday, the London Sunday Times said the secret chemical weapons programme began in the mid-1980s.

"Not content with the chemical weapons that had been used in Namibia and Angola, the government wanted a new form of terror to use on the op-

position, or in the event of a civil war.

The newspaper went on "On April 23 1989, Frank Chikane, the general secretary of the South African 'Rain Churches, was taken away to Niamey."

He suffered vomiting, dizziness and was unable to walk. A few days later, he travelled to America for talks with (then) president George Bush.

Within hours, he fell seriously ill again and later investigations revealed Chikane's suitcase and clothes had been deliberately infected with a toxin he had either breathed or absorbed through his skin.

"The CIA believes that in the same year Thant Zulu, one of the ANC's most effective guerrilla fighters, was fed poison by a South African agent working against the ANC in Lusaka."

"Other ANC officials in Zambia and Mozambique are also believed to have been attacked as part of the campaign."

A Pentagon spokesman said, "It was a shocking and disgusting episode."

"The fact that a chemical and biological weapons programme was operating is simply uncontested."

There is now bound to be pressure on the former SA government to reveal just how high up in government knowledge and approval of the covert scheme went.

The Sunday Times said, "Although production of the weapons by South Africa has now ceased, President Nelson Mandela has been unable, despite repeated requests, to persuade his military to relinquish the blueprint which now risks falling into the hands of states such as Libya."

American's concern was so

Within inches of his life



German war scandal

From Page 1 (254)

great that this White House had sent a special emissary to South Africa to persuade the Government to take action against the military, the newspaper claimed.

"A sign of the concern in Washington, last week was a meeting called by Leon Panetta, the White House chief of staff, to discuss the issue."

A Pentagon source said "With BW (biological weapons) it's not enough just to stop making the stuff because you only need a small laboratory, and you tend to make it to order."

"We must know that all the records have been destroyed or there is always the risk it could be started again or the knowledge sold on to a willing buyer, like the Libyans."

Exactly who authorised the secret biological weapons programme is not known to Western intelligence, though, "it is thought to have been officially sanctioned and funded", said the Sunday Times.

A Foreign Office official was

quoted as saying "Mandela is on the side of the angels on this one. But there appears to be a limit as to what he can do."

According to the Sunday Times, President Clinton planned to send Don Mahley, deputy assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, to South Africa shortly.

The Star's Defence Correspondent Norman Chandler writes that the US claims have come at a time when Mandela's Government is at the forefront of world efforts to eradicate chemical and biological weapons.

US boxer 'critical' after bout

London — American boxer Gerald McClellan was in an "extremely critical" condition in hospital yesterday after he was knocked out in the 10th round of a savage fight against Britain's Nigel Benn for the WBC super-middleweight title.

Surgeons operated to remove a blood clot from the brain, and McClellan was then attached to a life-support machine.

The ferocity of the fight also took its toll on Benn, the winner. He went to the same hospital as McClellan to check on his own injuries.

"I'm in a lot of pain myself," he said. "I have never been like this before. I feel battered from pillar to post."

A British safety official called for the sport to be banned, saying it was bad for boxers and a bad influence on children.

James Iye, director-general of the British Safety Council, said the fight had been an especially vicious one.

"Every time a blow is struck, the brain cracks against the inside of the hard skull, and it has the effect of numbing the brain or causing permanent brain damage."

"I've said he would ask the government to ban 'this so-called sport'."

John Sutcliffe, the neurosurgeon who operated on McClellan, said, "His brain was quite swollen; how we would expect a brain to look after it's been punched for 10 rounds."

— Sapa-Reuter

▶ To Page 3

Joe Modise downplays security talks

PRETORIA. — Defence Minister Joe Modise downplayed a security chiefs' meeting with President Mandela today, saying talks had focused on crime in Gauteng and other trouble spots, rather than on unrest in KwaZulu-Natal.

Mr Modise — who left the Union Buildings about 10.20 am after the breakfast meeting with Mr Mandela, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, Deputy Intelligence Minister Joe Nhlanhla and Deputy President F W de Klerk — told reporters KwaZulu-Natal had not topped the agenda. (254)

"We were discussing the question of crime in general, particularly the areas where the level (of violence) is unacceptable such as Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Cape Peninsula," he said. ARCT 27/2/95

New police commissioner George Fivaz, who left the meeting first, said the chiefs had decided to take "very specific steps" to ensure security in KwaZulu-Natal province.

There has been concern that violence could escalate in KwaZulu-Natal following Inkatha's walkout from parliament in support of its demands for international mediation on the constitution — Reuter

Deal on access to prisoners

CT 28/2/95 (254)

PRETORIA. — The government and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) yesterday signed an agreement on access to detainees in South African police cells, a joint statement by Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi and the ICRC here said.

They said the agreement took into account legislative changes, including the repeal of certain

sections of the Internal Security Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Act and the Public Safety Act

It also provided for the ICRC to be notified and to have access to people held under a state of emergency in terms of section 34 of the constitution

The agreement was signed by Mr Mufamadi and ICRC head of

delegation Mr Vincent Nicod. It had the approval of President Nelson Mandela and Deputy Presidents Thabo Mbeki and F W de Klerk, the statement added.

Mr Mufamadi said the accord signified the commitment of the SA Police Service to transparency and accountability and would promote the culture of human rights in the service. — Sapa

NEWS President agrees not to destroy research into chemical and biological warfare

Mandela briefed on weapons

Sowetan Correspondent

BIOLOGICAL ARMAMENTS

Developed for defensive purposes:

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has been fully briefed on South Africa's top-secret research into chemical and biological warfare and has agreed not to destroy the research

Lieutenant-General Niel Knobel, who heads the SA National Defence Force's medical services, said yesterday that while chemical and biological weapons projects have been terminated, the scientific records of the research still gave South Africa the capability to manufacture chemical and biological weapons

However, he said at a media conference in Verwoerdburg, the capability had been developed for defensive purposes and no offensive weapons have ever been built

Mandela's spokesman, Mr Joel Netshunzhe, confirmed that the president has been briefed on "all activities of the past government, including activities which may have a bearing on this matter"

He would not confirm or deny whether Mandela has given the go-ahead for the scientific research records to be retained, but says there is "a difference between paper and actual weapons"

Reaching to reports that Mandela has been unable to persuade the military to relinquish the scientific research, Knobel said the president has been fully briefed on the project and has agreed not to destroy the research

He accused them of being jealous of what South Africa has achieved. "This campaign is part of jealousy of a project and capability which is second to none in the world," he said

"President Mandela was totally informed of this project and agreed not to destroy our research and to maintain our defensive capability"

Knobel said it was "arrogant" of the US to tell South Africa to destroy its research "The United States and United Kingdom have not ratified the new Chemical Convention and yet they want us to destroy our research. What about them?"

He also said it was impossible for information gained during the research project — started in the late 70s — to leak out to another country

"The security of the project was such that there was never a risk of information leaking out. Very few scientists had knowledge of the whole project"

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Chemical weapons 'for defence'

(254) B0 28/2/95

MARK AGHERET

SA HAD not developed offensive chemical weapons but possessed an arsenal of defensive equipment that was "the envy of the world", SA National Defence Force surgeon-general Neil Knobel said yesterday.

By 1988, SA had "total defensive capacity against all known chemical agents" and had abandoned its covert research in the field. President Nelson Mandela was committed to maintaining this capacity and records of research conducted by covert companies on behalf of the SADF.

He was responding to allegations in the London Sunday Times that the US defence establishment believed Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi was trying to recruit SA scientists to develop chemical weapons.

It also alleged government had sanctioned the use of chemical poisons against

anti-apartheid activists, and claimed Mandela was unable to persuade military intelligence to release or destroy its "blueprint" for chemical weaponry.

Defence analyst Helmoed Romer-Heitman said it was unlikely SA had offensive chemical weaponry because SADF equipment was not gas-proofed.

"There is absolutely no truth in anything that has been said," Knobel claimed. Mandela had been "totally informed" about the SANDF's chemical capacity. The offensive agents used in developing this capacity had been destroyed in 1993.

Presidential spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe rejected suggestions that government was not in control.

SANDEF denies US claims

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Star 28/2/95

Germ war equipment 'for defence'

■ BY HELEN GRANGE

The SA National Defence Force has admitted it developed chemical warfare equipment, but said it was only to protect soldiers attacked with chemical or biological weapons.

The military was responding to American accusations, published in *The Star* yesterday, that F W de Klerk's government had used chemical weapons against its political foes, poisoning people like Frank Chikane while he was general secretary of the SA Council of Churches.

The SANDEF said yesterday a defensive chemical and biological programme had been "terminated" in 1993. It had included gas masks, air filters, "detoxification measures" and agents which prevented virulent infection. No chemical weapons were made which could be used to attack other armies.

At a media briefing on the American claims, published in the *London Sunday Times*, surgeon-general Lieutenant-General Dr Niel Knobel, of the South African Medical Services, said the claim was a "blatant lie".

"It is true we had a defensive chemical and biological programme which was started in the late 1970s and terminated in 1993...

"We are proud of our highly sophisticated scientific research and development in this field. But we have never had an offensive capability," he said.

An offensive capability meant having chemical weapons and systems which could deliver them to the enemy.

"All the lethal and incapacitating agents which were part of the programme were destroyed, and the covert companies established to assist were privatised, but the Government has decided to maintain its defensive capability," Knobel said.

The programme, which involved South Africa's top scientists, was wound down because of the reduction of the threat of conflict between South Africa and the Frontline states, Knobel said.

Also, South Africa was a signatory to the World Biological and Chemical Non-Proliferation Conventions.

Responding to the US officials' belief that Libyan Colonel Muammar Gaddafi was trying to recruit South African scientists involved in developing a chemical and biological weapons programme, Knobel said the scientists used were involved in "minutiae" and did not have the overall picture.

On the claim that Frank Chikane had been contaminated with a poison during a trip to Namibia in 1989, Knobel commented "I reject this as absolute nonsense, as I do the claims regarding other personalities."

Western countries, he said, were jealous of South Africa's defensive capability.

Incident had racial overtones

Army clashes: probes set up

LABOUR REPORTER

The army has launched investigations into two separate incidents of violence at its bases last week — one of which had racial overtones and led to the death of a soldier.

The first investigation, instituted independently by police and the army, is into an incident in which a soldier was killed and another injured at the Schmidtsdrif base near Kimberley.

Army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Brian du Toit said yesterday an internal investigation into the incident, which former MK members based at the camp allege has divided the camp along racial lines, could be concluded by the end of the week.

In the incident on February 21, Corporal D D May of Mdantsane, East London, died and Corporal X Haya sustained serious injuries.

The soldiers allege that the death of the black corporal came

after a white officer was hit on the head with a stone

In retaliation, the officers allegedly called a meeting of the more than 300 ex-Apla and MK soldiers and surrounded them with trucks whose lights were shone into their eyes

The soldiers were asked to point out the soldier responsible for hitting the white soldier with a stone. One of the army vehicles had then ploughed into the group of soldiers, killing one and injuring the other.

Meanwhile, 40 soldiers arrested at 21 Infantry Battalion base at Lenz following a protest in which one soldier was shot in the calf, were released on Friday.

Their fate will be decided after the release of the findings of the board of inquiry set up to investigate the matter.

The soldiers were demanding R30 000 each in back pay for time served in the army.

Star 28/2/95

(254)

US, SA ties: Armscor indictment cannot be separated, says Mbeki

Star 28/2/95 (2511)



Thabo Mbeki . . . will briefly meet President Clinton.

■ BY PETER FABRICIUS
STAR BUREAU

New York — Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said in New York yesterday that South Africa's relations with the US could not be normalised until the two governments resolved the problem of a US indictment against Armscor for allegedly violating the US arms embargo in the 1980s.

Mbeki made clear in an interview that the SA and US governments still had important differences of opinion about how to resolve the problem which has dragged on for three years.

He said he would probably discuss it with US President Bill Clinton's national security adviser Anthony Lake tomorrow.

The main purpose of Mbeki's US visit is to launch a bina-

tional US/SA Commission tomorrow with US Vice President Al Gore which will strengthen US/SA relations in commerce, technology, education and other fields.

Mbeki said yesterday that the SA Government did not believe the Armscor case could be handled purely as a legal matter — which the US government has insisted all along.

The basic facts of the complex case are that Armscor and some affiliate companies have been charged with breaking US arms export control laws for allegedly buying bomb fuses and other weaponry from a Philadelphia company, ISC.

The US courts want seven former Armscor employees to testify in the trial of an ISC employee charged in the same case,

to impose fines on Armscor and its affiliates totalling about R81 million and to establish a compliance programme to ensure that US arms technology exported to SA is only used for approved purposes.

Mbeki said yesterday that the case could not be regarded as purely legal because if the Armscor employees testified in the US, they would have to be indemnified against breaking official secrets laws in SA, which only the Government could do.

And if the US court decided that US government officials should come to SA to carry out the compliance programme, that would also be a political matter which the SA Government should have a say in.

"If US government officials come to South Africa to carry

out audits, it's not a business delegation visiting us, it's a (US) State Department issue."

He said it was an "admitted fact" that SA corporations had violated US legislation and SA was ready "to some extent" to take the consequences of that "wrong-doing".

Mbeki said it was important to resolve the issue quickly or a whole range of SA corporations would be denied access to US defence technology. The US could also impose sanctions on non-US companies that supplied embargoed products to SA.

"There is no way you can insulate this from the rest of US/SA relations. You can't say everything else is normal except for this little corner. It would affect bilateral relations."



Al Gore . . . US vice-president will receive Mbeki.

'Racial' incidents probed

Sowetan 28/2/95
(254)

Sowetan Correspondent

THE army and police are investigating a series of incidents with racial overtones at the Discobolus and Schmidtsdrif bases near Kimberley.

An army spokesman said an internal investigation into two incidents at the two bases was expected to be completed by the end of the week. The South African Police Services have already started an investigation after two corporals were struck by a vehicle on February 21 at Schmidtsdrif.

Corporal DD May of Mdantsane, East London, died and Corporal X Haya, who sustained serious injuries, is being treated at 3 Military Hospital in Bloemfontein. The incident was sparked off by another incident while soldiers from Discobolus were on a course at Schmidtsdrif.

A stone, apparently thrown by one of the former non-statutory members now incorporated into the South African National Defence Force, hit a white soldier on the head. The soldier required stitches to the wound. A group of officers called a meeting of the about 300 former non-statutory members at Schmidtsdrif, where they are undergoing bridging courses, and demanded that the stone-thrower be pointed out. During this operation the group was apparently encircled by military vehicles and during this one of the vehicles struck the two corporals.

Union demands defence force recognition

Staff Reporter

254 (254)
THE National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union has embarked on a programme of mass action in sup-

port of their demand for recognition in the South African National Defence Force.

Regional chairman Wilfred Alcock said they condemned

the refusal by chief of the force Georg Meiring to grant recognition to the union.

"This denial is a breach of our rights under the new constitution."

APLT 28/2/95

Armcor official saw no dishonesty in deal

BD 28/2/95

(254)

AN Armcor marketing official told the Cameron commission yesterday he never at any stage had reason to believe his subordinate at the centre of last year's aborted AK-47 shipment to the Middle East was dishonest.

Brig Anthony Savides was recalled yesterday to answer questions arising from evidence given since his initial testimony earlier this year.

Savides said in the absence of any reasons for doubt he had accepted the honesty, integrity and competence of his marketing staff, including Marius Vermaak who negotiated the deal with arms dealer Eli Wazan.

The consignment of surplus SA Defence Force AK-47 stock was sold in two batches by Armcor via Wazan, purportedly on the understanding that the weapons were destined for the Christian Militia in Lebanon.

According to evidence before the commission, however, neither the first shipment, which left Port Elizabeth in October 1993, nor the second one which left the same port last September, ever went to Lebanon.

Vermaak himself reported to his superiors in January last year that

SUSAN RUSSELL

the first AK-47 shipment was distributed to men loyal to self-styled Saudi Arabian Prince Anwar al-Shalaan in Jordan after Lebanon rejected it.

The second shipment was turned back at the Yemen port of Hodeidah last September. Meanwhile al-Shalaan submitted a statement saying he was the end purchaser of both shipments and they were to be sold in Yemen.

Armcor contends it believed the arms were going to Lebanon. Savides denied he was party to a conspiracy involving Armcor officials and Wazan to defraud al-Shalaan.

He also denied that Armcor marketing officials deliberately failed to reveal the actual destination of the first shipment in a report of the matter given to SA Defence Minister Joe Modise after details of the second shipment became public.

The report submitted to the Minister by Armcor marketing GM Peet Smit did not disclose that instead of going to its intended destination, the first shipment of AK-47s had apparently been distributed in Jordan.

7 000 already in training (254) *1/3/95*

Seven thousand of the 12 500 non-statutory armed force members assembled for integration into the SANDF had received their letters of appointment and were in training by February 15, the defence force reported yesterday — Sapa.

Troops with no aptitude SANDF headache

CAPE TOWN — About 600 former Umkhonto we Sizwe and Apla troops had failed aptitude tests, barring their integration into the SA National Defence Force, Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils said yesterday.

He told the parliamentary joint standing committee on defence the military hierarchy was unsure what to do with them, suggesting the decision had taken on a political dimension. He appealed to the committee to help find a solution.

The possibility of transferring the troops into a proposed service brigade had been

ADRIAN HADLAND

mooted, but it was unclear whether they would accept this, Kasrils said.

The highest ranking former MK officer in the SANDF, Lt-Gen Sphiwe Nyanda, said soldiers who had not been able to provide educational certificates had undergone basic aptitude tests. Those who scored one or two out of nine were ineligible for integration as "it would be very difficult for them to make it through the bridging programme".

Further problems had been experienced

(254) BD 1/3/95
concerning what to do with former MK and Apla soldiers who were over 50, as some were "old and infirm", Nyanda said.

Integration had otherwise been progressing reasonably well. Discipline had been restored at the Wallmannstal assembly camp where facilities had been improved. Of the 12 500 soldiers who had been through the Wallmannstal and De Brug camps, 7 000 had been integrated into the SANDF while the rest were still in training or undergoing evaluation. About 31 000 former non-statutory forces would eventually be integrated into the SANDF, he said.

Navy ships will boost economy by R7bn

254

BD 11/3/95

CAPE TOWN — The purchase of four patrol corvettes worth R1,69bn would stimulate SA's economy, provide jobs, contribute to the reconstruction and development programme and protect and promote SA's substantial maritime interests, the chief of the navy told Parliament yesterday.

Addressing the joint standing committee on defence, Vice-Adm Robert Simpson-Anderson said the proposed purchase, which would ensure the survival of the navy, could generate up to R7bn in economic activity in SA and create up to 23 000 jobs over the next 30 years.

The cost of the four vessels would be far outweighed by the "tremendous boost" the deal would have on the economy, he said.

The ships' peace-time functions would be extremely important, including protecting SA's maritime resources, assistance in environmental and other disasters at sea, support for international peace-keeping operations and the enhancement of regional co-operation

SA's fishing industry, which was

ADRIAN HADLAND

worth R1,3bn in 1993, needed protection from the fishing factory trawlers which plundered SA and regional waters, Simpson-Anderson said.

The navy also had a role to play in controlling environmental damage.

Budget permitting, each of SA's new corvettes would carry oil-spill fighting materials.

The corvettes' wartime capabilities included reconnaissance, the clearing and laying of mines, the destruction of hostile warships and submarines, transport of troops and equipment, and protection of trade routes and ports.

SA National Defence Force chief Gen Georg Meiring, Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils and several MPs supported the purchase.

Kasrils said while the Cabinet would need persuading, the fact remained that SA needed a navy.

The navy is expected to choose within two weeks whether British shipyard Yarrow or Spain's Bazan would be the preferred suppliers.

POLITICS Accusations and denial swirl around controversial leader's head

Sexual abuse in army

save for 1/3/95

(254)
[Signature]

By Vuyo Bavuma
Political Reporter

THE South African National Defence Force has ordered women recruits to train separately because of sexual abuse problems in the army, General Siphivwe Nyanda said yesterday.

Addressing a parliamentary joint standing committee on defence, Nyanda said authorities quickly processed the women and sent them for training to different camps to avoid this

problem.

In the past, women have complained of sexual abuse while waiting to be placed. Nyanda said that despite this issue the behaviour had improved significantly at camps with few disciplinary hearings being held.

On February 15, 12 500 members from the PAC's Azanian People's Liberation Army and the ANC's Umkhonto we Sizwe, including 996 officers, were integrated into the SANDF.

This includes 90 in the air force, 270 in the navy and 550 in the medical ser-

ices. Top officers integrated include two lieutenant-generals, nine major-generals and 37 colonels.

Nyanda said authorities recently took steps to solve problems at the camps. These included supplying tents with floors and furniture, installing lighting and providing beds.

Communication between soldiers and authorities was also reported to have improved. However, the SANDF still faced the problem of recruits over the age of 50 years and some soldiers complained of not getting their salaries

Nehawu dispute with navy goes on

Labour Reporter

THE National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) has vowed to continue its struggle for recognition by the South African National Defence Force in spite of the military claiming the union was not complying with prescribed procedures (254)

Yesterday, SANDF liaison officer John Rolt said the defence force had negotiated with Nehawu in good faith (254)

Nehawu's intended march on the Simon's Town dockyard next week was "not conducive to the promotion of sound labour relations and good faith bargaining", Colonel Rolt said

The defence force was impartial in its dealings with employee organisations as long as they acted within the limits of

the Labour Relations Act for the Public Service

Colonel Rolt said Nehawu's Western Cape branch was in contravention of an agreement reached at national level that all negotiations pending recognition should be conducted at national level

But Nehawu regional chairman Wilfred Alcock accused the military of "making it extremely difficult" to be granted recognition.

An interim agreement brokered with Simon's Town Naval Dockyard had been scrapped "unilaterally" by the navy

Mr Alcock said the navy had refused to negotiate with the union at Simon's Town in spite of the union having signed up about 600 members.

ARC 2/3/95

In any case, it was preferable to negotiate grievances emanating from Simon's Town with the navy in Simon's Town rather than with SANDF headquarters in Pretoria

Mr Alcock said the planned march to the naval base next Tuesday would proceed, and Nehawu members from various sectors would march with the dockyard workers in solidarity

"We will continue to expose corruption, nepotism, racism, mismanagement and maladministration in the Public Service at places such as the naval base and Ysterplaat," he said

● Six union members arrested for holding an illegal gathering at the Ysterplaat airbase last November had their cases dismissed this week.

Pregnant soldiers (254) pause on unpaid leave

ARG 2/3/95

Political Staff

PREGNANT soldiers based at Wallmansthal, awaiting integration into the national defence force, have been given unpaid leave pending a decision on whether they will be paid.

The 13 soldiers concerned do not have letters of appointment, but the defence force will ask the public service commission to pay them, says Siphwe Nyanda, who is co-ordinating the integration of Umkhonto we Sizwe and other armed forces into the national defence force.

Briefing the parliamentary joint standing committee on defence, General Nyanda said original reports that 113 women at the base were pregnant were incorrect.

SA set to join world pact banning chemical weapons

Political Correspondent

SOUTH Africa is poised to join an international convention banning manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons

But domestic policy on conventional weapons control has yet to be finalised

Ratification of a global treaty that bans chemical weapons, given the nod by the cabinet yesterday, will be put to parliament

The cabinet has set up a committee of ministers to draft policy on conventional arms control, including guidelines for import and export of weapons.

On the committee will be the ministries of defence, trade and industry, arts, culture, science and technology, foreign affairs, finance, and the ministry in charge of the Reconstruction and Development Programme

Cabinet secretary Jakes Gerwel said factors that would be taken into account in devising conventional weapons policy would be ethical and political considerations, as well as the industrial and economic aspects

The cabinet gave the go-ahead for the much-awaited "civilianisation" of the defence force

Restructuring of the political and military command structure of South Africa's armed forces will see the setting up of separate offices of the Minister of Defence, a civilian Defence Secretary, and the Chief of the National Defence Force.

Mr Gerwel said forms of control appropriate to a democratic society were still being discussed.

Another unresolved issue was whether trade unionism would be allowed in the defence force

ARG 2/3/95 (254)
Influencing any decision would be the need for operational efficiency and discipline and the constitutional right to freedom of association

An appropriate form of grievance and conflict resolution for soldiers would have to be found, Dr Gerwel said

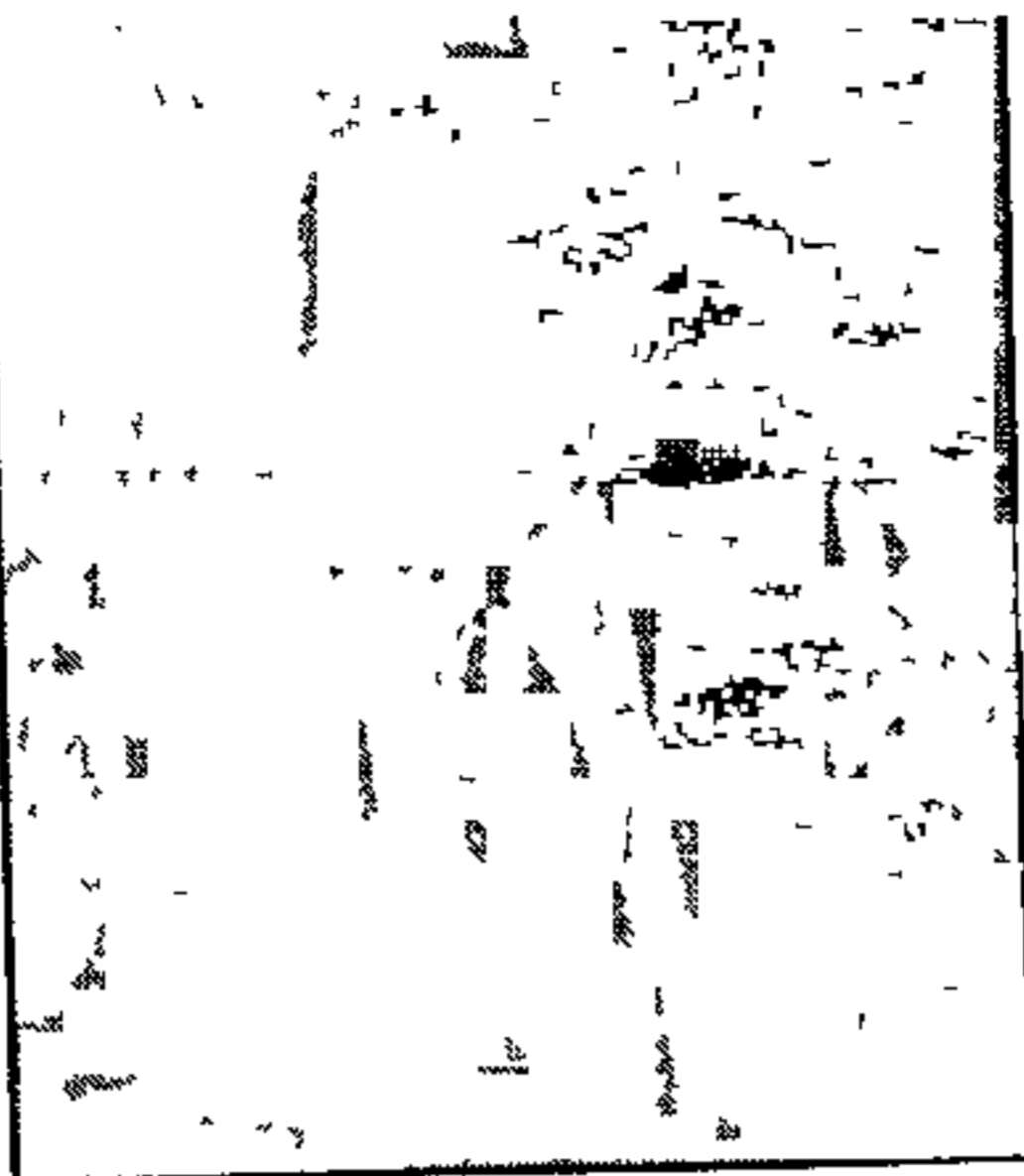
● The process of restructuring government bodies to make them more representative continued with cabinet approval for changes to the Roads Board and the Tobacco Board.

Restructuring legislation will be put to parliament

● September will be Transport Month, Transport Minister Mac Maharaj announced

The campaign will involve making people aware of various issues relating to transport

● New passports are to be designed after cabinet approval of a proposal by Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi



Joe Modise

Calm at SANDF base

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Sawetans
2/9/85

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

THE upheavals in the integration process of non-statutory forces into the new South African National Defence Force at Wallmannstal appears to have subsided.

Most of the troops, especially those from Umkhonto we Sizwe, that had caused disruptions in the integration process at the base last year, have returned to base and accepted the disciplinary code and measures of the SANDF, Minister of Defence Mr Joe Modise has said.

Those who returned after the deadline given by President Nelson Mandela and Modise appealed against their impending dismissals for returning late.

"Most of the members who appealed showed a sincere desire to remain in the SANDF (and) since the return of these soldiers they have shown a repentance and a new sense of discipline.

In the light of this it was decided that it would not be in the interest of the country to expel these members.

"The Minister of Defence has therefore instructed the Chief of the National Defence Force to take disciplinary actions against all those who failed to meet the deadline but nevertheless returned to Wallmannstal to continue their military careers," the minister said in response to a question in Parliament this week.

Modise also said the expelled members were not on the payroll of the SANDF. The question in Parliament was asked by Senator Phillip Powell of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

POLITICS SANDF men's alleged murder of IFP man is being investigated

Murder charge for army men probed

By Ismail Lagardien

THE Ministry of Defence has confirmed that the police are investigating possible murder charges against an undisclosed number of South African National Defence Force members.

Dr. DAS Herbst of the Ministry of Defence confirmed that the investigation, linked to the death of Inkatha

Freedom Party regional secretary for Hlanganani Mr Thulani Ernest Ndlovu, was still *sub judice* and that no further details could, therefore, be made available. Minister of Defence Mr Joe Modise said on Tuesday in response to a question from IFP Senator Phillip Powell that since the matter was *sub judice*, no departmental action had been taken against the SANDF members in question.

Powell asked whether any departmental action had been taken against the SANDF members linked to the murder of Ndlovu at Impendle, on about November 26 last year and, whether the SANDF had a policy "relating to the continued employment of members found guilty of human rights abuses". Modise said that "the continued service of any member found guilty of an offence, including human rights viola-

tions" would come under review. "The nature and severity of the offence determines the future of the member. I can only reiterate the President's sentiments and give my assurance that members who abuse human rights will be dealt with most severely," Modise said. "Because of the *sub judice* provisions, no further details are available in response to a separate question

also from Powell, Modise confirmed that an interim military report had been submitted to him after an alleged assault and torture investigation against other SANDF members.

It is alleged that the soldiers assaulted and tortured ten youths near the Loskop police station at Mandweni in KwaZulu-Natal in January this year.

No disciplinary action has been taken yet

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sowetan 2/3/95

Armcor boss denies bungling

(254) CT 2/3/95

JOHANNESBURG — Armcor arms reserves manager Mr Marius Vermaak yesterday denied he had failed in his management duties by his apparent lack of knowledge of the financial records of the marketing department

He was being cross-examined by Armcor lawyer Mr Stephan van Nieuwenhuizen

Mr Vermaak said he had not had time to go through the details of the reports and had delegated the task to a Mr

Steve Zaaiman.

Mr Van Nieuwenhuizen said he had created a picture of a marketing department that had "recklessly gone ahead with projects"

Mr Vermaak said if there had been a financial manager in his department, shortcomings would have been brought to his attention

He again declined to answer questions that could incriminate him, especially about the consignment of AK-47s to Yemen — Sapa

pass in debates, a source said.

Call for transparency on nuclear safety issues

BD 2/3/95
254

A CALL has been made for greater public participation, transparency and accountability in nuclear safety.

Speaking at an international conference on radiation protection in the mining and minerals processing industries, Anglo American's labour law unit legal adviser Caspir Lötter said a new model for radiation protection should be implemented that would reflect the ideals of the constitution and a changing society.

He argued that the Council for Nuclear Safety, which was empowered to safeguard "persons against nuclear damage (and) to regulate and exercise control through the issue of nuclear licenses" should be restructured to allow for this.

Radiation protection was an issue "of an acceptance of risk by society in exchange for benefit", therefore, society should ultimately decide.

The council should not see itself as the "sole custodian of value judgments on behalf of society in issues of radiation protection".

Certain constitutional rights would encroach on radiation protection, he said. Rights such as the right to life, the right to access to information, the right to an environment which was not detrimental to a person's health or well-being would impact on the functioning of the council.

"The search is for a model of radiation protection which allows for public participation, transparency and accountability but nevertheless provides for effective radiation protection management," he said.

The Nuclear Energy Act of 1993 provided for the establishment of the council, which was empowered to exercise "discretion" in the construction of nuclear installations and the discarding of radioactive waste, he noted. It would also advise the Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister on incidents relating to nuclear damage or issues referred by the Minister.

In terms of the Act, council members were appointed by the Minister following consultation with a number of scientific bodies.

As a statutory body, the council's funding is derived from Parliament as well as other sources. However, it was claimed that more than 70% of its income is derived from the issuing of nuclear licenses.

RENEE GRAWITZKY

Lötter also noted that the Act made no provision for appeal against the granting of a license

"Nuclear activity and the acceptance of its associated risks are regarded as the exclusive province of the council. Not even the Minister may overrule it.

"This implies that no political accountability is possible in important nuclear policy issues"

It was envisaged that the council would have representation on a national council for occupational health and safety, which was in the process of being established under the auspices of the Labour Department.

The council, which would include the major role players, would formulate a national policy on health and safety, and would be able to determine, for example, whether nuclear safety should remain under the auspices of the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department.

Occupational health and safety chief inspector Andre du Plessis said the nuclear council's structure would have to change because it would be represented on the occupational health and safety council.

A Mineral and Energy Affairs Department spokesman said the Nuclear Safety Council had formed a working party with the Atomic Energy Corporation to investigate an amendment to the Nuclear Safety Act.

He said the working party would consult the main stakeholders. An amendment to the Act meant that the Nuclear Safety Council would be restructured.

Sources claimed that although the council acknowledged that it had to be restructured to play an effective role in dealing with nuclear waste issues and to allow greater participation, it wished to direct the transformation of the council, without the involvement of outside parties.

Mineral and energy select committee chairman Marcel Golding said the council should be restructured to represent stakeholders and interested groupings.

He said the council could not be both "player and referee".

The council could not be reached for comment.

Armcor manager denies neglecting duty

SUSPENDED Armcor marketing manager Marius Vermaak denied to the Cameron commission yesterday that his apparent lack of insight into departmental financial documents indicated a "flagrant abdication" of managerial responsibilities.

Armcor counsel S van Nieuwenhuisen SC put it to Vermaak that his ignorance of the contents of his department's monthly financial statements showed an abdication of responsibility and financial controls.

Vermaak said these tasks had been delegated and that he had concentrated on the sales/marketing side.

Vermaak was also questioned repeatedly by Van Nieuwenhuisen about financial documents relating to the AK-47 sale to Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan.

The commission was set up to investigate all Armcor transactions

SUSAN RUSSELL

since February 1990 after an outcry last year when an AK-47 shipment was stopped at the Yemenite port of Hodeidah *BD 2/3/95*

Evidence has shown that Vermaak negotiated the AK-47 deal with Wazan, purportedly on behalf of the Christian Militia in Lebanon. There has also been evidence, however, that both shipments were actually purchased by self-styled Prince Anwar Al Shalaan *(254)*

Armcor has maintained repeatedly it was always led to believe by Wazan and Vermaak that the weapons were destined for Lebanon.

Van Nieuwenhuisen indicated that he intended continuing to question Vermaak on financial and other aspects about his activities as marketing manager because he was a wit-

ness of "utmost importance" as far as Armcor was concerned.

He said the evidence of Vermaak's subordinate, Deon Bronkhorst, could have led to the conclusion that there were no controls in Armcor's marketing department or that people could do what they liked. Van Nieuwenhuisen said his questions to Vermaak were intended to correct that impression.

The commission also said yesterday it had decided to make March 24 the deadline for hearing evidence on the Wazan transaction.

It said the Wazan inquiry had to come to an end due to the exorbitant cost and the necessity of submitting an initial report as soon as possible.

The commission had been unable to gather all relevant facts on the Wazan deal, due mainly to Vermaak's refusal to testify on key aspects.

**New strategy
for SA arms
industry** (254)
CT 2/3/95

AN ad hoc committee of six ministers has been appointed to formulate a comprehensive strategy on South Africa's arms industry, cabinet secretary Professor Jakes Gerwel said yesterday.

Issues the committee will address include political and ethical considerations, the industrial and economic framework, and foreign relations aspects of the arms industry.

Prof Gerwel announced that the cabinet also approved the proposed ratification of the International Convention on the Prohibition and Destruction of Chemical Weapons.

South Africa would be the first country in Africa to ratify the convention, he said — Sapa

Wits academics present petition

ACADEMICS at the University of the Witwatersrand presented a petition to vice-chancellor Bob Charlton yesterday, blaming the administration for dragging its feet on transformation and condemning violent and disruptive action on the part of students and workers.

Signed by 250 academics, it was a symbolic action by members of the Academic Staff Association, showing their commitment to transformation, association president Russell Ally said.

He said the university administration, the National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) and the SA Students Congress (Sasco), were polarising the university on a racial basis.

Transformation talks deadlocked last year when Nehawu demanded nine dismissed employees be reinstated and disciplinary against 30 suspended members be withdrawn after a hostage drama last year. Sasco demanded 11 students facing similar charges should be reinstated.

MDUDUZI KA HARVEY

Ally said there was "very little support" among lecturers for reinstatement. "This action is counter productive, because people will do the same thing again and expect to solve it by demonstrating."

He warned the administration not to cling on to power. The solution to the crisis was compromise. Nehawu and Sasco should admit their actions were unacceptable, he said.

He called on the administration to realise transformation could be put in place on their conditions. *BD 3/3/95*

Nehawu and Sasco should participate in setting up the transformation forum, which would choose a new university council. The workers could appeal to the new council, he said.

Charlton said the university council committee would meet this weekend and by then they would have consulted the broad university community with the aim of reporting to council next week.

Arm Scor man could be facing criminal charges

SUSPENDED Arm Scor official Marius Vermaak faces criminal charges after refusing to answer questions during cross examination at the Cameron Commission yesterday about his transactions with Lebanese arms dealer, Eli Wazan.

The Arm Scor marketing manager and Wazan are central figures in the aborted AK47 shipment to the Middle East last year which prompted government to appoint the commission to investigate the deal and all other Arm Scor transactions since February 1990.

The cross-examination of Vermaak was halted yesterday when he refused to tell Arm Scor counsel S van Nieuwenhuisen SC where and when he had met Wazan.

He has consistently refused to answer any questions relating to Wazan or his transactions with him, claiming privilege against possible self-incrimination for a number of offences, including fraud.

Van Nieuwenhuisen argued the question could not, as claimed by Vermaak, be a link in a chain leading to self-incrimination, and insisted Vermaak answer.

He said Vermaak had answered the question in an unsigned statement reflecting an interview between Vermaak and an Arm Scor lawyer late last year.

The statement reflects Vermaak as saying he met Wazan eight years ago at Arm Scor. Van Nieuwenhuisen argued that Vermaak had had no difficulty in making the statement at the time, nor did he now

SUSAN RUSSELL

claim it was made under duress. Vermaak's claim of privilege now was therefore *male fides*, van Nieuwenhuisen said.

He said Vermaak did not have to confirm the veracity of what he had said in the statement, but merely confirm whether or not it accurately reflected the interview which it recorded.

Vermaak's attorney, L Wessels, said his client was not prepared to answer questions on either basis because it would still amount to self-incrimination.

Wessels conceded the statement was made voluntarily, but said his client had not been warned of his rights at the time.

Judge Cameron said the commission had given Vermaak an excessively wide degree of latitude in claiming privilege to date and ruled he was obliged to answer van Nieuwenhuisen's question on the basis of confirming the accuracy of the interview reflected in the unsigned statement.

He said by disallowing van Nieuwenhuisen's question the commission "ran the risk of making an ass of the law".

Vermaak again refused to answer van Nieuwenhuisen's question and Cameron informed him the commission would now "take the matter further". After another adjournment Wessels asked for a postponement so Vermaak and his lawyers could consider his position. A postponement until next Wednesday was granted.

Mbeki raises Arm Scor issue

Sowetan 3/3/95

(254)

■ **VIEWS TRADED** Talks opened to

resolve matter with the US government:

By Peter Fabricius

WASHINGTON — The nagging problem of an American indictment against Arm Scor and some of its affiliates for arms smuggling could be resolved this week by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki while he is in Washington

Mbeki discussed the matter with senior Clinton Administration officials on Wednesday, SA ambassador to Washington Franklin Sonn said in a Press briefing

He said they had agreed to meet an Arm Scor legal representative and "pursue certain initiatives" while Mbeki was in Washington

"We sincerely hope we will be able to

resolve this matter by the end of the week," Sonn said

Before leaving the US on Friday, Mbeki hoped to hold a Press conference to announce a resolution to the problem, he said

Sonn said the Arm Scor issue had never been on the agenda of Mbeki's talks with various senior Clinton Administration officials

But it was such a live issue that it was unrealistic to expect that it would not be discussed Mbeki had brought it up at a meeting with Clinton's national security adviser Anthony Lake yesterday

Sonn said Lake had been adamant that he could not get involved in the issue and so Mbeki had "traded views" with State Department officials present

Sonn did not say what the initiatives were that would now be pursued

SA companies sucked into Armscor arms smuggling case

US set to indict Barlow

Star 4/3/95 (254)

Star 4/

WASHINGTON

The US Government is preparing to indict Barlow Rand and associated companies Reutech and Reutech for alleged infringements of US arms control legislation, as the "controversial arms smuggling case against Armscor threatens to suck in more South African companies and individuals.

Discussions

The US government has insisted all along that the case is a purely legal matter and must be left to the courts and the US Justice Department to resolve. The South African Government has made several attempts to resolve the matter politically and last October President Mandela asked President Clinton to look into it. This week Deputy-Pre-

sident Thabo Mbeki discussed the case with senior US administration officials and South African ambassador Franklin Sorn. Sorn told reporters that Mbeki hoped to resolve it before leaving the US yesterday.

Mbeki said it had been agreed that the lawyers should pursue the matter — but also made it clear that he still thought that the case had political dimensions which should be discussed by the two governments once the US prosecutors and Armscor lawyers had finished their negotiations. The US Government seems unlikely to accept this position. And now it is understood that three more

THREE South African firms and two of their executives now face indictment, as the US moves to put pressure on South Africa to co-operate in a three-year-long weapons case against Armscor. PETER FABRICIUS reports.

South African companies with links to the weapons industry, and two of their executives, are facing indictment. This has raised concerns that the US Government as stepping up the pressure on South Africa to co-operate in the original case.

One of the demands of US prosecutors has been that the seven Armscor employees indicted in the original case should testify against an American executive of a company called ISC. The firm is alleged to have sold weapons equipment to Armscor in defiance of the US Arms Export Control Act and the arms embargo against South Africa.

It is understood that Barlow Rand, Reutech and the chief executive officer and chief financial officer of Reutech received letters from the US Justice Department this week warning them that they were possible targets of investigation.

The letters asked them to waive their right to avoid prosecution under the statute of limitations and warned them that if they did not do so they could face immediate indictment.

Indictment

The original indictment against Armscor, Fuchs, Kentron and seven of their employees took place in 1991 in Philadelphia US prosecutors and lawyers for the South African corporations have been plea-bargaining ever since.

Last year they seemed close to an agreement that the corporations would pay fines totalling about \$22.5 million and the individuals would not be penalised but would

have to give evidence against Robert Ivy, an American citizen and former Armscor executive being prosecuted in Philadelphia for alleged offences in the Armscor case. The prosecutors also insisted on a compliance programme under which the companies indicted would be subject to inspection by the US in the future to ensure that they complied with US law. But negotiations broke down over South African Government concerns that its sovereignty was being infringed. Mbeki's view is that the Armscor individuals may break South Africa's Official Secrets Act if they testify.

3/95 (254)

SA arms man willing to testify on smuggling

(254) ST 5/3/95
By SIMON BARBER and PETER De IONNO

A TOP South African arms executive says he is prepared to testify on apartheid-era weapons smugglers in an effort to stave off a threat of US commercial embargoes against local companies.

Tony Ellingford, managing director of Reunert Technologies, has been told by the prosecutors that he and his company, a former Barlow Rand subsidiary, have been targeted to force Armscor to answer arms smuggling charges.

The prosecutors, who indicted Armscor, its then subsidiaries Kentron and Fuchs Electronics and seven individuals in 1991 for alleged infringements of US arms control legislation, want evidence against American Robert Ivy, a former Kentron executive.

The threats of embargoes against other unspecified Barlows companies have raised the stakes in a



TONY ELLINGFORD

dispute that has become a gnawing cancer on relations between South Africa and the US. Ironically, the threats came as Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and US Vice President Al Gore launched the US-South Africa Binational Commission in Washington to develop links between the two countries.

"If it is going to resolve the problem and if the South African government says 'you must give evidence' then I see no reason why I should not," Mr

Ellingford said.

"The government must decide whether it wants its citizens to submit to US agencies and jurisdiction. It sets a precedent. There should be compromise."

Sanctions maintained on Armscor and the Denel group because of the original indictment have been blamed for the failure of an Atlas Aviation bid for a R10-billion contract to supply the Rooivalk attack helicopter to the British Army.

Barlows is being targeted as it was the parent of Fuchs and Reunert at the time of the alleged crimes and thus falls under the US Arms Export Control Act.

The company could have its US export privileges curtailed by the Commerce Department — a serious blow as it is the South African agent for Caterpillar machinery.

Mr Mbeki said Armscor lawyers would return to the US shortly to resume

To Page 2 ⇨

SA ARMS MAN WILLING TO TESTIFY ON SMUGGLING

From Page 1

negotiations which stalled late last year after Armscor retained high-powered US lawyer Brendan Sullivan, former counsel to Lt-Colonel Oliver North.

A draft "non-paper" drawn up at Mr Mbeki's request by South African Embassy counsel Phil Hare, and delivered to him late on Thursday night, is understood to propose full co-operation in the prosecution of Mr Ivy, who is to stand trial on April 25.

Mr Ivy is seen by the prosecution as the mastermind behind the smuggling operation. Until 1980, when he moved to International Signals Control Corporation, he was group technical manager of Kentron

Armscor is paying his legal costs, even though not

all the charges against him relate to the smuggling operation. He was also indicted for perjury and fraud when ISC was sold to UK defence contractor Ferranti in the late 80s.

Armscor, Kentron and Fuchs could be liable for up to \$50-million (R180-million) in fines, but South African officials are hopeful that this can be substantially reduced.

Armscor and industry officials attribute the relentless US pressure to both commercial rivalry and a determination to restrict the military power of the ANC-dominated government.

They claim the US suspicions were a key factor in the dismantling of South Africa's atomic bombs, the forced shutdown of the space launcher programme, with its ballistic

missile component, and the furore over US claims that South Africa had developed an offensive chemical warfare capability.

The strategy devised in Washington between Mr Mbeki, Ambassador Franklin Sonn and Mr Hare is understood to hinge on the prosecution showing leniency and agreeing to pursue the matter no further in return for full co-operation against Mr Ivy and an admission of guilt by Armscor.

The seven South African individuals could prove to be a sticking point. Under the proposal drawn up this week, they would be free to testify for the prosecution so long as the prosecutors granted them "safe passage", dropped charges against them and agreed not to use their testimony to widen their net.

(254) ST 5/3/95

Arms probe costs worry for SANDF

(254)

■ BY HELEN GRANGE

The Cameron Commission has set March 16 as the deadline for its hearings into the aborted Middle East weapons deal involving Armscor and Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan.

The deadline has been set to encourage a speedy completion of the commission's first leg of proceedings because of the exorbitant costs of running it.

It is understood the SANDF, which is footing the bill for the commission, is becoming anxious about the length of time the commission is likely to take — and, consequently, the expense involved — before completing its mandate, which is to probe both the Wazan transaction and all Armscor's weapons deals since February 1990.

Commission secretary Donald du Plessis said in a statement this week the commission wished to complete the first leg soon because of "the exorbitant costs of running the commission along the current lines, the imperative of submitting a first report to the executive as soon as possible and the necessity to move on to addressing the policy aspects of the arms trade".

He added that the commission had been unable to gather all the relevant facts because the key Armscor official involved in the transaction, Marius Vermaak, had declined to testify on crucial aspects for fear of incriminating himself.

Other Armscor officials directly or indirectly involved in the transaction, — Deon Bronkhorst, Brigadier Tony Savvides and Dirk Robinson of Macro Freight — had either professed a large measure of ignorance or declined to testify on critical aspects.

STAR 6/3/95

ARG 7/3/95

Union march to dockyard will go ahead

Labour Reporter (254)

A MARCH by National Education Health and Allied Workers Union members at the Simon's Town dockyard would go ahead today in spite of "hastily convened meetings" between union officials and top defence personnel, Nehawu said.

Nehawu is demanding that the defence force enters a recognition agreement with it.

Nehawu regional chairman Wilfred Alcock said the defence ministry had responded to a request for an urgent meeting with Defence Minister Joe Modise by convening a meeting between Deputy Minister Ronnie Kasrils and union officials yesterday.

Today, the union will hold discussions with General Andrew Masedo of defence headquarters in Pretoria.

● The National Party has slated the march as contributing to "reducing this once proud institution (the navy) to a demoralised go-slow area".

NP senator Mark Wiley said "Nehawu owes the thousands of dependants of the employees it is inciting, an explanation for putting these jobs on the line".

Troops press for new contracts

CT 7/3/95 (254)

PRETORIA: About 50 soldiers from Lenz military base delivered a memorandum to President Nelson Mandela's office yesterday to press for the renewal of their contracts.

They also claimed that the SA National Defence Force owed them R10 000 each.

The group represented about 450 members of 21 Infantry Battalion at Lenz, their spokesman Mr Johannes Kekana said.

He said their short-term service contracts were due to expire at the end of March.

"We applied for the renewal of our contracts more than five months ago. So far, we have received no feedback."

The demonstration had the support of the South African

National Defence Union, SANDU chief executive Mr Cor van Niekerk said.

"This is not a union action, but we are giving assistance to ensure a disciplined and non-militant demonstration," he said.

Mr Van Niekerk said the soldiers had been recruited for two-year contracts after obligatory military service was abolished.

"As an incentive, these recruits were promised an entry bonus of R5 000 and another one of R5 000 at the end of their contracts. They never received this money."

The soldiers also demanded that "enforced deductions" from their salaries, such as contributions to a regimental fund, be returned, Mr Van Niekerk said — Sapa

Navy men awarded R31m after five-year fight

POLITICAL STAFF

UP to 911 former naval officers and men "improperly prejudiced" when they were retrenched in 1990 were awarded a total of R31,5 million in gratuity and pension benefits by the Defence Select Committee yesterday. (254)

(254) They have been fighting for this decision for the past five years, since they were retrenched shortly before the implementation of salary adjustments which had been approved in 1987.

They instituted legal action which was rejected by state legal adviser Mr A J Janse van Rensburg

ET 8/3/95

The matter was eventually submitted to ombudsman Mr Justice P J van der Walt, who ruled that the state's actions had not been "morally defensible" and that the retrenched men had been "improperly prejudiced".

The matter was then referred to the Defence Committee, as only

Parliament could approve the necessary funds.

No details of how much each of the 911 men will receive were available, but one captain with nearly 20 years' service said he expected a gratuity of R40 000 and an increase of about R800 in his monthly pension.



DOCKYARD PROTEST: There were marches, work stoppages and placard demonstrations in Simon's Town this week when more than 200 dockyard workers demanded recognition of their trade union by the SA National Defence Force.

■ SIMON'S TOWN

Navy 'must recognise dock union'

(254)
ARG 9/3/95

FEROZA MILLER
Staff Reporter

MORE than 200 dockyard workers marched through the streets of Simon's Town this week to demand that the South African National Defence Force recognise the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu).

The march was the culmination of Nehawu's week-long programme of mass action.

The programme included workplace demonstrations, meetings during work hours, work stoppages, inter-departmental marches during work hours and the placard demonstration at the naval base.

Speakers included members of parliament, the ANC, SACP, Cosatu and Cosas.

Nehawu regional chairman Wilfred Alcock said union officials would continue to address members on navy premises on a daily basis and any attempt by the navy to use the Military Police instead of applying sound labour relations would be met with mass resistance, he said.

Minister of Defence Joe Modise was urged to "grant his staff their rights as outlined by law".

A memorandum to the minister said "The naval base at Simon's Town unilaterally suspended the interim agreement between the naval base and our union. The grievances of our members remain unresolved which could lead to serious industrial action."

Navy deal: Denmark offers huge rewards

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN: Billions of rands in trade incentives, including a possible breakthrough for Armscor as a supplier to Nato, could be on offer if South Africa buys four corvettes from Denmark.

The Danish government has shown its support for a bid by a Danish shipbuilder with an offer to lend the full purchase price

(254)
of the corvettes — about R900 million — to SA at a low interest rate over 12 years

And they are willing to sweeten the offer further by becoming a major buyer of military hardware from Armscor

Danish industrialists have apparently also agreed in principle to buy coal and steel worth about R1 800m from SA over several years

CT 9/3/95

Witness to be prosecuted

JOHANNESBURG: Armscor salesman Mr. Marius Vermaak will be prosecuted for refusing to testify to the Cameron Commission of inquiry. CT 9/3/95

Mr. Vermaak has consistently refused to answer questions on Middle East agent Mr. Eli Wazen and the sale of AK-47 rifles and ammunition to Lebanon last year, on the grounds he may incriminate himself. (254)

Mr. Justice Edwin Cameron, who asked Mr. Vermaak to reply to questions unrelated to the abortive arms sale, ruled yesterday his silence was "wrongful".

Under the Commission's Act, witnesses are obliged to answer questions which do not result in self-incrimination — Sapa

Arm Scor relations probed

JOHANNESBURG: It was normal for Arm Scor marketing employees to develop close relationships with clients and agents, marketing manager Mr Marius Vermaak told the Cameron Commission yesterday

The commission is inquiring into a shipment of AK-47 rifles which arrived in Yemen before being returned to South Africa last year

Mr Vermaak has refused to answer questions on the transaction or his relationship with Middle East arms dealer Eli Wazan, on the grounds that he might incriminate himself. Arm Scor legal representative Mr Stephan van Nieuwenhuizen suggested that the Mr Vermaak's relationship with Mr Wazan was abnormally close

The inquiry continues — Sapa

(254) CT 10/3/95

Warheads nearly (254) ARG. 13/2/95 thrown in furnace

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA — Armaments giant Denel has opened an investigation into its ammunition dismantling programme after six active warheads were discovered on route to a furnace at Iscor's steelworks in Pretoria.

The six warheads — for the French-made Matra air-to-air missile — were to be sent to Iscor to be melted down.

Experts said that had the missiles been thrown into the furnace the detonation would have caused major damage to the plant and almost certainly deaths.

The missiles contained about 40 kg of explosive. Denel spokesman Paul Holtzhausen said an urgent investigation was in progress to determine how the missiles slipped through the strict dismantling process.

He said it was not a certainty the old missiles would have exploded. They had exceeded their "shelf life" and were very old, but, "when you work with any kind of explosive, you don't take chances."

"That's why we are taking this very seriously. If there was any deviance from procedure we will view it in a very serious light."

The missiles were sold to National Metals by Denel's missile division, Kentron in Verwoerdburg, as part of a programme to dispose of outdated and expired ammunition.

Mr Holtzhausen said all kinds of ammunition and weapons — including bullets, grenades, missiles and bombs — were dismantled and the metal casings sold to scrap metal companies.

It was an important source of income for Denel.

Arms giant in probe

254

ET 13/3/95

OWN CORRESPONDENT

PRETORIA: Armaments giant Denel has launched a probe into its ammunition dismantling programme after six active warheads were almost thrown into a furnace at Iscor's steelworks here.

The warheads were apparently discovered before they were to be sent to Iscor to be melted down.

They would have detonated, causing huge damage to the plant and almost certainly loss of life.

Issue of unlawful orders in defence force sidestepped

CAPE TOWN — The constitutional committee sidestepped a decision on how unlawful orders in the SA National Defence Force should be treated, but agreed unanimously yesterday that SA's final constitution should provide for civilian control of the Defence and Police Ministries.

The latter decision was one of a number of points of agreement accepted by the committee emanating from the first report of its theme subcommittee on the security apparatus. These will now go to legal drafters.

However, the issues of whether there should be more than one ombudsman to hear complaints about security matters, and whether the constitution should provide for defence force members to be constitutionally obliged to disobey an unlawful order, should be debated once the drafters had done their work.

Freedom Front leader Gen Constand Viljoen, a former SA Defence Force chief, said it was clear an unlawful order need not be obeyed, and questioned whether this needed to be put into the constitution as explicitly as proposed.

Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer said it had to be considered whether such a provision should be in the constitution or in an Act of Parliament.

The ANC's Dirk du Toit and the NP's Wynand Breytenbach, a former deputy defence minister, felt the point should be in a military code of conduct.

Chairman Cyril Ramaphosa ruled that the matter be considered when the relevant constitutional draft was debated. The same would apply to the issue of whether there should be more than one ombudsman for the various security forces.

Areas of agreement, which will now go to the drafters, include that:

- The constitution should define the defence force's primary function as being to defend SA's territorial integrity;
- It should curtail the right of members of the security forces to strike, but should provide alternative, compulsory mediation and arbitration procedures; and
- Multiparty joint committees of defence and intelligence should oversee the said structures. — Sapa

Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale and his wife, Judy, receive dignitaries outside the Johannesburg opening of the provincial parliament yesterday.

Issue of unlawful orders in defence force sidestepped

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ANC, Sanco agree

'Spooks' will miss out on labour relations bill

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

SOUTH Africa is to breach international guidelines by excluding its spies from the scope of the new Labour Relations Bill.

The bill will cover the public, agricultural, educational and domestic service sectors.

But defence, police and national intelligence employees will not be affected by its provisions.

Hylton Cheadle, one of the bill's drafters, told a joint meeting of parliamentary committees yesterday that this had been done on the instructions of the cabinet.

Everyone except "soldiers, cops and spooks" had to be covered by the bill

Professor Cheadle said he was aware there was a debate among police about whether they wanted to be counted as part of the public service.

By excluding national intelligence employees, South Africa had not complied with International Labour Organisation rules.

The flight of intelligence employees had been settled in a case involving former British prime minister Lady Margaret Thatcher and staff at GCHQ, Britain's intelligence nerve centre.

Professor Cheadle quipped that there could be a difficulty in organising spies "when you do not know who they are".

Outlining the aims of the bill to the committees, he said there would a

move away from adversarial relations on the shop floor.

He appealed to members to ensure the language in the bill remained "user-friendly" rather than suited only to lawyers and judges.

"Make this an example of how laws can be written so ordinary people can understand them."

The bill will establish a Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration.

This would replace the existing Conciliation Board, which is part of the Department of Labour.

The new body would be state-funded and independent.

Its functions would include dispute resolution and the establishment of workplace forums.

The success rate of the present conciliation board was 20 percent, compared to the Independent Mediation Services of South Africa's success rate of 70 percent.

This undermined the need for independence and professionalism.

Also provided for in the bill was a Labour Court with the status of the Supreme Court which would replace the present industrial court.

Jurisdiction would include dismissals, protest actions, reviews and appeals.

The court would operate on a national basis, with its judges sitting alone in each city.

A Labour Appeal Court would be set up, with a bench of three judges.

Defence spending down and staff cuts looming

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

(254)

ARL 15/3/95

R3,093 billion

DEFENCE spending is down 11 percent from last year, and SA National Defence Force staff cuts in the next few years are forecast

The national defence budget amounts to R9,835 billion, representing a nominal reduction of 11,4 percent from last year's allocation.

Allocations for landward defence and medical support have been cut by 29,5 percent and 24,6 percent respectively

The defence force will spend R2,89 billion on landward defence, R1,76 billion on air defence, R685 million on maritime defence and R646,4 million on medical support

The transfer to the formerly controversial Special Defence Account — which has been opened to parliamentary scrutiny and which deals with capital projects throughout the defence force — is R3,114 billion, up slightly from last year's

The budget review notes that the integration of the former South African Defence Force, TBVC defence forces and former non-statutory forces will continue, but is a strain on the defence budget.

The review also refers to an envisaged rationalisation programme aimed at reducing the SANDF staff complement to an affordable level over the next few years

A cabinet committee will consider the inclusion of an additional R700 million in the adjusted estimate for 1995-96.

Deputy Finance Minister Alec Erwin said at a briefing that the R700 million had originally been held back pending a defence force motivation on how the money would be spent.

He said the defence force had submitted that the funds would be used in capital projects that would lead to the creation over the next five years of a streamlined core force

Hefty spending cut for Defence 254

STEPHANE BOTHMA

DEFENCE spending has been cut by R1,3bn to R9,8bn, despite a warning by SA National Defence Force chief Gen George Meiring that budget cuts could open strategic gaps in the country's defence.

Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg said the defence cut would be "somewhat balanced" by an increase of R290m to R8,9bn for the SA Police Service.

Since the 1989/90 financial year, the defence budget had been cut by about 50% — the second most drastic reduction after the former Soviet Union. Financial strictures and internal troop deployments — at some stages last year higher than deployments at the height of the Namibian/Angolan conflict — were cutting the SANDF's reserves, Meiring told a pre-Budget parliamentary briefing. *BD 16/3/95*

However, a decision by a special Cabinet committee to reinstate an allocation of R700m to defence, which was frozen last year, was announced by Liebenberg. Another R200m frozen would be reinstated to the Intelligence Service.

SANDF chief of staff, finances, Lt-Gen Ben Raubenheimer said previous budget cuts had meant an "absolute amputation" of anti-aircraft capability, a drastic reduction in armoured vehicles, cutting about 380 aircraft from the Air Force, losing a marine infantry capability and halting production of the G-6 mechanised weapon. SA had also lost its fast reconnaissance capability and the ability to fight submarines. SA's defence spending as a percentage of GDP was higher only than that of Nigeria and Zambia in Africa.

Meiring said R270m would be spent on new projects this year, about half of which was for buying three navy corvettes.

Experts see R1,3-bn defence cut as 'rational'

BY BRENDAN TEMPLETON

The R1,3-billion defence budget cut was yesterday viewed with caution by experts, who described it as "rational" under the circumstances.

Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg announced that the defence allocation had been cut from last year's R11,1-billion to R9,8-billion this year.

An important proviso was his announcement that a special cabinet committee had decided to reinstate R700-million which was deducted from the defence budget last year. The allocation

will be implemented as "supplementary expenditure".

A notable omission was any special allocation for reintegration expenses to smooth the introduction of former liberation movement soldiers into the defence force. The allocation last year topped R1-billion, and defence force chiefs had reportedly been pressing for a bigger allocation this year.

However, experts warned that the defence force and its satellite industries could not be expected to absorb budget cuts indefinitely. Institute of Defence Policy re-

searcher Bill Sasse said an "RDP-type policy" for the defence force was urgently needed before any concrete, long-term defence planning could be drawn up.

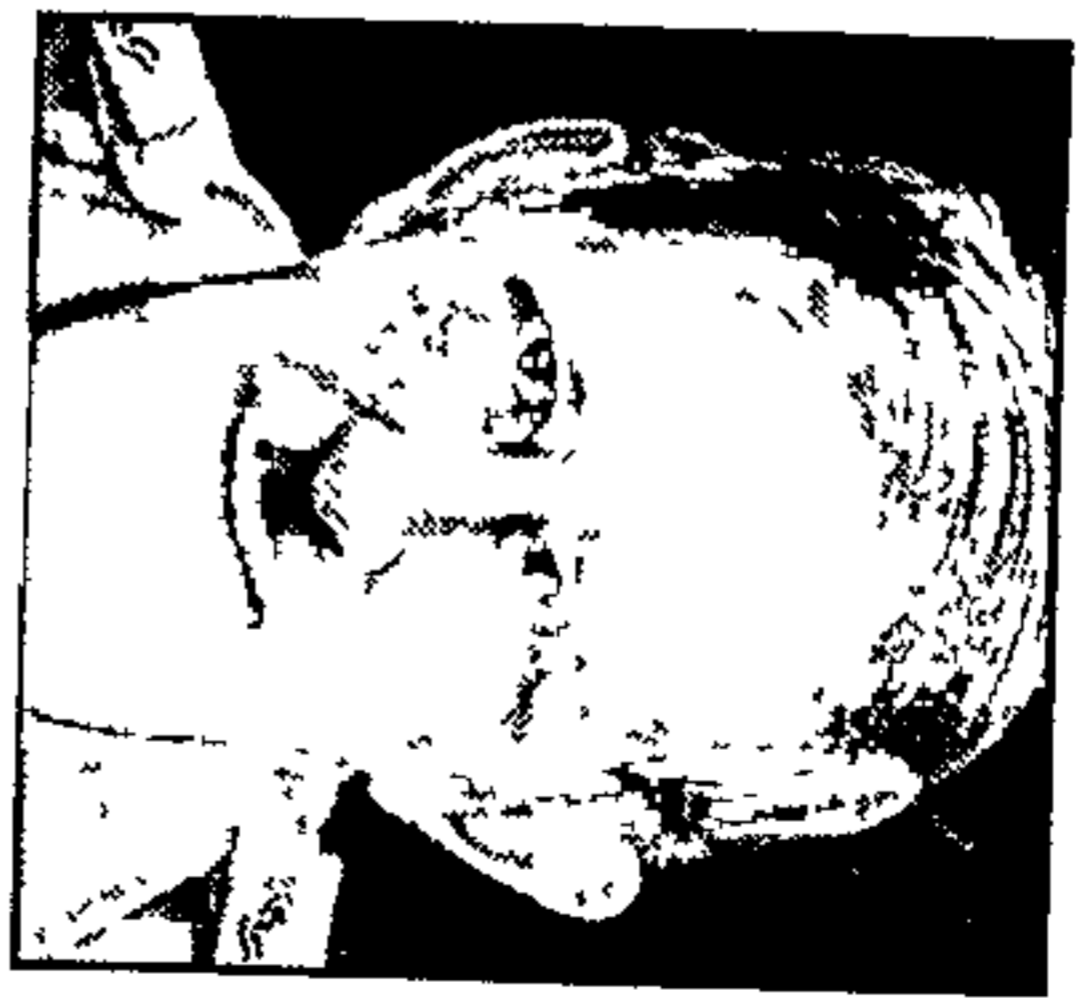
The budget cut and the need to cope with the absence of a special reintegration fund meant the army would be hard pressed to deliver on any extraordinary demands placed on it.

These included increased border patrols and assisting police, especially during the local government elections. Paul Holtzhausen, spokesman for Armscor subsidiary Denel, said the cut would not create im-

mediate problems for the industry, which had developed methods to cope with successive cuts over the past three years.

These included shrinking the industry's dependence on the local market by concentrating on the international market, and developing new products and ancillary industries.

Speaking at a pre-Budget briefing to MPs and senators, defence force chief General Georg Meiring said yesterday the SANDF wanted R10,535-billion, against the R9,835-billion allocated by the treasury.



Meiring ... defence programme seriously hampered.

Banker's good housekeeping lesson raises some chuckles and catcalls

BY PATRICK BULGER

Cape Town — Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg was a top financier before taking over when Derek Keys resigned last October — and the difference in style was clear yesterday at the joint sitting for his first Budget.

Liebenberg presented a veritable "banker's budget", as was to be expected from the diminutive, silver-haired minister who is the only member of the Cabinet not attached to a political party.

He gave the National Assembly a lesson in good housekeep-

ing but, unlike his predecessor who watched from the public gallery, Liebenberg did not quote from the Bible to illustrate his points.

However, during an Afrikaans section of his speech he did manage to slip in a quote from the Book of Solomon.

Chuckles

But neither did he assail MPs and the public galleries with predictions of "soft landings" and "hard landings", characteristic of an earlier finance minister, Barend du Plessis. And only once did he digress

from his speech. It was also the only occasion on which he strayed from his deadpan banker's style.

He raised a chuckle when he quoted Adam Smith, a pioneer in the study of economics. "There is nothing that a government learns faster than how to get money from its citizens."

But the assembly returned to silence until he announced increased excise duties on liquor and tobacco products. These were met with catcalls and whistling and the Speaker, Dr Frené Gihwala, had to call for order.

Education gets big slice but struggles lie ahead

BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS EDUCATION REPORTER

Although education remains the largest single item in the Budget, experts believe it will still be a struggle to make ends meet.

Education was allocated 21,2% (R32,2-billion) of overall expenditure — an increase of 9,6% over the previous year.

Most (R27,4-billion) has been allocated to colleges and schools, and R4,3-billion for universities and technikons.

Universities will receive a subsidy of R2,7-billion while another R50-million will go to students

for financial aid and R55-million for new buildings.

Technikons will share a subsidy of R856-million, while there will be R5-million for financial aid to students and R40-million for new buildings.

The R27,4-billion will be allocated to provinces for various projects. Private schools will receive a R318-million subsidy.

Centre for Education Policy Development spokesman Helen Perry said departments would have to find more money for teachers' salaries and quality-improvement items.

STAR 16/3/95

High cost of arms deals probe

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

THE Cameron Commission into South African arms deals is costing about R1 million a month — and the end is not in sight, parliament has heard

Defence Minister Joe Modise said yesterday R4 062 037 had been spent on the commission since it was appointed on October 14 last year, three weeks before the first evidence was led

Answering a question by Wynand Breytenbach (NP) in the national assembly interpellation debate, Mr Modise said the

commission had sought to complete its work with "maximum dispatch" and was mindful of the need to produce an interim report on a shipment of weapons sold by Armscor to Middle East arms dealer Eli Wazan

Mr Modise said that Friday, March 24, would be the final day for the hearing of evidence and the first interim report would be ready by April

ARG 16/3/95
However, apart from probing the Wazan deal, the commission also had to deal with matters relating to a new arms trade policy for South Africa. These delibera-

tions could last until May or beyond (254)

Mr Breytenbach asked if there was any connection "between the drawn-out nature of the proceedings and the commission's religious adherence to the principle of public hearings".

He also wanted to know how many witnesses — and how many key witnesses — had refused to testify because they feared exposure in public hearings.

Mr Modise pleaded that the commission be given enough time to "give us a very clear and wholesome picture of what's happening in our past"

Defence budget slashed — but an extra

(254) ~~CT~~ CT 16/3/95

The defence budget has been slashed by £2.5 billion in the 1995-96 financial year, but an extra £700 million has been allocated to the defence research and development programme.

The defence secretary, Michael Portillo, announced the cuts in a speech to the House of Commons on Wednesday. He said the cuts were necessary to ensure the defence budget was in line with the government's overall spending plans.

Portillo said the cuts would affect all areas of the defence budget, but that the extra £700 million would be used to fund the defence research and development programme. He said this was a "critical" area of the defence budget, and that the extra funding would allow the defence forces to develop new equipment and technology.

Portillo said the cuts would be spread over the next three years, with the largest cuts in the 1995-96 financial year. He said the cuts would be made in a way that would not affect the defence forces' ability to carry out their duties.

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R700m expected

The extra £700 million is expected to be used to fund the defence research and development programme. This is a critical area of the defence budget, and the extra funding will allow the defence forces to develop new equipment and technology.

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'Budget still too high'

By Mongadi Mafata (254)

AN anti-military organisation has slammed Finance Minister Mr Chris Liebenberg for not taking a larger slice from the defence budget

Ceasefire, an organisation emanating from the End Conscription Campaign, said in a statement that defence spending continued to be high

It said billions of rands spent annually on defence should be channelled to the Reconstruction and Development Programme and other development projects

The defence budget has been cut by 7,2 percent, bringing it to R11 billion from R12,9 billion.

The statement further said that in spite of the increase in the overall budget, it was still difficult to justify this year's defence allocation when there were still shortages of housing, education, health services and other basic needs

Spokeswoman Ms Melody Emmett said the organisation will be holding a conference in Johannesburg at the Koinoma Centre in Judiths Paarl from today until Sunday

Representatives from Armscor, the Group for Environmental Monitoring, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, the World Council on Religion Peace and several other organisations have been invited to address the conference

seweta 17/3/95

Nuclear power still an option for SA

BD17/3/95

GAVIN STAFFORD

(254)

SA should not discount nuclear power as a future option despite the closure of the uranium enrichment plant at Pelindaba, the Atomic Energy Corporation's CEO Waldo Stumpf said yesterday.

It could become a more attractive energy source as more compact plants were designed and safer techniques were developed, he said. The corporation had no plans to establish an alternative facility in the near future, but was looking into the viability of a cheaper molecular laser enrichment process.

Stumpf said the decision to stop production, mainly for Eskom's nuclear power station at Koeberg, was "strategic", as Eskom would be able to obtain cheaper uranium from international sources now that SA's isolation had ended. SA would import enriched uranium from France, Russia, the European Union and the US.

Stumpf was speaking to journalists invited to tour the Z-Plant uranium enrichment facility at Pelindaba outside Pretoria — the facility is to be shut down at the end of the month.

Nuclear fuel production MD Pieter Venter said even though the corporation had reduced the cost of running the plant over the last few years, closing it down would save R85m a year. The expense is due to the cost of electricity used to run the plant.

Reacting to the closure, nuclear scientist Kelvin Kemm said it would be a major loss to SA in terms of developing new technologies and training scientists. It would also fuel the exodus of scientists from the country.

SA was to rely on coal as its major source of energy, and the country should work towards greater diversity in fuel use, Stumpf said.

Kemm said SA, one of only half a dozen countries with uranium enrichment capacity, was pulling out of a business which was growing as the use of nuclear energy increased worldwide. SA's "wait and see" policy would only make it more difficult to re-enter the uranium market if it ever decided to do so.

SADF 'never used chemical weapons'

SLW 17/3/95 (254)

Cape Town — The former South African Defence Force never manufactured or used chemical and biological weapons, Defence Minister Joe Modise claimed yesterday.

However, he said the former SADF did fund a secret project to create "a defensive capability" against the use of chemical and biological weapons.

Modise said the project was started because of a perceived threat of the possible use of such weapons against the SADF.

"I am informed that after the establishment of a sophisticated defensive system in terms of protection, detection, identification, decontamination and treatment, the project was scaled down."

Modise also said a R228 000

Military Intelligence project, codenamed Anchor, had been approved by the former State Security Council.

"The project had, as its aim, the mobilisation of the people of Namibia to accept and support South African initiatives in the territory and undermine those of the liberation force," he said — Political Correspondent.

Arms Bills 'vital in bid to stamp out violence'

254

Star 17/3/95

All efforts to bring about reform in South Africa would be undermined if violence could not be controlled, National Party Senator Gerhard Koornhof said yesterday.

Speaking in the second reading debate on the Arms, Ammunition and Armament Laws Transitional Regulation Bill, he said this and the Arms and Ammunition Amendment Bill were important components in a comprehensive approach to stamping out violence.

Both Bills were accepted by all parties.

Deputy Safety and Security Minister Joe Matthews said

crime had reached utterly unacceptable levels and had to be curbed.

Democratic Party Senator James Selfe said South Africa was one of the most armed countries in the world.

Selfe added that the estimated 3-million illegal firearms equalled the number of legal weapons.

Quoting a letter from a woman whose 19-year-old son had been shot dead outside his girlfriend's home in an apparently random killing, he said the Government had to clamp down very hard on illegal weapons.

The first Bill allows people

with illegal weaponry — including automatic rifles, hand grenades, rocket launchers and landmines — to hand in their arms without fear of prosecution.

However, if arms were found to have been used in criminal acts, the law would take its course, Matthews said.

The Bill created a legal channel for people "who recognise they no longer need to possess these arms" to get rid of them.

The second Bill repeals the firearms laws in the former TBVC states and consolidates them under a single national statute. — Sapa.

SA leader meets a king



Time for a picture . . . Vice-President Thabo Mbeki and Belgian King Albert II arrive for a meeting in Brussels yesterday. Next week Mbeki will be welcoming Queen Elizabeth to South Africa

PICTURE AFP

Defence ⁽²⁵⁴⁾ budget gets R700-m fillip

SAW 17/3/95

■ BY ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The R9,8-billion defence budget has been given a R700-million boost

The increase was approved on Wednesday — before the 1995/96 Budget was presented to the National Assembly — by a special Cabinet committee

Provision was made in the total Budget of R153-billion for this amount

In an explanatory memorandum to the defence budget, the Defence Ministry said original fund requirements for this financial year exceeded the initial allocation guidelines. "However, mainly through cash-flow planning and other measures, the National Defence Force was able to absorb a reduction without affecting the integration process or seriously jeopardising the strategic plan," the memorandum said.

In order to facilitate a R700-million reduction in the projected R10,5-billion, the defence force took the R700-million off the integration funds and the Special Defence Account.

The memorandum said defence expenditure had decreased by almost 50% over the past seven years and that defence spending as a percentage of the gross domestic product and total State spending between 1970 and 1994 was similar to that before the Angolan war

ANC women hail tax equity, defence cuts

~~254~~ (254)

BY BARRY STREEK

POLITICAL STAFF

CT 17/3/95

THE ANC's women parliamentarians said yesterday they had been instrumental in the reduction in defence spending in the budget and the shift away from militarism, and welcomed "the long-awaited abolition of the gender discriminatory tax system"

They said in a statement that the 1995/6 budget could be described as the first of the new South Africa and reflected the contribution made by ANC women in and outside Parliament.

They welcomed the single rate of income tax and the primary rebate of R400, effectively the child rebate for four children.

"However, we are disturbed that single earners with more than five children will not be granted a rebate

"The increase in social expenditure on health, education and housing is heartening, as is the reduction in defence spending

"For too long public expenditure has disproportionately been devoted to militarism .. ANC women will continue to push for a reduction in defence spending in subsequent budgets "

Ladies in step after the army struggle

254

ARC 18/3/95

PRETORIA. — Integrating the first group of former women liberation fighters into the SA National Defence Force required solutions to problems such as ill-discipline and low morale, Jackie Sedibe, SANDF director of equal opportunities, said yesterday.

She was addressing a passing-out parade of 290 former Umkhonto we Sizwe troops, 60 former Azanian People's Liberation Army soldiers and 20 former Peacekeeping Force members — all women — at 5 Signal Regiment in Pretoria.

The group began their bridging training on November 22 last year.

To become the "happy and spirited soldiers that we now are" a variety of obstacles had to be overcome, Brigadier Sedibe said.

"We have solved all sorts of problems with regard to pay, ill-discipline, low morale and petty attitudes."

The fact that the first women had successfully completed their training proved that women soldiers were just as good as their male counterparts.

Brigadier Sedibe said the new troops should feel honoured to be part of the process of making the SANDF truly representative of the population.

The recruits were trained in fieldcraft and sentry duty.

Brigadier Sedibe congratulated the staff and instructors of 5 Signal Regiment who had been responsible for the training programme.

They had had to deal with people of a different culture and background "and you have done this in an exemplary manner".

"You may have experienced frustrations, but you have succeeded in your objectives," Brigadier Sedibe said.

Ladies in step after the army struggle

254

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Defence gets massive boost of R700-m

(254)

Weekend Argus Political Staff

THE R9,8 billion defence budget has been given a R700 million boost, increasing it to R10,5 billion.

The increase was approved on Wednesday — before the 1995/96 budget was presented to the National Assembly — by a special cabinet committee

Provision was made in the budget for this amount, which was included in the total budgeted amount of R153 billion.

In an explanatory memorandum to the defence budget, the defence ministry said original funds requirements for this financial year exceeded the initial allocation guidelines.

ARG 18/3/95

“However, mainly through cash-flow planning and other measures the National Defence Force was able to absorb a reduction to R10,535 billion without affecting the integration process or seriously jeopardising the strategic plan,” the memorandum said. In order to facilitate a further R700 million reduction in the projected R10,5 billion, the defence force took the R700 million off the integration funds and the Special Defence Account.

The memorandum said defence expenditure had decreased by almost 50 percent over the last seven years.

The document said defence spending as a percentage of the gross domestic product and total state spending between 1970 and 1994, was now similar to that before the Angolan war

A breakdown of the SANDF's capital projects — which formed the major part of the Special Defence Account — showed that the main expenditure items were projects for fighter and training aircraft. Approximately 50 percent — of the R270 million set aside for new projects — is destined for the purchase of strike craft by the Navy.

A decision to purchase the strike craft has not yet been taken by the cabinet.

SANDF promotions announced

ARG 18/3/95

(254)

PRETORIA. — South African National Defence Force chief General Georg Meiring has announced nine senior promotions and six senior appointments

The promotions are.

■ Major-General P O du Preez becomes lieutenant-general and chief of staff logistics at SANDF headquarters on June 1;

■ Brigadier J C van Schalkwyk becomes major-general and deputy chief of staff logistics at SANDF HQ on June 1;

■ Brigadier M Oelschig became major-general and chief director transformation management at SANDF HQ on March 1;

■ Brigadier W G Lombard becomes major-general on the staff of the chief of the Army on April 1;

■ Brigadier N A L Venter became major-general and chief of air staff personnel on March 1;

■ Brigadier B M G Britz becomes major-general and chief medical force support on April 1;

■ Major-General D T Masiku became chief director community health at the

South African Medical Services HQ on September 1 last year;

■ Colonel S R O Rosslee became brigadier and director manpower at Air Force HQ on March 1; and

■ Colonel P C Moolman becomes brigadier and chief of staff at Witwatersrand Command on April 1.

The appointments are

■ Major-General J M Dippenaar becomes chief of army staff personnel on April 1;

■ Major-General K A Ingham becomes chief medical force application at SAMS HQ on April 1;

■ Major-General A L van Graan becomes inspector-general of the Army on April 1;

■ Brigadier H J Schultz becomes officer commanding Northern Transvaal Command on April 1;

■ Brigadier L Wessels becomes director training at Army HQ on April 1; and

■ Brigadier R B King becomes chief of staff of the Air Force on May 1. — Sapa.

DP calls for troops to fight crime

(254)

ARG 18/3/95

CAPE TOWN. — A request for troops to be used in support of police in the fight against crime has been made by the Democratic Party.

In a letter to the Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi yesterday, requesting an urgent meeting on ways to combat crime, DP spokesman on safety and security Douglas Gibson said his party would ask Mr Mufamadi to allow soldiers to support police in crime prevention.

“While we do not believe this to be a long-term solution to the problem, if no immediate action is taken, this country will be paralysed with fear and communities will take the law into their own hands,” Mr Gibson said.

He said police statistics showed an average 25 car hijackings, about 200 house-breakings and eight murders daily in Gauteng alone.

Last year, at least one person a month was killed in car hijackings

Mr Gibson said the DP would emphasise the shortage of police personnel and transport, especially in Johannesburg where 2 200 policemen were needed but only 800 were employed.

“Our police service is under-resourced, underpaid, over-stretched and its senior officers are leaving in droves. We see a flight of businesses from the central business district to the suburbs, and a flight of skills from the suburbs to emigration

“Above all, we see people scared in their homes, terrified to go out at night and vulnerable to murderous hijackers in their driveways.”

Mr Gibson said the government had promised a war against crime, a demilitarised and decentralised police service and an increased police budget, but none of these had materialised. — Sapa.

Parliamentary Budget Office: R5m spent on ministers' houses

Mandela's peace pledge to Africa

ET 20/3/95

(254)

DURBAN President Nelson Mandela said on Saturday that South Africa would never again wage war against its neighbours

"Never again shall South Africa be the fountain-head of conflict in the region and further afield," he told about 600 guests and foreign dignitaries, after receiving the Africa Peace Award for his role in promoting peace, human rights and democracy on the continent.

Mr Mandela said SA would work with its African neighbours

and organisations like the Southern African Development Community and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) towards detecting and resolving conflict

Applauding the organisation which bestowed the prize on him — the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes — Mr Mandela said a network of such initiatives would do much to prevent conflict.

He said while colonialism and "the selfish ordering of world

affairs" had undermined Africa's development, the continent had long since rejected a philosophy that sought to pass the blame solely onto others

OAU secretary general Mr Salim Ahmed Salim, before presenting Mr Mandela with the prize, said the President was a "giant in contemporary history"

"Nelson Mandela has lived up to his legend. Mandela's lessons are important for the rest of the world," he said — Sapa-Reuter

PAC aid for Bop 24

By Chris Nkwe

THE Pan Africanist Congress has called for the immediate reinstatement of 24 former members of the Bophuthatswana security forces

The former members of the Bophuthatswana National Security Unit and Bophuthatswana Defence Force were dismissed from the force because of their involvement in the abortive 1988 coup

They were apparently left out in the cold when the rest of their former colleagues were recalled to join the SANDF

PAC secretary-general Mr Maxwell Nemadzivhanani at the weekend said the 24 were all members of his movement

(254) *source*
20/3/95
"Of the 67 PAC members, 39 were reinstated recently. No justifiable explanation has been given to the 24 who are still out in the cold and received letters of regret on February 27 this year," he said

The PAC said despite promises made earlier by Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise, Defence Chief General Georg Meiring and North-West premier Mr Popo Molefe that the question of reinstatement would be looked into

"The fate of these patriotic soldiers is still hanging in the balance," Nemadzivhanani said

He added that the 24 were left out because they were members of the PAC

The SANDF had not yet responded to the allegations at the time of going to press

Yengeni: Army promotions not in line with new SA

(254)

CT 21/3/95

RECENT promotions in the SA National Defence Force were inconsistent with the new South Africa and the interim Constitution, chairman of the joint parliamentary committee on Defence Mr Tony Yengeni (ANC), said yesterday.

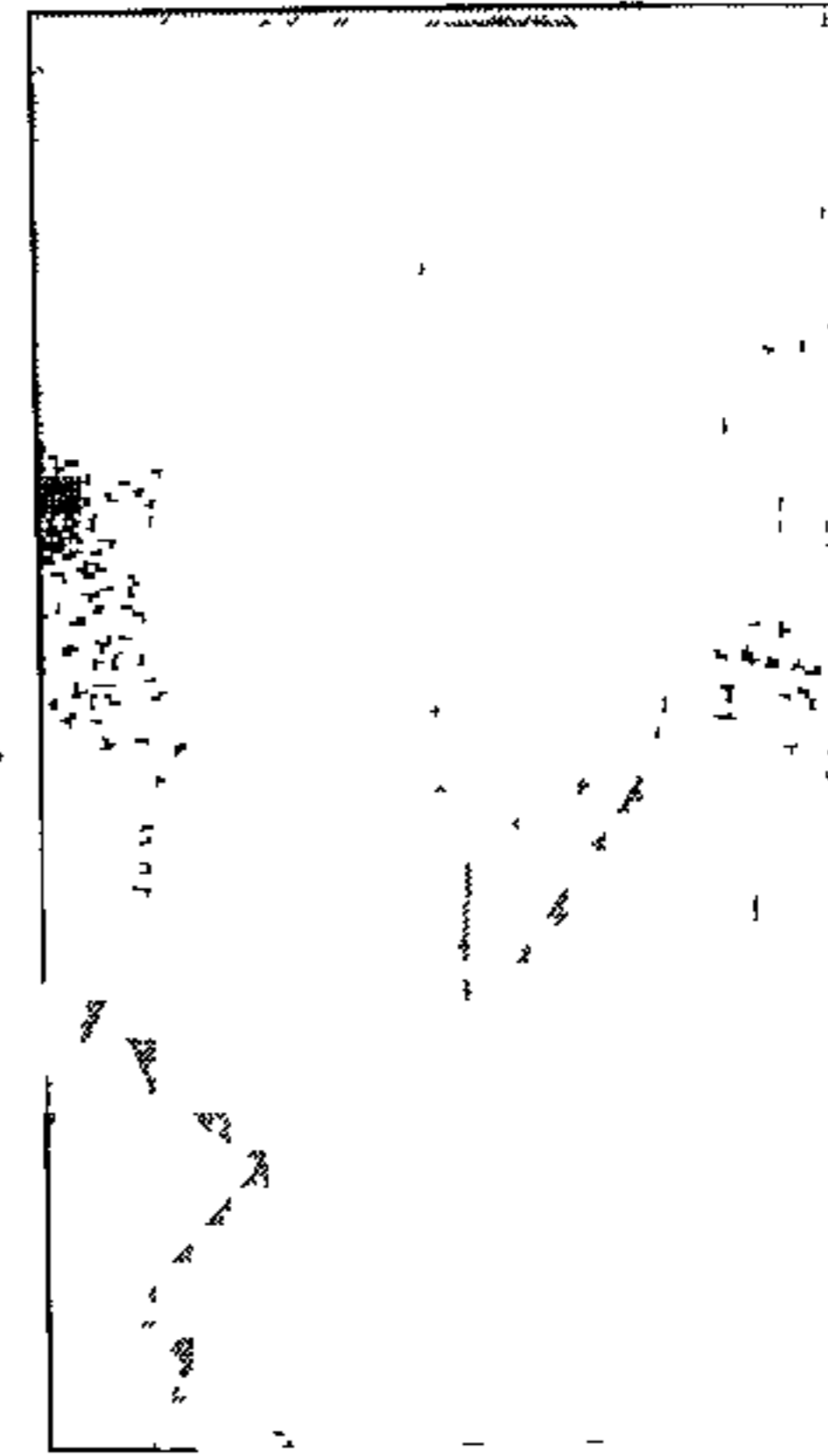
In a statement he said the nine senior promotions and six appointments recently announced by SANDF chief General Georg Meiring "reinforced the unfortunate and unacceptable notion of white officers and black soldiers"

The promotions were inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the

interim Constitution, which stated that the new national defence force had to reflect the racial composition of South Africa's people at all levels

"This kind of one-sided promotion and appointment is completely unacceptable precisely because it neglects the non-statutory forces that have recently been integrated into the SANDF

"This will no doubt undermine the morale and professionalism of the rank-and-file soldier and create an unnecessary resentment in the defence force," Mr Yengeni said - Sapa



'UNFORTUNATE': Tony Yengeni

SA urged to stop trading in weapons

(254) APR 22/3/95

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa should place an embargo on the sale of weapons to Angola and withdraw from the international arms trade, the Ceasefire Campaign said in a Human Rights Day statement.

The Ceasefire Campaign urged President Mandela, who received the Africa Peace Award at the weekend, to examine ways of demilitarising South African society.

"It is ironic that, at the same time as President Mandela was receiving the (Africa Peace) award and making a commitment to abolish the source of armaments, other South Africans, including the Minister of Defence, were involved in the business of promoting the sale of weaponry made in this country," said the organisation.

It called on the president to call a moratorium on South Africa's involvement in the international arms trade, to begin the process of converting the arms industry for civilian use, and to support the call for the arms embargo.

"The call for an arms embargo on Angola should be seen in the light of the devastation already felt by that region as well as certain sources predicting that the current peace agreement will not hold." — Sapa.

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Defence force spent R2,6bn on arms: The minister of defence, Joe Modise, has informed parliament that export permits for the sale of arms to the value of R519 million were issued for the year ending February 1995. Arms to the value of R2,6 billion were purchased by the defence force locally and overseas. Of the total amount spent, R1,8 billion went on purchases in the South African market

254

CT(BR)24/3/95

Cosatu to fight against defence budget

BARRY STREEK (254)

COSATU warned yesterday that it would campaign against this year's defence budget

"No amount of rhetoric can hide the reality that every tax rand given to defence is a tax rand denied to serving the needs of our people," it said in a memorandum

to Parliament's Joint Committee on Finance

It could not be denied that South Africa had no actual or potential enemy posing a threat

"Cosatu has called before, and we call again, for an urgent political (not military-driven) process to determine the core defence needs of our country

CT 24/3/95

"Much has been made of the 'large cut' in defence spending. We reiterate our rejection of apartheid spending as a yardstick. SA's priorities have totally changed.

"If these allocations are maintained, it will raise serious concern that the military and security establishment continue to wield inordinate influence."

Now Armscor faces Ulster arms probe

WM 24-30/3/95 (254)
New evidence has surfaced
suggesting links between Armscor
and Ulster loyalist paramilitaries,
reports **Stefaans Brümmer**

TOP South African lawyers returned this week from Belfast in Northern Ireland with fresh evidence of collusion between Armscor and Ulster paramilitary groups.

Now the Cameron Commission, which is investigating irregular Armscor deals, will be asked to extend its probe to the Ulster link. The commission was in Switzerland this week to take evidence from Michael Steenberg, a key player in the aborted Yemen arms deal.

Former Lawyers for Human Rights chief Brian Curran, who headed the mission to Belfast after an invitation by Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, said on his return this week that "an enormous amount of evidence" had been collected.

"We are in the process of collating it, and we do intend to approach the Cameron Commission soon regarding *prima facie* views we have following our trip."

He confirmed that their intention to go to the commission implied evidence of Armscor involvement in the arming of the loyalist paramilitaries, which have been embroiled in terrorist attacks against Irish Catholics.

It is believed the evidence may relate to the "Blowpipe fiasco" of 1989, when South African diplomat Daniel Storm and three Irishmen, including Noel Lyttle, a leader of the loyalist Ulster Resistance, were arrested in Paris while allegedly negotiating a deal to give South Africa parts of the British Blowpipe missile in exchange for weapons to loyalists.

The Cameron Commission is limited by its terms of reference to the investigation of arms deals only after February 1990, meaning the Blowpipe deal could technically not be considered by Cameron, were it an isolated incident.

But it is understood there is evidence that the nature of contacts between loyalists and Armscor — and in fact a wider network with elements the likes of British military intelligence operatives, former Rhodesian Selous Scouts, South African nightwingers and South African security forces members — would have been such that it continued well after the botched 1989 deal.

Former security police Vlakplaas commander Eugene de Kock, who is on trial on more than 120 charges ranging from murder to illegal arms possession, is known, for example, to have maintained strong Irish contacts.

A Sinn Féin spokesman this week said "There was a loyalist connection to South Africa. I can see no reason why it would suddenly have terminated after 1990."

He pointed to the Blowpipe deal and a 1987 consignment of South African weapons, which included rifles and RPG rocket launchers, part of which was confiscated by police. A BBC programme in 1989 claimed that while police found weapons destined for the Ulster Defence Association, the Ulster Resistance kept theirs.

The Sinn Féin spokesman said terrorist actions by the loyalist groupings had increased significantly in the late 1980s after they had apparently been re-armed by South Africa.

Should proof arise of post-1990 dealings between Armscor and the loyalists, the question remains whether the Cameron Commission will be able to investigate these.

This may mean a battle to widen the scope of the commission, which was appointed by Defence Minister Joe Modise late last year to investigate all irregular post-February 1990 Armscor deals, but which to date has concentrated mainly on last year's aborted shipment of AK47 and G3 rifles to Yemen.

SANDEF declares war

Weekend Argus Correspondent

(254)

PRETORIA — The South African Army has declared war on itself, threatening to root out undisciplined elements within its ranks

Don't cross swords with the SA Army, was the warning to certain members of the army yesterday by Lieutenant-General Reg Otto

Speaking at a medal parade at Army Headquarters in Pretoria, the new chief of the SA Army said he would clamp down on personnel with a poor standard of discipline

■ In a hard-hitting statement the SA Army attacked fledgeling unions for "making the situation unbearable for soldiers busy doing their job"

Threats made of taking people hostage, being Awol, shooting incidents at shebeens, the loss of weapons, vehicle accidents and partaking in a mutiny are regarded in a very serious light, he told the parade

He specifically attacked fledgeling trade unions within the defence force

"The SANDEF and, by implication the SA Army, does not recognise any trade union or person claiming to represent leaders of any trade union

"The SA Army has very clear command channels to handle grievances. No alternative channel exists", he said

General Otto warned that any deviation or transgressions in this regard would be suitably dealt with

"The actions of many trade union leaders are making the situation unbearable for soldiers busy doing their job. The SA Army will not be burdened with trade

union activities like other institutions", he said

"Certain threats are made by outside bodies in a very irresponsible manner. I call on these people today to stop this. Please don't cross swords with the SA Army"

General Otto went on to say he would take whatever steps were necessary to maintain standards and discipline

"We will further not be dictated to by any labour union or any of its officials. Peace and stability are our concern and it cannot be achieved with bad discipline or the interference of outside institutions"

US pressures SA on nuclear treaty

(254) Star 27/3/95

■ BY PETER FABRICIUS
STAR BUREAU

Washington — The United States is piling pressure on SA to support its demand that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) be extended indefinitely and unconditionally next month.

Last week US ambassador Princeton Lyman made a demarche — the strongest form of diplomatic expression — to Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo urging SA support.

SA is trying to broker a compromise between the US view and the opposing view of many developing countries that the treaty be extended for a finite period.

By doing so, these countries — led by the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) — hope to increase leverage on countries like the US to dismantle their nuclear weapons and increase the flow of peaceful nuclear technology to the developing world.

The NPT is designed to prevent new states from

acquiring nuclear weapons and to oblige those with them to disarm. As a member of the NAM and other developing-nation groups like the OAU, but also a new member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, SA in a sense has a foot in both camps.

SA is trying to muster support for a compromise that would extend the NPT "in perpetuity" by almost automatic renewals — unless a majority of treaty countries decided otherwise.

The American government has made clear it is not happy with this position and has stepped up the pressure on SA because it believes SA and President Mandela especially can exert unique moral influence.

US and SA sources say the issue has not yet reached the level of a dispute.

They say the US will be "bitterly disappointed" if SA does not back it but they are not certain how it would affect relations.

Spain offers SA R4bn investment

SD 27/3/95
THE Spanish government has promised to invest more than R4bn in the SA economy as part of a major countertrade proposal tied to the purchase from Spain of four deep-sea patrol corvettes by the SA Navy

This was disclosed at the weekend by Spain's Industry and Energy Minister Juan Egugaray (254)

Tenders from Britain and Spain for the supply of the corvettes are under consideration, and a decision is expected from the Cabinet within days

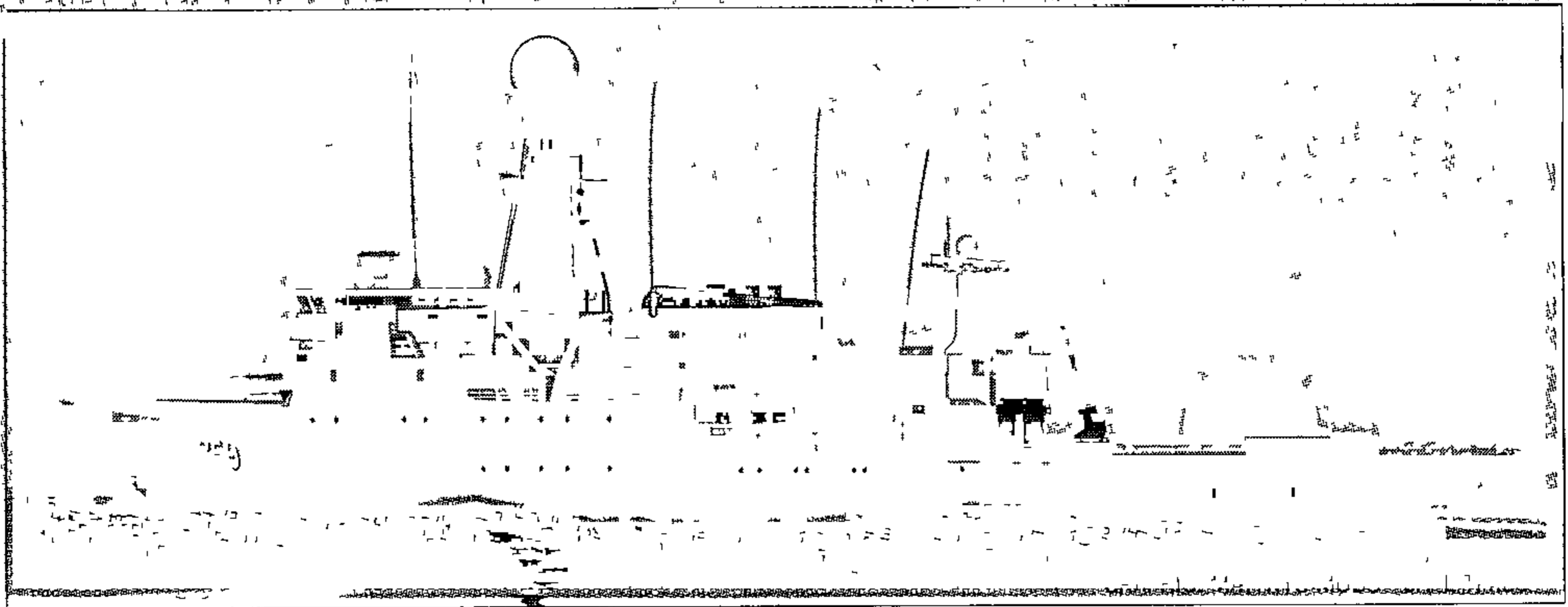
Egugaray said the R1,5bn expenditure was "not just a matter of selling" the vessels to SA (254)

"Spain's submission of a tender for the corvettes entails a 100% countertrade deal with the potential to create more than 20 000 new jobs for SA, and for increasing SA coal exports"

Earlier, Spanish government-owned Bazan shipyard president Antonio Sanchez-Camara said his company's offer included a "menu" of 18 different countertrade programmes from which SA could choose

These included the purchase of SA-built fishing vessels, the training of thousands of South Africans in more than 250 disciplines and a commitment to increase imports of SA coal 50% over the next 10 years

SELLO MOTLHABAKWE reports that Spanish Economic and Commercial Counsellor Victor Audera said an unconditional \$10m grant by Spain to SA would be deployed in developing small and medium-sized businesses and vocational training in the fishing industry — Sapa



CONTROVERSIAL An artist's illustration of a Danish corvette — one of the three models under consideration by the SANDF as part of a controversial programme to boost the navy's ability to police Southern African waters.

BENEFITS OF COSTLY NEW PATROL BOATS DEBATED

Experts divided on corvettes

CF 27/3/95 (254)

THE multi-million-rand corvette programme has many critics, but some experts say the expense is necessary and that the deal will have positive spin-offs for the economy

THE navy does intend to buy deep-sea patrol corvettes, the chief of the SA National Defence Force, General Georg Meiring, confirmed at the weekend

However, although the cabinet has implicitly given its approval — by voting R170 million in the special defence account towards the corvettes' cost — the ANC remains divided over whether the multi-million-rand corvette programme is appropriate

SA Navy spokesman Commander Stan Slogrove said from Pretoria yesterday that the cabinet had not yet taken a decision to buy the deep-sea patrol corvettes

The navy has managed to convince the army and the air force — who must vie for an ever-decreas-

ing slice of the defence budget — that the vessels are needed

However, divisions about the programme continue. Some ANC MPs argue that pressing social needs should be addressed first

Former NP Deputy Defence Minister Mr Wynand Breytenbach says this is a valid concern, but it must be balanced against the need for a solid military deterrent as an insurance blanket

Durban-based ANC MP Dr Ian Phillips, a member of the portfolio committee on defence, mirrors a view held by many ANC parliamentarians who believe that until a comprehensive maritime policy is forged, a decision to buy the corvettes would be premature

Dr Phillips claims that the existing coastal and deep water policing

is adequately covered by a variety of government agencies which have vessels at sea. His view is guardedly backed by DP senator Commandant James Selfe

That is not so, says Jane's Defence Weekly's special SA correspondent Mr Helmut Romer-Heitman. Since SA signed the UN Law of the Sea Convention in November last year, the country has become responsible for policing increased territorial waters

The corvettes are needed to guard 2 800km of coast multiplied by 200 nautical miles, which includes Prince Edward Island and its continental shelf — where some believe there could be impressive mineral deposits

Other areas needing protection include the offshore diamond fields near Namibia and potential oil wells in the Mossel Bay area

With world fish stocks declining rapidly, poaching will in-

evitably increase, argues Mr Heitman

The corvettes, unlike the existing strike craft, can carry a helicopter which will allow it to track alien shipping 100 miles away

Three countries are now vying for the corvette contract — Spain, believed to be frontrunner, Britain and Denmark — which will include the requirement that three of the hulls be built in Durban, injecting about R600 million into the regional economy and creating at least 100 new jobs

Countertrade deals with the winning bid country could create a further 10 000 jobs in SA

Should SA rather be building houses? Mr Heitman said the corvette programme was not taking money from the housing budget. And as the fishing industry provided 100 000 people with jobs, SA could not afford to open the field to poachers — Sapa, Political Staff

Spaniards dangle R4-b carrot for SA

■ **BARTER TRADE** Spain woos SA tender for patrol corvettes:

THE Spanish government has promised to invest about R4 billion in South Africa as part of a counter-trade proposal tied to the purchase of four patrol corvettes by the SA Navy.

This was disclosed in an interview by Spain's Minister of Industry and Energy, Mr Juan Eguigaray, who last month became the first Spanish cabinet minister to visit South Africa.

Tenders from Britain and Spain for the supply of the corvettes are currently under consideration, and a final decision is expected from the Cabinet within days.

Strong opposition

In spite of strong opposition from various quarters to the R1,5-billion expenditure over five years on the corvettes, Eguigaray said it was "not just a matter of selling" the vessels to South Africa. There was "much more to the whole issue," Eguigaray said.

"Spain's submission of a tender for the corvettes entails a 100 percent counter-trade deal with the potential to create more than 20 000 new jobs for South Africa, and for increasing the export of South African coal."

Earlier, the president of the govern-

ment-owned BAZAN shipyard in Spain, Mr Antonio Sanchez-Camara, said the offer from his company included a "menu" of 18 different counter-trade programmes from which the South African Government could choose.

Fishing vessels

These programmes included the purchase of South African-built fishing vessels in a venture with Dorbyl, the training of thousands of South Africans in more than 250 disciplines, and a commitment to increase Spanish imports of South African coal by 50 percent over the next ten years.

New projects

The chief of the National Defence Force, General Georg Meiring, confirmed in Cape Town that the Navy would purchase deep-sea patrol corvettes as part of new projects planned by the SANDF.

The intended purchase has met with opposition from the public, who say the country is at peace with the world and does not need to spend such amounts of money on naval equipment. The money should instead be diverted for social needs — Sapa

254 (HAR) some ran 27/3/95

SA changing stance on peacekeeping — Pahad

(254) ARLT 29/3/95
Diplomatic Correspondent

SOUTHERN Africa is moving away from militarist and peacekeeping approaches to that of conflict resolution, deputy minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad said today.

He was briefing the national assembly's standing committee on foreign affairs on the proposed formation of an association of Southern African states (ASAS)

The body is to replace the old Frontline States, an organisation formed in the 70s mainly as a block against the destabilising efforts of the previous South African government

Mr Pahad said conflict prevention instead of peacekeeping or military intervention was the trend all over the world. The United Nations was trying it and the OAU had established a conflict-prevention body, which was still in an embryo stage.

In South Africa there had been a democratisation process following the collapse of the cold war and the end of destabilisation

Angola remained a problem as it appeared to be hovering on the brink of another civil war

The aim of the new body would be to deal with all major threats to security — political, social, economic and environmental — in a conflict-prevention approach rather than a military one. Early warning systems would have to be developed

It was important now to tackle such problems collectively as Africa had suffered much in the cold war. Military action was no longer acceptable for conducting foreign policy

The new association would be the political wing of the South African Development Community (SADEC)

The area's heads of state were expected to endorse the concept at a summit in August and more details would then be given about how it would work

Mr Pahad said the one thing the South African states would not tolerate would be the overthrow of democratically-elected governments.

Corvettes:

R50m spent

(254) CT 29/3/95

BY BARRY STREEK

POLITICAL STAFF

THE navy has spent R50,5 million in the current financial year on a project concerning the four patrol corvettes it would like to buy.

The project involved an analysis of the specifications of what was needed and whether instruments should be obtained overseas or not.

Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise said this yesterday in reply to a question tabled in the Senate by Senator Errol Moorcroft (DP).

It was estimated the corvettes would eventually cost R1,69 billion at current values.

COUNTERTRADE

(254)

Full ahead? FM 31/3/95

The Cabinet is expected to decide within the next month whether to give the navy the go-ahead to acquire four corvettes in a

BUSINESS

R1,7bn deal which will include an extensive countertrade agreement

Defence Force and Armscor sources are confident the deal will be given the nod, despite divisions in the ANC parliamentary caucus on whether it is justified

Three countries are competing for the contract. Spain, Denmark and Britain. Spain is considered the frontrunner, though all three have offered attractive countertrade packages which they claim will effectively offset the cost of the corvettes over 10 years.

The Defence Force believes it can convince the Cabinet that the navy needs the corvettes for coastal defence and deep-sea search and rescue operations. Funds are available in the current defence budget to meet the first payment, which means construction of the ships could begin this year. However, the final decision will be based mainly on political considerations and, in particular, on support in the ANC caucus.

There seems little doubt the deal would mean a significant boost for the local engineering and electronics industries. The contract stipulates that the bulk of the construction work and fitting of the vessels be carried out in Durban. Local suppliers and workers will be used where possible. ■

Protesting soldiers arrested

STEPHANE BOTHMA

254

PRETORIA — A military drama unfolded on the lawns of the Union Buildings yesterday afternoon when 21 Battalion soldiers were arrested while protesting against the SANDF's refusal to renew their service contracts.

The 52 soldiers, from the Lenasia military base, were sitting on the lawns awaiting a response from government to a letter handed to the office of President Nelson Mandela earlier, when military police arrested them for being absent without leave from their base.

The group was taken to Voortrekkerhoogte for their statements before they were transferred to the Boksburg detention barracks

BD 31/3/95
The 52 soldiers represented about 400 troops whose short-term service contracts expire today. In the letter to Mandela, they demanded to know why they were being treated like "dogs".

gun deal

told

254

1/4/95

stan

Destination of arms could not be known, Cameron inquiry

Armscor cleared in

ARMSCOR had no control over the final destination of its weapons and was never informed of the real destination of weapons sold to Middle Eastern arms dealer Eli Wazan, ships' charterer and managing director of Dan-Am Shipping Michael Steenberg told the Cameron Commission of Inquiry in Berne, Switzerland, last week.

Transcripts of Steenberg's three days of testimony were released by the commission this week

Steenberg said Armscor manager Marius Vermaak's knowledge was "always that the ships would proceed to Beirut, Lebanon" Wazan always insisted Vermaak did not know the destination of the vessels, which were in fact headed for Al Hudaydah, Yemen

He said Armscor had no choice but to believe what it was told Asked by commissioner Brian Sheer if Armscor had not wanted to be sure where its shipments were going, Steenberg said "Then they would have to put the items on a South African vessel, owned by the SA government and control it 100%"

This was confirmed by arms dealer Joe der Hosvepian, who told the commission last week Armscor was duped several times over the destination of arms Testimony transcripts were also released this week

Der Hosvepian, the business partner of Saudi Arabian Prince Anwar al Shalaan, said under cross-examination "I would say yes, they were duped" His evidence indicated Armscor had been deceived on the destination of arms shipments at least four times

Parts of Steenberg's testimony read like a James Bond film script He met Wazan for the first time in 1991 when he visited Cape Town to oversee the loading of an arms consignment for the Yugoslavian government, on behalf of Der Hosvepian

It is believed these weapons ended up either in Serbia or Croatia. Three months later they met again, in Geneva, when Wazan introduced himself as a procurement agent for the Lebanese armed forces

"He was buying weapons for the defence force in Lebanon from many places around the world, especially from South Africa I asked him why South Africa. He said: 'Well, they have so much surplus they do not know what to do with it'"

Steenberg said he found it strange that Wazan was buying for Lebanon and "not even shipping to Lebanon", adding that in the arms trade there was always a level of secrecy

Questioned further about Wazan, Steenberg said business was business — and he did not care who Wazan represented In 1993 Wazan asked if he could help with another shipment, from Port Elizabeth to Al Hudaydah

This shipment, he was informed during a meeting between himself, Wazan, Saudi Arabian Prince Anwar al Shalaan and Der Hosvepian in a Port Elizabeth hotel, had been divided and the ship Vinland Saga had return as quickly as possible for another load

However, the second shipment was delayed for almost a year due to the buyers lacking funds, a row between Wazan, the prince and Der Hosvepian, and negotiations to salvage the deal conducted by Steenberg with Wazan and Vermaak

Vinland Saga sailed for Yemen with the first shipment and was met by "fishermen" who came aboard and picked up the cargo "They broke every weapon box and took the AK-47 rifles and stuffed them in the fish box — and off they went," Steenberg said

He said the bill of lading was written on a US dollar bill, torn in half When the captain of the fishing vessel received the matching half of the bill he would be the buyer The Yemenese were apparently not satisfied with the quality of the weapons

New regulations

The second shipment, on Arktis Pioneer last year, encountered several problems, Steenberg said, and he telephoned Der Hosvepian for help

"The elections were on in South Africa It was explained that during the elections everybody, everything was going to be put on hold and, of course, with the election and with the new party winning, which everybody knew was going to happen, there was no doubt there were to be new regulations It was going to be more difficult to deal with South Africa."

He telephoned Wazan and asked him if he could arrange an "EU" certificate so that the deal could be finalised Wazan, who had apparently been excluded from the deal due to his row with the prince and Der Hosvepian, came back and negotiated with Armscor as the buyer of the goods

Steenberg would come to South Africa as the shipper "and it would look like good old days, which is we are going to Lebanon"

"So there was absolutely nothing in Armscor's mind that would make them hesitate or ask any stupid questions There was nothing in Armscor's mind to think that we were not going to Lebanon"

Original and fictitious bills of lading were made out for Arktis Pioneer which travelled to Al Hudaydah "Military people arrived and opened three or four containers and disappeared," Steenberg said They were again dissatisfied with the quality A colonel arrived a few days later to smooth out problems "We then communicated with the captain of the vessel and asked what was going on"

The captain said "Dump the stuff and get out We are not going to be sitting here as a floating warehouse We shipped it We delivered it Dump it" However, four security officers were placed around the ship and they could not unload After 12 days they left port

Steenberg said he was under pressure from Elite Shipping to offload the cargo because it needed its vessel Another attempt was made to offload at Al Hudaydah without success, so he decided to return the ship with its cargo to South Africa

Media reports about the shipment caused an international outcry "On the Monday it came in the papers," Steenberg said He telephoned Vermaak to "inform them that we had a very, very bad situation"

Elite Shipping released a statement to the Danish media, saying the ship had never been intended to go to Beirut Armscor insisted Beirut was the destination

Vermaak suggested the cargo be dumped in the ocean, Steenberg said, but he (Steenberg) suggested returning to South Africa "I thought it was a very good idea. It just did not work because the owners (Elite Shipping) would not play along these lines" Elite Shipping had claimed the cargo

Steenberg said the United Nations at an early stage in the deal said there was no problem in transporting weapons from South Africa to Yemen The arms embargo had been lifted

He said neither he nor Vermaak had ever taken bribes However, he said under cross-examination he was prepared to "deceive in a business transaction" He and Wazan lied to Vermaak to get business and make money

He did not really feel bad about it, he said However, he thought it unfair that Vermaak was taking the blame for his (Steenberg's) deception — Sapa

Crisis looms as battalion stays put

(254)
JOHANNESBURG — The situation at the Lenz military base near Soweto, where members of 21 Battalion have refused to vacate the premises after the expiry of their short-term service contracts, is quickly reaching crisis point

South African National Defence Force Union executive officer Corporal van Niekerk said yesterday members of the 1993 intake, also employed on a short-term contract basis, had been ordered to take up arms if necessary to expel 21 Battalion members.

ARCT 11/4/95
"The union feels it would be best if the senior generals made way for a younger group that would be more receptive to change, as was the case with the South African Police Service."

He said 450 soldiers from 21 Battalion were being forced to leave the base.

They had on two previous occasions, in January and on March 6, marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to hand a memorandum to a representative of President Mandela.

In the memorandum, they questioned the reasons given by the defence force for the termination of their contracts

Defence Force spokeswoman Captain Annelize Rademeyer said the contracts had been terminated because of rationalisation.

Mr Van Niekerk said members of 21 Battalion did not find this satisfactory because the Defence Force continued to employ new members

He said it made no sense to terminate the services of an already-trained soldier in favour of a recruit who would have to undergo a nine-month training period, during which time he would not actively contribute

All the members of 21 Battalion, except for about 52 men arrested on Thursday after another march to the Union Buildings, were at the Lenz base yesterday.

Mr Van Niekerk said those arrested on Thursday were being held in detention barracks at Boksburg. The union's attorneys were negotiating their release.

Mr Van Niekerk said detaining the men was an infringement of their right to freedom of movement as set out in the new constitution.

The Defence Force is charging the men with absence without leave and disobeying a lawful command.

Captain Rademeyer said that, as far as she was aware, 30 members of 21 Battalion would be charged.

Mr Van Niekerk said the only reason the members of 21 Battalion were refusing to vacate the premises was that they had received no answer to their questions, neither from the State President's office nor the Ministry of Defence.

They were angry because they had been promised a job for the next six years and were now being kicked out after only two years.

Captain Rademeyer said the short service contracts were for two years only. — Sapa.

PRI

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SPEA

BUY THE NAME
WITH THE ECLIPSE
FOR ONE
NORMA

NAD 310 AMPLIFIER

ECLIPSE 420 CD PLAYER

PR

NAD

"Detailed open
multi-play CD
WHAT HI-FI
REMOTE CONTROL
NOW ONLY

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man Michael Roshott, left, with Education director-general Prof Chabani Manganyi and Mary Metcalf, top right, look on as deputy director Nick Taylor speaks. Pictures: ROBERT BOTHA

Military 'may have role as region's peacekeeper'

BD 3/4/95 (254)

SUSAN RUSSELL

ALTHOUGH SA's main concern as a regional power was conflict prevention rather than peacekeeping, it would face increasing pressure to get involved in UN peacekeeping operations, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad said in Johannesburg on Friday.

Pahad was the opening speaker at a two day workshop on "Redefining Security in Southern Africa," organised by the Common Security Forum (CSF).

The CSF is an international body which researches and provides a forum for security policy exchange worldwide. The forum focusses its efforts on five main areas, namely human, political, economic, environment and military security.

Pahad told delegates that SA's military role in the Southern African region during the apartheid years had left a legacy of mistrust. It was incumbent on the country to now play a role in promoting security as a partner, not as a big brother.

Pahad said since the cold war there had been a growing sense worldwide that security policy and conflict resolution could not be looked at in military terms, but must encompass human rights, democracy and economic opportunity.

Regional security and stability included protection of the environment, the prohibition of arms proliferation, problems with illegal immigration or "economic refu-

gees" and demobilised soldiers.

Policy makers also had to look at instances where ethnic conflicts were leading to xenophobia.

There was also the issue of new territorial claims where countries were challenging established boundaries.

Pahad said the Southern African Development Community, which admitted SA last year, had accepted the need for a political arm, the Association of Southern African States to deal with, among other objectives, intra-state conflict.

There might be occasions, he said, where the region would have to consider sending in military forces to ensure the democratically elected government was put back in power. This had been the case with the last coup attempt in Lesotho when Zimbabwe, Botswana and SA had undertaken joint military exercises.

Pahad said he believed this would also have been the case if one of the parties had not accepted the results in Mocambique's recent elections.

Angola was still an area of serious concern, he said.

Pahad also emphasised that without sustained economic growth in the region all discussions of peace and stability would remain merely a vision.

SA vote vital to treaty

LINDA ENSOR (254)

LONDON — SA is in the middle of an international row over the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty's renewal, and is being wooed by the opposing parties for it to join their camps. *BD 4/4/95*

The lobbying is taking place ahead of a major conference in New York from April 17 to May 12 which will decide the future of the 25-year-old treaty which is due to expire soon.

Latest reports indicate an even balance exists between those nations wanting to renew it indefinitely, and those wanting a fixed-term renewal — hence the importance of SA's vote.

A foreign and commonwealth office spokesman said Britain had tried to persuade SA to throw its weight behind the five "temporary" nuclear powers — Britain, US, Russia, China and France — in a bid to get the treaty renewed indefinitely.

SA deputy commissioner in London Gert Grobler said internal SA discussion was taking place over what position to adopt, and veteran anti-apartheid activist Abdul Minty had been appointed to advise Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo.

However, as SA was a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, it also did not wish to alienate its fellow members, many of whom argued against an indefinite renewal and wanted a fixed-term renewal, for instance for about 20 years.

Commission to focus on arms trade policy

SUSAN RUSSELL

(254)

THE Cameron commission of inquiry into Armscor's international trade since 1990 will focus on SA's arms trade policy after it concludes its investigation into last year's aborted AK-47 shipment to the Middle East this month. Commission chairman Judge Edwin Cameron has indicated that he hopes to have an interim report on the AK-47 transaction ready to hand to government by the end of April. This will be after he has heard final submissions next week from lawyers acting for Armscor and the other parties involved.

No date has been announced for the second leg of the inquiry into SA arms trade policy and decision-making, which will be conducted by way of a public forum, but the commission has said it will do so shortly.

It will invite interested parties to submit written presentations on specified aspects of arms policy. *BD 4/4/95*

After reading written submissions, the commission will convene a public forum in Cape Town to hear oral argument.

Commission secretary Donald du Plessis said the commission would be chaired and directed along the lines of a public hearing with presentations followed by questions and discussion rather than as a quasi-judicial process with legal argument and cross-examination.

One of Cameron's two co-commissioners Laurie Nathan will chair the forum and analyse the written material, but the final report will be undertaken by all three members of the commission, including Advocate Vincent Mabela.

The commission is still considering how best to conduct the rest of its brief which is to investigate any transactions since 1990 which are "similar" to last year's AK-47 deal with Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan.

Workers prepare for joining of councils

BD 4/4/95

RENEE GRAWITZKY

THE amalgamation of local authorities, establishment of a national industrial council and reconstitution of a fully representative employer organisation will be the focus of the SA Municipal Workers' Union's fourth national congress starting on Thursday.

Samwu acting general secretary Roger Romle said two thirds of the current 600 local authorities would be eliminated as a result of the amalgamation of authorities by geographical area under the Local Government Transition Act.

Amalgamation would bring together workers covered by differing conditions of employment, which could be a major source of conflict.

Creation of a national committee comprising employer and employee representatives, to resolve disparities in conditions of employment, would be demanded.

Wage policy discussion would consider submitting separate demands to industrial councils covering small local authorities and large urban ones such as Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. Minimum wages in large urban authorities ranged between R1 100 and R1 300, while wages in small local authorities were as low as R500, he said.

Industrial councils could face demands for a minimum wage of R1 000 for workers now earning R650 or less, R1 200 as a minimum for those earning between R650 and R850, and an across-the-board increase of

R350 for those earning more than R1 200. Romle said large authorities could face negotiations on a 20% increase on the wage bill and how this could be spread across the various categories — with emphasis on narrowing the wage gap.

Employer organisations party to industrial council agreements were viewed as being linked to apartheid structures and should be collapsed and reconstituted.

The union was of the view that such bodies "should seek a reasonable and democratic balance between proportional representation by size and voice of legitimate interests", he said.

The role of local authorities in the delivery of reconstruction and development programme objectives, the local government elections, new collective bargaining arrangements in the local government sector, and human resource development were some other issues to be discussed at the unions' congress.

Romle said that final plans were underway for the formation of one public sector union in August.

This would have a membership of more than 250 000 and make it Cosatu's second largest union after the NUM.

Regional workshops were under way to finalise the merger between Samwu, the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union and Post and Telecommunications Workers' Association.

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Troops in policing outnumber ~~SA~~ (254) those in border war

ARL 5/4/95
TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

THE SA National Defence Force (SANDF) is using more troops in police work than the former SADF used at the height of the Angolan war, said defence force chief Georg Meiring.

Briefing the national assembly portfolio committee on the defence budget yesterday, General Meiring said that, while between six and 36 companies were posted daily along South Africa's borders during the Angolan conflict in the mid-1980s, there were 48 supporting the SA Police Service.

Asked by Douglas Gibson (DP) whether, in the light of the intake of non-statutory forces, there was enough productive work for all the troops, General Meiring said there was hardly a province where the SANDF did not have a significant impact on the day-to-day management of law and order.

Combating crime was the defence force's main task.

Asked about covert operations and whether the SANDF was still using agents within the ranks of the former liberation movements, General Meiring said the force was in no way involved in instigating violence anywhere in SA.

"We try to take violence away and to prevent violence," he said.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the defence force merely had established new information-gathering systems to determine the risks and sources of violence.

Apart from obtaining intelligence, the defence force was not engaged in covert operations.

On the use of agents in the former liberation movements, General Meiring said the defence force had no agents within political parties.

Previously, informers were used in organisations regarded as opponents of the state, such as Umkhonto weSizwe and the Azanian People's Liberation Army.

As soon as negotiations began between the government and liberation organisations, "collection agents" ceased operating.

At that stage, these agents were informers who had been paid randomly and had never been on defence force staff.

Also at the briefing, General Meiring appealed to the committee to help the defence force find a new name for the controversially and sinisterly named Special Defence Account which, he said, was merely the account where spending on military hardware, or main equipment, was structured.

Armcor reveals strategy behind programme
Star 7/4/95

SA 'built nuclear blackmail bombs'

(254)

Apartheid-era South Africa built nuclear weapons so that it could blackmail the hostile West into intervening if black-ruled neighbours threatened attack, arms officials said yesterday.

In some of the most detailed disclosures on the now-disbanded nuclear programme, the managing director of Armcor, Tielman de Waal, detailed the country's former nuclear strategy for foreign reporters.

South Africa took the first steps towards developing nuclear weapons in 1974, although a formal decision to build a bomb probably came only in 1979, De Waal said.

At the time, the country was losing friends due to its racial policies, and leaders feared Soviet-orchestrated attacks from Moscow allies Mozambique, Zim-

babwe and Angola, De Waal said.

"At this time a deterrent strategy emerged," he explained. "The aim of the deterrent strategy was to obtain Western assistance in the case of a serious military threat."

The strategy had three stages. The first was based on uncertainty, with South Africa neither confirming nor denying it had a nuclear arsenal. If a serious threat arose, the United States would be secretly told of South Africa's nuclear capability and be expected to help defuse the problem. Failing that, Pretoria would publicly declare it had the bomb or dramatically prove it with an underground test.

South Africa never "intentionally" moved beyond the first stage, De Waal said, although

most Western governments were aware of its arsenal. None of the six bombs completed before then president F W de Klerk ordered that the programme be stopped in 1990 was ever tested.

De Klerk broke the secrecy in 1993, announcing to Parliament that the programme existed and had been scrapped. The six finished bombs and one uncompleted bomb — each the size of the US bomb that devastated Hiroshima in World War 2 — were destroyed.

De Waal acknowledged that South Africa used technology obtained elsewhere — the US, Germany, France and especially Israel have been cited by anti-nuclear activists — but claimed no country knew it was earmarked for the nuclear programme. — Sapa-AP.

SA reveals past nuclear strategy

(254)

CT 7/4/95

PRETORIA South Africa is keeping the identities of its nuclear arms experts secret to prevent foreign governments trying to recruit them, Armscor chief executive Mr Tielman de Waal said yesterday.

In some of the most detailed disclosures on the now-disbanded nuclear programme, Mr De Waal revealed the country's former nuclear strategy.

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Mr De Waal said SA had followed a policy of restricting the amount of knowledge any one scientist could obtain.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has certified that all of South Africa's weapons grade enriched uranium is accounted for. — Sapa-AP-Reuter

ARMOURD VEHICLES WILL BE USED IN RWANDA

(254)

UN boost for SA's defence industry

CT 7/4/95

JOHANNESBURG: SA's defence industry is finding new markets for its military equipment — in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

SOUTH AFRICA, searching for new markets for weapons and military equipment honed during its apartheid isolation, is selling armoured vehicles to the United Nations for peacekeeping operations in Africa and Europe

Defence analysts said yesterday it was ironic the world body which isolated and enforced arms sanctions against the old SA was acquiring military equipment developed as a result of the isolation

"There is irony there, but it serves to underline SA's commitment to global peace. It's better than selling G-6s (self-propelled guns) to somewhere like Oman,"

said Mr Jakkie Cilliers, head of the Independent Institute for Defence Policy.

Fifteen Mamba armoured vehicles, bought by the UN, have just been shipped to Rwanda and manufacturer Reumech OMC is optimistic about clinching a bigger deal with the UN in Bosnia, through Britain's Alvis Vehicles Ltd.

"The Mambas are in Rwanda, ready for deployment," said Reumech's senior marketing executive Mr Koos de Wet, adding the package included logistics, training and spares.

Other SA military equipment including body armour, military

communications equipment, long-range howitzers, mine-detection and mine-lifting equipment is finding overseas markets as domestic demand slumps.

Mr De Wet said his company had sold several hundred Mambas domestically and was "going worldwide" with demonstrations in five countries, which he would not identify.

"It's a bit of a unique vehicle. Primarily a troop carrier, it is ballistically protected against small arms fire and is protected against landmines," he said.

SA had drawn on its wartime experiences in Angola and from past civil strife in developing the vehicle, which is air-transportable and had the good visibility needed in urban ambushes and similar crisis situations — Sapa-Reuter

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Modise places curbs on deals by Armscor

ST 9/4/95
By ANDREW TRENCH

RS4

DEFENCE Minister Joe Modise has limited Armscor's leeway in importing and exporting weapons

In a recent government notice, Mr Modise tied Armscor — the procurement agency for the defence force — to regulations that ensure the corporation cannot conduct weapons deals unless it has a permit issued by the Minister of Defence

Previously, under the Arms Development and Production Act, Armscor could "on its own account" buy, sell, import, export or promote the sale of arms, including weapons for export

Ministry spokesman Das Herbst said the move was aimed at curtailing Armscor's previous wide-ranging powers and followed cabinet interest in bringing South Africa into line with international trends for greater control over the arms industry.

Armscor's dealings have been under the scrutiny of the Cameron commission following the scandal over the sale of AK-47s to Yemen last year in contravention of South African law and cabinet policy

The incident focused attention on the corporation's activities and led to calls for greater accountability

SAFETY'S F

THE DEBATE has been reduced to one simple issue both inside and outside parliament. What does the country need most – guns or houses?

Minister Joe Modise insists. Yes, the need for houses is dire – BUT, you need the guns to create the conditions to have houses

Modise spelt out why a well-equipped defence force is essential,

"You can have your houses – very pretty houses – and the more houses you get the wealthier the country becomes, but the more vulnerable it becomes. Unprotected, those beautiful homes are meaningless. You can live in a mansion and it only becomes valuable to you if you feel secure in it."

Social factors are the main cause of insecurity in the country and Modise believes unemployment is one of the biggest threats to security

"The unemployment market is swelling all the time and it's not just confined to blacks. Even whites find themselves in a position where they are unsure if they are going to be holding jobs tomorrow"

However, the argument persists that instead of maintaining a defence capacity those resources should be diverted towards addressing the social problems.

"This is an irrational approach to the problem. You've got to maintain a balance. A defence force must be adequate and affordable," Modise says

There is also much debate on the purchase of Corvette patrol ships by the SA Navy at a cost of R1,7 billion. Would this money not be better used by the RDP?

Not so, argues Modise, because the purchase of the Corvettes will actually help RDP objectives. The Defence position is that economically, South Africa stands to gain R7,6 billion, with at least 23 000 jobs being created.

"When we buy equipment these days my philosophy is that we must make sure the returns are enormous. We must be sure the money we pay gets ploughed back into the country through investments in industry," Modise says

"Those Corvettes will

What's the point of prosperity you can't protect it? – Mod

prosperity
Modise
CP9/4/95

WHEN it comes to defending the Defence Force's position on updating army and navy facilities at enormous cost to the tax payer, you've got to hand it to the Minister of Defence, Joe Modise, for trying to make a convincing point. RAFIQ ROHAN interviews him in parliament.

also ensure that our natural resources and marine life is protected. Many people's jobs depend on the fishing industry. If ships come from outside of South Africa's sea territories and clean up all the fish and lobster around our coast what's going to happen to the fishermen?"

But, instead of this kind of investment, why not think about down-sizing the defence force assets into which billions of rands were invested by the previous regime? Why not activate equipment and facilities lying dormant at shipyards and army bases?

'Our current strike ships are old and the steel keeps cracking. The time they are left in the workshops is more costly. Millions of rands are going down the drain each year.'

"Our people overlook one important thing," Modise answers. "Our current strike ships are old, very brittle and the steel keeps cracking. They are obsolete and in five years they will be destined for the scrapheap. The time they are left in the workshops is more costly because we keep building and refurbishing them"

"Millions of rands are going down the drain each year. It then makes sense that if what you have does not meet your

requirements, then you replace it with something more effective"

Judging by the reception the defence force allocation received during the budget debate last week, not even Modise's ANC parliamentarians are pleased with it. Speaker after speaker from ANC benches slammed the close to R11 billion allocation for defence

"The nation has to strike a balance and some of our people have not begun to realise that this defence force belongs to them," Modise says.

"They don't see it as an asset, that it is no longer an instrument of oppression. They don't see that it is in everyone's interests that our natural resources are protected."

"For the first time we are exploiting our mineral resources. We are a maritime nation. The bulk of our imports come via the sea. You must protect those sea links, otherwise as a country you are worth nothing."

A strong defence force also is of extreme importance to regional countries and for the entire African continent, Modise says

"Some of the African states are coming to us and their hope is centred around this country. Yes, we have problems at home but you can't turn your back on your neighbours. Mozambique recently made an appeal to us because their marine life has been taken away from them by countries with the capability. They are begging us to help. Already we are helping Namibia and I expect Tanzania to follow. These are people who stood with us when we were struggling for democracy in this country"

"Without adequate

ships we can't provide the protection being asked

"It is in South Africa's interest that we have the region working closely with us. We are part of the Regional Inter State and Security Committee and we must build on that. Later on we hope our friends will overcome their economic problems and help us in protecting the sea borders."

"Continental South Africa must also look into its role as a country that is going to mobilise the regions and ensure that on the continent we are a people who have a contribution to make politically, socially and militarily."

Modise also emphasises the role the defence force can play in internal security.

"When the police cannot cope with the security of our people then the defence force must come in. If people don't see the defence force as their own instrument which will intervene when times are bad, then we have a problem"

What kind of threat analysis has the defence force done to justify its current role?

"We have analysed the situation," Modise says. "This country has been occupied by foreigners before. Aggression has been carried out and this

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country has been taken by force. We have been subjugated for many centuries. We struggled for many centuries. Who can guarantee us it will never happen again?"

The biggest threat, Modise says, is destabilisation around South African borders and social difficulties there that are worse than ours.

"Look at the number of illegal immigrants coming into the country. They are beginning to compound our own social problems. Who can guarantee that destabilisation across the borders won't spill over into South Africa? The problems in Mozambique are being sorted out

but there is no guarantee that they won't flare up again. The problems in Lesotho are not only a Lesotho affair. It impacts on the region negatively and it impacts on South Africa even more negatively. Security in this country begins to influence the processes around us.

"If security collapses in South Africa the problem of Mozambique will flare up again. The same applies to Zimbabwe. You can't achieve this with a poorly equipped defence force. This influence creates the necessary conditions for economic development. Investors will not come into a country that is insecure. The negative economic situation has also been brought about by instability within South Africa itself.

"Are people calling upon us to go back to that situation?"



PROTECTING INTERESTS . . . It's no use having houses if those houses are not safe, says Defence Minister Joe Modise.

Armcor's Vermaak left in lurch

JOHANNESBURG. Armcor's arms reserves manager Mr Marius Vermaak — one of the central figures in the Cameron Commission of Inquiry's investigation into AK-47 rifle deals which went awry in the Middle East — was left without legal representation and a job this week.

His legal representative, Mr Bernard van der Hoven, told the commission yesterday it had been

agreed that Mr Vermaak would tender his resignation to Armcor before midnight on Friday.

Armcor would cease to pay any legal fees incurred from April 8 by Mr Vermaak.

Mr Vermaak was not "financially able to conduct counsel", but written argument on his behalf was presented to the commission.

Commission chairman Mr Justice Edwin Cameron expressed

regret at the legal team's withdrawal. ⁽²⁵⁴⁾
CT 12/4/95

"It is most regrettable that (the commission) will have no benefit of oral legal argument," he said, adding that the development placed Mr Vermaak in a difficult position.

The commission's findings on the first leg of the inquiry — officially ending tomorrow — are expected in May — Sapa

Commission 'cannot find board guilty'

BO 13/4/95

SUSAN RUSSELL

THE Cameron commission could not find Armscor's board or MD Tielman de Waal accountable for last year's aborted AK-47 shipment to Yemen because it did not know what delegational structures existed from that level down, it was argued yesterday. (254)

This submission was made by Armscor counsel S van Nieuwenhuizen during closing arguments on the second last day of the commission's inquiry.

The surplus SANDF weapons were sold by former Armscor marketing manager Marius Vermaak through middleman Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan.

The weapons, which left SA in two shipments in October 1993 and September last year, were actually paid for

by Saudi Prince Anwar al-Shalaan on behalf of Yemen.

An international outcry ensued when the second shipment was aborted off Yemen, a country with which Armscor is prohibited from doing business. Armscor claims it was duped into believing the weapons were destined for Lebanon.

Vermaak, who played a key role, was suspended after details became public. He tendered his resignation last week in terms of a settlement with Armscor.

Van Nieuwenhuizen submitted that while the commission could not make any finding on accountability by Armscor's board, it could in the case of Vermaak and his immediate superiors Peet Smith and Anthony Savides, because it did know what delegational structures existed at that level.

He said there were adequate internal controls in Armscor's marketing department but Vermaak, who actually drew up the control system himself, had failed to implement it in the two Wazan shipments.

Van Nieuwenhuizen said it was clear on the evidence that by January last year Vermaak must have known the second shipment was going to Yemen.

When he concluded the contract with Wazan in October 1993, Vermaak had expressed misgivings about the actual destination of the weapons in his private diary.

Van Nieuwenhuizen said Vermaak had been prevented from exercising his judgment by his improperly close relationship with Wazan and had let Armscor down by failing to alert a higher authority of his suspicions.

□ Sapa reports that Armscor has agreed to pay the fee for Vermaak's lawyer on the last two days of legal argument before the commission.

Vermaak's lawyer Bernard van der Hoven on Tuesday told the commission he was withdrawing because Vermaak was unable to pay his fee. In terms of the agreement, Armscor stopped paying his fee on April 8.

Cameron calls for details of Armscor settlement ⁽²⁵⁴⁾

CAMERON Commission chairman Judge Edwin Cameron has called for full details of the settlement reached last week between Armscor and former employee Marius Vermaak, who played a key role in the aborted AK-47 shipment to Yemen last year.

The judge said yesterday the contents of the settlement, in which Vermaak agreed to resign not later than last Friday, might be relevant to the commission's inquiry into the AK-47 deal. *BD 12/4/95*

Cameron said if a term of the settlement was that the details should remain secret then the commission might have to take up the matter with Armscor's full legal team.

Vermaak was suspended from his post as marketing manager last year after public disclosures about an apparent black market AK-47 deal he negotiated through middleman Lebanese arms dealer Eli Wazan caused an international outcry.

Armscor has consistently maintained that it was never party to a black market transaction to Yemen, a prohibited country. It has said it

SUSAN RUSSELL

was misled by a forged end user certificate, supplied by Wazan, into believing that the weapons were destined for Lebanon.

Cameron yesterday also expressed concern that neither Vermaak nor his lawyers, paid for by Armscor, would attend the last three days of the inquiry this week.

Attorneys acting for Vermaak informed the judge by letter that Armscor would not be paying any further legal costs incurred by their client and that he was unable to pay them himself.

Vermaak's lawyers did, however, submit 88 single-space pages of written argument drawn up before his resignation.

Cameron said that although the detailed written argument would be of assistance, the absence of oral argument on Vermaak's behalf could put the commission in a difficult position when making its findings.

Armscor counsel will present their final arguments today.

UN buys SA armoured vehicles for peacekeeping

B01714/45 (254)

SA, SEARCHING for new markets for weapons and military equipment honed during its apartheid isolation, is selling armoured vehicles to the UN for peacekeeping operations in Africa and Europe.

Defence analysts said yesterday it was ironic the world body which isolated and enforced arms sanctions against the old SA was acquiring military equipment developed as a result of the isolation and Pretoria's apartheid wars.

"There is irony there, but it serves to underline SA's commitment to global peace ... it's better than selling G-6s (self-propelled guns) to somewhere like Oman," said Jakkie Cilliers, head of the independent Institute for Defence Policy.

Fifteen Mamba armoured vehicles, bought by the UN, have just been shipped to Rwanda and manufacturer Reumech OMC is optimistic about clinching a bigger deal with the world body in Bosnia, through Brit-

ain's Alvis Vehicles.

"The Mambas are in Rwanda, ready for deployment," said Reumech senior marketing executive Koos de Wet, adding the package included logistics, training and spares for the two-wheel drive variants on the ground in Rwanda.

SA's arms manufacturers, facing a slump in domestic demand now that their country is at peace with its neighbours, are trying to export to keep the country's military industries alive.

SA-made body armour, military communications equipment, long-range howitzers, mine-detection and mine-lifting equipment are finding ready overseas markets.

But the post-apartheid country has been less successful in selling its world-beating Rooivalk (Red Kestrel) attack helicopter, which still has to find a foreign buyer.

Attempts to win a lucrative contract for 80 helicopters from Britain's Army Air Corps were frustrated by

Washington's ban on SA acquiring US technology needed to bring Rooivalk systems into line with those already in use by the British.

De Wet said his company had sold several hundred Mambas domestically and was "going worldwide" with demonstrations in five countries, which he would not identify.

"It's a bit of a unique vehicle. Primarily a troop carrier, it is ballistically protected against small arms fire and is protected against landmines," he said.

SA had drawn on its wartime experiences in Angola and from past civil strife in developing the vehicle, which was air-transportable and had the good visibility needed in urban ambushes and similar situations.

"It is sexily styled. It has benign styling in terms of a military vehicle," said De Wet, explaining that the Mamba did not have the sort of threatening presence normally associated with military vehicles. — Sapa-Reuter.

SA caught in middle of nuclear weapons vote

(254) star 15/4/95
PETER FABRICIUS
FOREIGN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo will spell out South Africa's position on the extension of the 25-year-old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) when he addresses a major conference to review its status at the United Nations next week.

The United States is now confident that it has the support of the majority of NPT signatories to extend the treaty indefinitely and unconditionally at next week's review conference.

The NPT is designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, allowing only the five nations which had nuclear weapons when the treaty was signed in 1968 to keep them, and preventing all others from acquiring them.

A major bloc of developing nations, led by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), oppose the US and want the NPT to be extended for a

fixed period, conditional on the US and other nuclear-weapons states meeting their treaty obligations by making a greater effort to dismantle their nuclear arsenals and transfer peaceful technology to the Third World.

South Africa, caught in the middle as an NAM member and also a sophisticated nuclear state with membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group, has not yet declared its position.

But it has been lobbying hard to secure a compromise that would win the greatest possible support, proposing that the treaty be extended for an indefinite number of fixed periods, automatically renewable unless a majority of NPT countries make a deliberate decision to terminate it.

The US does not see this as a compromise and South Africa may be reconsidering its stance. Some sources in the anti-nuclear community believe South Africa is ready to

back the US, but the Government is playing its cards very close to its chest.

After months of intense international lobbying, including personal letters from President Bill Clinton and Gulf War hero General Colin Powell to President Mandela, the Clinton administration is sounding increasingly optimistic about the outcome of the four-week conference that opens on Monday.

"I will say the outlook is quite favourable and is getting more favourable," said John Holum, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

A simple majority of the 87 signatories is required to make the agreement permanent. That goal may rise by one or two if, as expected, more countries join the NPT between now and mid-May when the vote is taken.

Holum said this week the US had firm commitments from more than 80 countries.

Arm Scor probe: first leg ends

2574

SPAN 15/11/95

THE six-month-old Cameron Commission of Inquiry into Arm Scor weapons sales in the Middle East ended its first leg on Thursday, hearing final argument by lawyers for several parties, among them Arm Scor sales manager Maris Vermaak.

Bernard van der Hoven told the commission in Sandton that Vermaak's failure to testify on certain aspects of the arms deals might lead to the commission drawing an adverse inference, but added "Because he didn't testify does not mean he is guilty."

"I think there was a kind of naivety in his personality. I don't think he was (capable) of handling (the) foreign characters." Vermaak accepted a per-

son's bona fides until proved wrong. "(Arms buyer Eli) Wazan was a clever character."

Van der Hoven said poor administration in Arm Scor's marketing department had led to allegations of a "sinister" flow of funds. "I cannot argue away from the fact that the administration was poorly done. You have every right to raise eyebrows in this regard."

No idea

He conceded that Vermaak should have conveyed to his seniors his suspicions about the connection between Wazan and other arms dealers, Prince Anwar al Shalaan and Joe der Hosvepian, instead of merely making a diary entry about it.

At that stage it was "an innocent note" and Vermaak "did not have the slightest idea" of the repercussions.

There was no real evidence before the commission that Vermaak knew all along that the weapons were headed for Yemen and not Beirut, as Wazan had said.

None of the foreign witnesses had said Vermaak was part of a conspiracy.

"If he was part of a conspiracy . . . he would have accepted the \$100 000 bribe offered to him by Der Hosvepian. Mr Wazan is clearly the big architect . . . of fraudulent transactions."

Wazan's statement to the commission should be rejected as unbelievable, untrustworthy and incorrect, Van der Hoven said. That statement should be rejected as unbelievable, untrustworthy and incorrect — Sapa.

Churches enter debate over R1,7bn corvettes

DALE GRANGER
STAFF REPORTER

ET 19/4/95

THE South African Council of Churches yesterday entered the fiery debate over the Navy's proposed R1,7-billion purchase of four corvettes saying they were concerned the government was being drawn into the "mentality of the previous regime" at the expense of the underprivileged

With the cabinet due to decide on May 1 whether or not to buy the corvettes, the SACC said yesterday that they "questioned the wisdom of purchasing four corvettes for the South African Navy at high cost at this time in the history of our land"

They said that despite being told there was a need to secure the safety of South Africa's borders and shores, "we believe the real enemies of the country are hunger and poverty, homelessness and joblessness as experienced by vast mem-

bers of our population"

Calling for further discussion and debate on the issue with the inclusion of civic societies and churches, the SACC said they "remained concerned about the way this government, committed as it is to the needs of the masses, seems to be drawn into the military mentality of the previous regime"

Major Muff Andersson, spokeswoman for Minister of Defence Mr Joe Modise, said both Mr Modise and deputy minister Mr Ronnie Kasrils welcomed debate on the corvette issue to include churches and Cosatu as for the first time defence issues were being broadened to the range of the majority of people in South Africa

But she justified the purchase of the warships by saying the Department of Defence was committed to working within an RDP framework and the purchase of the corvettes would not affect this.

A stand on nuclear disarmament welcomed

ARG 20/4/95

(254)

backs indefinite extension of treaty

Foreign Service
 UK — South Africa
 to strengthen
 Non-proliferation
 (NPT) by ensuring
 states meet their
 obligations has
 been welcomed by
 arms and disarmament
 here
 African officials be-
 lieved form the basis
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 n Minister Alfred
 announced yesterday
 South Africa supported
 — and in effect un-
 der — extension of
 the old treaty, the
 instrument prevent-
 spread of nuclear

transfer peaceful nuclear
 technology to non-nuclear
 states

South Africa has been try-
 ing hard to broker a compro-
 mise and until recently fa-
 voured extension of the treaty
 for a series of fixed periods
 rather than indefinitely

However after intense lob-
 bying from the US and other
 nuclear powers, Mr Nzo pub-
 licly declared that South
 Africa favoured indefinite ex-
 tension. He also emphasised
 that South Africa did not sup-
 port the imposition of any
 conditions which could termi-
 nate the NPT

This put South Africa very
 much in line with the position
 of the nuclear powers

However Mr Nzo also
 made it clear that South
 Africa supported the coun-
 tries which criticised the nu-
 clear powers for not doing
 enough to meet their treaty
 obligations to scrap nuclear
 weapons, provide security to
 non-nuclear weapons states
 against nuclear attack and
 transfer nuclear technology
 to the developing world

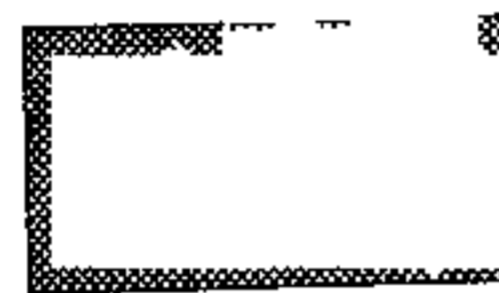
He proposed a mechanism
 to strengthen the process of
 reviewing the progress made
 by treaty states in meeting
 their obligations

This would include a set of
 principles for nuclear non-
 proliferation and disarmament
 setting out the obliga-
 tions of the nuclear powers
 and non-nuclear states in
 more detail

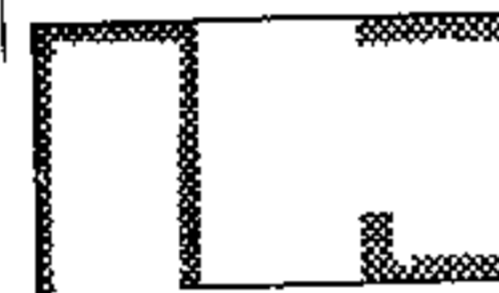
NUCLEAR WEAPONS TREATY

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), aimed at stopping the spread of nuclear weapons, is being reviewed at a four-week U.N. conference in New York.

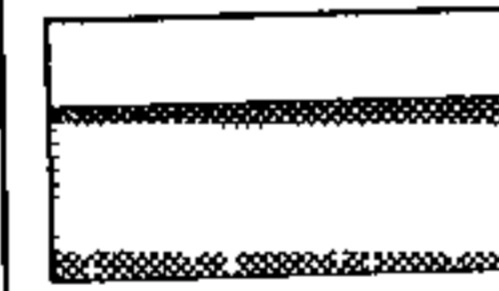
The NPT came into force in 1970 and has 174 nation members, including the "Big Five" nuclear powers, China, France, Russia, Britain and the United States



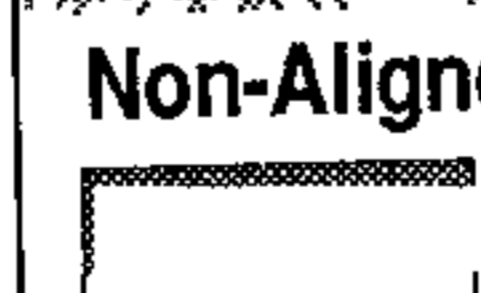
China
 1964-1994 41
 reported tests



France
 1960-1991 210
 reported tests



Russia
 1949-1990 715
 reported tests



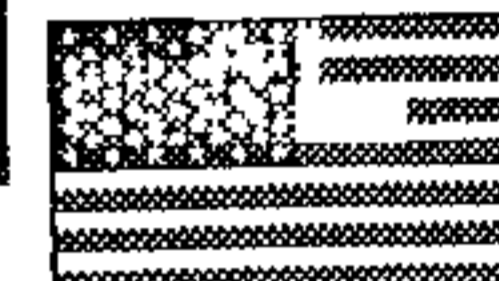
Indonesia
 Chair



The "Big Five"
 Committed under NPT
 not to transfer nuclear
 weapons to other
 countries, want
 treaty indefinitely
 extended



Britain
 1952-1991 44
 reported tests



United States
 1945-1992
 More than
 1,000
 reported tests

The "Big Five", except for China, agreed to indefinite moratorium on nuclear testing in 1992

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Grouping of more than 100 developing countries such as Iran, Egypt, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Nigeria. Many NAM nations favour limited extension of NPT, claiming the "Big Five" have been slow to disarm

NAM demands:

- Quicker moves to nuclear disarmament
- A formal treaty banning nuclear tests
- An end to the production of material used to make nuclear weapons
- Better access to civilian nuclear technology

Nuclear Threshold Nations

Israel, India and Pakistan are not members of NPT and are also suspected of having nuclear arms

SACC joins the debate on Corvettes

254 Sowetan 20/4/98

THE South African Council of Churches has entered the fiery debate over the SA Navy's proposed R1,7 billion purchase of four Corvettes, saying it is concerned the Government is being drawn into the "mentality of the previous regime" at the expense of the underprivileged.

With the Cabinet due to decide on May 1 whether or not to purchase the corvettes, the SACC "questioned the wisdom of purchasing four Corvettes for the South African Navy at high cost at this time in the history of our land".

The SACC said despite being told there was a need to secure the safety of South Africa's borders and shores, "we believe the real enemies of the country are hunger and poverty and the homelessness and joblessness experienced by vast numbers of our population".

"Safety and security must be firstly and foremostly satisfied by ensuring the needs of the people are met."

By [Name] Sowetan Correspondent

Admonition from Nzo at UN

SA for indefinite extension of nuclear treaty

(254)
slav 20/4/95

■ BY PETER FABRICIUS
STAR BUREAU

New York — Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo announced yesterday that South Africa was backing the five declared nuclear powers in calling for the 25-year-old Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to be extended indefinitely and unconditionally.

After months of intense lobbying by the US and other nuclear powers and shifts in SA's position, Nzo told the 178 nations gathered for the NPT review conference at the UN that anything short of unconditional and permanent extension could jeopardise the treaty — the principal measure preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

SA has been trying hard to find a compromise between the nuclear powers and many nations of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) who want the treaty extended conditionally and only for a fixed period to put pressure on the nuclear states to dis-

arm, and to provide security guarantees and transfer peaceful nuclear technology to non-nuclear countries.

Nzo yesterday admonished the nuclear powers for not doing enough to fulfil these NPT obligations. And he went further by making concrete proposals to help ensure that they did so.

But, significantly, he stressed that these should not be made conditions for the extension of the treaty, as many NAM countries are proposing.

"They would not be conditions which could lead to the termination of the treaty."

SA's proposals would not require amendment of the treaty itself, Nzo said. This means that SA has essentially backed the US and the other declared nuclear powers — Russia, China, Britain and France — who want the NPT to remain unchanged.

Nzo's first proposal for strengthening the treaty was that the review conference adopt a set of principles for nuclear

non-proliferation and disarmament setting out the obligations of the nuclear powers.

These would include progress in reducing nuclear arsenals, in establishing a comprehensive test ban treaty and in enforcing binding security assurances for non-nuclear states.

He also proposed a new structure of committees to address these concerns at the regular five-yearly review conferences of the NPT.

Nzo said SA was making these proposals because it was important for the permanence of the NPT to win the greatest possible support of the treaty states.

Pretoria's declaration is likely to help that goal.

SA is regarded as having unique influence — especially among NAM and OAU nations — because of its recent conversion to democracy and its special status as the only country that has ever voluntarily abandoned a nuclear weapons programme.

Demob packages for MK, APLA

(254)

Star 22/4/95

ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN — Demobilisation packages are being considered for former Umkhonto we Sizwe and APLA cadres serving in the South African National Defence Force, Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils said this week.

He said consideration was also being given to increasing the R18 monthly war veteran allowance for World War 2 soldiers.

Speaking at the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Sole in Italy this week, the deputy minister said the Government was committed "to

improving the welfare of veterans — those from the Second World War and from our anti-apartheid war of liberation"

A spokesman for the Department of Finance confirmed this week that in terms of a clause in the interim constitution, draft legislation was being prepared to give pensions to MK and APLA veterans and other anti-apartheid activists.

In an interview with Weekend-Star, Kasrils said the demobilisation package would include training for jobs outside the defence force.

Only former MK and APLA cadres whose names appear on the

registered lists submitted to the SANDF after the election would qualify for the package.

Kasrils called the R18 war veterans allowance "a national disgrace". The paltry allowance was discovered by the Defence Ministry when it was looking into making provision for veterans of the liberation struggle.

Sam Blackman of the South African Legion, which has repeatedly called for the allowance to be increased, said the allowance was introduced in 1941 at R8 a month. It was increased in 1984 to R15 a month and in 1992 to R18.

Against military needs

efcw 22/4/95 (254)

AS THE Cabinet debates whether its priorities lie with defending the country or feeding it (or whether the two are even mutually exclusive), opposing camp members have defended their stances on the size and importance of the defence budget.

Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils stresses that South Africa no longer finds itself in a time where defence spending takes priority above everything else.

The ANC's position is that the Government's main priority is the upliftment of living conditions.

But Kasrils stresses that the Government is also responsible for the defence of the country.

In the opposing camp, COSATU spokesman Neil Coleman says the country's largest trade union federation does not object to individual items in the defence budget — such as the intended purchase of corvettes — but it believes defence expenditure should be radically cut back.

Controversial

Caught somewhere in the middle, Dr Bernie Kasrils says the Government must choose between the two options.

not to leave it to "a bun-fight among ministries".

"There has been this attitude that says the defence budget is not a priority, so let's knock it off. Big expenditure is seen as easy game."

A key question in the debate has been, but who is the enemy? "I immediately concede that there is no conventional enemy at present, but you can't say that therefore there is no need for a defence force."

Kasrils adds that the defence force has been deployed internally for peacekeeping purposes since 1990 and President Nelson Mandela announced to Parliament in February that it would be deployed at flashpoints in the country.

Integration

Kasrils says that in order to consider further defence budget cuts, a thorough review of the force's tasks is needed.

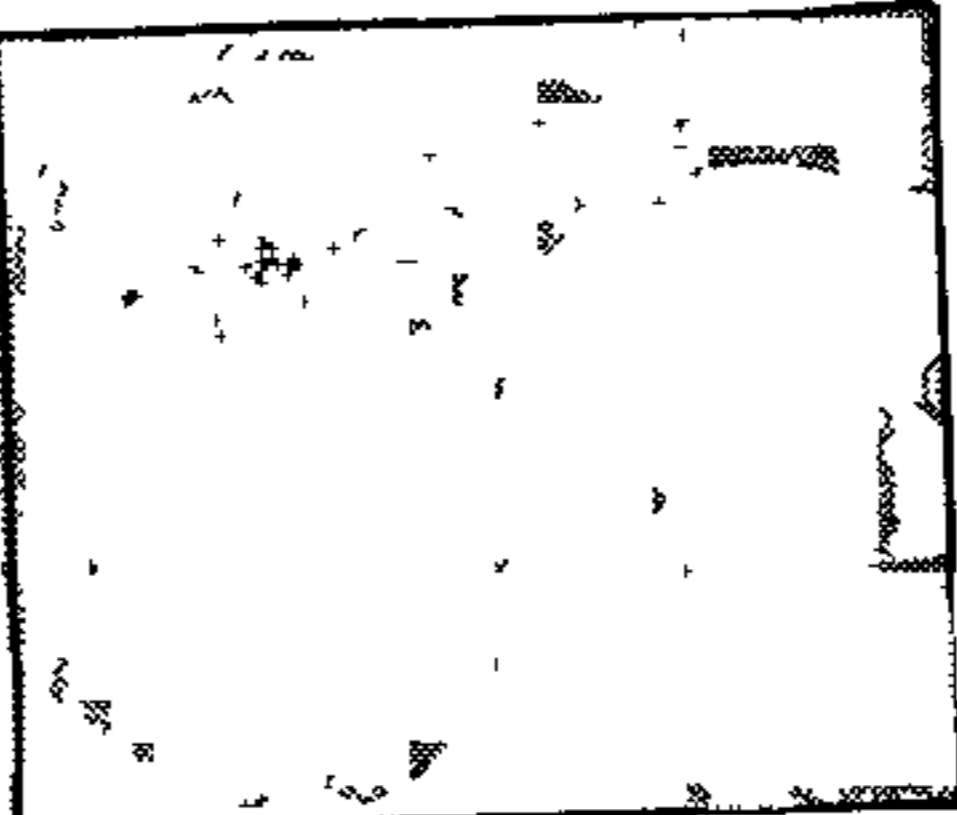
This year's R10,6-billion defence budget will amount to R9,5-billion in real terms after approximately R600-million has been spent on integration.

Kasrils says defence spending is now at the 1970 level of expenditure. While defence spending amounted to 16,4% of government spending in 1976 it is now 7,1% and only 2,1% of the gross domestic product.

THE Cabinet is to decide whether the navy will go ahead with the controversial purchase of four corvette strike craft. The proposed deal has given rise to a heated 'guns or butter' debate, writes Political Correspondent ESTHER WAUGH.



TONY YENGENI: The people must choose



JAY NAIDOO: Minister without Portfolio

R18-billion could be raised through effective tax collection.

Fanaroff argues that the debate revolves around a long-term analysis of the threat to South Africa and its implications.

He says the RDP gives the Government a vision of how to manage the process of changing its priorities.

The RDP office is therefore involved in a five-year government expenditure programme of which a draft is expected to have been completed by July. Only then will it be possible to decide whether to proceed with the purchase of the corvettes.

try captive".

Coleman claims the defence budget has shown that the "securocrats" wield an inordinate influence in society.

"There has been no real attempt to put the debate where it belongs, and that is within society."

Coleman argues that Parliament and the joint committee on defence should ensure that the public is the arbitrator in this matter.

"The military is a sophisticated institution with an enormous ability to lobby."

"The SADF and Armscor have been historically secretive institutions, which makes it difficult for people to enter the debate with the full facts."

Coleman says the R700-million allocated in the supplementary budget for defence should be frozen and reallocated to areas of critical social need.

COSATU has identified three possible areas for the reallocation of the R700-million: underpaid and understaffed sections of the public service such as teachers, police and nurses; old age pensions which have fallen behind the inflation rate, or feeding schemes.

Coleman says this will demonstrate how R700-million can be used more effectively than for the procurement of arms.

able to make a proper assessment of where defence fits into the overall programme.

Fanaroff says the trading aspects linked to the corvette tenders are "favourable" and "can't be shrugged off".

"The Government's priority remains channelling funding to socio-economic priority areas, subject to the long-term needs of defence," he says.

Yengeni argues that the joint defence committee has a duty to the country to ensure it is properly defended. But the brief of MPs goes further — they should also ensure that socio-economic needs are met.

He stresses the need to harmonise these two objectives.

"This is not an easy thing to do because both things are necessary. In my own opinion, the final say on the corvettes should not be with the defence force but with the people of South Africa."

Coleman argues that a complete review of defence spending needs to be undertaken.

"There has been an insufficiently open process in reviewing what the military capacity is and consequently what needs to be spent on defence."

"The debate is being driven by the military, which is holding the court."



OUT WITH THE BIG GUNS: Says Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils "Big expenditure seen as easy game".

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Star 22/4/95

general in the Reconstruction and Development Programme office, says the debate is not a case of "Jay (Naidoo) versus Joe (Modise)" or "RDP versus Defence"

And Tony Yengeni, chairman of the parliamentary joint defence committee, points out that the committee has not yet formed a viewpoint on the possible purchase of the corvettes.

Speaking in his personal capacity, he says it has become a controversial programme because "the levels of poverty in the country are so high that most victims of poverty cannot comprehend that a new democratic Parliament can endorse spending a substantial amount to buy corvettes"

Kasrils says the Government's responsibility was to allocate resources according to priorities and

The toll of the cuts has meant that the defence force's spending on capital has dropped enormously, he says. At the moment this amounts to 27% of the defence budget with the rest being spent on the day-to-day running of the force.

The four corvettes will cost the country R300-million a year for six years (after an initial down-payment this year), amounting to 3% of the defence budget.

Motivating the case for the purchase, Kasrils says South Africa has 3 000km of coastline with six harbours, one of which — Durban — is the ninth busiest in the world.

The country's economy is based on sea routes, the extended economic zone runs 200 nautical miles into the sea and South Africa earns R1-billion a year in revenue.

SA seeks nuclear compromise

ST 23/4/95

(254)

By SIMON BARBER: Washington

A TOP adviser to Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo this week rejected suggestions that South Africa had thrown in its lot with the US on the issue of making the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty permanent.

According to Abdul Minty, the former anti-apartheid and arms control activist who is playing a key role in drafting South Africa's strategy at the NPT conference in New York, South Africa is seeking to forge a "statesmanlike" compromise between Washington and developing countries opposed to setting the 25-year-old treaty in concrete for all time.

The South African proposal, which Mr Nzo outlined to conference delegates in the UN General Assembly chamber on Wednesday, would appease the Clinton administration while establishing mechanisms enabling critics to redress their frustrations.

Those frustrations, which Mr Minty said South Africa shared, centred on the failure of the official nuclear weapons states — the US, Russia, Britain, France and China — to honour commitments, including total nuclear disarmament, the provision of security assurances to non-weapons states and a pledge to ensure the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology.

Mr Nzo argued for the adoption of a set of principles for nuclear non-proliferation

and disarmament that would provide a yardstick to measure the nuclear states' compliance with the treaty at regular review conferences.

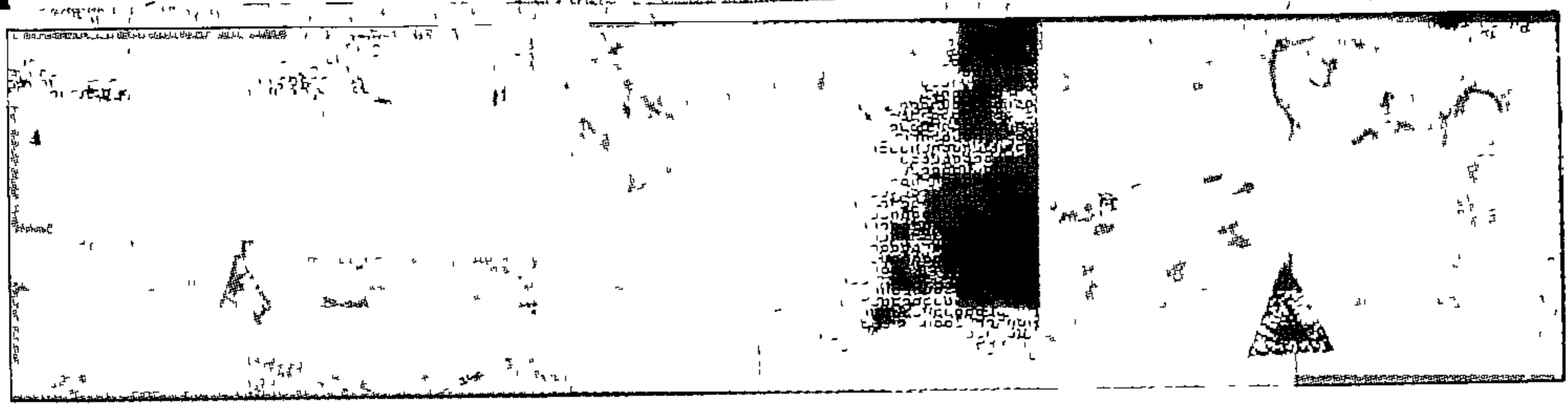
In effect, the US and the other official nuclear powers would get their wish for a permanent NPT in return for recommitting themselves to abide by it and subjecting themselves to nagging if they did not.

At least some on the US side are grateful that South Africa — which enjoys special status as the only country to have acquired and then scrapped nuclear weapons — is taking the lead in looking for a compromise that could result in a decent majority of the NPT's 170 signatories voting for permanent renewal next month.

However, leaks concerning the diplomatic hardball Washington has been playing with Pretoria over the issue may have compromised South African efforts to play the statesman.

Mr Minty, however, contended that South Africa had all along supported the principle of indefinite renewal and was trying to find a means of bringing as many countries on board as possible.

SA's capacity to play the mediator will be tested this week in Bandung, Indonesia, when Mr Nzo tries to sell the compromise to fellow foreign ministers in the Non-Aligned Movement.



DETONATED: These three photographs show how large areas are efficiently cleared of mines by unrolling long plastic bags, filling them with an explosive gas mixture and detonating the mixture to set off the mines

PICTURES: SALVO

SA mine-clearing expertise is 'world best'

WILLEM STEENKAMP
STAFF REPORTER

CT 24/4/95

THE lifting of the United Nations arms embargo against South Africa has meant an increased demand for the country's world-beating mine-clearing capability — and SA expertise and technology have already been applied to clear thousands of mines in operations in Mozambique and Bosnia (254)

According to Denel spokesman Mr Paul Holtzhausen, assistance is

offered "anywhere in the world", either directly or through the UN.

According to statistics compiled by the International Committee of the Red Cross, an estimated 100 million mines left over from wars are scattered in more than 60 countries — a third of them in Africa

Between 1 000 and 2 000 people, mostly civilians and almost exclusively from impoverished rural communities, fall prey to landmines every month

During the embargo years Mechem, a Denel subsidiary, developed a number of innovative mine-clearing systems which Mr Holtzhausen said "put us quite far ahead of the world"

These include

1 The Mechem Explosive and Drug Detection System, which uses a combination of the chemical concentration of explosive vapours and sniffer dogs

1 A gas bag which, once rolled out over a minefield, is filled with

gas and detonated from a safe distance, setting off all the mines underneath it

1 For clearing areas of large numbers of anti-personnel mines, a mine-protected vehicle fitted with steel wheels and dragging a roller criss-crosses the minefield, safely detonating the mines

This system was successfully used in Mozambique in 1991, where a team of five men cleared 12 000 anti-personnel mines from 60 minefields in six weeks

Anger at ⁽²⁵⁴⁾ student ^{some ran} violence ^{25/4/95}

By Pamela Dube
Political Staff

CRIMINAL elements are fuelling violence between members of student organisations in KwaThema on the East Rand, Gauteng MEC for safety and security Ms Jessie Duarte said yesterday.

Duarte said residents of KwaThema felt a "third force" was now involved in the conflict between the Congress of South African Students and the Pan Africanist Students Organisation, which started in 1992.

"It will be naive of us to think this is just an ordinary political faction," Duarte said

She said the feud between Paso and Cosas broke out again last December, when one pupil posing as a Paso member "provoked" a Cosas member.

"This created the impression among Cosas members that Paso is starting the fight. And they began to look on all Paso members as enemies."

Since December last year at least 11 people have been killed and many seriously injured.

But only three cases have reached court, because in most of the instances the witnesses failed to come forward. "They (the witnesses) were either killed or threatened. That is why it is important to avoid granting bail to those in custody."

Duarte has written to the Attorney-General requesting that suspects in detention be denied bail.

She said the community has vowed to rid the township of criminal elements as to enable the situation to return to normal. A meeting is to be held on Thursday to discuss the problem.

Let's export peace not weapons of war — Tutu

ARG 25/4/95 (254)

JOHANNESBURG — Archbishop Desmond Tutu says Pretoria should export peace to other countries rather than weapons of war

"How does any decent South African feel when they hear that South African arms were used in Rwanda", asked Archbishop Tutu in an interview, commenting on the post-apartheid government's foreign arms sales

"We have been able to reach the moral high ground in the way that we made the transition (to democracy) We ought to be exporting (peace) to places like Rwanda, like Somalia, like the Sudan," said Archbishop Tutu, whose fight against apartheid earned him the Nobel Peace prize in 1984

He said by selling arms to countries torn by conflict, South Africa's arms industry was helping to maintain injustice and oppression

"We are helping to fuel conflict and it is not something we want to be known for," said the

Nobel laureate speaking in the garden of his Soweto home

South Africa's arms manufacturers, whose domestic market has dwindled since the country returned to peace with its neighbours with the end of apartheid, are vigorously looking for new foreign markets to keep military industries alive and protect the jobs of thousands of people dependent on them

The archbishop said South Africa's new government had performed well in its first year, but had erred in its handling of allegations of personal enrichment among officials

"I would be willing to give them an A-minus I would have given them a straight A if they had not been so silly about the 'gravy train' and not continuing to be so silly about the arms trade," Archbishop Tutu said

He last year stung President Nelson Mandela's government when he accused officials of enriching themselves

"We fell out with Madiba (Mandela) and had our spat which was a very good thing for democracy that people should have seen even people who are fond of each other can differ vehemently and still like each other afterwards," the archbishop said

Talking about the government's first year in office, following nearly 50 years of apartheid rule, Archbishop Tutu said

"We ought to give all of them a good mark, none of them had experience in a coalition government," he said, commenting on the national unity government, whose mandate runs until 1999

Archbishop Tutu, 63, said he planned to retire next year and to spend a year as a visiting professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, from September next year

"I'm retiring, oh absolutely you should see the smile on my wife's face," he said — Sapa-Reuter

SA's nuclear policy bombed

WM21-27/4/95 (254)

A barrage of criticism has greeted South Africa's support of the Big five nations at the UN nuclear summit, writes **Gaye Davis**

SOUTH AFRICA has been accused of turning its back on the Third World and cosyng up to the United States by supporting the Big Five powers in their bid to hold on to their nuclear bombs

This week Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo backed the Big Five — the United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom — at the United Nations nuclear non-proliferation summit

Foreign policy analyst Peter Vale, professor of Southern African studies at the University of the Western Cape, said South Africa had "buckled under United States' pressure" and warned there would be "a great deal of disquiet within the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)"

Director of South Africa's Group for Environmental Monitoring David Fig said the decision called the independence and integrity of South Africa's foreign policy into question

He slammed foreign policy decision-makers for failing to consult South Africans, saying "Our new leaders are becoming indistinguishable from the old in their adherence to the foreign policy prescriptions of the rich and privileged countries"

Countries within the NAM wanted the treaty conditionally extended for a fixed period only in order to pressure the Big Five — to fully implement its provisions

Particularly, they wanted an end to failures and delays in implementing Non Proliferation Treaty provisions which would see nuclear powers fully committed to disarming, to giving non-nuclear countries proper guarantees for their own security and to enabling the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology.

South Africa was seen as having particular influence on the issue as the world's first country to unilaterally and voluntarily dismantle its own nuclear weapons programme

Nzo's address this week to 178 nations gathered at the United Nations for the NPT review conference effectively dashed any hopes of South Africa's support for the NAM position

Nzo acknowledged the NAM countries' criticisms of the treaty were valid. He urged that the NPT be strengthened in order to ensure nuclear powers did more to meet NPT obligations and suggested proposals for doing so. But he said the proposals should not be made conditions for the NPT's extension, saying the treaty itself could be weakened if they were

He said South Africa was making the proposals in the interests of the greatest possible consensus among



Follow the leaders: UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali escorts South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo to a meeting at the United Nations nuclear non-proliferation treaty conference

PHOTO AP

treaty states. But critics believe United States threats to withhold nuclear co-operation with South Africa if it went with the NAM countries lie behind the decision

Vale said "This foreign policy decision will be seen to be one made by whites in the interests of a world in which white interests are protected and defended. It does not reflect what the majority of people feel about the issue — South Africa's people have not been consulted at all," he said

It was ridiculous to defend the decision as necessary in the interests of North-South bridge-building, Vale said "This is a very privileged club which is now licensed to get more nuclear capacity while those outside it are forced to resort to illicit ways of developing a nuclear capacity

"In a sense it is an apartheid treaty — some countries are in and some are out"

Said Fig "We are submitting to extreme pressure exerted by the United States to conform to its desires"

South Africa had failed to use the moral ground it acquired when it became the world's first country to unilaterally and voluntarily dismantle its own nuclear weapons arsenal

Fig said the decision contributed to the inherent instability of the NPT by putting certain key countries within the NAM outside the agreement

He criticised foreign policy decision-makers for failing to submit South Africa's position to public debate "We need a new approach to decision-making, not a reproduction of the old alienating system"

The decision was "a severe setback for alliances being built between South Africa, its southern African partners and the Non-Aligned Movement. The position plays into the hands of the existing nuclear weapons states, particularly the United States, which knows the extension of the treaty makes no significant demands on the weapons states to reduce their existing arsenals

"The non-aligned countries need strong evidence of good faith in the nuclear weapons' states' willingness to disarm before they can agree to participate in such an unequal non-proliferation regime"

This was why South African officials proposed a compromise position of a rolling extension at a preparatory conference in January, Fig said "This compromise would have opened the way for the resolution of the inequalities in the spirit of global non-proliferation"

But ANC MP Rob Davies, a member of the parliamentary portfolio committee on foreign affairs, said "It's a complicated question. There is an unevenness in the process and some Third World countries were seizing on this in order to be able to create nuclear arsenals themselves

"I'm not sure that this is the direction we should be going in. We should really be trying to close the loopholes which allow other countries to develop arsenals

"There are advantages in South Africa, which has abandoned its own nuclear programme, taking a stand against the proliferation of nuclear weapons

'My only reservation is the indefinite extension (of the NPT) does freeze the status quo as far as existing nuclear powers are concerned"

The Washington Post this week reported that United States ambassador to South Africa Princeton Lyman delivered a demarche to Nzo on March 10 which warned a vote against the unconditional extension by South Africa would undermine "mutual interests" and affect Washington's view of South Africa's non-proliferation credentials

The newspaper said the demarche also noted the United States had supported South Africa's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group — an exclusive group of nations generating nuclear power controlling technology sales

Foreign Affairs spokesman Coen Snyman could not confirm the demarche. He said the issue had a long history with "lots of communication between South Africa and the United States. President Clinton wrote to President Mandela about it"

WM 28/4 - 4/5/95

Fierce nuke debate

WAA 2 27/4/95 (254)

Gaye Davis

SOUTH Africa was not bowing to United States pressure in supporting the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), an advisor to Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo said this week.

Veteran anti-apartheid and arms-control activist Abdul Minty said from New York that South Africa wanted the treaty strengthened and supported by as many countries as possible. The proposal spelt out by Nzo at the United Nations this week was an attempt at achieving that, he said.

Minty was responding to critics who believe South Africa has buckled to US demands to toe its line on the issue, turning its back on countries within the Non-aligned Movement. Led by Indonesia, they have been pushing for a conditional extension of the treaty to pressure the five nuclear powers — the US, Russia, China, France and Britain — to fulfil promises to disarm, share peaceful nuclear technology and give non-nuclear countries binding assurances about their security.

Minty said South Africa's proposal suggested concrete ways of strengthening the treaty.

The possibility of the treaty itself dying — either by its being extended now for a limited period only, or by making its extension dependent on conditions being met — was not an acceptable option as it could lead to instability and proliferation.

Nzo proposed a statement of principles that could include commitments to promote full adherence to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and inspection agreements, reduce nuclear arsenals, complete a comprehensive test-ban treaty, encourage creation of nuclear-free zones, binding security assurances for nations without arms, and move towards a cut-off in production of weapons-grade nuclear materials.

Minty said Nzo had consulted widely with the Southern African Development Conference (SADC) and had support from Swaziland, Lesotho, Zambia and Mozambique.

In May, South Africa would be hosting a group of experts who would be looking at an African treaty to make the continent a nuclear-weapons-free zone, Minty said.

Nzo will attend the Non-aligned Movement's meeting, to commemorate the first Afro-Asian summit that led to the movement's founding, in Bandung, Indonesia, this week, where he will try to sell the compromise.

The NPT came into force 25 years ago. It allowed the big five to join as nuclear powers (though France and China did not until 1992), yet required all other signatories first to renounce weapons. Israel, Pakistan and India have refused to sign the treaty — India on the basis that it is discriminatory and Pakistan because it won't if India doesn't.

Nuclear disarmament, see PAGE 8

No, it was a principled decision

(254) WWM 28/4-4/5/95

South Africa's position on the NPT was a principled one and not based on

outside pressure, maintains

US Ambassador to Pretoria

Princeton Lyman

NOT one of the recent stories about the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), nor any of the experts quoted, has focused on the technical problem driving the debate over how to extend the treaty.

The fact is that the NPT permits only one further time extension. Any extensions beyond that would require the treaty to be returned for ratification by its members. We know from other experiences — for example, the Chemical Weapons Convention, signed in 1993, but still not ratified — that such a process can take years, and the outcome is never certain.

If the NPT were extended for five years, or 10, or even with some "rolling" formula, the treaty would come apart after the first period designated. At that point, the legal force, the obligations and all the enforcement

mechanisms would cease to operate until the new ratification process was complete. The nuclear field would become one of temporary, if not permanent, anarchy.

The prospect is chilling. There may be many things wrong with the present treaty, and much that should be fixed, but certainly, the problems of "inequality", lack of security for non-nuclear states, and pressures for further disarmament, would not be ameliorated by having the number of nuclear states go from five to 10, or 20, and for international norms and mechanisms to disappear.

I am horrified to see the NPT described as an "apartheid treaty", as if the spread of nuclear weapons were some desirable good to be enjoyed by everyone. It is, in fact, the poorer (or more responsible) nations, who cannot or will not spend the billions of dollars to acquire nuclear weapons, that are most threatened by neighbors who would. It is ironic, moreover, that the debate over the effectiveness of the NPT occurs at a time when we are witnessing unprecedented progress towards nuclear disarmament, at a pace virtually unimagined a few years ago.

It is not only the poorer nations, but also the more powerful nations, who are most threatened by neighbors who would. It is ironic, moreover, that the debate over the effectiveness of the NPT occurs at a time when we are witnessing unprecedented progress towards nuclear disarmament, at a pace virtually unimagined a few years ago.

already signed have ushered in the process of destruction of two-thirds of the world's nuclear weapons. The remainder are no longer targeted, lifting the terrible weight of an imminent Armageddon from the shoulders of the world for the first time in decades.

At the same time, the danger of nuclear spread is becoming more serious, as controls in some states become lax, and the technology becomes both more widely known and smaller to manage. We have all witnessed the horror of the bombing in Oklahoma City — imagine what horror would have occurred if terrorists, of any nationality, including our own, had access to nuclear weapons. No one in the world could feel safe.

I know it sounds good, especially for those who prefer drama over reality, to say that diplomacy is carried out by "threats", "bullying", "pressure", and so on. It sounds good (or dramatic), but it is not the way it is done. In thirty-four years in the service of my country, ostensibly the most powerful on earth, I have rarely, if ever, seen such tactics used, and when tried they normally backfire.

The reasons are these: First of all, the relations between countries are complex and serve a variety of interests. To pit all those interests on one matter, or one United Nations vote, is to shoot oneself in the foot. And if one is bluffing, the likelihood is that the bluff will be called. Second, all nations — large and small, rich and poor — have pride and dignity, especially when their sovereignty is threatened. Small states do not take kindly to bullying; all states react negatively to it.

For years, the vast majority of UN members, large and small, many recipients of US aid, voted against the US on critical UN issues. They were never "bullied" into doing otherwise, even when their votes created great anguish in the US. Nor were their aid levels ever cut as a consequence.

The way in which a nation conveys a matter of great importance to it is in the intensity and level of communication. On the issue of the NPT, which is of great and vital importance to us, we have communicated with great intensity and at the highest level with South Africa and all other member states. Those communications con-

the obligations and all the enforcement mechanisms would cease to operate until the new ratification process was complete. The nuclear field would become one of temporary, if not permanent, anarchy.

P.T.O.

TO PAGE 10

A principled decision

From PAGE 8

W/M 28/4-4/5/95

(254)

vey not threats, but why we feel the issue is of importance to us and, in this case, to the other members. Other nations do the same.

We did not tie this dialogue to South Africa's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). The US communicated its support for South African membership of the NSG more than a year ago, before the NPT issue was on the books. South Africa became a member before its position on NPT was developed. We did not threaten to withhold nuclear co-operation from South Africa. We have too many reasons to pursue such co-operation. Contrary to reports (for example,

the article in last week's W/M&G) that South Africa "buckled" under US pressure, or made its decisions on this matter because of threats of non-co-operation in nuclear matters, or that South Africa had failed to use its moral ground effectively, the South African response has been careful, responsible and, above all, principled. From the first discussion of this matter with us, the South African Government made it clear that it would make up its mind only after carefully investigating the issue, and after discussing it with its Organisation of African Unity and Non-Aligned Movement partners, with Parliament, and in the Cabinet.

South Africa did its research. The government did an extensive legal

analysis of the treaty and concluded, as did other experts, that the treaty permitted only one further extension without opening up the whole process of re-ratification. At the same time, South Africa consulted widely with Southern Africa, and other OAU and NAM members. It assembled an analysis of their concerns with the treaty and demands.

South Africa conveyed back to us that unless these concerns were addressed, the large majority that we and others sought for indefinite extension could not be obtained. Going further, South Africa took on the task of trying to formulate both the means and substance of such assurances that would address these concerns while preserving the essence of the NPT. South Africa emerged as a key contributor to the

debate and the resolution of this critically important subject.

The communications between us thus consisted mainly of technical papers, analyses, comments and exchanges over these matters. I am sure the same was done with other interested governments. We listened carefully to South Africa and to others raising these issues. President Clinton moved to strengthen the UN Security Council guarantees to non-nuclear states, and to press forward with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Up to the day Foreign Minister Nzo left for New York, we were in high-level communication with South Africa on how to move ahead together on South Africa's proposals, and this consultation continues in New York.

Minister Nzo's speech to the NPT conference was thus not a "capitulation" to the US or other nuclear

states, but the product of a careful and principled investigation of the issue. President Mandela, from the outset of his administration, has pledged South Africa to the cause of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Deputy President Thabo Mbeki made this a major theme of his first address to the UN.

South Africa continues to build upon those principles. It has become an active sponsor of the African Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and the Indian Ocean Zone of Peace. The NPT, with its international expertise and mechanisms, is critical to the achievement of these goals. We share the same principles and want to work with South Africa to achieve them.

This is the real stuff of diplomacy. And it is, in this case, diplomacy at its very best: serving the interests of all parties and indeed of all mankind.

Foreign policy in foreign nancys?

(254) WM 28/4-4/5/95

South Africa has squandered an opportunity to be a champion for nuclear disarmament, argues David Fig

THE decision by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo to support the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) leads one to assume that our foreign policy is now emanating from foreign parts.

For once, we might have used our international position to make a difference on an issue of global importance. Instead, at the last minute, we bowed to pressure from Washington to uphold the inherent inequalities in the 1970 treaty. The indefinite extension of the treaty allows existing nuclear weapons states to retain their weapons and to remain outside a system of international non-proliferation safeguards, and has been ineffective in ensuring reductions in existing nuclear arsenals.

Having given up our own arsenal, why are we tolerating the indefinite continuity of these Cold War arrangements?

Journalists have pointed to the

favour of empty rhetoric.

By falling in line with the US position, Nzo is now obliged to convince the Southern African Development Conference countries and members of the Non-Aligned Movement in Bandung this week, that an indefinite extension of the treaty strengthens the non-proliferation regime. This will be a hard case to make.

The developing countries have long pointed to the inequalities in the treaty. They have long sought a champion for their position.

South Africa could have fitted this description. We are the only nation to have voluntarily relinquished our nuclear arsenal. In effect, former president De Klerk provided the incoming government with a promontory of high moral ground in the sphere of non-proliferation. In one fell swoop, Nzo has squandered this advantage.

Instead of using it to good effect to build a compromise between the nuclear weapons states (who are not disarming quickly enough) and the non-weapons states, South Africa

now sends out a signal that such compromise is futile and untenable.

Right until the eve of the conference, South African diplomats offered possibilities of brokering a better arrangement to both sides of the divide. At the final preparatory conference last January, the interpretation of the treaty offered by South African international lawyers allowed for a system of rolling extension, which was said to meet some of the objections of the developing countries while simultaneously satisfying the weapons states that the non-proliferation regime could be extended.

Clearly, brokering such an arrangement has either proved too difficult for our diplomats, or the initiative has been stifled by the minister himself. Either way, the abandonment of our stated position came as a shock to many observers.

Having fallen into the lap of the weapons states, we are now proposing that they adhere to a new set of Principles for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

These principles enshrine a commitment from the nuclear weapons states to more rapid nuclear disarmament.

ment. Yet, having fought so strongly to exclude them from the formal non-proliferation regime, it is hard to envisage the weapons states upholding such principles.

As articulated by Nzo in New York on April 19, the principles are healthy, but were clearly drafted as a face-saving device to compensate our African and non-aligned friends for deserting their camp.

It remains to be seen whether this device proves workable. Meanwhile, the lessons of the NPT debacle are clear.

Our new foreign ministry has failed to break with past traditions of opacity in foreign policy formulation. In other areas of government, whether housing, land, energy, forestry, or arts and culture, well advertised public participatory processes have been instituted.

Why has there been no public consultation process in the field of foreign affairs? Why can the principles on which we base our foreign policy not be debated more widely? Why does the new ministry continue to emulate the old, both in content and process? Why are principled positions suddenly

8 **SOUTH AFRICA**

WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN
April 28 to May 4 1995

Nuclear disarmament: Dr David Fig argues South Africa's NPT stand was due to US pressure; US ambassador Princeton Lyman disagrees



Testing time: The nuclear powers are making much of progress towards a treaty to ban nuclear weapons tests, such as this one on Mururoa Atoll in the Pacific

PHOTOGRAPH GREENPEACE

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Weekly Mail
28 April - 4 May 95

abandoned and myths created that they were never held in the first place?

Like housing, land and energy issues, foreign policy principles are a public concern.

The recent formation of the International Relations Initiative brings some NGOs into the arena, but this process, confined to Cape Town, needs to be widened to all South Africa. Environmental NGOs have been entering into discussions with government on the biodiversity and climate change treaties spawned by the 1992 Rio summit. Local NGOs participated in discussions in preparation for the Copenhagen social summit in March. These examples are worth spreading. We need a foreign policy owned by all South Africans.

Guided by this, the foreign minister will be able to develop the political space to implement innovative international initiatives rooted in local aspirations.

South Africa's independence and integrity need not be stillborn. We need to champion international nuclear disarmament, but not by supporting the perpetual continuity of a flawed non-proliferation regime.

This is the least we owe to our descendants, and to our endangered planet.

Dr David Figis director of the
Group for Environmental Monitoring
local

Move to keep troops out of townships

By RAY HARTLEY
 Parliamentary Correspondent

IN A draft White Paper, defence force policy makers have called for troops to be kept out of law enforcement — and for the army to be equipped to meet a strange new enemy that will be "strong, determined and sophisticated".

The paper, which is to be presented to Parliament's defence spending committee within weeks, said using military force for the maintenance of internal stability was "damaging to the public image of the SANDF and, consequently, to the public support of its defensive effort".

It went on to list costs, the effect on force levels and the fact that "there is a real danger of the SANDF losing its primary war-fighting skills" as further reasons for keeping the defence force out of law and order.

While there was little "direct conventional military threat" to the country for at least the next five years, the paper nonetheless suggested that South Africa could face a military threat in the future.

"Potential enemies of South Africa will, in such a case, not be African countries from the southern African region acting on their own.

"The enemy will probably be from outside southern Africa, or will, at least, have access to substantial

land, sea and air support from outside the region," the paper said.

Listed under the heading "Indirect threats emanating from southern Africa" were:

- The "saturation" of domestic resources by economic and security refugees;
- Threats of "spillover" armed conflict from unstable states;
- Threats to "the security of RSA investments, assets and citizens" in an unstable southern Africa; and
- Threats which "restrict opportunities and potential for economic growth in the region".

A section on the cost of defence suggested that R9-billion be allocated for the maintenance of "basic defence capability not including the employment thereof".

A further R1,3-billion was needed for restructuring the SANDF, and R1,2-billion for "continued internal deployment in support of the SAPS and for border protection".

Meanwhile, PETER De IONNO reports that four crime flashpoint areas in KwaZulu Natal, Gauteng, the Eastern Cape and Western Cape have been targeted after a meeting of security chiefs from the SA Police Service, the SANDF and the National Intelligence Service.

Tactical arrangements to intro-

duce the first stages of the government's Community Safety Plan were discussed at a meeting in Pretoria yesterday.

Soldiers will support police in the operations using high-density patrols, roadblocks and searches and using information from intelligence sources and community police forums, said Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi at a press conference yesterday.

He said the focus of the anti-crime campaign in KwaZulu Natal would be on illegal weapons, murder and intimidation.

IFP leaders have described plans to use troops and possibly increased police powers as "bully-boy tactics".

In Gauteng, the joint operations would be directed against taxi violence, car hijackings and theft. The target in the Eastern Cape would be the high murder rate, while in the Western Cape it would be gang-related crimes.

In a reference to the row between the IFP and the government, Mr Mufamadi said, "The SAPS cannot wait until political disputes have been settled before acting against crime in specific areas."

● SAPA reports that Danie Schutte, the NP leader in KwaZulu Natal, said yesterday the government's crime plan for the province would have no credibility unless the ANC resolved the underlying political cause — international mediation.



ST 7/5/95 (251)

ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE
DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

ENTRANCE AND SCHOOLSHIP EXAMINATIONS

Tapes reveal police conspiracy
 ST 7/5/95

→ From Page 1

mer policeman, Geina Mkuze, and IFP member Israel Hlongwane have

the contents of the tapes raised "serious questions about journalistic ethics".

"We knew for a long time that many of our

Most of the conversations are in Zulu. One involving a white general in the KwaZulu police is in

WEATHER AND TIDES

GAVENG- Cloudy and cold with rain and showers.
 E. TRANSVAAL. Partly cloudy and mild but warm in the Lowveld. Scattered thunderstorms

CRACKDOWN
 Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi announces anti-crime measures
 Picture: SHAUN HARRIS

Spain offers R5-bn counter-trade for corvettes contract

ARG 3/5/95

(254)

Staff Reporter

SPAIN has offered South Africa new counter-trade worth at least R4,8 billion if it wins the bid to supply the SA Navy with four corvettes in a military contract worth about R4,69 billion

The corvettes will be supplied as "platforms" — hulls and engines only — and will probably be fitted with weapons systems transferred from the ageing strikecraft in South Africa

The other contender for the controversial Armscor contract is Britain

A top delegation from Spain is in South Africa to promote its bid and explain the counter-trade offer, which far exceeds Armscor's obligatory 55 percent counter-trade requirement

Delegates said the ships would be built in the Spanish military shipyard Empressa Nacional Bazan, which has been operational since 1729

The shipyard is wholly owned by the National Institute of Industry of Spain, one of the world's largest industrial holdings with an annual turnover of about US\$20 billion (R72 billion)

The Spanish counter-trade proposal consists of 18 programmes which the delegation emphasised could be adjusted to suit South African requirements

Only two involved existing trade

"And this is not a closed list — it could be longer," José Sempere of EN Bazan told a media briefing in Cape Town yesterday

The programmes covered about 10 years and were "long-term commitments", he said

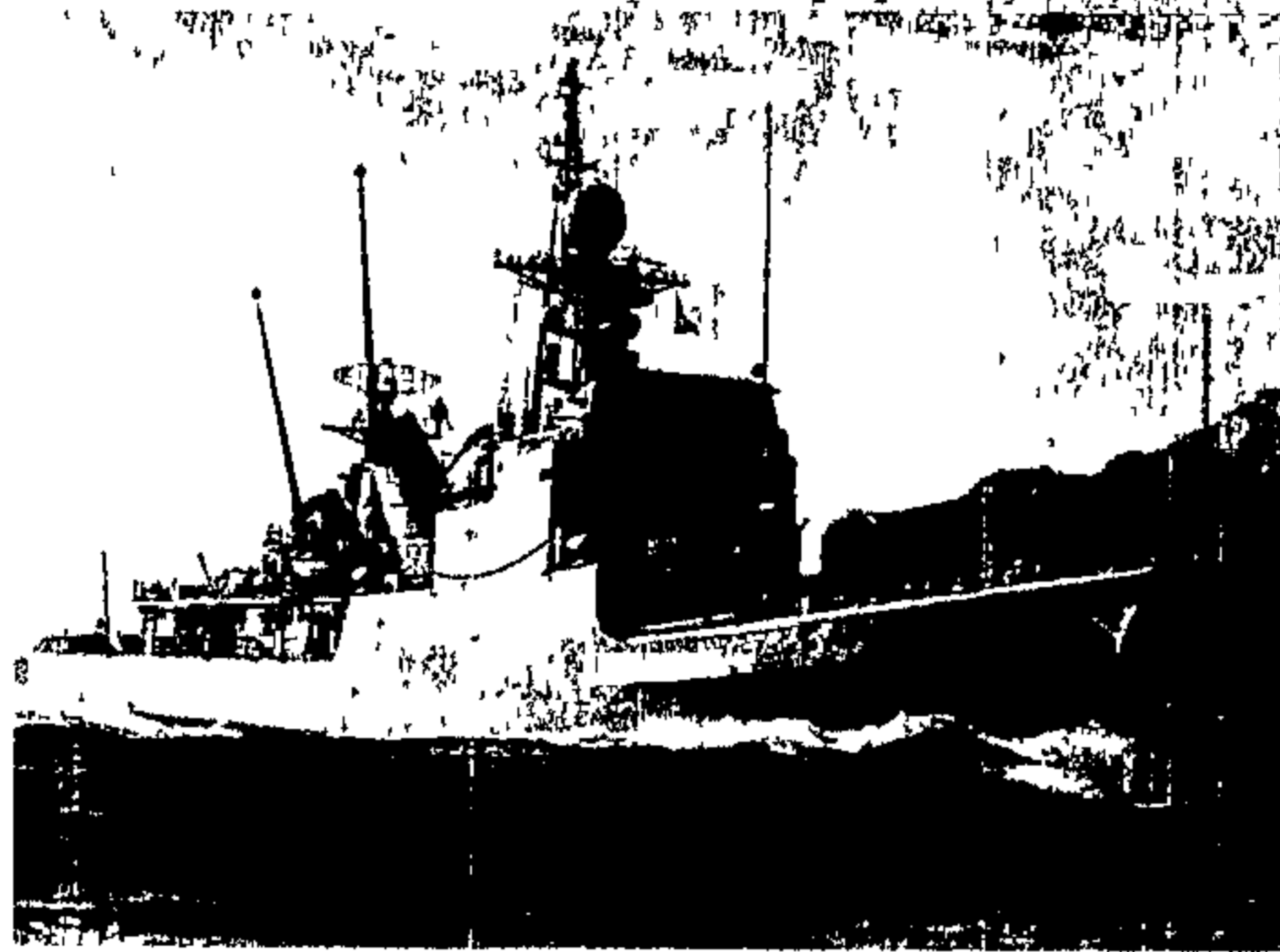
The biggest single programme is new coal exports to Spain worth R2,2 billion

Spain is already the biggest importer of South African coal in the European Union, and is second only to the Republic of China (Taiwan) in world terms

Emphasising that the counter-trade programme was over and above existing trade between the two countries, Spanish industrial institute executive vice-president Antonio Oporto said the huge quantities of additional coal could be used in his country's new thermal power plant programme

Other big counter-trade programme proposals include a R500 million pelagic fish process-

□ Coal tops 10-year deal



IN THE RUNNING: A corvette designed by the Spanish military shipyard E N Bazan, one of two finalists tendering for South Africa's corvette acquisition programme. Spanish officials said the design for the SA Navy was not exactly the same as the illustration, but declined to go into detail

ing factory, the additional purchase of fish worth R300 million, buying materials for other vessels built by EN Bazan for R377 million, a concessional loan for a new fishing vessel programme for South Africa worth R375,6 million, tourism industry training and investment valued at R500 million, and capital investment in technology transfer in the telecommunications industry

Smaller programmes include buying South African manufactured naval electronics (R16,9 million), 155 mm guns (R33 million) and aircraft components (R70 million), and building fishing vessels and technical support for R22 million

The offer emphasises job creation and training, and includes a grant worth R40 million for training in some 350 courses, mostly at artisan level

"The requirements of the Reconstruction and Development Programme were carefully studied before forming the counter-trade programme, and the need to assist in job creation was recognised as being of primary importance," the Spanish delegation's written documentation stated

"It is estimated that more than 10 000 jobs in a wide variety of

industrial and commercial fields could be created by the counter-trade proposals, many shortly after the implementation of the programme."

Spain had high unemployment and extensive experience in training programmes, Mr Sempere said

"It is something we can share, and it is not an experiment — it is something proven"

The argument that houses should be built before warships did not apply to the Spanish offer, the documentation stated

"Not a single rand will be spent overseas without its counterpart being spent in South Africa"

Delegates declined to elaborate on this aspect during the press conference

"Our job is business and we are not going to express any opinion on this — that is a question for South African citizens," Mr Oporto said

The delegation also refused to discuss details of the ships, saying they had not been authorised to do this by Armscor

Mr Oporto said they hoped to hear about the successful tenderer "soon".

"It looks as if there will be a decision relatively soon, but we are used to delays because these are big decisions"

Spanish bid offers 'trade and jobs'

EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — While there was substantial debate on whether the navy needed four new corvettes, there was little debate on the impact of losing the potential countertrade deal with the Spanish shipbuilding company, Bazan.

Bazan's representative in SA, Peter Rogers said this yesterday at a briefing on the countertrade proposal. He was accompanied by Spain's National Institute of Industries executive vice-president Antonio Oporto. (254)

Rogers said Oporto was visiting SA to put "finishing touches" to the countertrade proposals in support of Bazan's bid for the corvette contract. The offer for tenders closed on Friday after Armscor delayed the closing date.

Oporto said the institute he represented, which had an annual turnover of \$20bn, was a government agency and acted as a shareholder to a number of Spanish businesses. The institute had given its full backing to Bazan's countertrade proposals.

Bazan had prepared a menu of 18 different countertrade offers from which the SA government could choose in exchange for the contract to build the vessels, the armaments for which would be supplied by SA's existing vessels.

The proposals included tourism and training grants, fish product and coal exports to Spain and the export of SA's Mirage F1 modernisation technology and cannons.

Bazan claimed the proposals could create 10 000 new jobs in SA.

BD 3/5/95

Spain import offer linked to ship deal

BD 4/5/95

LINDA ENSOR

LONDON.— Spain has offered to import SA products worth several billion rand if Spanish shipbuilder Bazan is awarded the contract to build four Corvettes for the SA Navy.

Both Bazan and British shipbuilder Yarrow have offered 100% counter-trade packages as "sweeteners" for their bids, Jane's Defence Weekly reported yesterday in an exclusive breakdown of the contents of the bids.

According to official SA sources, the Cabinet's decision on the bids would be announced this week. The defence journal said it was clear that the countertrade and offset packages submitted by the two shipbuilders would be the key factor in the decision.

"Given SA's need for economic growth and job creation, the countertrade package will be as, or more, important than the actual ship."

Revealing details of the two packages for the first time, Jane's Defence Weekly said that Bazan had undertaken to guarantee counter-trade to the value of at least 100% of the cost of the four hulls — around R1bn.

"The shipbuilder expects that the long-term effect of its package could see SA exports linked to the Corvette deal reach as high as R3,8bn."

The "offset deals" relate to direct military items required for the ships (R91m for equipment) and indirect military items (worth an initial R120m) which would be purchased from SA by Spain. Bazan is also offering a naval training package valued at around R15m.

Possibly the most attractive item on the menu is a programme to build fishing vessels in SA. Spain has offered to make a concessional loan of R375m available to smaller fishing communities to enable them to purchase fishing vessels. It would also establish the technology in SA to enable local yards to build the vessels for local use and for export.

"The fishing communities would pay off their loans by selling fish to Spain. An initial fish import package of around R300m is envisaged. A major Spanish company may also build a R500m pelagic fish processing plant in SA."

Another proposal concerns a R260m technology transfer/investment programme in telecommunications, while another relates to a R40m professional and vocational training programme to provide skills for the unemployed.

(254)
Other proposals include raising coal imports from SA to the value of R2,23bn, a R250m grant to assist the development of tourism and to transfer composite piping technology for the mining industry.

Scotland-based Yarrow Shipbuilders has concentrated its offer on assisting local industries through direct investment and technology transfer, as well as supporting the RDP.

In particular there is a multi-million rand venture capital investment fund which GEC's electronics subsidiary, GEC-Marconi, plans to set up in SA to promote and invest in the development of local business ventures, especially in the electronics industry.

GEC-Marconi also plans to increase the number of joint ventures with SA industry to develop and market new products in civil and military markets. A number exist with Reutech and Denel and discussions are under way for further joint venture arrangements.

The Yarrow-GEC proposal also includes an offer to transfer ship construction techniques to a nominated shipyard. Yarrow has already agreed to transfer all technical data to Dorbyl Marine if its F3000 corvettes are selected.

SA's arms industry: the way forward

WJM (BWM) 5-9/195
(254)

South Africa's arms industry will be discussed in Parliament next week. Armscor spokesman Krish Naidoo looks at the industry's options

In the hope of reaping a peace dividend, the form, composition, and even the need for an indigenous arms industry has predictably come under public scrutiny.

Some 800 companies make up the defence industry in South Africa. Denel, a parastatal with 16 divisions, is accountable to the Minister of Public Enterprises. The overwhelming balance is located in the private sector. Armscor, as the acquisition wing of the Defence Ministry, is dependent on the Defence Budget for its funds.

Opposition to the arms industry comes in three main forms. One view is that an indigenous arms industry diminishes the opportunity cost of valuable state resources. In other words, for every rand spent in the arms industry, more value could be obtained in the civil sector.

A second is that an indigenous, subsidised arms industry constitutes a burden on the economy, as the very equipment being produced could be purchased cheaper off the shelf overseas.

A third view is that arms produc-

tion *per se* does not contribute positively to the social welfare objectives of the state. Conversely, some analysts maintain that an indigenous defence base affords a country security of supply, economic growth, employment and skills development, and that reduction in defence production does not necessarily translate into more development.

These debates are not new nor confined to South Africa. Every state has undergone an agonising process of determining the political economy of arms production.

South Africa has the main ingredients of a domestic defence production base — an overall level of industrialisation, adequate infrastructure, skilled labour, state support and subsidies to the parastatals, and backward and forward linkages with other industries for the supply of raw materials, subcontracting and the marketing of spin-off products. On the downside, the country has a very restricted domestic market and only 0.4 percent of international trade.

The decision to continue with an indigenous production base in South Africa, as in most newly-industrialised countries, implies that the politics of sovereignty, power, prestige and anxiety have overshadowed economic priorities.

The sea change in technology, especially after World War II, has introduced a new pecking order

among states in relation to arms production and the international arms trade. States have been stratified into three tiers.

The United States, the sole holder of first tier status, is at the frontier of the technological barrier. To maintain its position, the US invests tremendous resources in research and development. The cost of this investment is offset somewhat by its large domestic market and control of forty-eight percent of the international arms trade.

Second tier states such as France, Germany and the United Kingdom have a much lower technology threshold and are dependent on exports and state subsidies because of their restricted domestic market and smaller share of international trade.

Third tier states, comprising the majority, are subject to treble jeopardy. They are dependent on first and second tier states for technology transfer, have restricted domestic markets and are very dependent on arms exports to maintain an indigenous production base.

South Africa's arms industry was stepped up in the 1960s primarily to overcome the effect of military embargoes and to adequately equip the defence force in its fight against the liberation movements. Those conditions have since been replaced by

new priorities in a new environment. The cardinal issue is what form should our defence industry take.

Taking into account technological disparities, the emphasis of domestic production in South Africa may be in proven niche products which are at low cost, easy to operate and based on low research and development investment.

South Africa's defence industrial base, by virtue of its skewed development, has characteristics of both second and third tier states. Although South Africa does not have a viable market, it has all the other qualifications for the industrial process of arms production. It also has advanced capabilities in the avionics and electronic sectors and niche products and services in the form of the G5 and G6 cannons, tanks, frequency-hopping radios, anti-mine capabilities and electronic warfare.

In determining the cost-effectiveness of our indigenous arms production base, we have to take into account, *inter alia*:

- society's willingness to pay for peace, protection and security,
- the extent to which we wish to advance the comparative advantage of our niche products and technological development;
- the size of our defence industrial base,
- whether and the extent to which we wish to subsidise niche industries

in the private sector, and

- the efficiency of our public arms production sector.

We could reorganise our defence industrial base in one of two ways. The free market approach, which places the responsibility of reorganisation on the individual companies, will eventually settle the industry in a particular fashion. In the face of uncertainty, many private companies have already embarked on desperate acts of reduction of arms production and conversion of their industries with no clear long-term planning. Others are holding out for a directive from government on the future of the defence industry.

Although both cases involve private funds, an unco-ordinated approach could have a negative impact on the economy and our defence asset. It could result in the loss of the very qualities we are hoping to preserve — skilled labour and advanced technologies. Insecurity would lead to many technicians moving either out of the defence sector or abroad, and private companies being reluctant to invest in research and development.

The preferred approach is government intervention in conducting the performance analysis and providing recommendations on the cost-effectiveness, size, composition and form of our defence industrial base.

In essence, what is required is a new relationship between the state, technology and the defence industry based on existing realities.

Joint plans from police, SANDF

(254) CT 8/5/95

PRETORIA. Police and Defence Force resources would be combined and local security forces would join those from neighbouring states for joint operations, national police Commissioner George Fivaz and Defence Force chief General Georg Meiring said on Saturday.

The statement followed a Joint Security Staff meeting between police, the SANDF and intelligence service representatives on how to implement a community safety plan.

The plan has two short-term strategies, the first focused on 34 local flashpoints in Gauteng, the Western and Eastern Cape and kwaZulu/Natal.

The second will focus on national tendencies such as smuggling, illegal firearm possession, taxi violence, gang activities, murder and armed robbery, corruption, drug trafficking, vehicle theft, illegal immigration and stock theft — Sapa

SADF spent R88,7m on 'secret project'

(254)
POLITICAL STAFF

CT 10/5/95

THE SA Defence Force secretly spent R88,7 million to promote "moderate" black opinion between 1985 and 1991, Minister of Defence Mr Joe Modise said yesterday.

The money was spent in the secret Project Kampong, he said in reply to a question by Mr Lluwelyn Landers (ANC).

Mr Modise said Project Kampong included sub-projects known as the Global Coloured Project, the Coloured Parliamentarians Project and Metros (Mobilisation of Moderate Black Leaders in SA).

"The project's purpose was to mobilise the different population groups to support the reform initiatives of the old government."

He said the project was allocated R520 972 in 1985, R22,3m for 1986, 1987 and 1988, R21,3m in 1989, R23m in 1990 and R21,6m in 1991.

Fleet upgrading to cost SAA R85m

STEPHANE BOTHMA (254)

SAA would spend R85m during the next year to upgrade and reconfigure its entire fleet of aircraft, SAA said yesterday.

The programme was part of the R4bn SAA planned to spend over the next five years to expand and update its fleet.

The first of its reconfigured, upgraded and overhauled aircraft, a Boeing 747-300, had been unveiled. Completion of the upgrading programme was scheduled for April 9 next year.

SAA public relations chief Leon Els said SAA passengers would have greater comfort and luxury on board with improved seat pitches and a new standardised on-board look.

Configuration changes included a smaller, more exclusive first class compartment to allow more space for business and economy classes.

SAA senior GM Nic Vlok said the evolving SA had benefited the tourism industry and the increase in air travel coupled to stringent cost control resulted in a good financial year for SAA with an expected operating profit of more than R200m.

Vlok said: "We have some 63 airlines providing service to SA compared to only 21 some 18 months ago."

The upgrading programme included the installation of personal television sets and electrically operated seats in first class; new business class seats with more leg-room; the installation of CD music modules; and new carpets and upholstery.

New cabin equipment included trays, cutlery, crockery, linen and other tableware. Plastic utensils currently used in economy class would disappear by September.

Nzo's NPT idea wins approval

254

MAR 10/5/95

■ BY PETER FABRICIUS
STAR BUREAU

Washington — A compromise proposal by South Africa is likely to be the deciding factor which clinches overwhelming international support for permanently entrenching the crucial Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) this week.

Observers believe that no less than the future security of the world depends upon this week's decision because if the treaty is not made permanent, there will eventually be no international law to stop uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Almost 180 nations have been at loggerheads over the issue for the past three weeks at a NPT review conference at the United Nations in New York.

The 25-year-old NPT was designed to stop the spread of nuclear weapons by limiting them to the five declared nuclear states — the US, Russia, China, Britain and France — and banning them from the rest of the world.

The nuclear weapons

states want the treaty extended indefinitely and unconditionally while many non-nuclear states want at most a 25-year extension. They hope this will put pressure on the nuclear states to change what they regard as a discriminatory treaty.

The conference is scheduled to decide the future of the treaty today. Thanks in no small measure to a compromise presented by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo to the conference on April 19, it now seems a clear majority of the NPT signatories have moved behind indefinite extension — and even complete consensus is within reach.

Nzo's proposal, which supports indefinite NPT extension but imposes new disarmament pressures on the nuclear states, has become the focal point of the conference.

It has helped persuade several sceptical non-nuclear states — including many members of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) — to support indefinite extension.

After lobbying by South Africa, the recent

NAM conference in Indonesia refrained from taking an expected position against indefinite extension, leaving the way open for individual states to support it.

Last week, key NAM member Mexico, originally one of the strongest opponents of indefinite extension, reversed its position.

And on the other side, US Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary said last week the US would probably back the SA position.

SA has proposed strengthening the regular five-yearly reviews of progress made by treaty countries in meeting their obligations, such as establishing a full nuclear test ban, and in transferring peaceful nuclear technology to developing countries.

It is understood the US and other nuclear states are balking at being held to proposed timetables for disarmament, and the US and SA delegations have been in intense discussion.

Observers here don't expect this issue to upset a decision this week in favour of entrenching the treaty.



uy protesting against a drinking water shortage in the mountainous capital city of Nepal.

PICTURE: AP

SA included in call for arms export code

CT 12/5/95

(254)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRUSSELS: About 50 non-governmental groups — including church organisations and charities — have called on South Africa, the European Union and the US to tighten the rules on arms exports.

The appeal for an international code of conduct on arms sales was launched here, and targeted in the first place on the EU

"Each EU country has its own policy, and this leads to arms getting to countries where they shouldn't end up," said Ms Bron-

wyn Brady, assistant director of the trans-atlantic lobby group BASIC.

"For instance, Belgium stopped selling weapons to Rwanda, while France continued. Eventually, both states sent UN forces to Rwanda for peacekeeping."

Ms Brady, a South African, said the code she wanted applied to the EU should also apply to other arms exporters — such as South Africa and the US.

"South Africa has the potential to be a major supplier in Southern Africa, and its arms industry is being heavily promoted."

Nuclear treaty

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(254)

ST145/95

By SIMON BARBER: Washington

WASHINGTON'S UN ambassador, Madeleine Albright, this week dismissed South Africa's role in forging a consensus on the indefinite renewal of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty by suggesting that Pretoria had been little more than a pawn in the Clinton administration's grand strategy.

From the beginning of the month-long treaty review conference, which ended on Thursday, South Africa had battled suspicions that it was bowing to US pressure in agreeing to favour making the 25-year-old treaty permanent.

Abdul Minty, head of the South African negotiating team, insisted throughout that the government was following its own dictates in trying to generate the maximum support possible for the treaty's permanent renewal.

What the US tried to achieve through muscle-flexing, South Africa worked for by proposing a compromise to win over the Non-Aligned Movement and other non-nuclear states who believed that the treaty should be subject to future renewal because the nuclear powers had failed to live up to their obligations.

"Our approach came out of our national experience in consensus-building," Mr Minty said on Friday.

The confrontational atmosphere in which the conference opened on April 17 changed dramatically after Alfred Nzo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, outlined the South African plan at the initial plenary.

South Africa, Mr Nzo said, supported permanent extension "in principle" but wanted the treaty strengthened.

This meant beefing up the review process to let developing nations feel they were parties to the treaty in more than name only, and adopting a set of principles to put some specific flesh on the generalities of the treaty.

South Africa put together a pair of draft resolutions which became the official basis for negotiations. Recognisable versions of both were unanimously adopted, along with the indefinite treaty renewal, on Thursday.

Mr Minty was particularly pleased that language had survived, over US objections, committing the nuclear powers to end nuclear testing and the production of fissile materials, and to scrap nuclear arsenals.

Many observers, including some US officials, thought the South African performance in bridging the gulf between the nuclear haves and the have-nots deserved acclaim.

But not, apparently, Mrs Albright. This, she made clear, was the Clinton administration's triumph and its alone.

What had won the day, she said, was the administration's absolute refusal to accept anything less than permanent, unconditional extension. "Others realised that the course of wisdom was to negotiate in good faith on the accompanying documents and then agree unanimously to extend the treaty," she said.

The ambassador was also proud that the US "refused to be pushed into commitments on arms control and disarmament that we deemed unsound and unrealistic".

Her only mention of South Africa's efforts came when she noted that "we embraced the concerns of many governments, led by the South African delegation, regarding the need to strengthen the treaty's review process".

By EDYTH BULBRING
Political Correspondent

(2514)

ST 14/5/95

A DEFENCE force proposal to award a Spanish shipyard a R1,7-billion contract to build four naval corvettes has sparked a cabinet outcry and accusations of foul play.

During a briefing on the corvettes last week, ANC ministers accused military and navy chiefs of high-handedness and of attempting to sideline them, cabinet sources said this week.

And representatives of Europe's shipyards, who stand to lose the lucrative contract, have accused the defence force of not playing fair. They say the tender process was flawed.

In a last-minute scurry to try to influence the outcome of crucial cabinet discussions on the contract this Wednesday, the head of a German consortium which was told in December that it was no longer in the running for the contract was in Johannesburg to seek the National Union of Metalworkers' support for its bid.

The German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has also written to President Nelson Mandela asking that the German proposal receive a sympathetic hearing.

A delegation representing the British Yarrow shipyard arrives tomorrow to promote what they say is an "excellent proposal".

The Spanish bid is favoured by the military, because the shipyard claims to be able to build the corvettes more cheaply, it has a hand-for-hand countertrade package and it proposes RDP projects that could create 20 000 jobs.

Sources said that the defence force chief, General George Meiring, and the navy chief, Vice-Admiral Robert Simpson-Anderson, had briefed the cabinet last week on the need for a corvette programme.

Navy Corvettes sail into a cabinet storm

Cabinet outcry over corvette proposals

buying the corvettes. One minister said the generals had also raised the hackles of some ministers by saying that unless they were given the corvettes, the navy would not survive. This was felt to be a threat. A cabinet minister said this week that he was not convinced the Spanish countertrade guarantees would materialise.

A source said the cabinet had decided it needed more time to discuss the defence force's recommendation. The cabinet secretary, Jakes Gerwel, said the corvette programme was likely to be discussed further at this week's cabinet meeting.

Vice-Admiral Simpson-Anderson and Armscor's chief, Trielman de Waal, were also criticised when they briefed the joint parliamentary defence committee on the corvette tender.

To Page 2

presentation of its offer to discuss the countertrade aspect with the defence force.

Jürgen Koopmann, the managing director of the German consortium, said that he shared the French shipyard's complaint about the tender process.

He was also dissatisfied that, despite two assurances from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki this year that the Germans were still in the race, Armscor had maintained Blohm and Voss's disqualification.

He likened the choice of the Spanish ships over the Germans to choosing "a pick-up truck with a gun attached over an armoured personnel carrier".

Yarrow's managing director, Murray Easton, said he would be in South Africa tomorrow to present his shipyard's offer to the public. He would not accept that the Spanish had won the tender until a final decision was announced.

The Deputy Defence Minister, Ronnie Kasrils, said yesterday that the tender process had been above board and correct.

"I wouldn't bet on who is going to get it. The cabinet might decide to throw open the process again," he said.

The cabinet was also entitled to reject the entire programme, he said.

been allowed to make a bid that shipyard had not.

The cabinet was also entitled to reject the entire programme, he said.

Corvettes deal includes R3,2bn trade package

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — Scotland-based Yarrow Shipbuilders' tender to build four corvettes for the SA Navy included a R3,2bn countertrade package which would be capable of generating 25 000 new jobs, MD Murray Easton said yesterday

Yarrow and Spanish group Bazan had submitted tenders to build the corvettes. The Cabinet still had to decide whether in fact to have new vessels built. It must also decide which company to award the tender to following recommendations by the SA Navy and Armscor

At a briefing yesterday, Easton released details of the countertrade agreement Yarrow had proposed with its tender to build the vessels. The company, like Bazan, had proposed a binding commitment to provide over 100% of the corvettes' contract value in countertrade

Yarrow Shipbuilders was a subsidiary of GEC. Another GEC associate GEC Alstom operated a number of engineering and manufacturing facilities in SA. Included in the countertrade offer was a "major opportunity" identified by GEC to generate low-cost electricity.

According to Yarrow's offer, the project involved the investment by GEC of R1,5bn on power stations to generate low cost electricity using previously discarded coal residue. The project was expected to create about 2 500 jobs over the three years of installation and 500 operating staff

In reply to a question whether GEC would not go ahead with the "opportunity"

if Yarrows' tender failed, Easton said the offer represented a commitment by GEC to go-ahead with the project.

Yarrow's offer also included an initial R40m fund to kickstart a urban renewal programme providing 10 000 houses and accommodating 50 000 people. Other components of the countertrade included "guaranteed" export markets, raw materials purchases and training and technology transfer projects.

Responding to reports that Armscor had been criticised by various European shipyards for its conduct over the tender process, Easton said the tender process so far had been normal

Easton arrived in SA yesterday with the Lord Provost of Glasgow Tony Dingwell and Engineering Union secretary-general Gavin Laird. Easton said the delegation would meet various interests in SA over the next few days to "explain the excellence of our proposals".

Sapa reports that Easton said the offer included the purchase of all available raw materials from SA, the purchase of R435m in equipment and services from SA industries and skills training for 200 South Africans in Britain

Easton said his company was "confident" of winning the contract if full attention was given to its technical bid and countertrade proposals

The four corvettes would be supplied to SA without any weapons systems, but could be easily converted to give them an offensive capability.

continue to focus on companies which were

Draft defence legislation quashed after govt row

BD 17/5/95 (254)
Adrian Hadland

CAPE TOWN — Draft legislation setting out SA's new defence and regional security policy was quashed by Defence Minister Joe Modise yesterday after a row with SA National Defence Force officials.

Mystified parliamentarians, due to discuss the Green Paper ahead of Modise's Budget speech later this month, were told by Modise's special adviser Fana Hlongwane the paper was distributed in error. The document had no official status, it was a "non-paper", he said, and would require rewriting before the joint standing committee on defence could discuss it.

MPs from all parties insisted on the postponement of Modise's budget speech.

ANC MP and committee chairman Tony Yengeni said the new budgetary process demanded Modise reflect the views of the committee in his speech.

"This has important implications regarding the way we work in considering the budget," ANC MP Ian Phillips said. MPs, who said they would "roast" Modise during his budget address if the committee's views were not noted, were also told the Defence Department's annual report was not ready due to printing difficulties.

Hlongwane told the committee the Green Paper had not been approved or cleared by Modise or by his Deputy Minister, Ronnie Kasrils.

Sources said an SANDF official had

drawn up the paper without the assistance of newly-appointed Ministry officials and with little reference to "different perspectives" being debated by policymakers.

While according to ANC MPs the paper did not seem all that bad, the sidelining of the Minister, Deputy Minister and Ministerial staff had caused its withdrawal. "Ronnie (Kasrils) and Joe (Modise) were piqued," one said.

"We don't want to rubber stamp the decisions of the Defence Force like in the old days," the source added.

The paper would be rewritten and presented to the committee in two weeks, MPs were told. Meanwhile, National Assembly speaker Frene Ginwala would be asked to postpone Modise's budget speech.

The committee was also scheduled to begin formulating its opinion on the purchase of corvette naval craft yesterday.

ANC MP Thenjwe Mtintso said the "whole process" should be halted. The ANC had still not decided on its attitude to the purchase, she said.

The Inkatha Freedom Party said it was not opposed in principle to the naval acquisition, though more details were needed. PAC president Clarence Makwetu said his party's favourable stance was influenced by its military wing. The Freedom Front urged government to get on with making a decision to end the confusion while the NP expressed its strong support for the project.

Prisoners lose confidentiality case

Stephane Bothma

PRETORIA — An application by four HIV-positive Diepkloof prisoners for their condition to be treated confidentially by the prison authorities was rejected by the Transvaal

Supreme Court yesterday.

Practices which could have violated an HIV-positive prisoner's rights had already been abolished by Correctional Services and a positive policy was being implemented, it said.

The prisoners did not question the Correctional Services Department policy to separate HIV-positive prisoners. But they claimed that the habit of warders constantly referring to them as "HIV or AIDS prisoners" in front of others violated their rights and was unconstitutional.

Rejecting the application as having no legal or factual basis, Judge P Roux said if HIV-positive prisoners were kept separate from fellow inmates, their condition could not be hidden.

"A Utopian situation

would be a completely separate jail for HIV-positive prisoners," he said.

He said a practice by Correctional Services to have a notice on the cell-door of an HIV prisoner stating "Health Status: HIV" had been abolished before the application was brought.

Although three of the applicants alleged their blood had been tested for HIV without consent, the court accepted testimony from Correctional Services that all prisoners were now asked for consent and given time to consider.

The court heard that the doctor who had taken blood tests without consent was no longer employed by the prison.

Roux rejected the application with costs.

ed

ANC demands further discussions *Jan 17/5/95*

Corvette deal falters on 'lack of information'

BY PATRICK BULGER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The Government's plan to buy hi-tech naval corvettes for the defence force steamed into troubled waters when ANC members of Parliament told a parliamentary committee yesterday the controversial project should be stopped

Today the Cabinet was due to consider competing international bids to supply the four ships at a cost of about R1,6-billion

But parliamentarians attending a meeting of the joint committee on defence yesterday argued they did not have enough information to make an informed decision about the purchase of the corvettes, a project which has been shrouded in secrecy since it was inherited from the previous government.

"We are not convinced in the

ANC ranks," ANC MP Thenjiwe Mthintso told the committee

She said MPs had not been told the "context" within which the corvette decision was being made. She called for a review of the process and said the Government should put a halt on the project until there had been further discussion on South Africa's defence needs.

Another ANC MP, Ian Phillips, said it was "extraordinary" that the Government had already spent R80-million on the corvette project when it had not yet been approved by the Executive

The decision to buy the corvettes was taken by the previous government. There was not sufficient information for the committee to make sensible decisions, Phillips said.

Democratic Party MP Douglas Gibson said there was "something wrong" between Defence Minister Joe Modise and his

party when, a year after taking power, the ANC still had no opinion on the corvettes

The IFP's Philip Powell said the party had not been given specific information. Only the NP representatives favoured the project outright.

The committee decided it would call Modise and Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel to appear before it to get details of the corvette tenders as well as the elaborate counter-trade proposals that bidding nations have put forward as part of their prospective deals

Meanwhile, the Cabinet is due to discuss the corvette issue today at its regular fortnightly meeting

Pending a cabinet decision on whether to buy the corvettes, a decision is still to be made on which country will build the vessels.

(254)

Corvette talks postponed

CT 18/5/95

(254)

THE cabinet yesterday postponed a discussion on buying four high-tech corvettes, at about R1,6-billion, said cabinet secretary Professor Jakes Gerwel

Speaking after the regular fortnightly meeting, Prof Gerwel said the discussion had been postponed at the request of Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise. Some ANC members oppose the purchase, saying they have not been given enough information. — Own Correspondent

Corvette purchase shelved

(254) JAN 16/5/95

■ BY PATRICK BULGER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The Cabinet yesterday postponed a discussion on the purchase of four hi-tech corvettes for the defence force, costing about R1,6-billion, Cabinet secretary Jakes Gerwel revealed.

Speaking after the regular fortnightly meeting, Gerwel said the discussion had been postponed at Defence Minister Joe Modise's request.

In other decisions reached at the Cabinet meeting, the ministers accepted a four-verse shortened version of the national anthem, to be used for ceremonial purposes.

Ministers were also given a briefing on the Vaal Reefs mining disaster and the Cabinet decided that the Government would give R5-million to the disaster fund.

President Mandela again expressed concern about high rates of crime and violence.

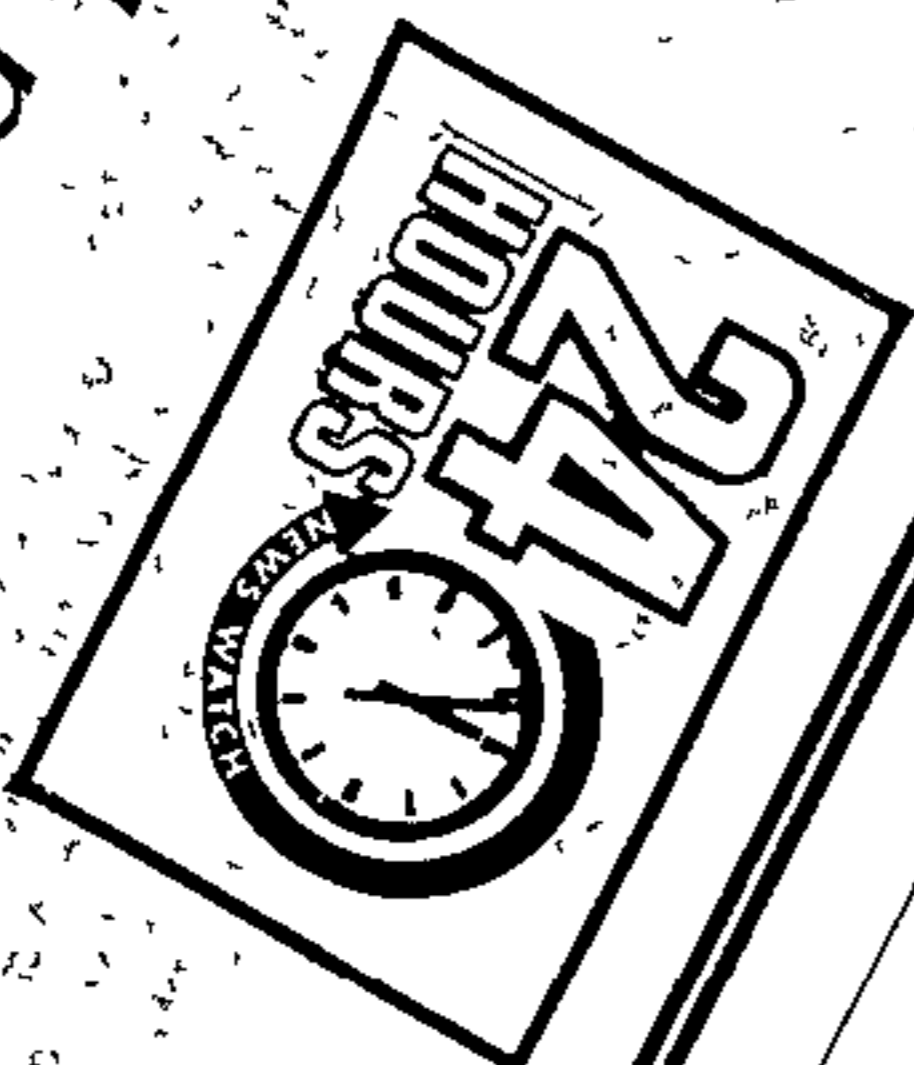
The Cabinet also approved the Legal Practitioners Bill which drops the dual language requirement — English and Afrikaans — for admission as attorneys.

INSIGHT

Ships for jobs

UK's R3.2 billion deal offers work for 25 000

10 000 homes and new business



Aug 16/5/96

The Argus, Tuesday May 10

JOHN YELD
Staff Reporter

THE British company bidding to win the R1,69 billion contract to supply four corvettes to the South African Navy is offering a counter-trade package worth an estimated R3,2-billion and 25,000 new jobs.

A top-ranking delegation from the Glasgow-based company Yarrow Shipbuilders is in South Africa to promote the bid which it says is closely linked to the government's Reconstruction and Development Programme

Yarrow, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the giant General Electric Corporation (GEC), has a long association with the SA Navy and has built several ships for it, most recently the hydrographic survey ship Protea.

The British counter-trade bid is less than the R4,8 billion estimate of their Spanish rivals, but the British delegation believes its offer is more closely linked to the RDP objectives of providing housing, job creation and promoting local skills

It is also hoping that Glasgow's close links with President Mandela (it was the first European city to award him the freedom of the city), ties between the British labour movement and Cosatu (Congress of South African Trade Unions), traditional links between the SA Navy and Royal Navy, and the common language of English will be indirect factors in its favour.

"We have no plans to meet him (President Mandela) nor have we requested a meeting, and we believe the decision-making will be entirely objective," Yarrow managing director and delegation leader Murray Easton said in response to a question during a media briefing at the British Consulate yesterday

"(But) we're confident that if full consideration is given to the merits of our proposal, we will be successful."

The delegation said the British corvettes — 119m long and with a 3 000-ton displacement — were ideally suited to extended patrol duties off South Africa's long coastline with its heavy seas, and met all the technical specifications set by Armscor.

Key elements in Yarrow's counter-trade proposal are

- Generating a rolling programme of urban renewal in South Africa, providing 10 000 houses to accommodate about 50 000 people, at an initial input of R40-million;

- Forming long-term partnerships with South African companies, such as an initiative with

Kentron being negotiated worth R500-million,

- Travel, subsistence and training for 200 South Africans in Scotland for one year at a cost of R21-million,

- A skills enhancement and training programme relating to housing that will provide 1 200 manufacturing jobs, 6 000 jobs in service industries and 1 600 in construction,

- Investing up to R1,5-billion in modern power stations using previously discarded coal residue, creating about 2 500 jobs for three years and 500 permanent jobs,

- Accessing funds of more than R75-million to create a "funding framework" to establish an adequate educational infrastructure in South Africa,

- Buying all available raw material — steel, electric cable and so on — and equipment for installation in the corvettes from South Africa. This is valued at more than R100-million and will generate an estimated 3 000 jobs,

- GEC associated companies in South Africa will buy equipment and services costing more than R435-million from South African companies,

- The GEC companies will guarantee securing exports worth more than R460-million during the counter-trade period, and will guarantee 13 000 jobs, and

- GEC/Yarrow will set up a joint venture fund valued at a minimum of R90-million to promote and invest in new business projects which will generate a minimum of 2 800 jobs

Asked about the controversy in South Africa over the bid process and the possibility that it might be re-opened to other countries, Mr Easton said it had been "absolutely normal"

"It (the tender process) hasn't given us any cause for concern, and has been handled very professionally"

The cabinet will reportedly discuss the issue tomorrow, but there is no indication that it will finalise the decision

British High Commissioner Anthony Reeve said during the briefing there was a common perception that returns offered by counter-trade proposals were "rather intangible"

"There will be a very tangible, substantiated return coming in to the country, and that's a dimension not too well understood by the man-in-the-street," Sir Anthony said

More than 30 British military officers were in South Africa monitoring "as umpires" the amalgam-

ation of formerly opposing elements into the new South African National Defence Force

"Which I think we've performed very successfully. Britain has a role in this country in the military defence field which other countries have not

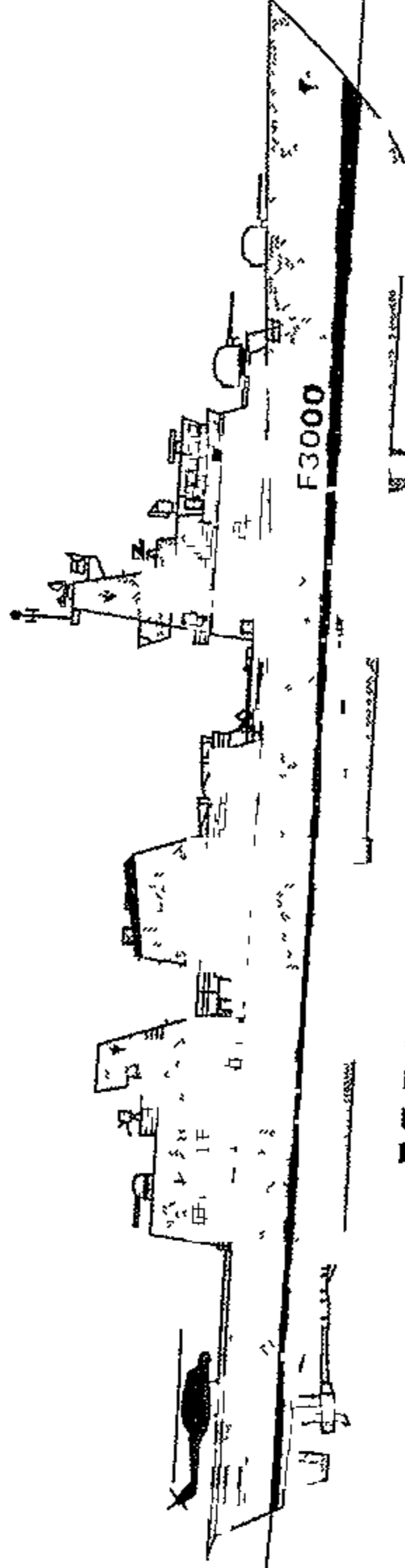
"It was interrupted during the apartheid years but it has been resuscitated and we have a lot of skills you can benefit from."

Britain could also learn from South Africa and had bought items of equipment and technology that was "the best on offer", Sir Anthony said

"We are talking about a whole range of activities which the British and South Africa together in a way that is not the same with other countries"

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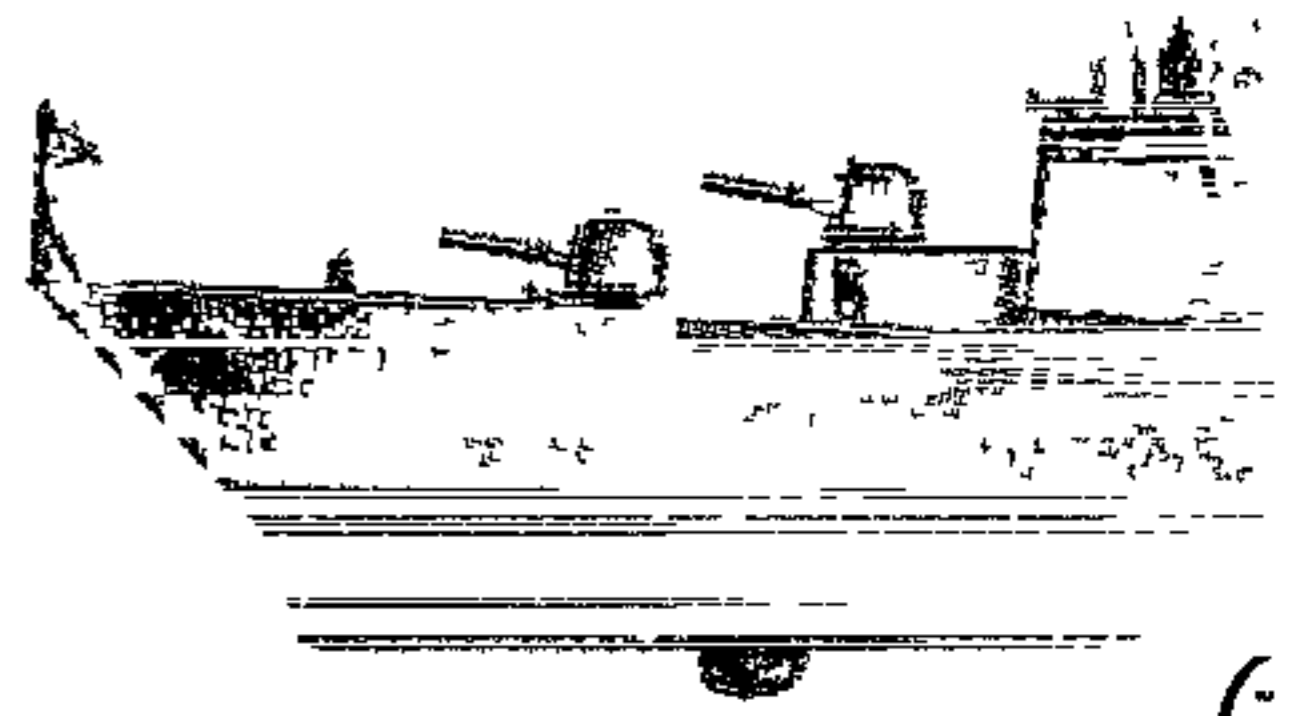


YARROW F3000

PATROL CORVETTE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN NAVY

BEST OF BRITISH: The 3 000-ton, 119m patrol corvette — one of two contenders for the SA Navy's proposed upgrading programme

BATTLE OF THE CORVETTES



It is a sign of the fierce competition between five countries to win the Navy's R1,8bn order that John Major had a personal letter hand-delivered to Nelson Mandela last week, report JJ CORNISH and BRUCE CAMERON

It is a contract which may never be placed, but that is not how groups of high-powered defence salesmen from five different countries have been behaving all week.

A delegation from the giant British electrical group GEC, led by the British high commissioner, Sir Anthony Reeves, marched the corridors of government in Cape Town and Pretoria this week, trying to clinch the biggest military order placed by South Africa for many years: four new corvettes for the South African navy to the tune of some R1,8 billion.

A similar group from Spain left Pretoria on Friday after a series of meetings to punt its 18-part countertrade menu, and lobbying from Germany, France and Denmark — until recently apparently ruled out of the contract — has abruptly stepped up again. Each of the bidders has tried to outdo the others with generous offers of countertrade, some of which — on face value, at least — are worth far more than the corvettes.

Indeed, a diplomatic source said yesterday that France, Germany and Denmark were all reviewing their proposals and seeking ways to sweeten their offers, given the apparent South African preference for the British and Spanish proposals.

Last week, as part of the lobbying blitz, Sir Anthony delivered a letter from British prime minister John Major to Nelson Mandela in support of his country's bid. It began with a warm "Dear Nelson", and showed clearly just how badly the British government wants to land the contract.

In the past, British governments have been criticised by their own business community for their lukewarm support for contracts of this kind. But not this time. Major pointed out that GEC, the largest British electronics and defence company in the country,

which also owns the Yarrow shipyard in Glasgow, was proposing an "imaginative" countertrade package which would create some 22 000 jobs in South Africa and generate contracts worth R3,2 billion.

Part of the package is a proposal that the Glasgow Development Agency build 10 000 houses in the Khayelitsha squatter complex near Cape Town, with full water, sewerage and other facilities. Major wanted Mandela to know that the British government was totally behind the bid.

Spain, the other front-runner, has upped the ante, offering countertrade worth R3,8 billion — twice the value of the corvette order — if South Africa enters into a detailed trade agreement involving a whole series of options, including sales of coal and the purchase of South African materials for use in other ships built at the Bazan shipyard in Cartagena.

But the most attractive item on Spain's extensive menu is the offer to build fishing boats in South Africa, and make some R375 million available to local fishing communities to buy them with.

Free submarine

The French, according to a presentation it made to parliament in Cape Town in November, would throw in a free Daphne-class submarine and build three of the corvettes in Durban, creating 1 700 jobs.

The Germans, who until recently seemed to be out of it, originally offered a package of technological transfers, with a heavy emphasis on the RDP. The others bidders have been puzzled over how they have been let back in, but it emerged this week that deputy president Thabo Mbeki was lobbied on this subject during his European visit in February. Repre-

sentatives of the German consortium confirmed this week that they had been invited to reopen the bidding process. One — unconfirmed — rumour has it that Germany has offered to buy the Rooivalk helicopter, which South Africa has desperately been trying to export. "If you buy the helicopter — and it's a damned good one — you can have the corvette order tomorrow," remarked one British official sourly yesterday.

Unfortunately for him, the Royal Air Force, about to place an order for 91 anti-tank helicopters worth some £2 billion, has ruled out the South African version and is negotiating with British Aerospace, Westland-McDonnell Douglas and GEC-Bell over their more sophisticated machines.

The British flew out last weekend in the belief that the decision was now between them and the Spaniards, and would be made this week. To their consternation, the situation has changed yet again. A cabinet decision has been postponed for another two weeks at least, and the argument within the ANC is not over which country should get the order, but whether the order should be placed at all.

"Quite frankly, the last thing South Africa needs is four new gunboats," said one participant disdainfully, adding "The military have hijacked this discussion."

Ministers and senior ANC members opposed to the deal have been angered by what they consider to be phoney economics used by

Even those, such as Gill Marcus, chairperson of the influential parliamentary finance committee, who have opposed the deal acknowledge that if South Africa is to retain a defence force, it should be effective. It is the nature of this capability that is being debated. In this regard, it is being pointed out that South Africa is the 12th largest maritime nation on earth, with a R1 billion-a-year fishing industry employing 100 000 people who need protection from — among others — the Spanish fishing fleets.

would be thrown open yet again. The military budget, which at one stage in the P W Botha years accounted for almost 20 percent of government spending, has been targeted as the main area from which funds can be diverted to social spending. This year the South African Defence Force was allocated R9,8 billion, or 6,5 percent of the total budget of R152 billion. It has since managed to win another R700 million. MPs are not completely opposed to spending money on the armed forces.

the military establishment to press its case. A closed-door briefing of MPs last week did little, if anything, to drum up support for the purchase of the corvettes, with a growing number of MPs wondering why South Africa needs them. "If the deal is so good, we shouldn't be buying only four corvettes," one MP remarked afterwards. "We should buy a whole fleet." Government sources said yesterday, that even if the cabinet did go against the majority of ANC MPs on the issue, the whole bidding process

NUCLEAR POWER

Swords into ploughshares

Good sense has prevailed in our nuclear industry — and it could make money

Looming amid the green hills of the Magaliesberg, the serrated profile of the Pelindaba nuclear complex long provoked the question of what went on behind it. In 1993 government ended the guessing game with the sweeping if belated confession that the Valmdaba plant in the complex had enriched uranium to weapons grade and supplied it to Armscor for fabrication into nuclear weapons.

Ironically, the great nuclear complex built up as part of the Nationalists' desperate effort to hold on to power has now fallen into the hands of a government controlled by their former enemy, the ANC — as has SA's other major nuclear commitment, the Koeberg power plant north of Cape Town. After some loud initial squawks from fringe antinuclear groups in the ANC alliance, a blessed silence has descended and Koeberg hums in its efficient, clean and unthreatening way, contributing 1,8 MW of electricity to Eskom's grid (6% of total output in 1994).

With the economics of power generation dictating that another nuclear plant should not be built for many years, it seems Koeberg will be left alone to see out its economic life (perhaps another 25 years).

But should SA still operate a substantial nuclear industry to enrich uranium and even — as it was forced to do during sanctions — to make fuel elements for Koeberg, which can now buy them from abroad? SA could theoretically continue to enjoy the benefits of nuclear power without running its own nuclear industry.

Now that SA has renounced nuclear weapons and has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the fate of the leftover nuclear facilities should arguably be determined by technological and economic considerations. These seem to point towards a continuing, if scaled-down, nuclear establishment, pursuing sensitive nuclear technology under the supervision of the major nations' watchdog against nuclear proliferation — the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Coincidentally, the NPT is now up for renewal and press reports suggest SA's international representatives have played a constructive role against proliferation in

FM 19/5/95
this sensitive and far-reaching parley

SA is also promoting the associated concept of a nuclear weapons-free African continent (along the lines of a similar accord in Latin America).

In the past few years SA's Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC) has been following a long-term strategy to reposition itself to exploit nuclear technology for peaceful purposes — and on a financially self-sustaining basis.

For one of the world's major uranium producers to disband its laboriously built-up human capital in nuclear physics and engineering and give up claims to any long-term stake in uranium enrichment would have been folly.

That this was the sensible decision is evidenced by the way the new government has allowed the AEC

to continue on its chosen path. When SA eventually decides to build another nuclear power plant, there could be significant local inputs. In the immediate future, there is also a good prospect of SA earning substantial sums by exporting enriched uranium.

A word of scientific explanation: uranium, as it occurs in nature, contains 0,7% of the key isotope (atomic variety) uranium 235, the balance being uranium 238. The uranium 235 isotope can undergo nuclear fission — a property required for a nuclear power plant and to make a bomb.

For a pressurised water power reactor — the type installed at Koeberg and in common use around the world — the concentration of U 235 has to be stepped up to around 4%. To make an efficient nuclear weapon, over 90% enrichment is needed.

The first enrichment was accomplished in the US during World War 2. It required the conversion of natural uranium to the hexa-

fluoride, which can be manipulated in gaseous form.

The Manhattan Project (which produced the atomic bomb) employed the laborious and expensive process of gaseous diffusion, taking advantage of the slight differences in physical properties of the two isotopes to separate them. When knowledge of nuclear technology became widespread, different countries, including SA, put enormous efforts into developing improved enrichment procedures.

The AEC developed a special vortex tube process which required uranium hexafluoride to be passed through a tube at high speed, separating the two isotopes by using the small difference in mass.

Apart from manufacturing weapons-grade uranium, of which a stockpile remains, the AEC was forced by sanctions (which cut off nuclear fuel supplies to Koeberg) to make substantial quantities of 4% enriched uranium and to achieve the technically difficult second stage of manufacturing it into fuel elements. It is still doing this — for now.

AEC CEO Waldo Stumpf has given the FM some fascinating insights into current strategic thinking about nuclear technology. The most sensitive item is, of course, the remaining stockpile of "highly enriched" (weapons-grade) uranium.

The existence of this material provoked some alarm in certain American quarters, lest it be sold by the new SA government to aggressive and irresponsible states — a fear



Stumpf masterminding the transition



Nuclear plant generating foreign currency

that has been proved groundless.

Stumpf makes the point that while the nations of the world are deliberating about the renewal of the NPT, a nuclear-penitent SA is doing its utmost to enhance the effectiveness of the International Atomic

Battle over the corvettes hots up

■ BUSINESS STAFF

It is a contract which may never be placed, but that is not the way groups of high-powered defence salesmen from five different countries have been behaving all week.

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The French, according to a presentation it made to Parliament in Cape Town in November, will throw in a Daphne class submarine free, and would build three of the corvettes in Durban, creating 1 700 jobs there.

The Germans, who seemed to be out of it, had originally offered a package of technological transfers with a heavy emphasis on the RDP.

(54) SPAN 19/5/95

SANDF offers grazing land to all farmers

(25.4) stay 20/5/95
By ESTHER WAUGH
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — Defence Minister Joe Modise has issued an instruction that military land is to be made available to white and black farmers as emergency grazing land in drought-stricken areas.

SANDF land was recently made available to white farmers near the Lohatla army base as emergency grazing land.

The right of farmers belonging to the Northern Cape Agriculture Union to use the base was granted in terms of an agreement that such land could be made available only through farming bodies. This meant black farmers were generally excluded.

The new instruction followed an investigation by Modise.

A spokesman for the minister said negotiations would be started with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that as many farmers as possible had access to the Lohatla land.

Modise buys time to lobby for corvettes

ST 21/5/93

(254)

DEFENCE MINISTER Joe Modise this week aborted a planned cabinet discussion on the purchase of four naval corvettes because he feared the proposal would be given the thumbs down.

"He needs more time to lobby support for the programme," a source close to the cabinet said this week.

The defence force recommended at the last cabinet meeting that the Spanish tender, from shipyard Bazan, be approved over the British tender from Yarrow shipyard.

The proposal was strongly contested by ANC cabinet ministers who complained that they had not been consulted on aspects of the tender.

Sources in the president's office said that the night before this week's cabinet meeting, President Nelson Mandela had expressed the view that the corvette programme should be scrapped.

"He felt that it was not one of the new government's priorities," a

By **EDYTH BULBRING**
Political Correspondent

source said

However, he had been persuaded by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and other ministers that the matter should be more thoroughly discussed and investigated.

"Either way, if the programme is to be scrapped or approved, Mr Mandela was convinced that more discussion should precede a decision," a source said.

It was in this context that Mr Modise asked the cabinet to postpone discussion on the corvettes to a cabinet meeting in a couple of weeks' time.

"If it had gone for a decision this week, it would have been defeated. Those arguing against the corvettes are using very emotional arguments against more logical ones. Modise needs more time to speak to people," the source said.

Although the Spanish tender has

been recommended by the defence force to the cabinet, the controversy surrounding the corvette programme has encouraged the other shipyards to start lobbying decision makers in the hope that they will be reconsidered.

Representatives from Britain's Yarrow shipyard and the Danish shipyard Svendborg flew in this week to lobby ministers.

Meanwhile the Spanish government has expressed concern that a delay in the decision and a possible reopening of the tender process would give its disqualified competitors an unfair second advantage.

NP members of the cabinet are unanimous that the corvette programme should be supported, while the ANC ranks from MP to ministerial level are split.

During a parliamentary defence committee meeting this week, ANC MP Thenjiwe Mthintso said that government should stop the project until there had been further discussion on South Africa's defence needs.



SINGALONG: Led by Lance-Corporal Lucky Mathothe, former MK cadres in training at the SANDF grounds at Touws River break into song after weapons training.

PICTURE: WILLEM STEENKAMP

Integration of troops 'working well' ⁽²⁵⁴⁾

CT 24/5/95

BY WILLEM STEENKAMP

THE Western Cape integration of former non-statutory forces into the SANDF was proceeding smoothly, instructors and trainees alike said this week.

During a press visit to the Touws River training area,

Brigadier Dan Lamprecht, officer commanding Western Province Command, said he was "quite proud" to say the training had "worked well" within his command area.

The evaluation of 427 former MK cadres' basic training phase at 9 SA Infantry Battalion bore this

out, showing average scores of between 72,5% and 94,8% for map reading, musketry, fieldcraft, buddy aid, fitness and shooting.

The soldiers described their training as being "of a high standard" and "enjoyable", and said there had been a shift in attitude among the former enemies

BRIEFS

Sanco in clash

JOHANNESBURG: Nine civic leaders were injured when factions of the South African National Civic Organisation clashed at a squatter camp in Krugersdorp, police said yesterday.

Police spokeswoman Lt-Col Hennette Bester said the fighting on Sunday pitted the new leadership at Lusaka section of the Swanenville squatter camp against members of the "old civic group".

Unions to merge

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) is to launch one public sector union in August.

This is according to a joint statement issued yesterday by Cosatu's Western Cape region, the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu), the SA Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu), the Post and Telegraph Workers Association (Potwa), and the SA Municipal Workers Union (Samwu). Merger committees have been established.

Sapa

CT 24/5/95

Defence Force discipline debate

ADRIAN HADLAND 254

CAPE TOWN — The SA National Defence Force conceded yesterday that part of its disciplinary process was unconstitutional but argued its members should not be subject to every clause of SA's Bill of Rights.

Addressing the joint standing committee on defence Adm Johan Retief said three forms of court martial existed within the defence force.

There was the general court martial for senior officers, and the ordinary court martial for junior officers and lower ranks.

The third type of court martial, summary trials, generally dealt with lesser offences committed by junior SANDF members.

The accused did not have the right to legal representation or to a public trial, Retief said. BO 24/5/95

According to the constitution's chapter on fundamental rights, every accused person has the right to a public trial before an ordinary court of law within a reasonable time. The accused also has the right to be represented by a legal practitioner.

Doing away with summary trials would cause "very difficult" legal problems, Retief said.

He called on the committee to amend the Act to allow the retention of the procedure and the acceptance of this limitation on soldiers' rights.

Land ownership rights 'are safe'

BO 24/5/95

THE expropriation or confiscation of land to achieve government's land reform initiative was unnecessary, Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

He told the SA-German Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg that there was sufficient land available on the free market for government to buy, as it proceeded with its land reform effort.

He went on to say, however, that expropriation would have to be "absolutely justified". It would be considered in instances where there was no land available on the free market.

But Hanekom assured his audience government would not impinge on current property ownership rights. This policy was likely to be contained in the White Paper due to be presented to Parliament in October.

"It is a tricky situation. It is not our intention to encroach upon the rights of existing landowners.

"We will embark on land reform without creating new injustices and in so doing secure property rights for all South Africans."

Government wanted to remove impediments to land ownership

Government would make it possible for tenants under the customary

tenure system to move away from the system, as it did not give legal ownership to the tenant.

This system had been practised largely in the former homelands.

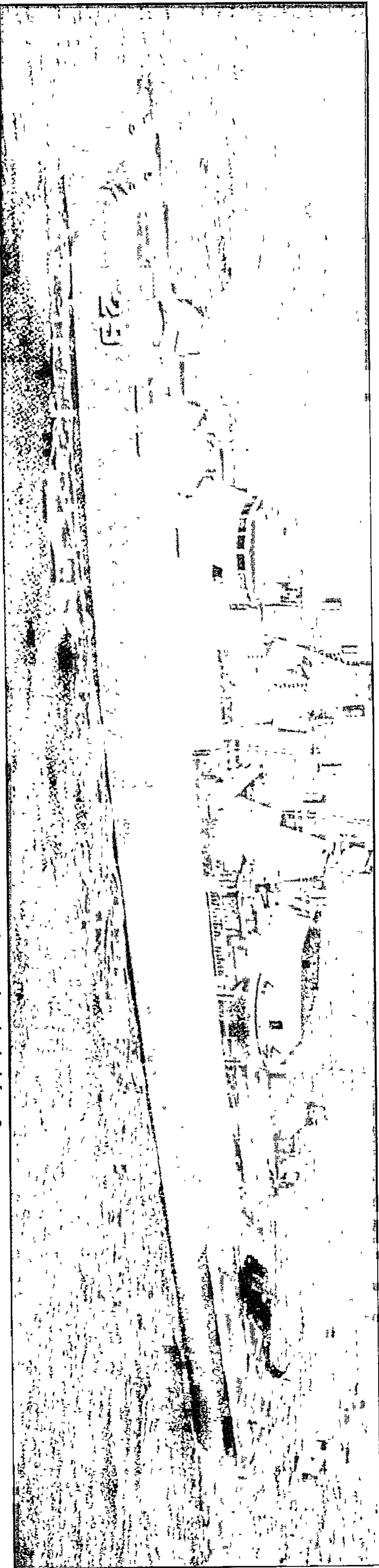
By encouraging a freehold title system, people would be able to own land, and use it as collateral to raise loans. However, where people were happy to continue with the customary tenure system, measures would be taken to ensure its legal recognition, he said.

The private sector would have a significant role to play in land reform and provision, but the state had a responsibility to facilitate this through enabling legislation, policies and institutions.

Hanekom said he did not believe land reform could be left solely to the dictates of the free market system. Land resources and access were tightly held, and in such instances the free market would be skewed in favour of that clique.

However, he said government intervention would be "well-directed" and would not repeat the mistakes of Zimbabwe's land reform effort.

"It is exactly what we want to avoid. I don't believe the route they are on is the right route." — Sapa.



Ship of State . . . while the debate rages, could the corvette be worth more than simple defence?

Some plus points of the craft

■ The corvette is a warship that has space on board for a helicopter to land and take off. It has sophisticated armaments and a blue water capability. The helicopter acts as the "eyes" of the corvette and will assist with the policing of our territorial waters. In addition to its military role, the corvette is capable of fast transportation, quick search and rescue missions, and will be able to move humanitarian aid to any part of Africa. It has a range of 4 200 nautical miles at 18 knots, a lifespan of 30 years, good endurance on rough seas and can remain at sea for up to 28 days.

■ A patrol boat does not have helicopter landing facilities on board. A patrol boat can only remain at sea for up to five days, has a lifespan of 12 years, a limited gun capability and a maximum range of 2 300 nautical miles at 12 knots. A patrol boat is limited to an in-shore capability and would complement a corvette in policing our coastline and territorial waters.

Although the buying of corvettes might not make strict military sense, the decision is wise for other reasons, argues Krish Naidoo

A sting in the corvette debate

(257) Saw 24/6/98

The interim constitution expressly provides that South Africa maintains a National Defence Force to safeguard the sovereignty of the state. The Maritime Zones Act, passed in November last year, proclaims South Africa's sovereignty over a 200km territorial limit in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

The argument against the acquisition of the corvettes comes in four layers. First, although the State has a constitutional obligation to safeguard its sovereignty, it should do so in the light of other priorities. Second, the State should consider alternatives, such as the purchasing of patrol boats. Third, four corvettes alone would not be able to safeguard our sovereignty. Fourth, South Africa does not

have any enemies, so why spend money on the military?

Taken together, these objections can be crystallised into two main issues should we protect our sovereignty and, if so, how and when should we do it?

While the State has a duty to provide houses, jobs and other socio-economic goods for its people, it has an equal duty to protect its sovereignty. Protection of sovereignty is a service provided for the entire nation.

The irony of the corvette programme is that it successfully straddles the gap between State security and protection of the populace. It will also create employment and secure our resources by protecting our marine environment. Furthermore, it will boost the RDP through the countertrade which is inherent

in the corvette deal. Countertrade is an international technique by which a country can purchase goods and services with reduced hard currency.

Countertrade can assume a variety of forms, the most common of which are barter or swaps, counterpurchase, buy-back or compensation, and offset agreements. Countertrade in the corvette programme is a combination of counterpurchase and an industrial offset arrangement.

The Galt rules do not apply to the corvette deal because it is between South Africa and a private company. The estimated cost of the corvette programme is R1,7-billion. Of this amount, R1-billion will be spent on the ship platforms, R200-million on the helicopters

and R500-million on the armaments system for the corvettes. Overseas companies have tendered for the provision of the ship platforms. Both local and overseas companies have tendered for the provision of the helicopters and the armaments system will be assembled locally.

The military market is at present a buyer's market. Whether this will prevail over the next five to 10 years is doubtful. At present, we have nine strike craft which are reaching the end of their cycle. No further modifications will be possible to put these craft to any military use.

The countertrade in the case of the ship platforms is 55%. This means that 6% of the R1-billion, the successful tenderer would be obliged to spend

R550-million in South Africa for goods and services for the construction of the platforms. On balance, only R450-million will leave the country, which is equal to R75-million annually over the acquisition period of six years.

The final assembly of the corvettes will be done in South Africa and the potential yield to our electronics industry arising from the combat suites and helicopters is estimated at R550-million.

On the commercial side, one of the tender companies has pledged to increase imports of South African coal from 5,7-million megatons to 7,5-million megatons. It has also undertaken to increase imports of fish, steel, telecommunication equipment and other hi-tech products.

The RDP effort could benefit in two additional areas. First, an education grant-in-aid to train about 10 000 South Africans and transfer of technology to disadvantaged members of our fishing industry.

The aggregate value of the direct military and commercial countertrade over the contract period is estimated at R3-billion. On a macro-economic analysis, South Africa would be disbursing R1-billion and receiving R3-billion in return. This translates into a net favourable trade balance of R2-billion, provision of jobs, stimulation of our shipping and electronics industries, and increased exports of South African fish, coal and electronic goods, and all this without impinging on such priorities as education and health.

Converting South Africa into a strong State means correcting the imbalances of the past and preparing adequately for the future. The non-existence of a conventional enemy is a small part in the calculation in relation to the protection of our R1-billion a year fishing industry which employs about 100 000 people.

The emotion surrounding the debate on the corvettes is understandable. However, governance ranges from protection of our intangible interests, such as sovereignty, to the provision of houses and other basic needs. As difficult as it may be, the key is to engage in a sober analysis covering a broader interest over a longer time span.

■ Krish Naidoo is a senior manager of corporate communications at Amisco.

Pahad urges China to join nuclear moratorium

(2574)

Political Staff
SOUTH Africa has urged the People's Republic of China to join other nuclear powers in an international moratorium on further testing of nuclear devices.

Senate yesterday that South Africa was also urging China to work towards the completion of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

15, only three days after the end of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review and Extension Conference.

the NPT Review and Extension Conference in New York where South Africa had expressed its concern that the nuclear weapons states had failed to meet their disarmament obligations; one of the most important of which was a ban on nuclear test explosions.

Mr. Pahad said South Africa had taken an unequivocal position on nuclear non-proliferation and had played a leading role in ensuring the success of

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad said in the

Republic of China to conduct a nuclear test explosion on May

that the decision by the People's Republic of China to conduct a nuclear test explosion on May

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Making waves

KRISH NAIDOO, a senior manager of corporate communications at Armscor, enters the debate on the proposals to buy corvettes for the South African Navy. The counter-trade deal, involving billions of rands and thousands of jobs, has become a political "hot potato"

THE interim constitution expressly provides that South Africa maintains a National Defence Force to safeguard the sovereignty of the state. The Maritime Zones Act, passed in November last year, proclaims South Africa's sovereignty over a 200km territorial limit in the Indian and Atlantic oceans.

The argument against the acquisition of the corvettes comes in four layers

First, although the State has a constitutional obligation to safeguard its sovereignty, it should do so in the light of other priorities

Second, the State should consider alternatives, such as the purchasing of patrol boats

Third, four corvettes alone would not be able to safeguard our sovereignty

Fourth, South Africa does not have any enemies, so why spend money on the military?

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Contentious corvette programme 'successfully straddles the gap between State security and protection of the populace'

AR 26/5/95

The military market is at present a buyer's market. Whether this will prevail over the next five to 10 years is doubtful

We have nine strike craft which are reaching the end of their cycle. No further modifications will be possible to put these craft to any military use

The countertrade in the case of the ship platforms is 55. This means that of the R1 billion, the successful tenderer would be obliged to spend R550 million in South Africa for goods and services for the construction of the platforms. On balance, only R450 million will leave the country, which is equal to R75 million a year over the acquisition period of six years

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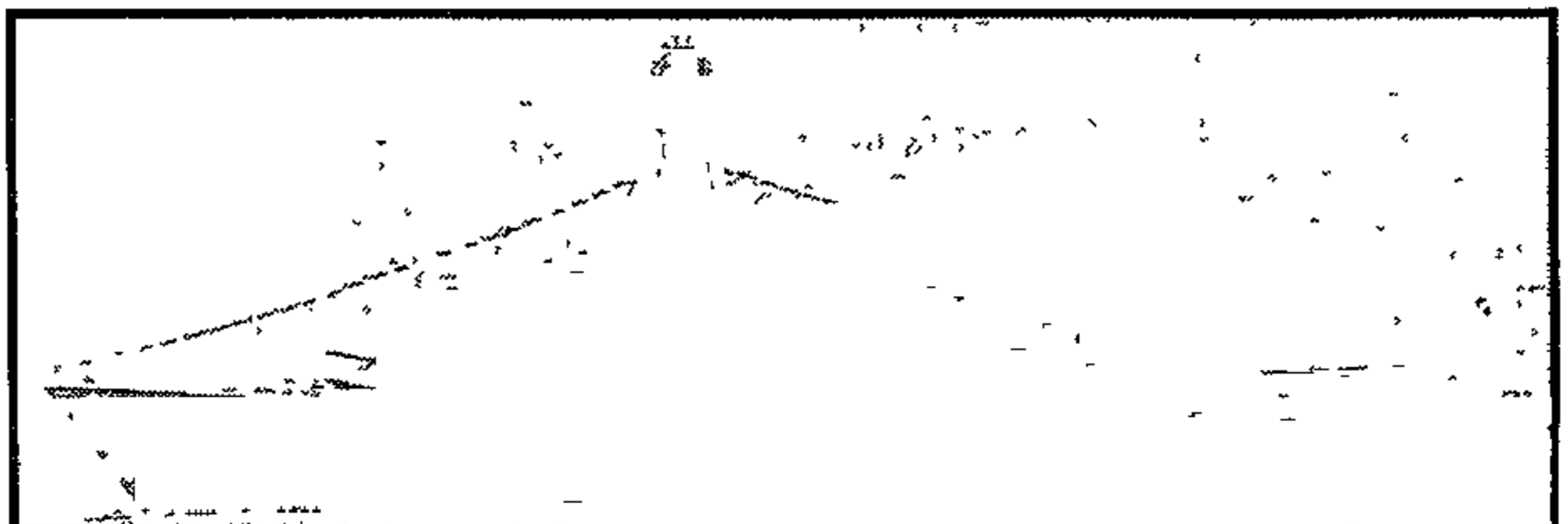
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A DANISH CORVETTE: It's primary role is fishery protection

JSE president takes on key post in army

ARG 29/5/95

(254)

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The executive president of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange has taken on the key post of director of part-time forces of the South African Army

Roy Andersen is also executive chairman of chartered accountants Ernst and Young

With the rank of brigadier, Mr Andersen assumed overall responsibility for the forces from last Thursday. He succeeds Brigadier Deon Fourie, an internationally-recognised military strategist and analyst

A spokesman for the South African Army said in Pretoria that Mr Andersen's appointment signalled to the business community the need and support required for "dynamic, well-prepared army"

The army was facing "a number of challenges in the execution of its constitutional mandate" and found itself in a situation that demanded involvement in a variety of different roles

"The army's dependence on its source of personnel is of cardinal importance

"The appointment of Mr Andersen to this demanding, indispensable post signifies an emphatic effort to meet the

challenges and reflects a necessity for mutual understanding and respect between business interests, economic growth and a stable society"

Mr Andersen, who studied at the University of the Witwatersrand and in the United States, was commissioned in the SA Artillery in 1966 and commanded the Transvaal Horse Artillery from 1976 to 1979 — he is now honorary colonel of the regiment — before being promoted to colonel and later becoming senior staff officer, operations, of 7 Infantry Division

He was promoted to brigadier six years ago

Mr Andersen is Honorary Life Vice-President of the Council of Military Veterans' Organisations and of the Gunners' Association. He is chairman of the Veterans' Bursary Fund and of the Gunners' Memorial Trust

Mr Andersen has held a range of important positions in the country's financial business circles. These include membership of the government's Audit Commission, the King Committee on Corporate Governance, the Policy Board for Financial Services and Regulation and chairman of the SAA audit committee

Exports lift Denel's profit to R260m

By AUDREY D'ANGELO

CAPE BUSINESS EDITOR

Exports helped Denel — the commercialised engineering and electronics group formed from part of Armscor — to lift after-tax profit by R21 million to R260 million in its past financial year. Dividends rose by 17 percent to R70 million.

This was achieved on an income of R3 billion — R157 million higher than the previous year.

The chairman of Denel, John Maree, said exports now accounted for 27 percent of its total income. Commercial business had grown

from nothing to 16 percent of total income.

He said Denel's solid profit performance over the past three years was "the result of a successful transition of the group from a concern geared to serving a number of South African clients to that of a world player now serving local and international clients with a wide range of defence and commercial products".

It now had a solid foundation on which to build sustainable long-term growth.

But Maree warned that South Africa's budget constraints and the

decline in funds available for defence projects meant Denel must put more emphasis on extending its product range and finding new markets.

The managing director, Johan Alberts, said the group's "inability to obtain certain export permits" had cost it a significant number of potential contracts, and its space activities had to be closed down for commercial reasons.

In spite of these setbacks, it had surpassed its financial targets for the third consecutive year "primarily through sound planning procedures and tight management".

CT(BR)29/5/95 (254)

Exports put Denel in orbit

(254) star 29/5/95

■ BY AUDREY D'ANGELO

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It now had a solid foundation on which to build sustainable long-term growth.

Arm Scor denies arming Rwanda

ARL 30/5/95 (254)

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa has not supplied any arms to Rwanda since February, 1993, state arms procurement agency Arm Scor said today.

"No arms have gone (to Rwanda) since February 25, 1993," said Arm Scor spokesman Krish Naidoo.

He said the last shipment, destined for the Hutu-led government then in power in Kigali, consisted of mortars, machine-guns, small arms and ammunition.

The US-based Human Rights Watch group said in a report published yesterday that South Africa was one of several countries helping Rwanda's former army to re-arm.

The report, based on a four-month field investigation in central Africa, said the former Rwandan government and army had rebuilt their military infrastructure and created a force of 50 000 men

in about a dozen refugee camps, primarily in eastern Zaire.

It said weapons or other aid had been provided by Zaire and France and to a lesser extent South Africa, the Seychelles and China — and clandestine support continued.

"Countries like France and South Africa that had armed the Rwandan government prior to the genocide and the international arms embargo now operate through middlemen and rely on false end-user certificates to conceal the final destination of the weapons," the report said.

The report said the former government and its military supporters had sufficient funds to buy weapons on the open market because most of Rwanda's hard currency and financial assets had been taken out of the country by the fleeing government which was overthrown last July. — Reuter.

Trade union activity allowed in SANDF

(254) SANDF 30/5/95

■ DEFENCE
CORRESPONDENT

The South African National Defence Force yesterday signed an agreement which would allow limited trade union activity within the army, air

force and navy. However, uniformed members of the SANDF are specifically excluded from the agreement.

It means that, for the first time, civilians from an organisation outside the military establish-

ment can officially investigate grievances within the defence force.

Defence force grievances were, historically, handled internally.

SANDF chief General Georg Meiring said in

Pretoria that civilian staff could join the Public Servants' Association (PSA) in terms of an agreement reached yesterday after lengthy discussions. The PSA is the most powerful bargaining group in the civil service.

CT31,5796
(254)

Guns claim may be true

JOHANNESBURG: South African-made arms could have been smuggled to Rwanda and Burundi, in breach of a decision to halt weapons sales to both countries, Armscor said yesterday.

"It may well be that South African-manufactured arms found their way clandestinely to Rwanda and Burundi," Armscor spokesman Mr. Krish Naidoo said.

The last official shipment of arms to Rwanda was on February 25, 1993.

The US-based Human Rights Watch group said in a report, based on a field investigation, that South Africa was one of several countries helping Rwanda's former army to re-arm.

Mr. Naidoo asked Human Rights Watch and the Rwandan authorities to name the people involved "so that they could be prosecuted" — Reuter.



Dr John Marais
Chairman of the Board

Denel (Pty) Ltd Annual Report

for the year ended 31 March 1995

1994 was a momentous year. It was the year in which South Africa successfully made the political transition to a multiracial democracy and assumed its rightful place in the international community. It was also the start of the building of a new nation with its own character and pride.

The confidence that we all have in the future is being tempered by the growing realisation that the political transition will only be sustainable if it is matched by a significant improvement in the quality of life of all our people. In order to do this we need strong growth in the economy. The government fully realises this, and it has taken decisive steps towards creating a climate conducive to economic growth. The government's definition of its vision and goals for the future, its commitment to financial discipline as evidenced in the latest budget and the abolition of the financial rand, are all welcomed as positive elements in the creation of a favourable economic climate.

Review of 1994/95

Although a large influx of foreign capital, anticipated by many, failed to materialise, the economy did start to show encouraging growth during the second half of the year. While inflation remained relatively subdued, rapid credit expansion forced the Reserve Bank to increase interest rates to moderate any inflationary trends. The world economy showed signs of recovery with sustained growth in the United States, the Pacific Rim and Asia. This was coupled with an end to the recession in Japan and Europe.

Political changes in South Africa resulted in the lifting of economic and arms sanctions against South Africa, making world markets more readily accessible to Denel. However, within weeks of the arms embargo being lifted, the United States of America imposed new trade restrictions on Denel, as a result of an unresolved court case against the SA government. These restrictions not only deny Denel the opportunity to either export or import from the USA, but also negatively affects Denel's trade with other countries. Despite tireless efforts by our Government, this matter remains unresolved. It is hoped that the stated support of the United States for the new South Africa will extend to the resolution of this matter, allowing the South African defence industry to compete on an equal footing in the international markets.

Following the shift in government priorities, the decline in the funds available for defence projects was to be expected. Although Denel has made considerable progress in countering this loss in income by means of exports and the sale of commercial products, more emphasis will have to be placed on extending Denel's existing product and market base.

The government's vision for the future, as well as its priorities, are spelt out in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). We believe that business has a critical role to play in making the RDP succeed.

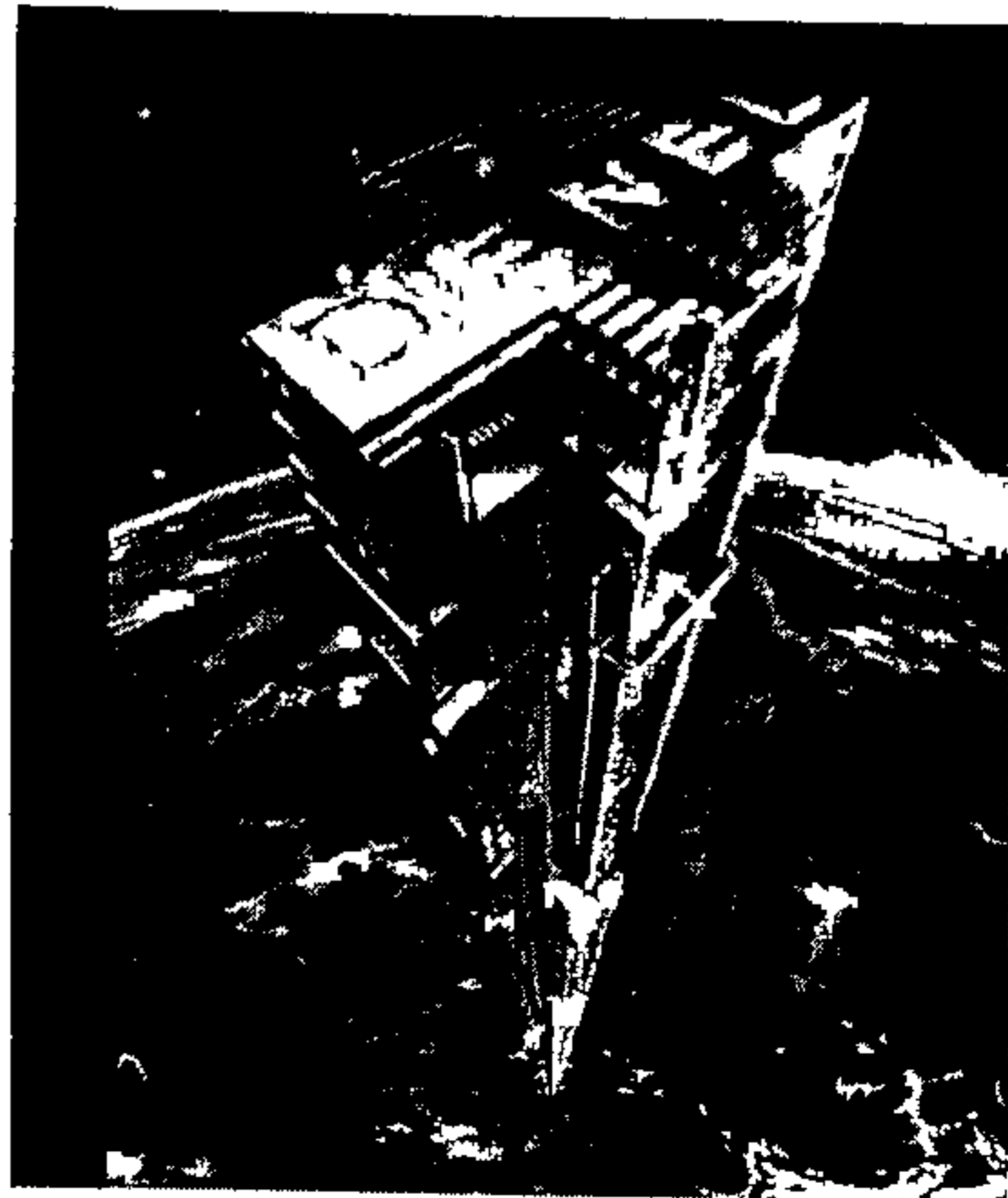
CT(BR)31/5/95 (254)

Denel wholeheartedly supports the RDP and it has, through a 10-point plan, spelt out the ways in which it will contribute to the plan's success. As will be evident from the appropriate sections of this report, significant progress has been made regarding Denel's RDP initiatives. This includes the creation of a working environment characterised by the alignment of the employee profile, which will more accurately reflect the demographics of the labour market and to provide the opportunity for meaningful worker influence. The Board has also taken note of the King Report and is giving consideration to the implementation of the recommendations contained therein.

The 10-point RDP support plan has been integrated into Denel's long-term strategy and business plans. These plans cover a three-year period and follow a two-pronged approach, namely:

- to stimulate South Africa's economy through exports and conversion to commercial products, thereby earning foreign currency and creating employment
- to support the development of our country's human resource pool through education and training, especially in computer and technical skills

During the past year the effective management of all assets has remained a priority and therefore it became necessary to cease certain unprofitable activities. We regret the circumstances leading to the decision to terminate Denel's space activities, and the consequent reduction in Denel's issued share capital by R749 million.



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Mr Johan Alberts, Managing Director "Denel surpassed its financial targets for the third consecutive year, primarily through sound planning procedures, the management of business-related environmental influences, strict financial discipline, focused resource management, motivated employees and a respected client base"

Exports, as well as the non-military part of the business, showed promising growth. The conclusion of a significant contract for artillery systems with Oman, and the timeous, well-prepared and competent proposal for the Rooivalk attack helicopter submitted to the United Kingdom, are but a few examples which demonstrate that Denel is well able to compete in the world's markets.

Taking all the unique circumstances of the past year into account, it is pleasing to report that Denel continues to make progress, and that it has performed well for the third consecutive year. After-tax income continued the upward trend and increased some 9% to R260 million. An increased dividend of R70 million has been declared.

The future

South Africa entered 1995 with the best economic prospects for more than a decade. However, a number of formidable challenges face both business and the government. Cognisance should be taken of the implications of the opening up of the economy to international competitors and the effect of the GATT agreement on business. Every effort must be made to improve competitiveness and raise productivity, as well as to make the economy more accessible to all the country's people. While business needs to be committed to align itself to the objectives spelt out in the RDP, it is the government's responsibility to focus on establishing and maintaining a healthy environment within which economic growth and job creation can take place.

As far as Denel is concerned, it has, since its establishment, built up an international reputation as a reliable supplier and has expanded its marketing activities to more than 100 countries. The challenge for the year ahead will be to turn the marketing efforts and investments of previous years into profitable sales. Denel is competently and professionally managed and I believe that it has both the ability and determination to seize the opportunities created by the changes of the past year. I am confident we will experience another successful year, marked by further profit growth and positive contributions to the development of our country.

Acknowledgements

During the year there has been a change in the country's decision-makers and I am delighted to state that sound

relationships have been established and maintained with our political leaders in the new government. The positive working relations with the South African National Defence Force and Armscor continue.

I thank Minister S N Sigcau for her sound advice and positive involvement since her appointment as Minister for Public Enterprises, the other members of Cabinet who so readily give their support when needed, the members of the Board for their professional guidance and advice, the management team under the able leadership of the Managing Director, Mr Johan Alberts, for their commitment to running an efficient business and all employees who served Denel with dedication. I have no doubt that they have all contributed to the positive and pleasing results of the year under review.

Dr J B Maree
16 May 1995

GROUP INCOME STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 March 1995

	1995 Rm	1994 Rm
Total income	3 015	2 858
Net income before taxation	325	303
Tax	(65)	(64)
Net income for the year after tax	260	239
Transfer from non-distributable reserve	6	8
Dividends	(70)	(60)
Retained income for the year	196	187

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

at 31 March 1995

Capital employed		
Shareholders' funds	2 709	3 095
Long-term liabilities	628	746
	3 337	3 841
Employment of capital		
Fixed assets	903	1 723
Other long-term assets	1 353	1 324
Current assets	1 823	1 656
Total assets	4 079	4 703
Current liabilities	(742)	(862)
	3 337	3 841

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For a better future



Denel's tentacles reach towards Gulf, Pacific

(254)
Amanda Vermeulen

ARMAMENTS manufacturer Denel was focusing its marketing strategy for its weapons and commercial products on the Gulf states and the Pacific Rim in a bid to increase its export potential, the company said yesterday

Earlier this week Denel, which reported a R22m increase in taxed income to R260m in the year to March, said its exports contributed 27% of total income, with its manufacturing of mining, agricultural, medical and food equipment being the major growth areas, according to spokesman Paul Holtzhausen

He said the group's weapons marketing was concentrated on the Middle East Gulf states and the Pacific Rim.

A number of large contracts, especially for its G5 and G6 guns, should be finalised in the current financial year. A final decision on whether Denel would receive the R10bn contract to supply the UK with about 100 Rooivalk helicopters could be announced at next month's Paris Air Show.

He said the group could also supply oth-

er nations with aviation products as well as the complementary ammunition and weapons. This, accompanied by a successful Rooivalk deal and other contracts, would have a significant effect on the bottom line and its foreign currency earning potential.

Chairman John Maree said in this year's annual report their marketing efforts were expanded to more than 100 countries, assisted by SA's reacceptance into the international arms industry

SA's favourable political position would also see Denel develop collaborative relationships with organisations in other countries, such as the joint venture with India to upgrade the turrets on Russian-made tanks Holtzhausen attributed this to what he called "the Mandela marketing magic" — the goodwill generated by President Nelson Mandela

He said the company identified a number of black empowerment opportunities for its suppliers and was involved in discussions with black companies regarding alliances with them.

N-bomb free Africa comes a step closer

Diplomatic Correspondent (254)

THE ideal of a nuclear weapon free zone in Africa comes a step nearer this week with a conference of international experts in Johannesburg.

They are drafting the text of a treaty to give effect to this.

At the conference today, Director-General of Foreign Affairs Rusty Evans said African states had protested against French nuclear tests in the Sahara as far back as 1959.

Since then they had campaigned for Africa to be nuclear weapon free.

In 1961 the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to this effect, which was reaffirmed in 1963 at the founding of the Organisation of African Unity.

Mr Evans said the vision of an African continent free of nuclear weapons had therefore long been sought.

It had been a difficult road, in no small measure because of the actions and policies of the previous South African government.

Former President F W de Klerk disclosed in 1993 that South Africa had developed nuclear bombs but said they had been destroyed.

The UN treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons had recently been extended indefinitely.

Specific attention was now being given to Africa.

ARL 31/5/95
A nuclear weapon free zone and nuclear disarmament provide us in Africa and the international community with greater security than do the nuclear weapons which we eschew, Mr Evans said.

Warning on private armies

Political Correspondent

THE Deputy Minister for Intelligence, Joe Nhlanhla, says paying off too many former security operatives could worsen the problem of private armies

He gave the warning in a state expenditure debate in the national assembly yesterday.

"Wholesale demobilisation of trained personnel from the security services can lead to the proliferation of private armies and security agencies"

Mr Nhlanhla said the intelligence agencies favoured retraining and redeployment as severance packages wasted millions

Operational capabilities would be redirected to meet new priorities including investigations into the illegal weapons trade, drug smuggling, trade-related offences, money laundering and private armies, he said.

ARG 31/5/95
(254)