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Corks pop as SA seals China link

Pretoria – Amid speeches and champagne, mainland China launched diplomatic relations with South Africa as it opened its embassy only hours after Taiwan closed its own diplomatic mission.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen pledged a new era of co-operation between Beijing and Pretoria as he declared his embassy open yesterday.

The Chinese national anthem blared from loudspeakers as the country’s red flag was raised.

Three blocks away, the flagpole in front of the pagoda-style Taiwanese embassy was bare, having been lowered for the last time the previous evening as the embassy shut down, becoming instead the Taipei Liaison Office.

Severing diplomatic ties with Taiwan was a condition imposed by Beijing in the agreement establishing relations with South Africa. It was the latest victory in China’s effort to isolate Taiwan, which the communists consider a renegade province.

With South Africa having been the biggest and most industrialised nation recognising Taiwan, the embassy in Pretoria had been Taiwan’s most important diplomatic outpost.

“This is very depressing,” said Joe Kao, who until Wednesday was press secretary of the Taiwan embassy.

The number of countries maintaining diplomatic relations with Taiwan has plunged from about 100 in the 1970s to 29, most of them poor nations in Central America and Africa.

For Feng Tai, who opened the Taiwanese embassy in Pretoria in 1976 and until Wednesday was Taiwan’s consul-general in Johannesburg, the closing ceremony was especially poignant.

“I feel very sorry about this,” he said. “We did our best for 22 years. Now South Africa switches from Taipei to Beijing, and it’s a pity.”

Mr Feng said he doubted whether the Chinese embassy could do as much as Taiwan’s embassy had.

“We opened 286 factories here,” he said proudly.

“We created 40,000 jobs here. We’ll see if the People’s Republic of China can top that.”

But South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo has described South Africa’s recognition of the world’s most populous country as “inevitable”. – Sapa-AP
Controversy has greeted remarks made by Justice Minister Dullah Omar after an interview on a local radio station in which he linked an African National Congress victory in the Western Cape to the issue of Parliament staying in Cape Town.

But Mr Omar yesterday denied having said that people should vote for the ANC if they wanted Parliament to stay in Cape Town.

In the interview Mr Omar said: "People must not assume that Parliament is going to move to Pretoria. Everything depends on the people of the Western Cape and the direction that the people of the Western Cape choose to take."

He said that "from the point of view of the ANC here in the Western Cape, I think we have a very good chance of retaining Parliament in Cape Town."

When asked whether he was saying that people should vote for the ANC if they wanted Parliament to stay in Cape Town, he said: "I am not saying vote ANC, but I'm saying you cannot vote for apartheid parties and parties that keep apartheid in place."

He said people of the Western Cape should choose whether they saw themselves as part of a transforming South Africa, or as "some part of the country going its own way."

The minister yesterday clarified this point and criticised the local National Party government for their lack of commitment to the national transformation process.

"This is an emotional, national issue and the ANC wants everybody to engage in an honest debate," he said.
Factors that prompted SA's decision to switch relations

LYNN DUKE (304A)

Johannesburg – Until it decided to switch relations to mainland China last year, South Africa was the last major country to maintain diplomatic recognition of Taiwan, which Beijing has regarded as a renegade province since China’s civil war in 1949.

Although Taiwan’s ties to Pretoria extend deep into the old South African era, the African National Congress received millions of dollars of support from Taiwan for its 1994 electoral campaign and President Mandela had vowed not to abandon his latter-day Taiwanese ally. But, he made an awkward about-face last year.

Analysts said several factors prompted the change.

With 169 countries and the United Nations recognising China, Pretoria wanted to join the international line-up. It also was seeking greater influence at the United Nations, where China is a permanent member of the Security Council. And, not least, it wanted stronger trade and aid ties with the fast-growing economy of the world’s most populous country.

Although China has historic economic ties with several African countries because of its support for black liberation during colonial rule, it has been challenged in recent years by Taiwan’s aggressive courting of African allies.

Senegal switched allegiance to Beijing in 1998, as Gambia had done the previous year – both with millions of dollars in aid as the incentive.

But the Taiwanese infusion of a reported $10-million (R100-million) into Mr. Mandela’s 1994 campaign coffers did not bind the relationship. With the loss of South Africa, Taiwan’s remaining allies number fewer than 30, and those are mostly small nations in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America.

After months of progressively downgraded relations and deep bitterness, Taiwan closed its embassy in Pretoria last Wednesday. It transformed the building into a liaison office through which unofficial relations will be maintained.

Beijing’s embassy followed a South African-Chinese communiqué in which Pretoria said it recognised that “the government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China and recognises China’s position that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China”.

Pretoria also pledged non-interference in China’s internal affairs, which include, on the one hand, the political monopoly of the Communist Party and policies condemned by world human rights organisations, but economic reforms and fast growth, on the other.

At a Johannesburg celebration attended by hundreds of Chinese visitors and residents, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen pointed up Beijing’s historic support for the old anti-apartheid struggle. But he did not mention that China had supported a black movement that was a rival to Mr. Mandela’s ANC, which received Cold War support from China’s rival, the Soviet Union.

China and South Africa, as important countries in their own regions and beyond, will be partners in international forums and in “safeguarding the rights and interests of developing countries”, said Mr. Qian.

South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo hailed what he called China’s success in carrying out the deepest poverty reduction campaign in human history, which he said was an inspiration “for the economic liberation and renaissance of Africa”.

South African trade with China has boomed over the past several years, with Pretoria a source of minerals and raw materials and China a source of manufactured products. But South African industry has complained of Chinese dumping of cheap shoes, which has depressed the local footwear manufacturing sector.

Including Hong Kong, which was re-integrated with China earlier this year, overall two-way trade between South Africa and China stands at nearly $1-billion (nearly R5-billion), from a base of only $146 million (R92-million) six years ago. China is South Africa’s sixth-largest trading partner.

South African trade with Taiwan was worth about $1,6-billion ($8,6-billion) a year, but whether it will remain so “is a question mark”, said Michael Chen, a spokesman at the Taiwanese embassy in Pretoria as it prepared to lower the flag.

– Washington Post
AVWyAeward allegiance may just be possible
THOUGH BROKERING a deal in illegal gambling machinery is not an offence in itself, one would not expect someone like an MP to be in a position of trust. To do so, a policeman says.

A section of the Freedom Party bench was yesterday晨 (11 May) yesterday expressed concern that an MP has been involved in brokering a deal in illegal gambling machinery.

The South African Police Service's National Crime Squad recently uncovered a network of illegal gambling machines across the country. At least 40 machines were seized in the Western Cape alone, with a further 30 in the Eastern Cape.

A statement from the National Crime Squad said that the machines were seized during a joint operation with the National Prosecuting Authority and the National Intelligence Agency. The machines were valued at approximately R10 million.

The statement further stated that the operation was part of a broader investigation into the illegal gambling industry, which is estimated to generate billions of rand in revenue annually.

The South African Police Service is investigating the suspects involved in the illegal gambling industry and is seeking information from the public.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the National Crime Squad on 086 101 0101 or 011 408 1111.
1999 ELECTIONS

Zuma, Lekota, emerge in race for deputy presidency

With Mangosuthu Buthelezi recoiling from the offer of the deputy presidency, a new leadership contest has begun within the ANC.

With only 16 months to the next election, no clear heir to the deputy presidency of SA has emerged. The reluctance of Inkatha Freedom Party president Mangosuthu Buthelezi to bite at the carrot of a deputy presidency, publicly dangled by the ANC, has opened the door to another leadership contest in the ruling party.

The two leading candidates now are ANC national chairman Patrick "Terror" Lekota and ANC deputy president Jacob Zuma.

Buthelezi has ruled out the possibility of a merger with the ANC. He says the idea of a combination styled on the Zimbabwean Zanu-Zapu merger in the Eighties is inappropriate since conditions in the two countries are dissimilar.

On the question of the deputy presidency, Buthelezi says he will wait for a formal offer and only then will he respond. But his utterances hint that he may only agree to a government of national unity-type arrangement rather than a joining of the two parties.

Based on its experiences with the National Party, the ANC is likely to shy away from this.

Asked if a mechanism had been found to fill SA's deputy presidency, the newly elected ANC president, Thabo Mbeki, says: "The deputy presidency of the ANC does not automatically mean the deputy presidency of the country. Selection of the Cabinet, including the deputy president, remains the prerogative of the President."

Who, then, will be appointed?

Both Zuma and Lekota say they are prepared to accept "any deployment" the ANC assigns them as they have no objection to Mbeki making such a choice. "Why should it lead to a problem? If we thought this policy would lead to a problem we would have changed it. This matter will lead to absolutely no problem."

At the ANC's 50th national conference held last month, the party passed constitutional changes that automatically make the organisation's president and provincial chairmen the heads of those respective levels of government wherever the ANC is in power. The positions of deputies were not clarified.

However, the overwhelming ascendency of Lekota, a United Democratic Front (UDF) activist in the Eighties, who trounced Sports Minister Steve Tshwete in elections for the national chairmanship, has strengthened the possibility of his candidacy for the deputy presidency of SA.

Lekota was deposed from the premiership of the Free State and made chairman of the National Council of Provinces last year. His surprising emergence in the ANC's central leadership appears to mark a resurgence of UDF-aligned power within the organisation.

Lekota's supporters cite as his strongest achievements his success in furthering racial harmony in the Free State and his emergence as a clean and efficient administrator.

Zuma's strength, however, could also serve to act against him. He is a close confidante of Mbeki, evidenced by his candidacy and eventual victory over Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in the contest for ANC deputy presidency. Yet many believe Mbeki will shy away from appointing him precisely because this closeness might be misconstrued as nepotism.

Mbeki has yet to make known his choice, but the ANC has a tradition of anointing heirs long before their enthronement — as in Mbeki's case, and with others who rose to leadership at Mallikeng.

In the next few months, before branch delegates draw up lists for parliamentary candidates, a new heir will emerge. Whether that choice is Lekota or Zuma will say much about Mbeki's style of leadership.

GRAHAM HATTON

Former FM Editor dies in the UK

The FM's third Editor, Graham Hatton (58), died recently in London.

Maritzburg-born Hatton studied at the universities of Natal and Cambridge, and worked as an economist for Nedbank and JCI for about five years before joining the FM as an assistant editor in 1968.

He took over from the legendary George Palmer in March 1978, and was editor for just under 15 months. While he was an incisive thinker, his views were perhaps ahead of the time, and it was during this period that several disaffected senior staff broke away to form Finance Week.

Hatton left the FM to join newsletter publisher Business International in London, and worked for it and its successor, the Economist Intelligence Unit, until his death. He was succeeded at the FM by Stephen Mulholland.

FINANCIAL MAIL · JANUARY 9 · 1998
In trimming its foreign missions, so must be penny

By Greg Mills

We needed to expand a mission and our support, and

open them again.

This section should be penny.

One mustn't be penny.
ANC-IFP MERGER TALK

Em 16/1/98

Just whispered sweet nothings

Ndlovu says talks are no more than kite-flying; Mzimela faces reprimand

Talk of a merger between the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), denied by both parties while senior leaders individually issue stentiment calls for such a move, has reached the level of farce. But amid the heated words of assent and denial, is there a likelihood that the two erstwhile foes will bed down together in the near future? And if so, why?

"I suspect there will be talks about talks, and further talks and more, but at the end of the day nothing will come of it while IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi is still around," says Wits University political analyst Tom Lodge.

Adding weight to Lodge's view, exasperated IFP leaders who have watched the public debate escalate - fuelled by President Mandela's praise of the IFP at the ANC conference last month - said no merger is possible before 1999.

"No-one in the IFP leadership has any idea where this talk of a merger emanates from," says IFP MP Velaphi Ndlovu. "It is a kite being flown by individuals in the ANC who do not have a mandate."

Party insiders say IFP leader and Correctional Services Minister Sipho Mzimela is likely to be severely reprimanded, if not expelled, at the party's national council next week for suggesting that the two parties merge.

This has not stopped ANC leaders individually promoting a merger, a move which has the blessing of Mandela, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and ANC deputy president Jacob Zuma.

Why has the ANC leadership suddenly become so enamoured of a merger?

ANC KwaZulu-Natal leader Dumisani Makhay and Zuma say the need for a merger stems from the fact that the two parties share the same constituency — the rural poor and the working class. In their view the only reason for two parties, instead of one, is that there are forces which profit from the violence between them.

"If leaders of both organisations are genuine in saying that we do not represent our own egos and interests, but represent that constituency, then we can find a way to come together," says Makhay. He says the two parties are co-operating in the provincial and national government, signifying what could be achieved by a merger.

A high-ranking ANC source says the push for greater accommodation of the IFP is a need to ensure that violence does not erupt in the run-up to the 1999 elections.

As a result of this, one of the top priorities on Mbeki's agenda is a summit with Buthelezi, he says. Makhay confirms that a summit is being prepared.

Ndlovu says the IFP is going full steam ahead with plans for the 1999 elections.

"We are concentrating on ensuring visibility in all provinces and winning the 1999 elections. A merger is not on our agenda," he says.

Lodge says the IFP's prospects for the 1999 elections are not as bright as they were in 1994. This is because of the rapid rate of urbanisation in SA. The IFP remains largely a rural party. In its weakened state, it could merge with the ANC in the long term, says Lodge. The ANC, and particularly several key leaders, would like to see a better relationship with the IFP, but not at any cost, he adds.

He dismisses the contention by Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlahana, that differences such as provincialism are surmountable.

"Provincialism is very important for Inkatha, and as it stands the ANC would probably like to curtail the power of the provinces. This would be a major point of difference, among others," he says.

Lodge dismisses speculation that the ANC's overtures towards the IFP portends a move to one-party Statism, saying other parties in SA are better custodians of multipartyism. "It would be a pity if the ANC corrupted its own principles in order to merge with the IFP. It would become a corrupt, careerist, bourgeois and reactionary party," he says.

The parties' spin doctors have been at pains to distance the two parties from each other this week. This time, we can probably believe them.
UDM roadshow starts in US

Washington - Bantu Holomisa and Roelf Meyer have embarked on a week-long fundraising drive in US legislative and financial capitals, vowing to accept any financial assistance or ideas to boost their United Democratic Movement.

The UDM co-leaders, who said their party would elect one leader in June, told a meeting here that after the Government passed legislation providing that no parties outside Parliament would get financial assistance to contest the 1999 elections, they had no alternative but to seek outside financial help.

Mr Holomisa said they had chosen Washington and New York because that was where they could find all formers of decision and opinion at once.

They would also visit the United Kingdom, the Far East, Germany and the Netherlands to sell the UDM's vision and appeal for financial help.
ANC ratings dive in Sacob review

THE African National Congress (ANC) government remains the most sophisticated SA has had, but it is constrained by overly ambitious and inconsistent policies which are difficult to implement, says Prof Lawrence Schlemmer.

Schlemmer made his comments in a review of the operating environment of business in SA commissioned by the SA Chamber of Business (Sacob).

The review downgraded the operating environment during the second half of last year to 40% from 52%. The previous review had shown a rise from 48% to 52%. The drop in ratings was based on what Schlemmer referred to as an economic "relapse" from the previous review which covered developments during the first half of last year.

Schlemmer said despite perceived inconsistencies surrounding government policies, government remained committed to fiscal discipline.

In terms of the economy and its management, Schlemmer downgraded the rating from 60% to 40%. One of the main reasons was that the growth, employment and redistribution strategy (Gear) was not being implemented or defended within the ANC/SA Communist Party alliance with "sufficient determination". In addition, while government was sincere and committed to Gear, it did not co-ordinate and manage it in a sufficiently coherent manner.

He said the three-year rolling budget was a positive development and its targets were more realistic than the initial Gear policy. However, these were unlikely to be met unless there was an improvement in economic performance.

He criticised the pace of privatisation, claiming that the cabinet had not grasped the need to put the economy on a new course.

Referring to the quality of administration, he adjusted his initial rating from 55% to 45%, largely due to rising corruption within central government and the provinces.

"Various departments and provinces did not have the capacity to introduce the controls which could turn the tide," he said. Local government continued to be constrained, with 38% of local authorities being financially crippled.

His crime rating remained low at 35%, largely because crime in general had stabilised, while his education rating dropped dramatically from 43% to 29% due to the collapse of "overambitious and overzealous" plans by the education department. These plans included a failed attempt to restructure teacher-pupil ratios through teacher redeployment.
Mandela: Roll up your sleeves.
President Mandela warned today of major public service staff cuts, called for moral re-generation and community involvement in the war on crime and said the ANC had succeeded in improving the lives of the poor.

He warned those involved in the recent cash-in-transit heists that the combined might of the security services would “return fire with overwhelming fire”.

In his penultimate opening of Parliament speech, President Mandela said the Government would stick to its target of reducing spending on personnel.

“If we should not and cannot cut down on houses and clinics being built, on the supply of water, on improving the quality of education including the building and equipping of schools, on improving policing and so on, then we have to cut somewhere.

“There has been some reduction of staff in certain departments and provinces. Not nearly enough.

“Put in simple terms, we need to cut on personnel.

“I'm confident that all of us, and the trade union movement in particular, will agree on retrenchments in accordance with the provisions of our labour laws,” he said.

Retrenchment packages would include capital and tender obligations that could be expanded the job market, especially in depressed rural areas.

The president lamented that even as hundreds of thousands of jobs had been created through public works programmes, municipal infrastructure and investment promotion programmes, the economy continued to shed too many jobs.

Exploring the meaning of democracy, the president stressed that democracy required respect for the law and social cohesion.

“We are the people, we are the service providers,” he said.

Mr Mandela, who took office in 1994, was the first black president of South Africa.

The announcement came as part of the government's efforts to address unemployment, which has been high since the end of apartheid.
Mediocre, Jacklute, Predictable, Unconvincing, Say Opposition

By Michelle Anvil
SA may close six foreign embassies

Stephen Laufer

CAPE TOWN — SA was considering the closure of six embassies or consulates abroad in an effort to optimise foreign representation, a parliamentary briefing heard yesterday.

Acting foreign affairs director-general Tutu Mabuuko said the locations of the missions would be made public once host governments had been informed. The closures were likely to be in Europe and South America.

At the same time, new missions could be opened if it made economic and political sense to do so. SA had recently closed its embassy in Bahrain in favour of a new mission in Kuwait.

It is understood that most closures are likely in eastern Europe, where SA opened a number of missions after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the unbanning of the African National Congress in 1990. Staffing levels could also be cut in several overseas posts as foreign affairs absorbs a spending cut expected to be as high as 7% in the three-year cycle beginning with next month’s budget.

Foreign affairs insiders say low levels of bilateral trade, investment, and political contacts have meant that the cost of some of the missions cannot be justified.

Among those likely to close are the SA embassy in the Slovak capital Bratislava, and the embassy in Belgium. The transformation of the consulate general in Hamburg into a trade mission is also understood to be under discussion.

Bratislava is less than an hour’s drive from Vienna, where SA has an embassy already accredited to several countries and the United Nations. The functions of the Brussel embassy would be taken over by SA’s mission to the European Union in the same city, allowing foreign affairs to abolish one ambassador’s post there.

It is understood a new consulate in China’s economic capital, Shanghai, is among possible new missions to be opened this year.
ex-cope buying gaming goods

Assuming the price of the

ex-cope buying gaming goods

Assuming the price of the
N: Okay.
H: What table have you got for me?
N: He's got the table there with him. Just ask him if it's a blackjack table.
H: And he said he bought the tokens from you.
N: Ja.
H: Haven't you got tokens that I can buy from you?
N: He's got tokens there.
H: Won't it be cheaper going through you?
N: I don't have any more left.
Anthony.
H: How much does he want for the tokens?
N: He said he had 60 000 thousands' worth.
H: And what did he pay you?
N: Uh, I think it was 28 cents per piece.
H: Ja, and have you got any roulette tables?
N: Roulette tables, uh, ... (the rest is unclear)
H: Okay, so when can I organise that?
N: This afternoon.
H: Okay, and these gambling machines, are they working?
N: Yes yes yes, all our machines are working.
N: Okay. tell him to phone me.
The undercover investigation stops there.
Considering all the events I try to find a way in which what Neer-
shoe has negotiated is okay. But I can't.
And I remember what a Gam-
bling Board staff member once told me long ago:
"You cannot move, make, keep, sell, use — you just about can't.
Without first going through the board's processes "There is no legal gam-
bling in the..."
er on honesty, not fiction

MIC 13-19 12/198

on the side of the ANC have been tempted to use Inkatha's recent history. Inkatha was
abolished, Mbasisizi tells us, "to pursue the struggle against apartheid", at a time when the
ANC was banned. Insofar as there was any sub-
sequent conflict with the ANC, this was inec-
tratively from the outside — "the doctrine of
the intensity war propounded by the military
units of PW Botha".

But in 1986, ANC president Oliver Tambo
had a very different view. Tambo told the ANC
KwaNdebele conference there had been a failure to
mobilize effectively around building Inkatha.
The task therefore fell on Gatsha Buthelezi himself, who built Inkatha as a personal power
base far removed from the kind of organisation
led by visualized. Gatsha dressed Inkathis in
clothes of the ANC, because he knew that
wishes were loyal to the ANC. Later when

he thought he had a sufficient base, he also used
organisations and individuals can change. But
if there is to be any sustainable cooperation
with the IIP (and there must be), it has to be
built on honesty, not historical fiction.

Inkatha has been several different things. If,
Tamba observed, it originally sought to clothe
itself in ANC colours, in time it defined itself
primarily in opposition to the ANC. When most
Western politicians, the IIP liked to present
itself as a Helmut Kohl-Does Hlanzi act, a cen-
tre-right Western-style party, opposed to sanctions
and deeply committed to free-market lib-
eralism.

To win Raymond Parsons and Natal sugar
barons, Zulu ethnicity was dressed up as non-
racial federalism, the only counterweight to an
impending ANC one-party regime. But, in its
deep rural and hostels bases, the glue that held
Inkatha together had very little to do with fed-
eralism or laissez-faire liberalism.

Mbakazi is right to observe that the IIP's mass
constituency is no different from much of the
ANC's core constituency — the rural black
poor and migrant workers. However, it was a
constituency that the IIP mobilised on the basis
of a narrow ethnic nationalism, through the con-
trol and dispensing of banquite patronage, and
(as Tamba noted) by coercion. Obviously, it is
a constituency that can be organised around a
other, nation-building, development pro-
grame.

Is the IIP, and its present leadership, capa-
cible of moving towards this different trajectory?
Or does our best hope lie with the steady ero-
sion of the IIP, as patronage resources dry up,
and as networks are recovered, and as
democracy reaches into rural areas? Opinion
polls show that there is, indeed, a very sub-
stantial erosion of IIP support. However, this
does not mean the IIP is about to expire.

There are no easy predictions. Recent expe-
rience with many elected IIP representatives
suggests there are possibilities of co-operation
between the IIP and ANC. This is especially the
case where the desperate needs of a shared con-
stituency come into play — water, health, edu-
cation.

On the other hand, the IIP will continue to
be controlled by the contradictory pull of its self-
interested ex-banquite elite. It is a structure that
represents (to evoke Mahmood Mamdani's
memorable phrase) not so much the force of tra-
dsition as the tradition of force. The IIP's future
trajectory will depend on the outcome of its own
internal dynamics, and also on how external
forces, not least the ANC, are able to engage with
its better instincts.

Talk of a merger is clearly premature. The
priority needs to be the consolidation of peace
in KwaZulu-Natal. Peace will help to release en-
ergies for co-operation around development,
and, then ... who knows?

Over the longer term, the parties may start
to converge on the basis of a principled and pro-
gressive programme (and an honest under-
standing of the past). We should, however, never
imagine that it is either war or merger.

There very many ways in which parties can
work together constructively.

If advocates of a basty merger have cut cor-
ners, I am even less impressed with certain ar-
guments against a merger. A merger, we are
told, would be a threat to multi-party democra-
cy. It might, and this needs to be thought about
carefully. But those who see multi-party ranging,
about a resultant reduction in electoral choices,
are often those most complacent about other,
anti-choice realities in our country.

Our present multi-party dispensation is one of
the institutionalised arrangements we have
developed, since 1994, to manage and negotiate
the tension between a transformation agenda
and the persisting powers of significant elites,
from the apartheid past.

The National Assembly reflects, in its way,
this particular dynamic balance of forces.
Bes-
ides the ANC, most of the other parliamentary
parties represent real constituencies, whose
numbers are limited, but whose powers are sub-
stantial.

The Democratic Party, the National Party,
the Freedom Front and the IIP (in its complex
way) all speak for old elites, defending ill-ben
obtained powers and privileges in the face of a
transformation agenda. (The Pan Africanist
Congress is a different case once: wild libels of
the liberation movement, it has lived since 1980
without plan or strategy, but in the hope that
the ANC will come to do its constitution.)

Yes, multi-partyism can be an important
means to ensure a ruling party is held account-
able. But it is not the only means. In the past few
years, social movements, a campaigning press
and robust democracy within the ANC and its
alliance have been more effective in fostering
answerability than the efforts of Tony Leon and
Mathabane van Schalkwyk.

Multi-partisanship is not a timeless formula
to be foisted abstractly on to a social reality. In
South Africa today, vast numbers of the histori-
ically oppressed remain unemployed, unshel-
tered, unskilled, semi-skilled and under-nour-
lised. What they do have is numbers, organi-
sation and the possibility, in being a political
majority, of sustaining ongoing transformation.

To call for the electoral splintering of the
ANC along more "conceptual" ideological lines,
or to howl at any mention of an ANC-IIP
merger in the name of plurality of choice, makes
seem reasonable. But, as long as three-quarters
of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange is con-
trolled by five interlocking conglomerates, this
free-choice argument is, intentionally or other-
wise, dishonorable.
we can join the battle for honesty

There are many options SA can follow, writes Lala Camerer

In the light of the South African Government's stated purpose of overcoming inherited profligacy and corruption, the efforts which characterise international organisations are considered.

One of the central tasks of any anti-corruption effort is to define and professionalise the sector to enhance public confidence in its integrity and impartiality of the service providers, such as Uganda where public sector corruption is widespread, underpaid and overstaffed civil servants, including thousands of ghost workers, lack clean-up government included in remuneration, training of staff, and a code of ethics.

Enabling the public sector to improve in these is a necessary reform as public offices are less apt to succumb to illegal influences if they are paid well, and in proportion to their duties. Magistrates in Imperial China, however, have not been paid an extra sum to "nourish their honesty", and Hong Kong is the same in discouraging wrongdoing. These offices may not have grown well but rank abysmally low in comparisons of corruptness. So the challenge is to structure public administration to provide appropriate incentives to maintain a civilian servant's honesty des of conduct for public servants have instituted in several countries. Such provide for the following: declaration of assets of interest and disclosure of assets investments above a certain threshold (in the case of dependents).

For such codes to operate successfully, all of the body politic must subscribe to development and adherence to the code, and it be strictly enforced. There must be mechanisms which provide access for complainants and accommodates those who may report or "blow the whistle" on corrupt public officials. The new Democracy Bill, to be discussed during the parliamentary session, has a whistleblower component which addresses this issue.

There are a number of conditions, but the main thrust is to protect complainants although such legislation impacts little on underground informal banking networks.

Specialised anti-corruption authorities are used throughout the world to advance the cause of integrity in public life. For instance, the ombudsman, public protector, and independent anti-corruption commissions, vigilance commissions, special police, and intelligence units and inspectors-general pursue alleged abuse of power by public officials.

The establishment of independent entities to detect, investigate, and prosecute corrupt activities in the public sector helps to ensure proper, effective, and reliable action, while making certain influences which may corrupt governmental officials are removed.

There are numerous examples in Hong Kong, Singapore, Botswana, New South Wales (Australia) to name a few - each of them characterised by their well-resourced and independent nature.

Civil society, which includes a free and independent media, is an active grassroots sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), is crucial control mechanism to call public figures to account.

The media has many roles to play in publicly exposing corruption through investigative journalism. The free press is a vital check on abuses of power, especially in countries which lack other means of restraining politicians and bureaucrats. The media must also raise public awareness of citizens' rights to government services and programmes.

Citizens groups can play an active role in promoting an anti-corruption agenda. An NGO, which has concentrated on fighting corruption, is Transparency International - a non-profit organisation set up in 1993 to counter corruption in international business. With 70 chapters around the world, including South Africa, it encourages governments to establish and implement effective laws, policies, and anti-corruption programmes to enhance public transparency and accountability in international business and public procurement.

Elections are important in democracies so citizens can vote officials out of office if they believe them to be corrupt - an incentive for
WHY

societies
are cleaning
up their acts

BY LOLA CAMERON

The increasing concern about corruption as an issue in governance is apparent from the number of administrations round the globe which have recently collapsed after allegations and investigations of high-level corruption.

The unexpected elevation of a domestic corruption scandal to the level of a national crisis with international implications involving regional powers such as Japan, China and the US (as was the case in South Korea) points to corruption as an issue to be placed firmly on the agenda of an international community concerned with good governance and common security.

Another indication of this growing concern is reflected in attendance figures at forums such as the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC). Last year, at the IACC meeting in Lima, Peru, there were more than 1,000 delegates from 93 countries. South Africa will be hosting the next IACC conference next year.

While the problems of corruption in government at the administrative and political levels are universal—and recognised to have particularly deleterious effects on nations with vulnerable economies—the corruption issue has rarely been higher on the agenda of governments, international organisations and international business.

Since corruption is by no means a new phenomenon, the question is why is it now such a key issue internationally? Reasons include:

■ The global impetus towards democratisation which has uncovered large-scale abuses of power in previously authoritarian regimes.
■ Citizens everywhere demanding greater probity and accountability from elected representatives.
■ The phenomenon of globalisation and resultant trade liberalisation where new transparency in domestic and global markets brings corruption more quickly to the fore.
■ The unknown threats and fears of organised crime.
■ The fact that corruption affects everyone in a negative way and “we are all victims”.

Good governance depends on a number of factors. These include the extent to which the general citizen perceives a government to be: legitimate, that is, committed to improving the general public welfare through public service delivery; competent to
Experience has found, however, that incentives may be necessary to make people change their behaviour.

In the US, the moral obligation to report wrongdoing has been marginalised in favour of what some might consider a distasteful, but in reality far more effective, incentive-based scheme. The provisions of the statute permit a citizen to receive 30% of the recovered money, with the average share around 18%. The monetary reward provides a financial incentive to "do the right thing" particularly for those who cannot afford the risk to their careers and livelihood that becoming a whistleblower might entail.

The requirement for sound modern financial management systems within government, both central and local, is being recognised as essential. In South Africa, the auditor-general has noted that unauthorised expenditure by government departments is a time-bomb waiting to explode and has emphasised that public accounts committees must hold state departments and institutions accountable.

Tender procedures need to be adhered to. The legacy of badly built roads, semi-finished building sites and industrial enterprises situated in the wrong area is well known to those who have witnessed corrupt bidding practices.

This is our call to all South Africans to join the battle against the moral fibre of our nation. It is a call to artists and musicians and sports persons, to religious leaders and traditional institutions, to intellectuals, to the media and to all those who should give leadership as we establish new symbols and role models: all of us to join hands in a New Patriotism; not because the Government says so, but because it is in our common interest to do it.

...have been undertaken. The objective of such surveys is to glean information on the access of citizens to basic services such as education, health and water as well as their perception of the quality of service delivery.

An example indicates the type of information captured. In Nicaragua an SDS found 90% of the transport users were paying fares well above the recommended official rate.

In addition to reforming the civil service, an integrated institutional reform process needs to examine the legal and judicial systems and review the adequacy of legislation and sanctions to deal with corruption.

Since corruption mainly involves significant economic benefits for perpetrators, sanctions against it are not effective without measures to deprive offenders of such benefits. With a range of anti-money laundering legislation, it is becoming increasingly difficult to conceal illegal profits of criminal activity.

...to remain honest, visibly there have been reform efforts to both regulate election finances for political campaigns and introduce legislation to fund political parties from state coffers. These efforts are intended to reduce undue influence of business and to support opposition parties, thereby promoting multiparty democracy.

Good government reforms to control corruption need to include preventive, administrative, investigative and legislative measures. These should be a top priority and be planned, monitored and, where appropriate, implemented by a specialised body.

The success of national anti-corruption efforts depend primarily on the political resolve with which they are pursued and the economic policies and institutions that underpin them. For governments intent on reform, a central part of controlling corruption is getting the basics of public policy and management right.

Essentially the public determines the level of corruption it will tolerate. Public resentment towards corruption, which manifests itself in a variety of ways, is thus the key to the success of reform initiatives. What is ultimately needed is a change in the attitudes and behaviour of the public, for unethical conduct in government is largely shaped and conditioned by such behaviour in society.

Lola Cumerer is a senior researcher and programme co-ordinator of the Safety and Governance Programme at the Institute for Security Studies.
policy environment for productive activities; equitable in its conduct, favouring no special interests or groups. Good governance includes integrity, service delivery and capacity building.

Reasons for good governance reforms are numerous but to a large extent rest on the economic efficiency argument: economic growth can only be achieved effectively and for the long term if decision-making is soundly based with institutions in which investors and ordinary people can have confidence.

Many countries lack the basic institutional foundations for markets to grow. They fail to provide law and order and predictability of policy. High on the list of deterrents of potential (foreign) investors is the fear of dealing with countries where the rule of law is undermined, where democratic institutions are weak, where the accountability of the public service is non-existent and where petty corruption is endemic.

There is increasing empirical evidence to show that investors, especially foreign ones, choose to go elsewhere rather than become caught up in costly projects which squeeze profits.

As such there is little investment and less economic growth. There is thus a hard-headed economic case for good governance reforms which also serve to tackle corruption.

Cleaning up government is a complex and lengthy process, requiring political commitment and a determination to see the process through. Much effort needs be directed to institutional capacity building and the establishment of institutional safeguards, particularly in societies emerging from an authoritarian past.

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**Institutions and initiatives for combating the scourge in SA**

- The South African Police Service
- Office for Serious Economic Offences
- The Auditor-General
- The Public Protector
- Commissions of Inquiry
- Code of conduct for public service
- Code of conduct for all MPs and to a limited extent for their spouses
- Transparency International
- SAPS anti-corruption units
- Independent Complaints Directorate

*Information provided by the Institute for Security Studies*

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PICTURE: ANDREAS VLACHAKIS
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY: Work on the R5.5 billion Cape Town Technologies and Industrial Park in Green Point, Cape Town, began on 9 April. The ceremony marked the beginning of the project, which includes a 600,000 sqm industrial park, a 600,000 sqm office park, and a 400,000 sqm residential development. The project is expected to create over 15,000 jobs and will contribute R10 billion to the economy. The ceremony was attended by government officials and representatives from the private sector. The project is a joint venture between the Western Cape government and private developers. The ceremony included the planting of a tree to symbolize the start of construction.
Strong links needed between civil society

and government
S Africa does it right

There are diplomatic indications suggesting that Iran and the United States are now thinking about mending their relations, which have been hostile since the fundamentalist Islamic revolution led by Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah’s regime in 1979.

It is the election of the moderate Muhammad Khatami as president of Iran that has brought the change of attitude on the part of US government officials.

At present Washington brands Iran a rogue state because of its support for the militant Palestinian political organisation, the Hezbollah (Party of God), Tehran, on its part, regards the US as Satan.

The thawing of relations between Tehran and Washington will have a positive impact on South Africa’s foreign policy, especially as it pertains to relations with the two countries.

The rapprochement will certainly clear the suspicion with which the US regards the close diplomatic relations Iran enjoys with South Africa.

So far Pretoria has dealt with Washington’s disapproval by asserting its right of sovereign independence – a move seen as an act of defiance by many analysts.

The US has long feared that the African National Congress would, once in power, use South Africa’s nuclear technology to pay off political debts to Iran and Libya by helping them acquire weapons of mass destruction (biological, chemical and nuclear).

In the post-Cold War era the underlying assumption of the US non-proliferation policy is that “rogue” countries like Iran are intent on acquiring nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them at whatever cost.

Compelling evidence

In May 1995 then US secretary of state Warren Christopher said at a press briefing: “Based upon a variety of data, we know that since the mid-1980s, Iran has had an organised structure dedicated to acquiring and developing nuclear weapons.”

Although there is no compelling evidence to support such claims, US officials think it is through these activities that Iran “could position itself to manufacture nuclear weapons on relatively short notice”.

Not surprisingly, therefore, US policy is to discourage nuclear suppliers from exporting civil (dual-use) nuclear technologies, regardless of the fact that International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards may be in place because it lacks confidence in the commitment of these states to these safeguards.

For instance, the US has successfully stopped the German construction of the

South Africa is a responsible possessor of advanced technologies.

Busher nuclear power reactor in Iran. Similarly in 1995 the US pressured the Russian government not to sell nuclear reactors to Iran.

Last year a press report alleged that during then Iranian president Ali Rafsanjani’s official visit to South Africa, President Nelson Mandela’s office arranged for a high-ranking official of the Iranian Atomic Energy to meet his South African counterpart, Waldie Stump.

The Iranian reportedly presented Stump with a shopping list of restricted nuclear materials and technologies for manufacturing nuclear weapons.

The implication here is that Mandela’s staff was contriving to circumvent the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which bars South Africa from producing nuclear weapons or assisting other non-nuclear countries to do so.

Not only did the report question South Africa’s nuclear nonproliferation credentials, but it sought to accentuate the US fears that Iran might exploit these ties to advance its (suspected) nuclear weapons programme.

However, the report itself betrayed a sense of ignorance about South Africa’s nuclear weapons non-proliferation policy – in particular, with regard to exporting nuclear technology to non-nuclear states.

As Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo put it: “Democratic South Africa is a responsible possessor of advanced technologies.”

Given South Africa’s ardent support for universal adherence to the NPT, it is mischievous to insinuate that the ANC-led Government is assisting other non-nuclear weapon states to acquire nuclear weapons.

As an emerging nuclear supplier, South Africa is a member of nuclear and missile export regimes, namely the nuclear supplier group (NSG), the Zangger Committee and the missile technology control regime.

The US exercises a strong leadership role in these regimes, which have a set of guidelines that regulate and restrict trade in sensitive nuclear and missile technologies.

The majority of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) countries regard nuclear export regimes as being too keen on enforcing the prohibitory aspects of the NPT to the detriment of dismissing the promotional ones.

That is one of the divisive issues among the NPT parties. This controversy poses enough of a foreign policy challenge to make our Government, if it is not careful, seem to be running with the hare and hunting with the hounds.

South Africa is in a historically unique position of being the first NSG member to assume the leadership of the NAM. A point to bear in mind regarding nuclear export controls is to maintain a reasonable balance between the prohibitory and promotional aspects of the NPT.

Technologies for development

Already, in August 1994, the South African Cabinet affirmed that approach when it urged the Government to “utilize its position as a member of the suppliers group and of the Africa Group-NAM to promote the importance of non-proliferation and to ensure that these controls do not become the means whereby developing countries are precluded from obtaining advanced technologies which they require for their development”.

In conclusion, had the Government been taking foreign policy cues from Washington, it would now find itself in the unenviable, if not embarrassing, situation of having to reorient its stance towards Iran.

Thus, Mandela’s irresolute stand of not allowing Washington to dictate who South Africa’s friends should be has paid off well.

(The writer is an international relations researcher at the Centre for Policy Studies in Johannesburg.)
99% of MPs disclose interests

Propelling Pencil for Pallto
Revealed:

MPs lift lid on assets, gifts

List includes Winnie’s $40 000 cash from Mike Tyson, a pipe and poncho for Thabo Mbeki and Jay Naidoo’s wind-up radio

By Patrick Bulger
Political Editor

S
outh Africa’s professional politicians have lifted the lid on their vast - and sometimes bizarre - array of gifts, property and share holdings.

From disgraced heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson’s cash gift of $40 000 (about R200 000) to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, to impressive share portfolios owned by South African Communist Party husband-and-wife team, Ben and Mary Turok, the list provides a unique insight into the wealth of public office holders.

The full list of assets held by Members of Parliament and Cabinet ministers - the second list to be released since the MPs took up their seats in Parliament in 1994 - is published inside The Star today.

It was released in Parliament yesterday as part of a continuing drive to ensure that MPs’ assets are public knowledge, to prevent possible conflicts of interest.

The list is not exhaustive. The full values of assets in property and shares are listed, in a confidential section of the register that is not made public. MPs are obliged to list the assets of immediate members of their own families.

Nonetheless, the list of assets acquired either before the MPs made themselves available for public office, or during the course of their service to the people - makes fascinating reading.

President Nelson Mandela, whose assets are listed even though he is not an MP, owns a stand in Umzimkulu, and three other properties in Houghton, Johannesburg and Quam in the Eastern Cape. His numerous gifts have been listed on a separate sheet.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki vies with Telecommunications Minister Jay Naidoo for the most gifts received.

Among Mbeki’s gifts are a pipe, a poncho, a stamp collection and an embossed gold plate. No property is listed.

Naidoo’s gifts include a jade vase from China, three cell phones and a wind-up radio worth R180.

He also owns a property in Riviopia, Sandton, which was being sold at the time the list was being compiled late last year.

Although only gifts with a value over R350 have to be listed, some MPs have listed items that could not have played much part in any attempt to bribe them to take certain decisions.

For example, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pato-Jordan would not have been much swayed by receiving “one tray of canned goods”. The list indicates that MPs’ assets, especially shares, are closely tied to those interests with which they are traditionally associated in the public eye.

Members of the Democratic Party traditionally the party of big business, seem to prefer De Beers and Anglo shares.

DP MP Colin Eglin has 1 000 De Beers shares and a further 1 000 in each of Anglo American Corporation and Barlowes.

Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has 125 shares in Khulan’s Holdings; National Party MP David Graaff has shares in Unifraco and Jordan has 4,500 shares in empowerment group Hosken. The Turoks have shares in Liberty Eskom, Hoechst, CG Smith and Eskom.

Other surprises include ANC MP Mahluza Gininda who has a large farm at Badplaas, and DP leader Tony Leon who was paid R2 000 for a private speaking engagement.

The full list of MPs’ gifts and assets
MPS declare their gifts, shares and tips
Traditional leaders want title deeds, rights over tribal land

CHARLES PHAHLANE

TRADITIONAL leaders said mineral rights together with title deeds for tribal land should be transferred to traditional authorities as part of the government’s land tenure reform programme as contained in the White Paper on South African Land Policy.

Traditional leaders from the Northern Province, North West and Mpumalanga said unemployment in the rural areas was high and those tribal lands which contained valuable minerals could be used to benefit the community. A case in point was the Bafoseng tribe which had built schools and clinics for their tribe.

“Our view ... is that communal tribal land belongs to the tribes and not to the central government.

“Traditional leaders, in council, hold the land in trust for the tribal communities and for use in accordance with their needs and interests,” Chief Shilungwa Mhinga of Northern Province told the portfolio committee on land affairs.

The provinces said there was no need for tribal communities to register as a communal property association as envisaged under the White Paper since they viewed tribal authorities as legal entities.

The White Paper seeks to develop a policy which will deal effectively with the injustices of the past, the need for a more equitable distribution of land ownership, the need for land reform to reduce poverty and contribute to economic growth, security of land tenure and a land management system which will support the sustainable use of land.

The issue of participation by women was a sticky one, with some provinces arguing that there was no discrimination against women while others admitted that there was still a lot to be done to empower women to actively participate in areas previously seen to be the preserve of men.

There is still a lot to be done to empower women to actively participate in arenas previously seen to be the preserve of men.

Mpumalanga argued that many decisions in rural areas were taken in consultation with women since the men were in labour centres outside the community. Education programmes were needed to encourage women to participate in more decision-making structures.

On land restitution, Northern Province called for the extension of the claims deadline of December 1998 by two years.

The government has already extended the deadline for lodging claims to December and there is a five-year period for the Land Claims Court to finalise all claims and a 10-year period for the implementation of all court orders.

Chief Mhinga said land claims from before 1913 should also be entertained and criteria for such land claims should be that the appropriation of land was clearly due to racist practices.
Wider disclosure of assets urged

Business leaders and editors should state exactly what they own, too, says Asmal
had accused him of robbing his car in Dobsonville yesterday.

The stolen car was not found.

Elandsfontein: Traffic officials arrested one of the two foot after he slipped on wet grass on Wednesday. S W Lewis was admitted to Linksfield Park Clinic, where his condition was described as stable.

MPs did disclose assets

A small group of MPs were refused - perhaps as much from frustration as embarrassment - when it was claimed they had failed to declare their financial interests in an official parliamentary register. But the omission was caused by a combination of computer hassles and late submission of forms.

Details of the register were released through the Institute for Democracy in SA and published in full in newspapers yesterday. The overwhelming majority of MPs declared their assets in accordance with guidelines set by Parliament.

Among those incorrectly said to have made no declaration were Public Enterprises Minister Stella Sigcau, Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad, Deputy Arts and Culture Minister Brigitte Mabandla, and MPs Willem Botha, Sheila Camerer, Gora Ebrahim, Adelaide Tambo and Glen Carelse.

In other areas, Speaker of Parliament Frene Ginwala was described as owning a house in Pretoria, when in fact her properties include a third of a lease of a house in London and a flat in Johannesburg.

Fazila Mohamed of the office of parliamentary members' interests said the information had been provided to the institute on a computer disk which the body had had trouble converting to its system. Efforts had been made to verify all information but mistakes had slipped through. Well-placed sources also indicated that some of the confusion had been caused by MPs who had submitted information after the agreed deadline.

- Parliamentary Bureau
Unraveling the Rietbok mystery

Plane disaster points to dirty tricks

DEON ROBERE

Grahamstown - The official version of the aircraft incident on March 13, 1987 in which Johan Bruwer's father, Professor J P Bruwer, died, was that the SAA Vickers Viscount disappeared without a trace while preparing to land at East London airport on its way from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg.

Officials went out of their way to make sure the disappearance of the Rietbok really was "without a trace".

In spite of the fact that according to the pilot's last recorded message he was near the runway and would be landing in about four minutes - which meant the plane had to be very close to the shoreline - officially no piece of it was ever found, nor were any bodies recovered.

The night of the disaster, Professor Bruwer's other son, Piet Bruwer of Pletberg, was telephoned. He was told that several bodies had washed ashore near Kosi Bay beach and was asked to come and identify the body of his father.

He drove through the night and reached Kosi Bay the next morning - only to be told it had all been a mistake and no bodies had been found.

Mr Bruwer, who holds a private pilot's licence, then tried to hire a plane to fly over the area of the disaster.

He was told this was not possible, as the airspace above the area had been sealed off on orders of then Minister of Defence P W Botha.

He then tried to hire a boat to search the sea, but ran into the same problem. He was not even allowed to put a wreath on the wing of the mystery of his father.

According to Helen Brown, the niece of victim Julie Venturas, Ms Venturas's mother was contacted about a week after the disaster and was asked to come and identify her daughter's body. The caller described in detail what Julie was wearing.

But Ms Venturas's mother was also then told it had all been a mistake and no bodies had been found.

The morning after the incident, the media widely reported that 21 bodies had already washed ashore. The newspaper Dagbreek added that the Rietbok had been found in 23m of water.

However, the next day the reports were denied by officials.

A coincidence, or was the head of the investigation team silenced?

Grahamstown - Immediately after the Rietbok disaster on the night of March 13, 1987, South African Airways dispatched its own investigating team to the scene.

The team was headed by Captain Jimmy Boyd, a former pilot and well-known at the time as an amateur golfing champion.

By March 17, he had reportedly finished his preliminary investigation and was due to fly back to Johannesburg that morning to report back to SAA.

However, that morning there was no reply to knocks on his hotel room door in East London.

When the door was opened, Captain Boyd was found dead.

It was presumed he may have died in his sleep of a heart attack, but the circumstances around his death remained unclear.

The coincidence of him dying as he was about to report to the SAA is striking.

Was Captain Boyd silenced? As a former pilot he would have noticed anything untoward about the crash.

Personnel on board two navy minesweepers, SAS Mosselbas and SAS Johan-

nesburg, who searched the area immediate-

ly after the disaster, saw at least three bod-
ies, wreckage and an oil slick.

The commanders of the two vessels, Captains Des Reep and Captain David Forsight, last month confirmed this to reporters.

Captain Reep said he "personally saw two bodies among the wreckage"

He said several pieces of floating wreck-

age were recovered - including "a piece of the pilot cabin to which the plane's licence number had been affixed".

Every scrap of wreckage that washed ashore in the weeks after the disaster was confiscated by the police.

Dis Grootberg and Dagbreek newspapers reported in 1987 that they had reliable information that the wreck had been found by divers - but that this was being kept secret by the Department of Transport.

Why would agents of the government so badly want to get rid of Professor Bruwer?

At the time of his death he was vice-rector of the University of Port Elizabeth as well as acting chairman of the Broeder-

bond, but was considered controversial in Afrikaner circles as he strongly criticised apartheid ideology in several newspaper articles and speeches.

Professor Bruwer had said that in prac-

tice it was proving not to be based on the benign promotion of indigenous cultures but on racial discrimination and that it could not be enforced for long.

He believed that the segregation of white and coloured citizens could not be justified on the basis of "cultural differences".

Shortly before his death certain extraor-


dinary circumstances arose. Premier John Vorster, who had been in office for about six months after the assassination of Hen-

rik Verwoerd, and then Foreign Minister Helgard Muller, approached Professor Bruwer to take up an unprecedented post as a roving ambassador to African states.

He was to be based in Zambia, with the approval of then President Kenneth Kaum-

da.

Mr Bruwer believes Mr Vorster, after Dr Verwoerd's death, may have seen an opportunity to reconsider apartheid and that the appointment of his father as roving ambassador would be part of a brief attempt at "detente" and re-establishing contact with the Frontline states.

Two days before the plane disaster, Dr Muller went to Port Elizabeth to discuss the post with Professor Bruwer.

When Professor Bruwer boarded the Rietbok on March 13, he was on his way to a final meeting with Mr Vorster in Pretoria before the public announcement of the new post the following week.

But that night the Rietbok disappeared and the plan was never made public.

Last month, the Minister of Trans-

port, Mac Maharaj, referred the matter to the Chief Directorate of Civil Aviation for recommendations after Mr Bruwer and other family members of victims requested his help in clarifying the incident.

ECN
Mbeki offers olive branch to Afrikaners

JOVIAL BANTAO
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

The ANC has emerged from its crucial three-day lekgota (conference) yesterday with a programme of action to expedite the country’s transformation and place the organisation in a strategic position in the run-up to the polls next year.

The organisation again extended an olive branch to the Afrikaner community by endorsing efforts led by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to engage the Afrikaner leadership in dialogue about the community’s role in nation-building, reconciliation and peace.

“The Afrikaners deserve special attention because they feel that they’re an endangered species. We believe that it will be incorrect of us not to address that particular perception,” ANC secretary-general Mgqelelo Mtotlane said yesterday.

ANC national chairman Mr Patrick Lekota said there was also a need to address destructive and divisive elements in the Afrikaner community. “There are elements within that community who claim that they speak on behalf of the community and utter sentiments which are against the democratic order. These elements don’t act in the interests of the country. Afrikaners are permanent and critical members of this society,” Lekota said.

In identifying key areas of focus for the next year, the ANC chose programme of action, which focuses on education, the effort against crime, housing, jobs, AIDS awareness and corruption.

The ANC has acknowledged there are problems and has been strongly criticised by opposition parties about problems with education, crime, the delivery of the promised one million houses, corruption in the civil service and the slow progress in job-creation.

On efforts to fight corruption, Mtotlane said the ANC would take a leading role in monitoring, investigating and acting against corruption.

The lekgota also committed the ANC to the government’s macro-economic Growth, Employment and Redistribution strategy. “The view that carried the day was that we needed not only to pay attention to the budget deficit, but to look at social deficits,” Mtotlane said.

The ANC would embark soon on a voter registration campaign and nominations conferences to draw up its electoral list.

ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE:
Thabo Mbeki

those in which the national and provincial governments had not performed well — and which might cost it votes next year.

The ANC’s national working committee, elected at the weekend, is expected to produce a plan for the implementation of the pro-
Women's Summit to be held in Norway-Africa relations in June 2019.

In brief:

The opposition to women's rights in the Middle East and North Africa continues to grow, with various countries implementing stricter laws and regulations that restrict women's freedom and rights. The summit aims to highlight these issues and promote international cooperation to ensure the protection of women's rights worldwide.

Poverty and child labor are significant issues in urban areas, particularly in Africa. Studies have shown that poverty is closely linked to child labor, with many children forced to work in order to support their families. The summit will focus on strategies to combat poverty and improve the living conditions of children.

High unemployment rates are prevalent among young people, particularly in urban areas. The summit will discuss solutions to address this issue and promote employment opportunities for young adults.

By Carine Byna

Relations Norway-South Africa

By Simon Green

Jo'burg has more

Child Labourers

High unemployment rates for adults and

By Martha Khumalo

South Africa-23/9/19
THE ANC did not call for the removal of the F.W. Botha display from the George Museum, but that the display be put into the context of South Africa's apartheid history, according to secretary of the ANC's Southern Cape Region Mr. Ismail Lavangee.

"He's portrayed as our saviour, which obviously is offensive to many people," said Lavangee. He said the ANC had been told by the provincial authorities that the museum was to be transformed, with input from local residents.

A spokesperson for the Western Cape Department of Environmental and Cultural Affairs said Botha had indicated that he wanted to remove his memorabilia from the museum. — Staff Writer
Corruption an obstacle – Asmal

By Ido Lekota
Political Reporter

CORRUPTION remained a major obstacle to the Government’s efforts to deliver on basic things such as water, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Professor Kader Asmal said in Parliament yesterday.

“We have to deal with the corrosive effect of corruption,” Asmal said. “This is about people using their power to change the rules of the game and in the process subverting the Government’s aim to deliver.”

Asmal also said the various ministries should find innovative ways of ensuring that delivery was sustainable within the constraints of limited resources.

Meanwhile, chairman of the United Nations committee on economic, social and cultural rights Professor Philip Alston told Parliament that there was a need to set core standards to be used to judge how committed countries were in effecting economic and social rights.

The standards would, for example, address instances where countries use lack of resources as an excuse for not effecting the rights.

Alston was critical of the United States’ economic sanctions against countries such as Cuba, because in essence that negated the economic and social rights of the most vulnerable, the women and children.

He said the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, must recognise human rights implications when effecting their austerity plans.
Heath probe has exposed only the tip of the iceberg

Kevin O'Grady

The special investigating unit established to root out corruption, fraud and maladministration involving state assets and public money had uncovered 654 cases involving R9.17bn, its head, Judge William Heath, said yesterday.

Many of the cases had been fully investigated and the unit was "ready to prove them and get orders issued for the funds to be repaid".

Heath told a meeting of the British Chamber of Business in Southern Africa that corruption was rife in SA.

"You don't know the extent of it, the politicians don't know and we have only just started to discover the extent of it. What we have uncovered is just the tip of the iceberg."

Heath said the theft of government cheques was a major problem. "In any government department you can pick up as many cheques as you want. There is no control," he said. Other types of irregularities included nepotism, bribery and corruption and corruption in feeding schemes.

Investigations in which funds had been recovered or were in the process of being recovered, included:

- About 10 000 cases of housing subsidy fraud in the Northern Province each of about R15 000;
- A number of cases in the former Ciskei in which government officials and politicians sold state-owned farms to themselves for as little as R7 000 and resold them for as much as R750 000;
- Sixteen cases in which district surgeons wrongly enriched themselves by claiming "to have" driven "up to 200 000km a year and seen more than 1 000 patients a day; and
- More than 100 Transkei schools had yet to receive furniture for which payment had been claimed from the provincial government by suppliers.

Heath said that if it was not for budget constraints and the resulting staff shortages, irregularities uncovered by the unit "would have been much, much more than that."
Minorities have little esteem for government’s performance

DONWALD PRESSLY

A survey carried out on behalf of Rapport newspaper shows that there is a very negative evaluation of the government among coloureds, Indians and whites.

In a telephone survey of 600 respondents, carried out by UniSearch’s Dr De Wet Schutte between February 9 and 15 across the age groups of 20 to 89, a total of 26% of respondents believed the government was not good at anything. The respondents were mainly drawn from the minority groups.

The highest score for good government went to the housing ministry, where 9.5% of respondents believed progress had been made.

A cynical 2.7% believed that the government had been good at “making promises”. A further 25.7% did not know what the government was good at.

Asked what first came to mind when assessing the performance of government, 83.45% of the respondents had negative associations. Topping the list of responses were chaos (31.83%), corruption (15.29%) and crime (14.8%).

A further 5.15% of responses associated the government with the bad economy, 4.52% with unemployment, 3.9% with education problems, 1.72% with health problems, 1.56% with the shortage of houses, 1.25% with black apartheid and 0.47% with welfare problems.

Only 3.59% of the respondents said that the performance of government was good, while 2.65% associated the government with democracy and 1.56% with a better economy.

There was a big problem with finding a Moses who could lead South Africa to emancipation, according to the Rapport survey.

More than half of respondents — 55.8% — said they did not know who they would like as a political leader.

The most popular leader was President Nelson Mandela, who notched up support of 7.2%, with former state president FW de Klerk and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki each notching up 6.3%.
Graft inquiry recovers R10bn

Johannesburg — The Heath special investigating unit, which investigated government maladministration and corruption, had recovered R10 billion from fraudulent schemes, Judge Willem Heath said yesterday.

An additional R8 billion of corruption and maladministration was still under investigation, but this was “just the tip of the iceberg”, he told members attending a British Chamber of Business in Southern Africa lunch.

Heath stressed that the seeds of a large proportion of the corruption and maladministration had been planted during the reign of the National Party before 1994 and had continued to grow under the new government.

The unit was investigating cases stretching back to 1976, chosen as the cut-off year because that was when the Transkei received its independence, and the pattern of corruption was unchanged over the years.

Of special concern was corruption in apartheid’s former homelands, which had left a criminal legacy which was still flourishing under the guidance of sophisticated syndicates.

His unit had established 400 categories of graft in the former Transkei. This made up part of the 768 categories identified in the Eastern Cape which accounted for more than R3 billion in graft. Another 18 had been identified for KwaZulu-Natal worth more than R12 million; 11 in Northern Province (R5 billion); three in the Northern Cape (R17 million); two in Gauteng (R49 million); 11 in Mpumalanga (R22 million); and one in the Western Cape (R4 million).

He said his unit regarded maladministration in the same light as corruption and officials who were grossly negligent in their duties were as liable as those helping syndicates.

He believed his unit had produced a success story in the battle against government corruption because it was not only uncovering graft, but was also recovering the proceeds of corruption. “Our success isn’t because we arrest people; the effectiveness is that the government is getting back a small percentage of what we are losing,” he said.
ANDRÉ KOOPMAN

ENGLISH, the most widely used language in Parliament, should be used regularly as the language of record for internal business of Parliament together with one of the other 11 official languages on a rotating basis.

This was proposed yesterday in the Proposal for Language Policy for Parliament before the rules committee of Parliament.

This means that Afrikaans would no longer serve as the second official language of record in Parliament. Legislation will still be in English and Afrikaans. But parliamentary papers such as Order Papers, minutes, Question Papers and the parliamentary record, Hansard, would be published in English and the language of the month, which would be one of the other 11 official languages.

The proposal said that use of only two official languages in Parliament does not conform to the Constitution, which states that the state "must take positive and practical measures to elevate the status and advance the use" of indigenous languages. Hansard would be published in English with insets in the home languages of the MPs.

Speeches would be recorded and published in the language of delivery.

All other languages would be translated into English, the proposal noted.

After debate, the committee resolved that the various parties should discuss the matter and come forward with proposals on recognizing the 11 official languages.

Mladihlama said that ANC members who came from diverse backgrounds had complained about the current language policy and felt uncomfortable that their home languages were never reflected in parliamentary papers such as the order paper.

"At present I must give 24 hours' notice to speak my language, Xhosa, in Parliament, whereas Constand Viljoen (leader of the Freedom Front) can get up and speak Afrikaans at anytime."

While English and Afrikaans interpreters were always present in Parliament, other language speakers did not enjoy this privilege.

"We feel this is unfair," Mladihlama said. He said Afrikaans were complaining about the new proposed language policy when they were "already advantaged".

Reacting to the language proposal, the Freedom Front said yesterday that the ANC's decision "to proceed with suggestions that Afrikaans should be downscaled in Parliament was in direct contrast to the reconciliatory talk of the ANC's national executive committee towards Afrikaners".

FF leader Viljoen said yesterday he had been assured by Arts and Culture Minister Lionel Mtshali that the 1898-1902 Anglo-Boer War would not be renamed.

The FF urgently sought a meeting with Mtshali after ANC MP Dr Wally Serote raised the possibility of the name being changed.

Other issues affecting the Afrikaans language and culture were also discussed, and several suggestions were made to the minister, Viljoen said.
Relationship matures

WHEN then African National Congress (ANC) president Chief Albert Luthuli accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in Norway in 1961, the event marked the beginning of a special relationship between the Norwegians and the oppressed people of South Africa.

These relations were to last more than three decades and sustain the liberation movements, particularly the ANC and, to a lesser extent, the Pan Africanist Congress, in their struggle against white domination.

For about 15 years the relationship was mainly confined to moral support and international advocacy within the United Nations and other forums to isolate the apartheid regime.

In 1977 the Norwegians began opening their purses and financial support started flowing into the coffers of the liberation movement, mainly in the form of scholarships and funds to run refugee camps in South Africa’s neighbouring states.

Assistance expanded rapidly as the struggle gained momentum in the 1980s and by the early 1990s about R80 million had been distributed to the liberation movements, churches, trade unions, non-governmental and community-based organisations.

This week's visit to South Africa by Norwegian King Harald V and Queen Sonja will therefore mark the maturing of this relationship built in hard and difficult times.

The king is a father figure with no political powers but he enjoys popular support among his people and is regarded as a unifying figure.

The Norwegians are therefore seeking to consolidate these relations and to take the relationship from the level of dependency and handouts to economic cooperation between their country and ours as equal partners.

The inclusion of Norwegian foreign minister Knut Vollebekk — a man reputed to have gone to extraordinary lengths to provide financial support for the struggle — in a delegation with a strong trade and business focus is a further indication of how much Norway cherishes its relations with South Africa.

Stories abound of the central role he played in channeling funds to the anti-apartheid forces, including a daring trip he undertook to South Africa with thousands of rand stuffed into his pockets to donate to anti-apartheid organisations.

However, the composition of the delegation — 30 business people and only three politicians (one of them trade and industry minister Lars Sponheim) in a delegation of about 40, including members of the media and technocrats — indicates that Vollebekk’s role will not be a major one during this visit.

The Norwegian royal couple’s visit to South Africa strengthens the special relations the two countries have had for many years, writes Simon Zwane.

It seems that he will spend a great deal of his time renewing old friendships and perhaps receiving feedback on how Norway’s five-year R400 million aid package to the Government has been utilised.

This package was designed to support the development of a stable political and economic dispensation in South Africa.

Respect for human rights

The presence of Hilde Fradjord Johnson, Norway's international development and human rights minister, seems designed to underscore how important Norway regards respect for human rights in countries with which it does business.

This is a policy which SA also claims to adhere to, but from which economic imperatives sometimes force it to deviate.

This was the case when it forged ties with China, a country with a less than impeccable human rights record.

Similarly Norway has been unable to resolve this question in dealing with Nigeria.

King Harald V ... seeking to consolidate relations between Norway and South Africa.

Statoil, a Norwegian parastatal involved in extracting and selling crude oil, continues to do business in Nigeria, although General Sani Abacha’s military regime doesn’t bother to respect the rights and dignity of Nigerians.

It is obvious that the visit is about business - not politics.

Norway’s business people will be seeking to protect the investments they already have in the country and look for more opportunities and seek partners for joint ventures.

It is expected that a joint venture will be announced before the visit is concluded on Saturday.

The venture will probably bring about 21 the number of Norwegian businesses with direct interests in South Africa.

About 115 other Norwegian companies have indirect interests in the country as part of multinational conglomerates that have investments in South Africa.

Statoil, Borregaard and Norsk Hydro are the flagships of Norwegian investments in the country so far, Sponheim is scheduled to visit as well.

Statoil has established a partnership with Sasol in Secunda to use Sasol’s synthetic fuel technology for the conversion of natural gas to liquid fuel products.

The company is also engaged in a transportation-based project with South African parties in the private and public sector for the shipping of crude oil from the North Sea to local refineries at a favourable rate.

Borregaard has invested about R113 million in a 50/50 joint partnership with Sappi Saltocor for the production of lignin products at Sappi’s plant in Ummgen, outside Durban.

The investment is expected to have a positive environmental spin-off as it will cut the dumping of lignin, a binding agent in wood which is released as a by-product in pulp milling into the Indian Ocean.

It is estimated that Sappi dumps 10 tons of these products into the ocean daily.

Norsk Hydro and Pieternestbrg-based Hulte Aluminium have come together to form Hulte-Hydro Extrusion, a joint venture which is expected to play a leading role in the local extrusion market.

Norwegians, however, are not satisfied with the amount of business they are doing in South Africa and wish to expand it.
'Vast disparities' in leaders' pay

CAPE TOWN — There were vast disparities in the salaries paid to members of provincial houses of traditional leaders, particularly in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga where some traditional leaders earned higher salaries than more senior people in other provinces, a provincial development and constitutional affairs official told Parliament's portfolio committee on constitutional affairs yesterday.

The committee heard that there were problems with the definition of traditional leaders such as headmen who could receive salaries in terms of the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Bill.

The committee appointed Yunus Carrim of the African National Congress as chairman to replace Pravin Gordhan, now deputy commissioner of the SA revenue service.

Meanwhile, Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Jay Naidoo asked Parliament to approve an extra R15m for the post office — R5m for the human resources fund and R10m for the universal service fund.

The portfolio committee on finance was briefed on proposed double taxation agreements between SA and other countries including Australia.
Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has an extraordinary knack for distraction. Such is her media allure that invariably more critical matters are neglected.

In Mafikeng in December, for example, the domestic and international media were waiting with bated breath — would she or wouldn't she stand for deputy president of the ANC? Meanwhile, the battle for the ideological soul of the congress movement meandered quietly on, undisturbed by such frenetic scrutiny.

So, too, with the register of members' interests. It is, admittedly, interesting that Madikizela-Mandela should choose to accept R40 000 (R200 000) from a convicted racist. But the danger here lies in people focusing on what the register is not about — namely wealth — instead of its central purpose: conflict of interest in government. The principle that underlies the disclosure system, which requires those with power over the laws and policies that shape our lives to declare their outside financial interests, is the ability to judge whether MPs have the capacity to live up to the public's expectations of them by their election, rather than ministering to the private interests which they hold.

While the register remains an important mechanism because it has set a standard, it will only be as good as the system to which it is extended to other parts of government, there are features of the system which will test the ability to achieve its goal. At the moment, for example, MPs have to disclose that they own shares, but only the nominal value rather than the market value of the shareholding. It is the weight as well as the existence of the private interest that is a problem and which is crucial in determining the extent of the potential conflict of interest.

The fact that several MPs have failed to disclose the companies in which they hold shares only serves to compound this.

The other area that needs to be looked at, sooner rather than later, is the question of legislation. Mr. Kader Asmal, chairperson of the ethics subcommittee of Parliament's Rules Committee, is in agreement on this. The existing code of conduct for public figures only applies to MPs — the rules of any "club". Real power, however, extends far beyond the legislative arm of government. The real test, in terms of instituting a new culture of accountability, is to find a way of holding members of the executive to account.

The reality of modern government is that it is the ministers' advisors and senior civil servants who hold and execute more profound levels of public power. Hence President Mandela's speech at the opening of Parliament a fortnight ago was encouraging. He said that "in a protective measure to improve good governance, and in accordance with the constitution, the president's office will this year start drafting legislation on a code of conduct applying to members of the executive at national and provincial levels."

The shape, form and scope of the legislation remains to be seen. It is to be hoped that it will take a broad view of the issue because, as Asmal argues, "all wielders of social power should subject themselves to arrangements which require appropriate disclosure of financial interests and rigorous ethical rules".

Kader Asmal wants more transparency in disclosures.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela received gifts from odd people.

We must focus on the fact that the register of members' interests is not about wealth, but about potential conflicts of interest.

Kader Asmal says: "It is only through constant vigilance, commitment and co-operation that ethical standards can be achieved and maintained over a wide front."

Later he imploded noisy neighbours, friends, colleagues and constituents to look at the register and to report doubts about the truthfulness of its contents to the Registrar, Ms Fazila Mohamed (who can be reached on (021) 403-2677).

More specifically, the media and civil society organisations need to do what they failed to do last year, which is to scratch beneath the surface to find out what activities the companies, in which MPs own shares or are employed as directors or consultants, are engaged in. This information can be set alongside the portfolio of the parliamentary committee or committees on which the MP sits to see if a conflict of interest exists. This is an example of the hard work that is still to be done.

The register is a reminder of what can be done and of the fact that the national parliament has taken the lead. Now is the time for everyone else to follow.
Public vigilance is needed to control graft corruption.
Measure of concern in ANC’s haste to reassure

Old fears give rise to a new Afrikaner ‘bond’

A n African National Congress mission to engage the “Afrikaner establishment” in discussions on nation-building has scant chance of resolving Afrikaner anxieties over the future, however sincere its motivation, warns sociologist Lawrence Schlemmer.

The mission, led by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and endorsed by the ANC national executive after a three-day indaba, comes at a time when many Afrikanners feel they are — in the words of ANC secretary-general Kgalema Motlanthe — “an endangered species”.

Affirmation of Mbeki’s quest to reassure Afrikaners they are — as ANC national chairman Patrick Lekota puts it — “a permanent and critical part of our society” comes at a time when many Afrikanners feel they are in the words of ANC secretary-general Kgalema Motlanthe — “an endangered species”.

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One sign of Afrikaner anxiety over the future of their language and culture, and thus of their existence as a separate sub-national entity, is the formation of an umbrella cultural organisation, the Tussentyds Afrikaansberaad.

Formed last weekend, even as the ANC’s national leaders were deliberating on the “Afrikaner question”, the new organisation consists of 26 Afrikaner organisations stretching from the centrist Federatie van Afrikaanse Kultuureenigings to the rightist Afrikaner Volkswag.

As if in response to the emergence of the new body, an ANC statement on the national executive committee’s deliberations assures Afrikaners their destiny is “inextricably linked to the future of all South Africans”.

But Schlemmer, arguing that the ANC’s respect for minority rights is secondary to its commitment to a unitary State, says the ANC’s approach is part of the problem — many Afrikanners are unhappy at the prospect of being subsumed into the emerging SA nation.

He says they resent the new status of Afrikaans as one of 11 official languages in a country in which English has rapidly become the lingua franca.

Afrikaner resentment at the downgrading of their language — even though Afrikaans is no lower in status than the nine indigenous African languages — will almost certainly become more acute, Schlemmer predicts, except perhaps in conditions where it is blunted by economic growth and prosperity.

Referring to a survey conducted by Mark Data last year after a conference of Afrikaner notables in November 1996, Schlemmer says it points to “extensive dissatisfaction” among white Afrikanners.

Repeated assurances by President Nelson Mandela that Afrikanners have no need to be fearful for the future of their language — with which their identity is inseparably bound — have had little or no impact. More than eight in every 10 Afrikanners believe the ANC government does not do enough to protect their language or, worse still, either neglects or undermines it.

The National Party — which represents a sizeable proportion of Afrikaans-speaking South Africans from the coloured as well as Afrikaner and white communities — is, however, sceptic of the ANC’s motives. Its leader, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, says the ANC mission was motivated by an unrecorded political agenda.

Freedom Front spokesman Pieter Mulder is similarly wary. While fine sentiment about Afrikaans and Afrikanners are often expressed by the ANC, many Afrikanners have had different experiences, he says.

Mulder refers to the downgrading of Afrikaans on SABC television, the loss by formerly Afrikaans universities of their distinctive cultural status under the pressures of demography and transformation, and the threat to deprive Afrikaners of its status as one of two written languages of parliament.

He quotes the vice-chairman of the Pan SA Language Board, Neville Alexander, on the ANC government’s need for greater awareness of the explosive potential of the language question.

He insists self-determination for Afrikanners, including a “national home for the Afrikaner”, is part of the solution, not part of the problem. Comparing the Afrikaner quest for self-determination with that of the Palestinians, Mulder says “the government cannot stop it. They can only delay it or decide to make it part of the solution.”

Cape Town University political studies professor Herman Gilmore refers to Afrikaner perceptions of ANC leaders as “black Englishmen” dedicated to the promotion of English as the de facto national language and, by extension, “the systematic removal of Afrikaans as a national language”.

He thinks it is naive of the ANC to think that it can soothe Afrikaner distress by making charming and bland reassurances. What is needed is a federal policy which will accord Afrikanners the status of an official language in the two provinces where it is the most widely spoken language — the Western and Northern Cape — thanks largely to the numerical strength in those provinces of Afrikaans-speaking coloureds.

On a more positive note, Gilmore records that when Lekota was Free State premier he took an important practical step by providing for the translation of official documents from English to Afrikaans and Sotho in the platteland. He describes it as a positive act of language empowerment from which black and white South Africans benefited.

Patrick Lekota and Lawrence Schlemmer... addressing Afrikaners’ concerns
A benchmark court ruling.

To justification for service boycotts.

A watershed judgment the Constitutional Court has described the culture of nonpayment of municipal service charges as a feature of the past which cannot be justified in post-apartheid SA.

The judgment means that people who are aggrieved about the conduct of public officials or local authorities cannot “take the law into their hands” by withholding payment for services rendered.

Constitutional Court deputy president Judge Fissel Langa says in a 70-page judgment on a Pretoria dispute that payment boycotts have “no place in a constitutional State in which the rights of all persons are guaranteed and all have access to the courts to protect their rights... That conduct carries with it the potential for chaos and can therefore not be appropriate.”

Those who believe their constitutional rights have been contravened should seek relief through the courts against government officials or institutions, instead of embarking on nonpayment campaigns, Langa states.

The judgment — which overturns an earlier verdict of the High Court — relates to the refusal of Pretoria resident Johan Walker, a member of the Besorgde Bevlangdelfatoorgroep, to pay for water and electricity provided by the Pretoria City Council from July 1995 to April 1996.

His refusal to do so relates to alleged unfair and thus unconstitutional discrimination by the city council against the residents of Pretoria (most of them white) and in favour of residents of the historically black Atteridgeville and Mamelodi.

While Pretoria residents had to pay a consumption rate measured by meter, their counterparts in the townships — where meters were still being installed — paid a flat rate.

Walker’s case contains another important element: the contention that payment of consumption rates by Pretoria residents meant they were subsidising ratepayers in Atteridgeville and Mamelodi.

In his judgment — with which seven judges, including Constitutional Court president Judge Arthur Chaskalson, concurred — Langa takes account of the history of poor services to, and neglect of, the two townships during the apartheid era.

He concludes that the differential policies applied by the city council to Pretoria and township residents did not amount to unfair discrimination, especially since it was seen as a temporary measure pending the installation of meters in the townships.

But, in a critical corollary to that conclusion, Langa’s judgment contains another salient finding: the council’s policy of taking legal action against defaulters in Pretoria while not acting similarly against householders in arrears in the townships amounted to unfair discrimination.

Langa prefaces his finding with a general observation: “No members of a racial group should be made to feel that they are not deserving of equal concern, respect and consideration.”

Two important conclusions can be drawn from the judgment.

❖ There is no legal justification for withholding service payments because of differentiation by a local authority in its policy towards historically segregated areas, though aggrieved parties will be able to seek redress through the courts if they can prove the differentiation is tantamount to unfair discrimination, and
❖ Local authorities will face court injunctions if they squeeze residents from historically white suburbs while adopting a lenient policy towards ratepayers in traditionally black townships.

As payment levels are still generally higher in the once whites-only areas, the challenge for local authorities is to press for payments across the board, even if it means losing votes for the majority party in next year’s general, provincial and — if they can be organised simultaneously — local government elections.

Patrick Laurence
SEVEN MISSIONS TO CLOSE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS faces huge cut in budget

The Department of Foreign Affairs faces a budget cut of 20% that could seriously hamper diplomatic initiatives, politicians and foreign affairs officials confirmed yesterday.

The department is expected to announce the closure of seven foreign missions in a cost-cutting exercise and to move the focus of its initiatives to South America and Asia. The missions to be closed are mostly in eastern Europe.

Mr Tom Moir, Foreign Affairs Chief Director of Finance, said yesterday that while the nominal budget cut could be about 8%, it would be closer to 15% if the exchange rate impact was considered. If inflation is factored in, the real percentage cut would be about 20%.

Highly placed foreign affairs officials and some politicians described the budget cut as "frightening" and "very gloomy." South Africa has increased its foreign representation more than a hundred fold (35 to 97) after the post-apartheid isolation period with no appreciable increase in staff.

Mr Boy Geldenhuys, NP member of the foreign affairs portfolio committee, said yesterday that while all government departments faced cuts, "when it comes to foreign affairs the situation is very gloomy".

"It is very difficult for them to fulfill their functions because of the severe budget cut. In real terms they are getting less and less since the exchange rate has an enormous effect on the foreign affairs budget."

He described the budget slash as "frightening" and said he doubted whether the department could fulfill its mission with reduced funds.

Geldenhuys said he thought there was an "absolute agreement" among the parties represented on the committee that future budget cuts should be avoided.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has played an invaluable role in securing new trade and investment after the years of apartheid isolation.

The budget cuts could also seriously affect the leading role South Africa has taken in international forums and in Africa. South Africa is due to become chairman of the non-aligned movement this year when we host this body.

We also play a leading role in African moves to secure a security council seat.

Foreign affairs portfolio committee chairman Mr Ibrahim Ibrahim was less pessimistic about the effects of the budget cut, saying that Africa, the non-aligned movement and the UN initiative would remain a priority in foreign policy.

The budget slash would "to a limited extent, affect our foreign relations in that we may not be able to open new diplomatic offices or representations in quite a lot of countries that we had in mind."

Some missions would have to be closed while others would have to be scaled down.

"It may also affect our role in some of the multilateral organisations internationally," he added.

Ibrahim said that no mission would be closed in Africa and that South Africa would continue to aggressively pursue diplomatic ties with Asia, "because we think it is an important player."

"We will cut diplomatic representation in areas where we think it is not absolutely important to have missions. We may not expand and open new offices for the time being," Ibrahim said.

Moir said: "Management is considering closing missions, it has frozen posts and it has reduced the establishment of missions."
Two ministers must go, report proposes.
Two ministeries should be phased out – PRC

TWO OF the country’s 27 ministeries and their respective departments should be phased out, the Presidential Review Commission recommended on Friday.

Several others should be amalgamated in an effort to create a leaner, more efficient public service, PRC chairman Dr Vincent Maphai told reporters in Pretoria.

These were among a number of recommendations contained in the PRC’s report on the transformation of the public service, which is to be presented to President Nelson Mandela next month.

“We do not recommend that people should lose their jobs as such,” Maphai said.

“We are only facing the reality of supernumerary posts in government and how this impacts on the delivery of reconstruction and development. We are suggesting ways and means of dealing with that reality,” The PRC said its proposals would in the long term not result in significant changes to the number of public servants employed.

Asked if the affected offices had been notified of the PRC’s recommendations, he said: “Some know and some suspect. Many will be surprised.”

Maphai said the commission did not recommend a massive reduction of staff in key areas such as education, health and security.

The commission proposed that national government take over some functions delegated to certain provinces, which were unable to carry them out.

The PRC named two provinces, the Eastern Cape and Northern Province.

The situation in the two provinces had deteriorated to such an extent that national government might consider invoking section 109 of the constitution, Maphai said.

“However, I would not like that decision to be taken lightly.”

Section 109 allows the national government to intervene where provinces are unable or unwilling to execute their obligations relating to, among other things, national standards and security.

The Eastern Cape was accused of paying out social benefits late to pensioners last year and the Northern Province’s books show a R584-million deficit from failed property dealings and over R500-million lost from not following the correct tendering methods.

The PRC said too little had been done by government departments and ministries to remedy the inequalities of the past.

“Although all departments claimed to be engaged in some form of transformation, few seem to have adopted the holistic and integrated approach to transformation advocated in the White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service.”

Maphai said only one department managed to balance internal transformation with delivery capacity.

The commission’s report proposes methods of right sizing with a view to achieving a smaller, professional, highly-skilled and well-paid public service.

If the PRC’s recommendations were accepted, it would save government a lot of money in the long term, Maphai said.

He recommended government for subjecting itself to such a rigorous examination so soon after assuming office.

The report was unanimously adopted by all commission members. – Sapa
Mixed response to proposals by Presidential Review Commission

Opposition political parties had mixed reactions to the announcement by the Presidential Review Commission that at least two ministries should be scrapped and that the Government might have to intervene in two provinces to ensure continued service provision.

The commission also recommended that several more of the 27 ministries and 34 departments should be amalgamated in an effort to create a leaner, more efficient public service.

The commission said it was concerned that in two provinces the situation had deteriorated so badly that the Government may have to invoke section 100 of the constitution, which allowed the national Government to intervene if the provinces were unable to carry out certain delegated functions.

The proposals also included an overhaul of President Mandela's office and the creation of a new government ministry.

National Party spokesman Daryl Swanepoel said the commission's findings "vindicate the NP's position with regard to policy which will result in smaller and more efficient government".

But the party could not support proposals that would "reduce the powers of the provinces, and care should be taken that in attempting to rectify the administrative disasters in the provinces they are not solved by centralising power at national level".

PAC MP Patricia de Lille welcomed the recommendations and called on Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Mohammed Valli Moosa to intervene where provinces were unable or unwilling to execute their obligations.

United Democratic Movement co-leaders Bantu Holomisa and Roelf Meyer also called on the national Government to implement section 100 of the constitution, especially in the Eastern Cape and Northern Province.

Presidential spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe said the Government would undertake the recommended move only as an emergency procedure until the provincial governments were able to provide the services and functions effectively again.

\[\text{Signature} \quad 2/3/98\]
Critic question effective anti-corruption unit’s key powers

SA needs unique anti-corruption unit, expert session told, amidoogle powers and moose arms have not been prevented.
Govt shake-up to see three ministries go

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The Presidential Review Commission has recommended greater powers for the president’s office, including overseeing the public service, as part of a shake-up which will see the departments of sport and public enterprises scrapped.

Details of the year-long investigation into transforming the public service are contained in a confidential nine-volume report, completed last week, to be handed to President Nelson Mandela by the month-end.

The commission found the situation in the Northern Province and the Eastern Cape had deteriorated to such an extent that central government might consider taking over the running of certain functions.

However, such a decision should not be taken lightly.

With the scrapping of public enterprises, the commission recommended that privatisation “be handled by several line functions” under the overall control of the finance ministry, a source said yesterday.

While the commission recommended that the ministries and departments of public enterprises and sport be scrapped, it proposed scrapping the public service ministry but transferring the department itself to the president’s office.

Sources said the report proposed the establishment of three executive agencies — information (similar to the defunct information department), public service and information management, systems and technology — in a revamped president’s office.

“The public service department is not being phased out, but moved to the office of the president,” the source said.

The commission recommended a new ministry — also in the president’s office — to oversee “one of the executive agencies”, another source said. It is believed that if this recommendation is accepted, the head of government communications and information department, Joel Netshitenzhe, could be in line to become a minister.

Its proposal to “strengthen” the president’s office was because of a “substantial lack of co-ordination and direction at the centre of government”, the source said.

The commission further proposed a “reconsideration” of the structure and location of certain units within the office of the deputy president. The proposed strengthening of the presidency would result in president-elect Thabo Mbeki effectively wielding more power than Mandela does.

The cabinet should be more directly involved in policy formulation and co-ordination across government as a whole, the commission said.

Presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlahla said Mandela would consult with the cabinet before making any decisions.

Mankahlahla scoffed at suggestions that the report might be buried. “We set up this commission as part of a process to perfect government.”

Public Service Minister Zola Skweyiya said if the recommendations resulted in a more efficient and effective government, he could see no reason why they should not be adopted.

Commission chairman Vincent Maphai warned that many of the recommendations would not be effectively implemented if “certain questions” surrounding the role of the offices of the president and deputy president

Continued on Page 2

Govt shake-up

Continued from Page 1

were not effectively dealt with.

“A radical reappraisal of the functions, structures, personnel and management of the office of the president, as well as the strengthening of its organisation and design is therefore recommended,” Maphai said.

He said there was a “black hole” in government when it came to co-ordinating departments’ activities.

The report focuses on four key issues: transforming the structures and functions of government; human resources management; budgeting, financial management and accountability; and information management, systems and technology.

Maphai said the commission recommended the “reorganisation and reconfiguration” of 10 ministries and agencies and their associated departments.

“We believe that a substantial reduction in ministries and departments is possible without compromising the work of government,” the commission said. It would also create a leaner and more efficient public service.

“Our review of the public service has brought home to us vividly how fundamentally flawed the machinery of government was which the first democratic government of SA inherited in 1994,” the commission said.

The commission commended government for subjecting itself, “so soon after assuming office, to an independent and rigorous examination”. However, too little had been done to remedy the inequalities of the past.

Although the constitution specified a maximum 27 ministries, it was not convinced of the necessity to fill all of them. It proposes methods of achieving a smaller, professional, highly skilled and well-paid public service without recommending a particular size.

Some of the main problems found to have hampered the reform process included a lack of: clear vision and strategic direction; skills and capacity; effective organisational arrangements; and appropriate strategic and co-ordination within and between the different spheres of government; and appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems to measure performance and policy outcomes.
Attack on N'Dumane denied

ARCHBISHOP: ANC leaders are not on the warpath. In his address to the nation on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, the archbishop was clear that there was no government clampdown.

FAMILY: The family of the late former president Nelson Mandela said on Wednesday that the ANC’s claim that the government had been clamping down on ANC members was a lie. The family said the ANC’s claim was a way to divert attention from its own failures and misdeeds.

THE TIMES: The family of the late former president Nelson Mandela said on Wednesday that the ANC’s claim that the government had been clamping down on ANC members was a lie. The family said the ANC’s claim was a way to divert attention from its own failures and misdeeds.

JOHANNESBURG: The Anglican Diocesan Council of Cape Town has informed the ANC that it will not be taking any action against the ANC’s claim that the government had been clamping down on ANC members.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1998

CT 4/98
Crackdown looms for lax ministers

AS EARLY as November cabinet ministers were informed of a crucial session of Parliament. Ten did not pitch up. JOVIAL RANTAO reports.

THE ANC Parliamentary caucus is expected to crack down this week on ministers who embarrassed the party by their absence from the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), forcing the postponement of Finance Minister Trevor Manuel's Adjustment Appropriation Bill.

ANC MPs are expected to call for the party's strict code of conduct and discipline to be implemented along with better co-ordination between the legislatures and the cabinet to avoid a recurrence of the last week's postponement of the debate.

The code of conduct was announced towards the end of last year by ANC chief whip Mr Max Shulze.

Shulze announced at the time that the ANC would crack down on ministers and MPs who showed contempt for discipline through unauthorised absence from the legislatures.

Guilty ministers and MPs would face dismissal from committees or Parliament, fines, blocking of promotion, loss of leave and travel privileges, suspending in the chamber and censure.

They also face being reported to President Nelson Mandela or Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

The crackdown would be part of major reforms aimed at improving the efficiency of ANC MPs in Parliament.

He said cabinet ministers would be forced to attend the questions and interpellations sessions, unless they have permission from Leader of Government Business Steve Tshwete.

The ministers also have to give explanations to the ANC's national executive committee (NEC).

Opposition parties have called for tough action against the guilty ministers. The Freedom Front has proposed that ministers who were absent from sitting without acceptable excuses should be fined 10% of their monthly salary for every offence.

NCOP chairman Mr Patrick Lekota last week expressed his unhappiness after 10 cabinet ministers — nine from the ANC — ignored his order to be present to take part in the debate on the Adjustment Appropriation Bill. He said the NEC would call on the ministers to account.

"Once a report of this is tabled, the NEC will be entitled to demand explanations on why they are not performing as they are expected to," Lekota said.

Almost all of the 23 ANC ministers are members of the 70-member NEC.

He said that at government level President Nelson Mandela, to whom he has turned for help, had the "full might" to deal with the matter.

"He can order a more serious approach to work and impose a strict regime," he said, adding that Tshwete would also have to elicit answers from ministers.

Lekota said he could not understand why the absent cabinet ministers had not made arrangement to attend the crucial sittings of the NCOP when they knew as early as November when the NCOP's plenary sessions would be held.

"I can't think of business that could supersede attending the work of Parliament. When Parliament requires a member's presence, they have to oblige. Not even the President can tell Parliament to wait. Last week's image has clearly dented the image of Parliament. Voters will have the right to ask how come Parliament is not operating as it should."

The cabinet has appointed Provincial Affairs and Development Minister Mohammed Valli Moosa to convene a meeting to discuss co-operation between the National Assembly, the NCOP and the executive.

Cabinet ministers who were absent but offered apologies are:

- Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma. She was called away to the Eastern Cape.
- Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan. He was overseas.
- Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mabola was in hospital.
- Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi was "out of the country."
- Arts Minister Lionel Mtshali was "attending a ministers' meeting in Pretoria."

Other ministers who were supposed to have been there for questions were Dullah Omar (Justice) and Sankie Mbhele (Mahanyele Housing).

Mohammed Valli Moosa (constitutional affairs), Jay Naidoo (telecommunications and broadcasting) and Sibusiso Bengu (education) were to have been present for the appropriation.
Plea for more researchers, 'system not viable'

JOVIAL RANTAO

THE eight researchers who serve Parliament cannot cope and chairperson of the research unit, Mr Firoz Khan, has appealed for more people to be appointed.

In a report tabled before the forum of chairpersons of committees in the National Assembly, Khan said the lack of personnel and resources impeded the unit's ambition to produce quality work.

He said one researcher worked with three to five committees, a system he described as "not viable". As a result, researchers were unable to serve committees in the National Council of Provinces. Heads of committees yesterday said they've had to depend on voluntary student researchers to do the work.

"We have eight researchers in comparison to 490 in the United States congress, 145 in Japan, 83 in the United Kingdom, 60 in both Australia and Canada," Khan said, before being rebuked by ANC deputy chief whip Mr Naledi Pandor for comparing South Africa to Western countries.

Heads of committees complained to Mr Ntedumbela Mokoena, chairperson of parliamentary committees, that they had no say in the appointment of researchers appointed to work for them.

"The relationship between committee chairpersons and researchers is unclear. We need to be clear about who is accountable to who. I would suggest that a sub-committee be established to work with the research unit," said Dr Blade Nzimande, chairperson of the portfolio committee on health.

Dr Mongane Serote, chairperson of the portfolio committee on arts, culture, science and technology, was unhappy with the situation.

"It's five years down the line and I'll be hard pressed to find a chairman who says he was happy with the service. There's no way that someone can work for a chairperson while the selection is done by someone else. I have to be the employer and work out the priorities."
Foreign Affairs director arrested on suspicion of contravening gun norms

Mozambique
Leon calls Yengeni 'liar' — ejected

JOVIAL RANTAO

DP leader Mr Tony Leon has become the first leader of a party since 1994 to be kicked out of Parliament.

He was ejected from the National Assembly yesterday after he had called ANC MP Mr Tony Yengeni a liar.

The drama started when DP MP Dr Bukelwa Mbulawa was tabling a notice of motion and DP whip Mr Douglas Gibson rose and objected to "a sexist and racist statement from Yengeni, who described Mbulawa as a token black".

When Yengeni denied calling Mbulawa a token black, Leon said he had heard the comments and called the ANC MP a liar and accused him of misleading Parliament.

The DP leader refused to withdraw the remark and was asked to leave the House.

In a statement later, Leon said: "It is a matter of deep regret that today I was forced, for the first time, to leave the chamber. The plain fact of the matter is that in the middle of attempting to interrupt and sabotage a motion by Dr Mbulawa condemning the ANC's attempt to create no-go areas for other parties in the Eastern Cape, Yengeni shouted across to me that Dr Mbulawa was a 'token black'."

"The fact that he denied using these words, just moments after trying to justify them, proves both his lack of respect for democracy and his complete lack of courage in defence of his own perverse convictions. Yengeni's conduct, and the fact that he was aided and abetted by the ANC backbenchers, has once again degraded this Parliament and brought democratic practices into contempt."

TALE OF TWO TONYS: Tony Leon and Tony Yengeni

Through the motion, Mbulawa called on the ANC to make an unequivocal statement to all Alliance members that statements and actions which tried to create no-go areas would not be tolerated. This follows recent action by ANC members in the Eastern Cape who allegedly threatened DP members trying to hold meetings.

Yengeni said last night that Leon had "got it all wrong — he must have heard someone else make that remark".

Leon's refusal to withdraw the insult was "testimony to the utter contempt he holds for Parliament and its rules", Yengeni added.
Now SA taxpayers will bankroll political parties

For the first time, taxpayers will fork out millions of rands for direct funding of political parties.

In terms of legislation approved last year, the funding will go only to parties represented in Parliament and provincial legislatures.

The Funding of Represented Political Parties Act provides for a formula to be devised to share out the money.

The act was inspired by a constitutional provision for funding to keep multiparty democracy alive.

This year funding will total R53-million.

Estimates are that it will rise to R66.5-million in 1999-2000 and to R61-million in 2000-01.

The Act sparked an outcry from parties outside Parliament, including the United Democratic Movement led by Bantu Holomisa and Roelf Meyer.

The UDM leaders said the direct funding of political parties gave an unfair advantage to parties already enscorched in Parliament.

Further legislation on support for parties outside Parliament is expected later.

As for individual politicians, there is good news for Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and his successor, to be appointed after the 1999 elections.

While the medium-term spending estimates peg the salary of the President at R550 000 a year for the next three years, they say the Deputy President's salary, currently R53 000 a year, will rise to R53 000 next year and R510 000 in 2000-01.

Budget for the salaries and allowances of office bearers and members of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces is set at R351 000 for this year, R375 000 next year, and R403 554 in 2000-01.
Row over 'token black'

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

Democratic Party leader Tony Leon, banned from Parliament for a day for refusing to withdraw a statement that African National Congress MP Tony Yengeni was a liar, said Mr Yengeni's conduct had degraded Parliament.

The row began after Yengeni was allegedly heard calling the DP's newest MP — Dr Bukelwa Mbulawa — a “token black”, while she was giving notice of a motion.

Dr Mbulawa proposed a motion, based on reported statements by ANC leaders that it would not be acceptable for opposition parties to canvass in “ANC areas”, calling on Parliament to condemn attempts by parties to create “no-go” areas.

Mr Leon claimed Mr Yengeni had interjected that Dr Mbulawa was a token black, a claim which Mr Yengeni rejected.

When Mr Leon refused to retract his claim, Deputy Speaker Baleka Mbete ordered him to leave the chamber.

Mr Leon said it was a matter of deep regret that for the first time in his career he had been obliged to leave the chamber.

“The fact that (Mr Yengeni) denied using these words, just moments after trying to justify them, proves both his lack of respect for democracy and his complete lack of courage in defence of his own perverse convictions,” said Mr Leon.

“His conduct and the fact that he was aided and abetted by ANC backbenchers has once again degraded this Parliament.”
Foreign affairs department to tighten its belt

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — The foreign affairs department will have to reduce missions abroad and rationalize staff following a cut in its budget of more than 7%.

In terms of the medium-term expenditure framework the department faces more stringent belt-tightening.


The budget review said:

These allocations require a rationalisation of several international missions and reduced numbers of transferred staff and locally recruited staff at remaining embassies.

The department's actual expenditure for the 1997/98 financial year, including additional appropriation and improvement of conditions of service, was R1,303bn. This has been reduced in the new budget to R1,211bn — a reduction of R92,209m, or roughly 7%.

With inflation, this means a real decrease of more than 12%.

In the 1999/2000 year it is expected the department's allocation will fall still further to R1,197bn, and to R1,154bn in the third year of the framework.

The cuts come at a time of more SA international activity, including Non-Aligned Movement chairmanship, access to the Loué convention and membership of the African, Caribbean and Pacific nations as per the Georgetown accord. These events will put more pressure on the foreign affairs budget.
McBride ‘ran from Mozambique police’

Pearl Sebolao and Pule Mothebeleli

SA FOREIGN affairs director Robert McBride was arrested on Monday afternoon while reportedly trying to flee Mozambican police on foot after allegedly trying to clinch an arms deal with a gun-runner, government sources said yesterday.

The Mozambican police, insiders said, had been monitoring the syndicate which was dealing in illegal weapons for more than a year. Sources said McBride was allegedly involved in a police trap after he held negotiations with a Mozambican middle man.

Mplealanga premier Mathews Phosa said on SAFM radio yesterday that McBride was not found to be in possession of weapons.

“McBride may have been involved in negotiations for arms ... this I picked up from my own sources ... if this is true, the Mozambican government will have to act within its own law.”

A senior foreign affairs delegation was dispatched to Mozambique yesterday to try to establish the circumstances surrounding McBride’s arrest.

Foreign affairs spokesman Marco Boni said the delegation was due to meet Mozambican authorities and McBride last night and today.

McBride was arrested in the small town of Ressano Garcia near the Lebombo border post.

The National Party and Democratic Party (DP) raised concerns yesterday about the involvement of the African National Congress (ANC) in the affair, saying the matter would be handled better by foreign affairs as it was inappropriate for political parties to involved in an international incident.

They condemned the involvement of Phosa in his capacity as ANC legal department head, questioning whether McBride was on an ANC mission when he was arrested. “The ANC owes SA an explanation as to why it is involving itself in this matter,” the DP said.

Phosa said he was not sent by the ANC to investigate the matter, but by the deputy president’s office. He was asked to investigate because of his proximity to Mozambique.

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) rejected statements attributed to Phosa which sought to link McBride’s “illegal activities” to the party. The IFP said it was not surprised about McBride’s arrest as “the ANC had for years smuggled arms from Mozambique for the express purpose of murdering its political opponents.”
Less gravy will sweeten the pot

William Makgoba advocates streamlining government operations by slashing the number of ministries

The proposed increase in the executive powers of the presidency, the stripping of two ministries and the amalgamation of some functions of 10 other ministries awaiting restructuring (as reported in the Financial Mail, March 8), are welcome small steps in transforming the government bureaucracy into a leaner and meaner machine.

However, these steps are not deep and fundamental enough to radically alter the cumbersome and outdated government structure that is totally unsuitable for our country. Government rationalisation needs a sharp axe that will lead to fewer ministries with coherent but concentrated programmes.

With the rising costs of servicing the civil service - 27 ministries - South Africans should ask one critical question: Do we really need all our current ministries, or was the current structure and organisation of government conceived for the transformation agenda and programme of the new South Africa or not?

If the answer is no, what are we doing to change this state of affairs, or is it going to be another case of "looking up to the hills whence the answer shall come"? Are there not many areas of convergence and complementarity that can be used as a basis to organise and restructure our government fundamentally, so that it becomes lean, mean, efficient, effective and appropriate to our set of constitutional principles and national priorities?

One does not need to be an Einstein to notice that a number of ministries or offices of government are more or less doing the same things, and there is much redundancy, duplication, cost and inefficiency within the system.

Some people would argue that we need more ministries in order to devolve and decentralise power. The history of ministries is that each tends to concentrate rather than devolve power; each tends to create a little empire and guard its territory jealously. As a result of this diffusion of power, loss of focus on the part of government becomes inevitable. On the other hand, some would cogently argue with supporting research evidence that too much bureaucracy is costly, inefficient and ineffective. Large governments in today's environment are poor at delivering.

Both arguments are acceptable and have some logic until you dig a little further below the surface. How are government ministries conceived? Why does a nation need to have a ministry of defence, health or finance, for example? Even further, what are the specific needs of each society so that it organises its citizens for its unique challenges?

The answer to these questions is that government ministries first and are born out of need (necessity is the mother of invention) and that each society should construct its ministries in accordance with its unique, but essential, needs.

If this line of reasoning is followed, one comes to the sobering conclusion that most of our ministries in South Africa are not what the country needs. They are redundant, unnecessary and simply an imitation of what happens somewhere else. They are a result of a compromise deal rather than a well thought out structure for a new beginning: a new country with a new agenda and programme.

As a result, some of our current ministries have become a problem and a contradiction rather than a solution to our national strategy and transformation process. As a nation, we have not sat down to conceptualise our ministries according to our national imperatives and agenda. We simply adopted the logic of the past regime and fitted it with names of our own.

While this fitted the logic of reconciliation during transition, it does not fit the major transformation agenda sweeping through the nation. Transformation of South African society in its entirety is the raison d'etre for the existence of this government.

Societies needed defence in the past because of imperialism. Nations needed to defend their territories and secure their citizens. Do all countries need this today? Certainly not, for the era of military colonialism is diminishing, to be replaced by information imperialism. So today's national defence is no longer simply military but also information and knowledge-power.

Equally, nations needed education as a ministry as it was central to participatory democracy, development and good citizenship. Do all countries need this today? They all certainly do. This leads one to the conclusion that there are primary and secondary ministries in any government.

Which are the ministries that are primarily needed in present-day South Africa, taking into account its needs for transformation, non-racism and non-sexism within a competitive global economy?

South Africa needs two types of primary ministries: those that are universal and those that specific to our context and developmental needs. All the other ministries would be secondary and should occupy levels of directorates within the primary ministries.

The universal primary ministries are education, health, finance, agriculture, justice and foreign. The local specific ministries for South Africa would be transformation, non-racism (human rights), non-sexism (gender) and quality assurance (co-ordination and monitoring). On this basis, our country would only have at least 10 ministries.

However, restructuring the present "white elephant" would be best done using the concept of clustering. A group of ministries would find a common core value that they all share. This would define the primary ministry.

Deputy ministers would not be necessary in such a model. The various components that share or are associated with the core value or competency would then become directorates within this primary ministry. For example, under the Ministry of Health, health, welfare, housing and population development become directorates.

Obviously, in the process of rationalisation, jobs, portfolios, lines of responsibilities, new capacity and accountabilities will be redefined and changed so that they are guided by the national imperatives, coherence, focus and coordination. Many of the current positions and responsibilities will fall by the wayside. Using this concept of clustering by core values/competencies, this is roughly how the future government of South Africa may look.

Twelve ministries and 15 deputy ministers could be immediately rationalised if departments were clustered in the following way:

- defence, safety and security, correctional services and justice form a common cluster whose core value is the maintenance of a just society;
- education, science and technology form a cluster whose core values are education and innovation;
- labour, trade and industry, minerals and energy, public enterprises, tourism and finance whose core value is wealth creation;
- foreign and home affairs;
- health, housing, welfare and population development form another cluster whose core value is the well-being or health of the citizen;
- agriculture and land affairs, water affairs and forestry and environmental affairs form a cluster whose core value is protection of the environment;
- provincial affairs and constitutional development, public service administration and public works - core values national governance and assets;
- transport;
- posts, telecommunications and broadcasting;
- sports, recreation and arts.

This rationalisation would bring the total number of primary ministries to 10.

The four new ministries (transformation, non-racism, non-sexism and quality assurance) already exist within the current government structures either as commissions or offices of co-ordination of government policy. Depending on how these four local specific imperatives are organised, South Africa would have at most 14 ministries and at least 12.

Obviously, by conducting a detailed analysis based on the core values and competencies of each ministry, such as that which has been conducted by the presidential review commission, one should arrive at a better informed clustering and reorganisaton. The fact that the commission suggested the rationalisation of only two ministries, indicates that either the process of review was not deep enough or we should wait to read the full report.

The advantages of clustering are:

- streamlining, coherence, co-ordination, cost-effectiveness, and are consistent with trends worldwide that cut costs, bureaucracy, duplication and inefficiency;
- defining competencies that are aligned to our national strategy;
- providing impetus for articulating new rules for the operations and functions of government ministries. These will bring coherence and much needed co-ordination to each cluster and ultimately into government.

The need to reconfigure government as we transform society, approach the millennium, face our unique social and national imperatives and enter the global information society could not be greater. By concentrating the gravy, making it sweeter but for fewer officers, we are more likely to end with a cost-effective, appropriate and relevant government model.

William Makgoba is professor of molecular immunology at Wits University and chair of the Medical Research Council.
McBride’s double life

Robert McBride was allegedly investigating the highway heists when he was arrested in Mozambique this week.

Wally Mbhele and Stefaans Brümmer report

Robert McBride, who was arrested in Mozambique this week for alleged unravelling, was apparently on a special undercover mission to investigate supply routes feeding the highway heists.

Senior African National Congress and government sources say McBride, a director in the Department of Foreign Affairs, was recruited into the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) late last year to help unmask the kingpins behind the robberies, which have resulted in losses of more than R100 million.

He is believed to have been on a mission investigating the heist gangs’ supply routes when he was arrested on Monday near the Rezana Garcia border post.

For some time now McBride’s position at foreign affairs, where he was responsible for South-East Asian matters, has been a cover for other activities. Early this year, the department acceded him as its representative to the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee (Nicos), which co-ordinates the country’s intelligence agencies.

McBride’s usefulness to the heist investigation stems from his previous contact, as an ANC operative in the early 1990s, with Umshonto weProspera (MK) cadres and ANC self-defence unit members on the East Rand, some of whom are now involved in heist gangs.

He trained self-defence unit members after he was released from prison — where he was facing a death sentence for the 1985 Magosa Bar bombing in Durban. He was released from prison after negotiations began between the National Party government and the ANC.

The country’s intelligence agencies, often accused of being in a state of chaos, have come up with little of substance to establish what lies behind the heists, which have become one of the country’s priority crime problems in recent months. There have been a number of arrests of suspects, including some former MK operatives.

However, the identities of the ring leaders still elude the police and intelligence agencies. The Inkatha Freedom Party and Deputy Minister of Intelligence Joe Nhlanguleni made wild claims of either the third force or the ANC itself being involved, but no hard evidence has emerged.

The arrest of McBride has fed the suspicions of those in the IIP, who have been claiming that the proceeds of the heists have gone into ANC coffers.

Senior ANC sources speculated that McBride’s arrest could have been a set-up. McBride has complained recently of hostility against him by old-guard members of foreign affairs, who dislike him because of the Magosa bombing. McBride is thought to have feared for his life and carried a side-arm to work.

Before he drove to Mozambique, where he allegedly negotiated with a gunrunner linked to the IIP, he is said to have met intelligence operatives in KwaZulu-Natal. The meeting was held to gather more information on the Mozambican gunrunner.

McBride’s wife, human rights lawyer Paula McBride, told the Mail & Guardian that she knew her husband had been involved in a number of investigations since 1993, but that she did not have details.

She said she was very angry at media reports linking him to heists, and that she could also “not imagine” he was involved in supplying arms to Frelimo, the East Timorese independence movement. She and her husband were both close to East Timorese leaders, though, as they feel passionately about the struggle in that country.

She said she would travel to Maputo on Friday in an attempt to see McBride and establish the truth, and found it “incredible” that South African officials have not had access to her husband, a diplomat in a foreign country.

A foreign affairs official confirmed on Thursday that the Mozambicans had not allowed access to McBride yet — the only brief contact was when South Africa’s high commissioner in Maputo was asked to identify him after his arrest. The official said the Mozambicans did not respect “constitutional niceties” when it comes to security matters.

McBride travelled on his diplomatic passport. Although his position at foreign affairs was not diplomatic in the strict sense of the word, he was entitled to the passport as a senior member of the department.

The passport gave him no diplomatic immunity in this case, though, as immunity only applies when the passport is used on official diplomatic business.

A foreign affairs official this week questioned McBride’s judgment in using the diplomatic passport to enter Mozambique, saying it makes the bearer “stand out like a red light”.

News reports said McBride tried to flee the scene before his arrest. Mozambican policeclaim to have caught him red-handed with AK-47 rifles as well as an unspecified amount of United States dollars.

McBride’s friends have pointed out his tendency to be "impatient" and get personally involved in matters when — because of his high profile — he should rather work from behind the scenes. If he was transporting arms on his arrest, it may imply he got involved in a more hands-on way than would have been prudent for an intelligence operative.
THE SEAT OF PARLIAMENT

We are marching to Pretoria (304A) P13/3/98

There are signs that the city is preparing for parliament.

The mystery surrounding the ANC’s reluctance to announce the relocation of parliament to Pretoria is beginning to clear.

It has less to do with the 1999 elections and being popular in the Western Cape than with writing new legislation and raising money. The Gauteng legislature has to pass a provincial Act to allow the province to toll roads so it can raise about R1bn to finance the proposed PWV9, to the west of Pretoria and central to the proposed Mabopane-Centurion corridor, intended to

promote small and medium enterprises.

Moving parliament and stimulating the local economy before improving transport links would worsen the congestion.

The new highway would provide an alternative link between Pretoria and Johannesburg and reduce the congestion along the M1 by 15%-20%. In what Gauteng Department of Public Works & Transport calls an “acceptable” solution in the medium term. Public transport and spatial development planners are working on a direct rail link as a long-term solution.

Most provincial and local officials in Pretoria are convinced that only a “formal” announcement of the move is awaited. A national Minister was recently quoted as saying it’s only a question of whether parliament moves “in or after 1999”.

Developer E G Chapman Group CEO Greg Swemmer says parliamentarians have been buying residential stands in its high-security estates in Centurion and Irene, south of Pretoria. One is Centurion Residential & Golf Club Estate, where stands, though “sold out”, can be bought from speculators for 30% more than the original prices.

Swemmer says Pretoria will become southern Africa’s Washington DC. “We’re looking at a lot of stock east of Pretoria as well as in Centurion and Irene. People want to be closer to the city, owing to traffic congestion — as well as to Midrand and the northern suburbs of Johannesburg.”

Swemmer reports “much quiet investment” in the city itself. He expects that as soon as the decision is announced, developers will target B- and C-grade buildings for companies that want to be near parliament. These buildings offer attractive yields of 17%-18%.

Shares in listed property companies with large holdings in the Pretoria area also deserve monitoring. They include those in the old Pretoria-based Tomkor group, which is heavily invested in the CBD, and Stocks & Stocks, which bought land from Sanlam in the Rosslyn industrial area, at the northern end of the corridor, three years ago. Sanlam’s industrial estate southwest of Centurion stands to make huge gains because the corridor runs through it.

Factors investors must consider are:

- The perceived preference by commercial and residential tenants for areas east and south of the city.
- Forthcoming announcements by motor and other industries, which will test Pretoria senior planner Henrik Kleyhans’s ability to draw investors to support the industrial, public transport and public housing plans along the Mabopane-Centurion development corridor.
- The new provincial Act, now in its initial stages of preparation. Construction of the PWV9 could start at the end of 1999, ac.
According to Gauteng Transport & Public Works chief director, Hartmut Hoffmann, a forthcoming PWV9 public participation exercise and environmental impact study.

A forthcoming PWV9 public participation exercise and environmental impact study.

An imminent policy statement by the Cabinet, inspired by the Public Works Department, to ensure government administration offices remain in or relocate to CBDs.

A decision by Pretoria City Council on whether to rebuild and occupy all of the old Munitoria Building or continue to lease an estimated 40 000 m² of privately owned A-grade office space beyond March 2000, and

The possibility that Johannesburg-based provincial departments will want to return to Pretoria when parliament moves.

"That could be Johannesburg's death-knell unless it comes up with an economic agenda as opposed to a political one," says Sanlam Properties CEO Basius van der Walt. "But it will no doubt increase efficiency." In the same breath, he says if parliament moves, "it'll be the best day of my career" — in Pretoria he will be able to dictate rentals rather than beg tenants to fill his buildings.

Alison Goldburg

HUDDLE PARK GOLF COURSE

That R49/year lease again

Will the latest scheme succeed?

Accusations of poor transparency and a lack of public consultation continue to dog the National Sport Council (NSC) involvement in Johannesburg council land. New proposals by the NSC for Huddle Park have received a wary response.

Residents have seen two earlier, grandiose schemes for the city's only municipal golf courses fail. Both were based on a R49/year lease for 99 years and contained a residential component, hotel and casino.

Residents say the problem is the council's divided approach to land privatisation. It seems to want it both ways — retain control, but avoid expenses. The council and the NSC say they want to turn Huddle Park into a golf centre that attracts tourism and promotes local golf development.

The NSC's Mvuzo Mbebe says the council has accepted his organisation's proposals in principle.

The council would grant the head lease to the NSC, which would sublet to a group composed of Malaysia's Namfatt Berhad and local consortium Samsonite, led by developer Vivian Reddy.

The project would cost R400m-R600m.

Locals fear the council will ride roughshod over their views. Raymond Druker, chairman of Huddle Park Environ Anti Degradation League (Head), says his committee insists on being consulted but the city council "ignores" them. "As far as we are concerned, the plan is a disguised housing development of about 340 units."

Head's counterproposals include a 400-bed hotel and retaining the three golf courses as a public amenity.

Roger Manning, who has run the Pro Shop at Huddle Park for more than 20 years and is also a Head representative, says residents plan to raise money through debentures. Their scheme would ensure a return of 7% of the gross income to the city council, in the range of R350 000-R500 000/year.

Manning contends there is no need for more elite golf courses. There are already plenty in Gauteng, and many are underused. "At weekends Huddle Park is crowded with enthusiasts who can have a round of golf at R35. All three courses are full," he says.

Melissa Whitehead, head of sustainable development planning at Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan Council, says that under a prior agreement negotiated by metro CEO Nicky Fadlaychke, the NSC proposals have priority. The council, she says, has requested an independent financial assessment of the Malaysian proposal. "Only if it fails flat will council look at other tenders," she says.

The proposals put forward late last year by the consortium include the upgrading of existing facilities at a cost of R1m. The council stipulates Huddle Park must remain an affordable public facility. A golf academy would be subsidised by the facility and open to disadvantaged communities. The council would continue to benefit from the increased rates and receive a percentage of the profits.

The council would keep control over the land and the NSC would maintain it.

Whitehead suggests the residents' counterproposals are amateurish. She points out that the developer has undertaken to upgrade roads near Huddle Park and confirms the housing is aimed at low- and medium-income earners and land for it sold.

Head's Druker says: "We don't want any sort of housing. The council's criteria do not accord with those of the local community." He also says the tender process has not been followed.

Local ward councillor Ray Wolde has arranged a public meeting to discuss the issue later this month. She is concerned about traffic that would be generated by the mooted housing development.

But Mbebe says residents' concerns have largely "been taken care of" and that "many support us. We scrapped the casino licence application, and the hotel will have 240 beds with a housing component on the east and west sides."

"We intend to explain the scheme to locals when it is given the green light," adds Mbebe. Too late, some would say.

Margot Cohen
Comparing corruption

New report challenges some myths

Despite its reputation, Africa is by no means the most corrupt region in the world, says academic Daniel Kaufmann in the World Economic Forum's 1998 Africa Competitiveness Report.

"In comparison with other regions ... Africa does not deserve to be singled out. The evidence of corruption in the former Soviet Union appears to be higher, as possibly does Central America. Africa is on average one notch below; on a par with Eastern Europe, South America and Asia."

Kaufmann says Botswana has the lowest levels of bribery, and SA fares "relatively well overall". He believes the most corrupt African states are Nigerin, Cameroon, Mozambique and Kenya.

Ugandan and Tanzanian respondents said there had been a fall in corruption over the past five years. But those polled in Ghana, Zambia and Morocco said they had seen a marked deterioration.

The good news is that reforming countries can start to control corruption "relatively quickly". The key is "a focus on fundamentals: strengthening rule of law, reducing State intervention, reforming trade, tax and exchange rate regimes".

FINANCIAL MAIL - MARCH 13 - 1998
MPs watch as power drifts away

Cabinet is where it is all happening these days

Only four years after the inauguration of SA's first nonracial, democratic parliament, the institution is under strain and facing credibility problems as power subtly shifts to Cabinet.

The final straw was drawn last week, when an exasperated National Council of Provinces (NCOP) chairman Patrick "Terror" Lekota and opposition party members protested that Cabinet members were treating the chamber as a rubber stamp.

In a dramatic move that went against the wishes of his fellow ANC members, Lekota postponed debate on the Adjustments Appropriations Bill of Finance Minister Trevor Manuel to a later date because six Ministers failed to arrive to answer questions in the chamber.

Reasons for the absences varied from illness to forgetfulness. Lekota was not amused. "When Ministers respond by coming to this house they are not doing me a favour. They are fulfilling their obligation under the Constitution.

"Certainly, none of us is prepared to be part of anything that appears to be a circus at the expense of the taxpayers' money," he said.

The crisis became even more pronounced this week when the Congress of SA Trade Unions, an ally of the ruling ANC, announced it would not participate in this year's Budget hearings organised by parliament's finance committee.

In terms of the Constitution, an act of parliament must provide for a procedure to amend money Bills presented to parliament. No such procedure is yet in place because Manuel's proposed legislation in this regard (the Money Bills Amendment Procedure Bill) was rejected by the Standing Committee on Finance, on the basis that it did not confer effective amendment powers to parliament.

"Cosatu questions whether the tabled legislation could have been considered to be in line with the letter and spirit of the constitution as it proposed to severely curtail — both procedurally and substantively — the role of parliament in overseeing money Bills such as the Budget," the trade union federation said in a statement.

These are not the first indications that things are not running as well as they should be between the executive and parliament. Last year, Ministers made a habit of not turning up in parliament, to the point that opposition parties threatened to boycott the traditional question time. At one point, nearly the whole Cabinet was over seas and there was no Minister to answer questions in parliament.

The Centre for Policy Studies' Steven Friedman says what "doesn't work terribly well are the formal institutions of parliament, like question time, sittings and procedures.

"This is simply because you have one party occupying 62% of the seats and, more importantly, everybody knows that the opposition is not going to win the next election."

Pan Africanist Congress general secretary Michael Muelande agrees. "There is a sense of complacency on the part of the ANC. They feel that 'we have arrived', and thus they don't take these institutions seriously enough."

The 90-member NCOP has shown the most weakness. Says Friedman: "The Senate in apartheid days was a place where old and useless politicians were sent to become voting cattle. Then we had the post-1994 Senate which turned out to be the same as the old one.

"The NCOP was supposed to be an improvement on that but it is not," he says.

Friedman believes the real potential of the NCOP could lie in its ability to transform itself into a chamber where members vote not on the basis of party position and directives, but on the interests of the provinces they represent.

There is more confidence in the committee system. On several occasions parliament's committees have displayed remarkable independence and have stood up against Ministers bent on ramming through legislation. This happened last year when the Welfare Committee forced Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi to increase welfare grants to children.

Muelande, however, is sceptical about the committee system, saying that while outside organisations often make strong inputs, most MPs do not work hard enough to make meaningful contributions. He says most meetings are dominated by a few highly educated MPs while others doze off or wait for lunch breaks.

And the committees' work may become more difficult in the future. This year's Budget will top R80 000 of each portfolio committee's budget.

In the National Assembly, sights of backbenchers staring down a long line of empty seats where Cabinet Ministers should be sitting are common. On Monday, for example, only three Ministers were present in the National Assembly. On days when Ministers do turn up, debate is mostly drowned in loud heckling that degenerates into chaos. Moments of probity and brilliance are few and far between.
Friedman says Cabinet has now become where it is all happening, and the two houses are no longer relevant to the Ministers.

But parliament’s Leader of Government Business & Sports Minister Steve Tshwete says there is absolutely no tussle for power between parliament and the executive.

“There has never been any serious hitch between the two arms of government. The ANC is in the majority in the National Assembly, in the NCOP and in Cabinet.

“Therefore you do not have a conflict of interest between them, they all pursue the same goals. The ANC fought for the sanctity of parliament and will protect the institution,” he says.

With regards to last week’s standoff in the NCOP, he says the problem was co-ordination. “The one major problem is that the NCOP is a new body and its cycles are not the same as those of the National Assembly,” he says, citing the fact that National Assembly members were doing constituency work last week while the NCOP had plenary sessions. “It could have been arranged better.”

He dismisses opposition party criticisms of the failure of Ministers to appear as no less than a manifestation of their agenda to see an increase in provincial powers.

Whatever the strengths and merits of the National Assembly, this year’s extraordinary amount of proposed legislation will test its abilities.

There are 150-170 Bills planned for this session, which ends in September. It is becoming increasingly doubtful that MPs will be able to deal with them all adequately.

In a Mail & Guardian interview last month, Martin Schonheit of the SA Institute of Race Relations warned the load of Bills and the short time in which to pass them was bad for the legislative process.

Tshwete says the legislative year could be extended beyond September. He says the NCOP will also institute a programme to fast-track certain Bills.

Friedman believes the parliamentary system could be improved through several structural changes, for example enforcing question time and other mechanisms.

He proposes scrapping the no-defection clause and allowing MPs more leeway to vote according to their beliefs rather than along party lines.

With the clock fast ticking to next year’s election, MPs will be looking towards the election campaign. So it is unlikely that parliament will soon regain the vociferous role it was expected to play only four years ago.

Justice Malala
McBride ‘supplied arms to guerrillas’

By Thembu Molele and Sapa

Speculation is rife that former MK soldier and a Ministry of Foreign Affairs director Robert McBride has been arrested for procuring arms in Mozambique for the East Timorese resistance movement, Frelimo, but this has been flatly denied by the movement itself.

According to sources in Mozambique, Frelimo representative in Maputo Mr Maria Alkatire denied that McBride, who was arrested in Resano Garcia on Monday, was negotiating to buy arms for his movement.

It is believed McBride, in charge of the Asia desk in Foreign Affairs, is a close friend of Frelimo leader Jose Ramos Horta and that he greatly sympathises with the movement’s cause.

Mozambican police were investigating the alleged involvement of McBride in an arms deal, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in Pretoria yesterday.

It said McBride had been using his diplomatic passport on an unauthorised visit to Mozambique when he was arrested on Monday afternoon. He was on leave at the time.

In a statement the ministry said Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Alfred Nzo was shocked at the news of McBride’s detention.

McBride is being held in police custody in Maputo. The ministry said deputy director-general Mr Abdul Minty visited Maputo on Wednesday to investigate the matter and reported to Nzo on Wednesday night.

“The legal process in Mozambique will take its normal course, during which the South African Government will maintain regular contact with the Mozambican government,” the ministry said.

McBride was on leave from Monday to Wednesday and was apparently on a private visit to Mozambique. “His visit was not authorised or known to the ministry.”

The outcome of a departmental investigation would be reported once it was completed, Foreign Affairs said.

Police spokeswoman Senior Superintendent Sally de Beer said earlier in the day that senior police officers left for Maputo on Wednesday to gather information about McBride’s arrest.

Describing this as a fact-finding mission, she said the police forces of the two countries had been in contact since the arrest. “As a result Assistant Commissioner Suiker Britz was sent to Mozambique on a fact-finding mission from a police perspective.”

Britz is the national head of murder and robbery, illegal firearms and special projects. De Beer said Britz was accompanied by a senior member of his team. It was not known when they would return.

Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday he would comment later.

Asked about the matter after signing an agreement with Russian Federation deputy chairman Mr Anatoly Kulikov in Pretoria, Mufamadi said: “I would be willing at some point to talk to you about the issue.”

The African National Congress said yesterday that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the appropriate agency to deal with the matter as McBride was one of its employees.

In a statement in Johannesburg ANC spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said if a crime had been committed, the legal process should run its course.

“Yet, those accused of any wrong-doing must also be presumed innocent until proven guilty,” he said.

During the struggle against apartheid McBride was sentenced to death, which was commuted to life imprisonment, for a bomb that killed five people in a Durban bar frequented by police.

He was granted amnesty by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for a full disclosure of his role in the attack and those who ordered it.

McBride was promoted to the rank of director in charge of the Asian desk in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last year.
Millions in taxpayers' money will be used to support political parties' administration

By Donald Pressly

Cape Town – Taxpayers will pay out altogether R170-million to fund the administrations of political parties which are represented in Parliament and the provincial legislatures.

According to the Budget Review, a total of R53-million will be allocated to the eight political parties this financial year.

This will be followed by R56.5-million in the next financial year and R61-million in 2000/2001.

Parliament passed legislation last year to enable political parties to maintain their administrative capacity as part of "democracy-building".

The parties in Parliament and the provincial legislatures are the ANC, the National Party, the Inkatha Freedom Party, the Freedom Front, the Democratic Party, the Pan Africanist Congress, the African Christian Democratic Party and the Minority Front.

Parties not represented in the legislatures do not qualify. United Democratic Movement co-leader General Bantu Holomisa said: "I don't think this augurs well to promote multi-party democracy if it excludes parties outside of Parliament.

"There must be criteria agreed upon for those parties," he said, pointing out that polls showed that the UDM was now the fourth largest party. "This system gives the other parties an unfair advantage."

Holomisa added that, in the longer term, foreign funding of political parties should be stopped to prevent undue influence. He pointed out that governments were particularly sensitive to this during the process of privatisation.

All parties in Parliament supported the legislation last year. – Parliamentary Bureau
McBride: smuggling probe

South African policeman also arrested in Maputo: Fivas awaits report from Brits

Britz, who heads the police's special investigations units, visited Mozambique to investigate the circumstances surrounding McBride's arrest.

McBride was arrested near the border town of Resano Garcia on Monday. Mozambican police have been investigating his possible involvement in illegal arms smuggling and ANC operatives who were bringing weapons to the conflict between the ANC and IFP.

Intelligence sources said yesterday that even the National Intelligence Agency had no knowledge of McBride's mission, thereby quashing the theory that he was investigating arms smuggling routes.

ANC sources earlier also discounted the possibility that McBride was involved in an investigation. Mathews Phosa, who investigated the incident on instructions of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office, said he had clearly been involved in an arms deal.

SA's high commissioner to Mozambique, Mangisi Zitha, has warned that McBride could be sent to Mashaba prison for an indefinite period if the judge investigating his arrest overrules a law requiring that detainees appear in court within three days of their arrest.

McBride was to have been interviewed by a magistrate yesterday. Zitha said that as far as he knew, McBride did not yet have a lawyer.

McBride is an assistant director in charge of the Asian desk at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He was sentenced to death for his role in planting a bomb outside Magogo's Bar in Durban in 1986. But his sentence was commuted and he was later released in terms of an indemnity deal between the NP government and the ANC.

McBride's wife Paula said from her Pretoria home last night: "There are 205 different stories going around ... I'm bored with all the hysteria from the media - if it were based on facts, I could understand."

She would fly to Maputo over the weekend to clarify the situation, she said.

Opposition parties in the National Assembly yesterday demanded McBride be suspended and that President Mandela appoint a commission of inquiry to investigate his alleged illegal arms dealing.

Giving notice of a motion in the National Assembly, NP foreign affairs spokesman Dr Boy Goldenhuyx said McBride's arrest was causing great international embarrassment.
R170 m state funding for political parties

DONWALD PRESSLY

TAXPAYERS will pay out R170 million to fund the administrations of political parties represented in Parliament and the provincial legislatures. According to the budget review a total of R53m will be allocated to the eight political parties in this financial year. This will be followed by R56.5m in the next financial year and R61m in 2000-01.

Parliament passed legislation last year to enable political parties to maintain their administrative capacity as part of “democracy-building”.

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"There must be a criterion agreed upon for those parties.”

He pointed out polls showed that the UDM was now the fourth largest party. “This system gives the other parties an unfair advantage.”

The general said in the longer-term foreign funding of political parties should be stopped to prevent undue influence. He pointed out that governments were particularly sensitive to this during the process of privatisation.

All parties in Parliament supported the legislation last year.
Unit will help ensure better government

By ESTELLE RANDALL

With so many new policies coming out of different departments and ministries, a special unit has been established to make sure government programmes are implemented effectively.

The Co-ordination and Implementation Unit (CIU) was established in Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office in January with a broad brief to "enhance policy co-ordination across Government," says the unit's head, Pundy Pillay, former head of the Finance and Fiscal Commission.

Pillay says the unit has defined this to mean three broad policy functions: information, co-ordination, and evaluation of policy implementation.

He says the unit, which will comprise 15 people when fully staffed, is small compared with what exists in other countries: Malaysia has 350 such advisers.

Pillay says of the CIU's size: "It will stay small and use resources that exist in Government, in the academic world and among non-governmental organisations."

He is adamant that the unit is not another layer of bureaucracy, there to police government departments.

"We're not Mbeki's watchdog," he says, although the unit will report directly to the deputy president, who will then decide what information to convey to the Cabinet.

"The unit has the potential to make a contribution to Government working better, to make more effective use of limited resources," says Pillay.

The idea of the CIU came to light in early 1996 when Mbeki appointed a team, headed by his economics adviser Moss Ngaosheng, to establish whether there was a need for some planning and co-ordination capacity across the Government.

The consensus was that there was such a need.

"The Cabinet looked at the report and suggested that what was not needed was a large central planning agency because a lot of policy development was happening in departments, and departments were very good at developing policy," Pillay recalls.

During the first half of last year, the Cabinet approved the establishment of a small unit to enhance policy co-ordination across the Government.

Besides its tasks of co-ordinating and evaluating government policy, the CIU will boost capacity in Mbeki's office.

"We will be providing an information flow to our political principals, in the first instance the deputy president," says Pillay. This routinely involves the analysis of cabinet memoranda.

"The deputy president is overloaded and he has a small policy team," Pillay adds.

Besides the CIU, the deputy president has four advisers - Ngaosheng on economics, Vusi Mximbela on politics, Mohanm Gumbi for legal issues and Mavivi Manzini for parliamentary issues.
Don't get me wrong. I am not an adherent of political correctness. I do not lack a sense of humour, nor do I believe that we should subvert everyday experiences and “realities”. I am merely recording that racism is entrenched itself deeper and deeper into everyday life in South Africa. And because the grand apartheid counter-punch of the anti-apartheid struggle is no longer available, racist thinking is having a much greater impact among ordinary South Africans.

One reason for the racism of everyday life is that the policy of the government is that the economy will be restructured to entrench racial and class divisions and thus give greater credence to those who think in racial terms. We are all aware of the arguments of the Democratic Party, which criticizes the ANC for “re-segregating” South Africa by introducing “racial quotas” into sport, teams, the labour market, and public service.

I do not agree with this analysis. It is superficial and in maintaining racial views in society. There is no radical Employment Equity Bill or affirmative action plan, matters in the country will be allowed to remain racially the same. Which, perhaps, suits the DP.

Yet what I do share with the DP is that the government policies are at the heart of the new racism. This is because the macro-economic policies are going to widen the divide between rich and poor in South Africa.

Of course, there will be a new black elite to orientally to the reverse, but there is also a descent to poverty of the majority of South Africa's working-class and poor population (which is also, not accidentally, black under Gear) who are going to widen racial divisions.

The sad thing is that this may well suit the new government which, Mugabe-style, will have easy (and possibly worthy) scapegoats on whom to deflect its misgovernance.

For me, the token measures taken in the interests of the lucky few black corporate climbers - real beneficiaries of affirmative action and the Employment Equity Bill - are far outweighed by the thousands of retrenched mine, metal and textile workers, who are victims of the ANC’s neo-liberal economics.

The trouble with the ANC’s re-segregation of the labour market is that it does not go far enough. It does not protect the jobs of black workers at the expense of white profits, nor does it enable a better life for the disadvantaged by increasing social spending.

In being half-hearted and tokenistic, the ANC’s legislative affirmative action is no better than the smoke screen of re-segregation does more harm than good. It disillusions and confuses precisely the kind of fightback from workers that the ANC and others are all too readily expect under conditions of capitalist advancement.

Cyril Ramaphosa, Mzi Khumalo, Nhato Motlana.

Motlana dress up their entry into the business world as “black empowerment”. What is ignored by the media and themselves is that they are using their influence in the same way as the white man does, and often at the latter’s request.

For every Motlana who is empowered, thousands of black people become disempowered. Motlana might take over a mine or two, but thousands of black miners are retrenched by them to make the operation a financial success. And because it suits the black elite to label its ascension into monopoly capitalism as ‘racial empowerment’, it covers up these aspects.

But, as any reader of psychology knows, whatever is repressed always returns to haunt you. Having elevated race to a level worthy of administrative notice when an Mzi Khumalo fails it cannot be seen in any way.
n a recent cricket test between South Africa and Pakistan, a banner was flashed across the TV screen. Poking fun at Pat Symcox, it read "Symcox the Missing Link", and above these words an image was drawn of an ape, then a forward-bending Neanderthal, then Symcox, then a black man with a bat followed by a white man with a bat as the most advanced end of the chain. The racism inherent in the banner was stark, but it was shown without any criticism.

Earlier, during the cricket tour to Australia, Shanni Pollock was asked about life in Australia: "It's a great place to tour. It's like home," he said. And Jonty Rhodes said: "I like the orderliness of the place, the cleanliness and the fact that everything runs on schedule. There's no such thing as African time! Everything happens the way it's supposed to happen.'

These comments were made directly after the South Africans visited India and Pakistan, where the complaints about almost everything were endless - bad conditions, icy water, difficult living and gamesmanship were the usual refrain.

Certainly not like home. For Pollock, home would have been the private school, the fancy house in the suburbs, five-star hotels and restaurants - the cocooned First World of white South Africa. For Pollock there is no other South Africa. And when he says Australians are "pretty much like South Africans", he obviously means white Australians and white South Africans, as if the rest don't exist.

Rhodes, too, is most revealing about his place in the class hierarchy of the new South Africa. What exactly does African time signify for Rhodes? The maid coming late for work?

As for efficiency, it appears this compliment is reserved for the First World. In one of the test matches in Australia, when the lights were out, the game had to be stopped for a while. That was a mere mishap.

The same incident on the subcontinent provoked exaggerated anger, conjuring something deeper about habits, decay and inefficiency.

The list of double standards in (social) commentary is endless. Imagine if the hit-wicket incident had happened in Pakistan?

Of course there is South Africa's first new international cricketer, Makhaya Ntini, to complicate proceedings. He is black and from an underprivileged background. Perhaps he is the exception to the rule? Not so. "He needs time to fit in... finally he has fitted in," says Cronje of the black protege - and he wasn't referring to Ntini's cricketing form.

Would H D Ackerman need time to fit in? Surely not... his father was a top player, his pedigree secure.

I am pointing here to something many of my friends and colleagues sense about the new South Africa. That is, the level of racism in our country, overt or unexamined, is higher than ever.

During the days of the anti-apartheid struggle, in general,
other way but through racial lenses.

Unlike the individual failure of a white man, this is a failure of blacks in general, giving rise to jokes and stereotyping. The same is even truer lower down the hierarchy, where race is foregrounded in public discourse.

The Government, espousing a rhetoric which proclaims it has done so much for black people in particular – it has granted subsidies, upgraded roads, laid on water, drawn up employment laws – but which then fails to create the conditions for their real collective advancement – to create jobs, build schools, and provide hospitals and bantustans – places those who are struggling in an invidious position.

Because they are the recipients of formal advantages (legislative) but are forced to operate in a hostile terrain in which these advantages can seldom be realised, the inability of most South Africans to attain the "better life for all" is going to be a matter of great ambivalence. They will be the ones to blame, and not the Government.

What is reprehensible about this situation is not only the stereotyping of blacks as lazy, incompetent, prone to poverty, and unable to hold down jobs or benefit from government patronage, but it also removes big business from any complicity or responsibility for the poverty and marginalisation endemic to township life.

Other minority groups, forced to think of themselves as minorities more and more, so racial categorisation increases both formally and informally, will also use race as the prime explanation for their woes or successes. It is also probable the difficulties experienced by black people will be projected on to these minorities.

The first time Makhaya Ntini gets whacked for 70 runs in an international, people are going to wonder: is it his failure as a cricketer? is it blacks being led into the side too soon, was it the good batting of the opposition? The answer will depend on your take on race politics.

What is sure, however, in contrast to the DF's line, is that the affirmation of Ntini is undesirable, not because the ANC is reintroducing racism but because the ANC is not creating the conditions for a hundred Ntinis to advance, in their own properly resourced schools.

And when Ntini "fits in", it is only because he has received the tuition only the elite can afford. This is the current model of empowerment that keeps race in play while keeping race at bay.

It is incredible that in the last bastion of institutionalised racism there is so little focus on this phenomenon. In South African academia there is an embarrassing silence on racism as if no one wants to draw attention to the fact that buss is still wearing the nicest clothes. Even the Truth and Reconciliation Commission explains the past overwhelmingly in terms of Individual, evil, psychotic men who ran amok.

It does not reveal the true workings of the apartheid system, which so twisted our psyche that ordinary people were able to do the most extraordinary
Criminal or hero - was it childhood trauma that catapulted Robert McBride into acts of crime and violent resistance?

Controversy is his middle name. And once again Robert McBride has landed in the public eye with allegations of gun-running and shootings around his neck. Who is this man who courts outrage by one sector of society and heroism by another? We investigate.

Robert McBride has led a life dogged by controversy and collects labels like a teenage rugby player from that he calls "the smug of Wentworth," he was derogatorily called "a bushy" by whites in his club. He hated being given this raciol label but he understood his role in fighting against Apartheid - a decision that set his life on the path of violent resistance.

And although nearly 12 years have passed since he made the bomb that killed three people in Durban, he has never been able to shake off the label that he was "the man who planted Magoo's bomb."

Now he has another label that he is looking to fight, "Gunrunner."

He was allegedly caught red-handed with a cache of AK-47s at a squatter camp inside the Mozambique border, after taking leave from his position as head of the Asian desk in the Department of Foreign Affairs. His controversial history is rooted in South Africa's turbulent past and it is useful to explore the context and environment in which he was forged.

"A perfect country with a madman in it," is the way he thinks the media saw him, but to understand McBride one has to read the tape of history to the South Africa of the mid-80s.

A state of emergency had been declared, clamping down on all forms of legitimate political activity in the country. Many of McBride's friends were detained indefinitely in solitary confinement. South Africa's human rights record was an abomination to the world.

The declaration of the state of emergency had a profound mental effect on McBride, who saw it as a declaration of war upon his people. He felt compelled to make a statement to say, "We are in a situation of war, people are being detained and killed."

McBride's anger had deep roots. He first became aware of inequality in the country as a young child. His wife Paula reportedly said: "Robert is a quiet person, but there is a terrible anger in him. Once he told me his first memory was of hatred. He was just a little boy. It was at the Zoo Lake. There were a whole lot of goldfish in buckets and he saw other little children looking at them and twirling their fingers in the buckets. So he went and did the same. Then this big Africaner got up and kicked and screamed at him that he was not allowed to do that because he wasn't white. Robert says his memory was of complete shock. If you can create anger at that age, that is what it is all about."

It was the rejection by whites that made him embrace the black liberation struggle. He had a history of non-violent political activism before he turned to violent struggle. Then he slipped across the border to Botswana where he received explosives training and became a member of the ANC special operations division.

He built up a large cache of arms and explosives in Durban and took orders from Umkhonto weSizwe, the ANC's armed wing.

Although he has reported to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he has never come to light to be caught in the act of killing someone.

He was 22 years old when he made the Magoo's bomb.

His original intention had been to attack the Hyperama in central Durban. But he said he was persuaded by an acquaintance, Matthew Leacoed, who later turned state witness, to rather focus on the Magoo's bar, which he knew was frequented by policemen and soldiers and was therefore a "military target," in his view.

He bought a car and parked it, loaded with 20kg of explosives taped to bullets and iron bars as shrapnel, outside a packed beachfront hotel on a Saturday night. The explosion killed three young women - Angeline Pattenden, Marlene Gerrard, and Julie van der Linde - and injured about 100 people.

A month later McBride was arrested and sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment during the negotiations that led up to South Africa's democratic elections.

F W de Klerk released him as "a bold gesture of reconciliation" before the peace summit with Nelson Mandela in October 1992. McBride was later granted amnesty by the TRC after making a full disclosure of his part in the bomb attack and those behind it.

After his release on indemnity, he became the head of the ANC peace desk in Gauteng, but he argued that the band of reconciliation was never handed to him.

His reputation clouded his ability to wipe the slate clean.

When it was mooted that he should get an ambassadorial position, an anti-McBride campaign was launched by survivors of the blast.

But while he was seen as a destructive force by one sector of society, another sector regarded him as a hero for his contribution to changing the country. In Gauteng his popularity was reflected by a high ranking on the ANC's list of candidates, and he was elected as an MP to the regional parliament for a year before moving to the National Assembly.

He resigned as an MP to undergo diplomatic training and was appointed as deputy director-general in the Department of Foreign Affairs. This also caused waves and a campaign was started against him by victims of the blast to have him sacked.

His promotion to the rank of director last year also drew sharp criticism from opposition parties.

For some of the victims, the pain of the blast has not been lessened by the passing of time. The sister of Marchelle Gerrard, Sharon Weggsoed, said her opinion of McBride's moral stature was vindicated by the news of his arrest.

"He has allegedly committed another crime. He's not a hero, he's a criminal. He took innocent people's lives and got blanket immunity in a deal with the National Party. Now he has allegedly been involved for two years in gun-running."

Weggsoed said she opposed McBride's amnesty application, which is due to be heard later this year.

Her views are diametrically opposed to those of Part Bask of the Gender Commission.

He said: "At this stage we don't know the truth or otherwise of his involvement. There is nothing intrinsically wrong in weapons smuggling, but the point is, no no, it is not..."

"I don't think that irregularity he may have breached in the department should allow people to forget his enormous contribution in the struggle."

Escal'd: "Unfortunately we live at a time when memories are short and knives are long."

ROBERT McBRIE: "Twelve years after the Durban beachfront attack, he still can't shake off the label he earned as "the man who planted the Magoo's bomb."

PHOTOGRAPH: Themba Hadebe
Anger born out of hard times

MICHAEL SCHMIDT

ROBERT McBride was born 34 years ago in the impoverished coloured suburb of Auster-
ville in southern Durban.

His father, Derek, is a former activist and a fiery critic of the ANC he used to belong to,
and which his son has joined.

The family home is a humble brick building
identical to its neighbours.

He has two sisters, Bronwyn and Gwyneth, who work in Johannesburg.

As a teenager, McBride’s anger at injustice
was fanned by the detention of several of his
friends during the states of emergency in the
80s. He became a United Democratic Front
activist, later joining Umkhonto weSizwe and
undergoing training in Botswana.

He developed a reputation among his com-
nodes for calculated aggression and returned
to Durban, where he prepared arms caches.

He was only 22 when he led the MK cell
which bombed the Why Not and Magoos
bars on the Durban beachfront on June 14
1986. The bars were frequented by off-duty
soldiers and policemen, but three civilian
women — Julie van der Linde, Marchelle
Gerrard and Angelique Pattenden — were
killed instantly.

McBride was arrested a month later and spent
two months behind bars. The sentence
was then commuted to life.

On May 22 1989, he married his wife, Paula
Leydon, a human rights lawyer, behind bars.

They were allowed only 40 minutes together
after their wedding — under the eyes of a
warder. They now have three children: twins,
a boy and a two-year-old daughter.

Paula McBride, who led the campaign to
free her husband, now begins a second battle
for his freedom. But she faces a much sterner
task as he could be detained for months with-
out a charge being laid.

It is not known how long McBride will be
detained in Maputo. Mozambican police say
“investigations are continuing”.

Days before McBride was released from
Westville Prison in September 1992, while
prisoners tried to kill him, he escaped unharmed.

After his release, he worked on the ANC’s
PWV peace desk and as a bodyguard.

He was elected as a Gauteng MPL, before
moving briefly to Parliament. He resigned as
an MP to join the diplomatic corps and was
appointed director of the Department of For-
Eign Affairs’ Southern Africa desk.

McBride and former members of his cell,
like Greta Alegren, are expected to testify at
the truth commission’s amnesty hearing on
the Magoos’ bombing, at a date to be set.

Dad in ‘bad mood’ but mother calm

MICHAEL SCHMIDT

ROBERT McBRIE’s fiery former
activist father, Derek, was in a
“bad mood” this week and
refused to talk about his son’s
arrest in Mozambique.

Speaking from the family home
in Austerville, Durban, Doris
McBride said her husband was
“refusing to speak to anyone at
the moment; he is in a very bad
mood”.

McBride snr, who has a strong
dislike for the media, resigned
from the ANC in a huff shortly
before the 1994 elections after
denouncing the party that sidelined
him.

His wife said the family had
been expecting her son in Dur-
ban on Tuesday, March 3, to visit
a cousin who was in hospital.

“But he never turned up. We
weren’t worried because we
know he is very busy. I had no
idea he visited Mozambique.

“We don’t know anything more
than what we’ve heard in the news.
We are waiting for Paula,” she
said, referring to McBride’s wife.

“We have faith that she will leave
no stone unturned.

“We’ve read all sorts of things
about Robert’s arrest, but I don’t
think this is a trap set by his old
enemies — don’t ask me why.

He would never do anything
against the ANC. He’s too loyal.”

She said she was concerned
about her son’s welfare in a
Mozambican cell and was not
convinced he would get a fair
trial in that country.

“There, if you just look at a
gun, they say you are dealing in
arms.”

McBride has asked officials for
an asthma pump. His mother
said he had contracted the
ailment while in jail for the
Magoos’ Bar bombing.

Before meeting her husband in
Maputo on Friday, Paula McBride said: “I know my
husband. I know what he will do
and what he won’t do.”

“U is very politically driven
and would never get involved in
any criminal activities — and
that is the reason I feel relatively
relaxed about all this.”

She said she had not yet spoken
to the ANC’s legal depart-
ment, but had chatted to Mau-
malanga Premier Mathews,
Phosa, an old family friend.

WORRIED: Doris McBride,
Robert’s mother
The official caught on ‘unofficial’ business

Police lay in wait after monitoring repeated visits to Maputo

ROBERT McBRIEDE is no stranger to the dusty streets of Maputo. Using his diplomatic passport, he has passed through the Mozambican capital three times in the past three months.

Not once was South Africa’s high commissioner in Maputo aware that the high-ranking foreign affairs official was in the city. But it emerged this week that Mozambican police had been secretly monitoring the former Umhontondelele Ziwze commander’s movements. His visits to the city of peri-peri prawns and crumbling apartment blocks were being closely watched.

He first visited in December. In January he was back, supposedly to attend a meeting of the Southern African Development Community, but the police never saw him at the gathering. Last Saturday he returned. But on Monday police set a trap that would net him and another South African, Vusi Mbetha.

The police lay in wait at the apartment of a Mozambican allegedly linked to gun-running, Alexandra Mamba. McBride arrived in his swanky Nissan 4x4, followed by Mbetha in a taxi. According to Mozambican police investigators, Mbetha told a man who answered the door of the apartment that he wanted to buy weapons “for the man in the car”, pointing across the road.

The police swooped, arresting Mbetha and the taxi driver. When McBride saw this, he allegedly fled to the South African High Commission in central Maputo.

If he had been on official business, he could have had his passport endorsed, granting him diplomatic immunity. But he only left a message for a close friend who works at the commission, Thando Nyawoza.

McBride then set off on the hour-long trip to the South African border, where he had built up a friendship with officials. But police were waiting for him at the Mozambican border town of Ressano Garcia.

When they asked if he had anything to declare, he showed them the $11 000 (nearly R5 000) he was carrying. He was arrested and held at the town overnight, and was sent back to Maputo on Tuesday. Before notifying South African diplomats of their sensational arrest, police took a high commission official to identify McBride.

South Africa’s Department of Foreign Affairs said McBride was on leave at the time of his arrest and was not on official business in Maputo.

The lack of information about the alleged deal and the circumstances surrounding his arrest has sparked off a number of theories. Mozambican investigators believe the arms were to have been shipped to KwaZulu Natal, but the burning question remains: if McBride was buying arms, for whom were they destined?

Claims that he may have been involved in an undercover operation to probe the supply of arms to “heists” gangs have been denied by South African Police Commissioner George Fyaz and National Intelligence’s Joe Nkhila.

Another theory is that he may have been buying the arms on behalf of the East Timorese resistance movement, Frelimo. McBride, who is in charge of the Asia desk in foreign affairs, is a close friend of Frelimo leader Jose Horta, but the organisation’s representative in Maputo, Maria Alkarire, has denied any link to the alleged arms deal.

All that Mozambican police are prepared to say is that investigations are continuing and that other South Africans could be arrested.

Assistant Commissioner Suki Britz, who heads up the national team investigating illegal firearms, and a three-man team left Maputo yesterday.

Britz declined to discuss his investigations, but the high commissioner to Mozambique, Mangi Zitha, said Britz had been invited by Mozambican police to co-operate in the investigation.

Zitha said he did not believe McBride’s arrest would affect South Africa’s relationship with Mozambique.

Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo ordered an investigation into the case soon after McBride’s arrest and Abdul Minty, the deputy director general of the department, was sent to Mozambique to reassure the Mozambican authorities that South Africa was prepared to work with them “until the truth comes out.”

Mbetha (aka Vusi Madida) claimed to be a South African policeman, but this has been denied by the police service.
McBride: I’m on it

Denies smuggling weapons to anyone

CHALLENGED Robert McBride has spoken out for the first time since his arrest on allegations of gun running. Speaking from his tiny cell at Maputo’s Mashaaba Maximum on Friday night, McBride explained for bringing shame to his homeland and declared: “I was acting in the national interest.”

South African high commissioner to Mozambique, Mangisi Zitha, who was in town to meet McBride, also confirmed McBride had denied smuggling weapons “to South Africa or anywhere else”.

Zitha said: “He said he was on a mission to prove that a South African gun-runner was still operating in the country.”

McBride’s wife and a lawyer told City Press yesterday that McBride had denied smuggling weapons “to South Africa or anywhere else”.

Zitha said: “He said he was on a mission to prove that a South African gun-runner was still operating in the country.”

McBride’s wife and a lawyer told City Press yesterday that McBride had denied smuggling weapons “to South Africa or anywhere else”.

South African and ANC officials have distanced themselves from McBride, who will need more than a miracle to resurrect his political career even if he is not convicted.

Throughout the saga, the South Africans made it clear that the former guerrilla, now a deputy director in the Foreign Affairs Department, was on his own.

ANC legal advisor and Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa went as far as urging the Mozambican and South African law to “take its course”.

Intelligence chief Joe Sibanda addressed the media and said McBride was never an intelligence operative.

Opposition parties in South Africa seized the opportunity to wade into the ANC, calling for McBride’s immediate suspension.

A conservative newspaper editorial said whatever the merits of the allegations, the arrest confirmed the newspaper’s ‘bias view that he is not diplomatic material.”

HIGH DRAMA ... South Africa’s High Commissioner Mangisi Zitha sheds light on the issue at a press conference in Maputo on Friday.

WHEELING AND DEALING ... Robert McBride’s 4×4 vehicle in a parking bay at the Mozambican ministry of the interior in Maputo, and above, the green doors of the Mashaaba jail behind which McBride waits for his fate to be decided as the diplomatic wrangle plays itself out. ■ PICS: BEELD
ny own

(304A) CP 15/3/98

'Struggle hero' out on a limb in Mozambique

By CHARLES MOGALE

ROBERT McBride must be the loneliest man in Mozambique this week.

After his arrest on Monday, he has been allowed only one visit - a late
night Friday call by his wife, Paula,
a family lawyer and South African High Commissioner to Mos-
ambique, Mangal Zitha.

Earlier in the week, the South Af-
rican government washed its hands
of him and made it clear that he was
on leave and on his own when he
was arrested.

There was no governmental inter-
vention, and not even an attempt to
see him, until Friday night's visit
which was apparently timed to give
the press the slip.

In a surprise move, the High Com-
misssioner's Consular Eben Jordan
giving a radio interview was inter-
rupted by a telephone call from the
Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria instructing him not to talk
to the press.

Radio 702's crime editor Yussaf
Abrajee was ordered to switch off
his tape recorder and asked to leave.
This un-New South African move
was a case of doing in Rome as Ro-
mans do.

Local police chiefs too have hardly
been helpful.

On Thursday Beeld photographer,
Lee Warren was held by the police
for about 45 minutes, interrogated
by several police chiefs, for taking a
picture of McBride's impounded
Nissan 4x4.

It was only after Abrajee's im-
pasioned plea of ignorance of local
laws that Warren was released.

For McBride, the future looks
gloomy. After his December 1986
bombing of Mazoo's Bar, he became
a "struggle hero" while most white
South Africans considered him a
cold-blooded murderer.

McBride was convicted and sen-
tenced to death, which was later
commuted to life imprisonment. He

was later released in a Nat govern-
ment deal with the ANC on the re-
lease of political prisoners.

McBride has since apologised
profusely for the bombing, saying
he had targeted the bar because it
was frequented by apartheid secur-
ity force members.

He was elected to parliament on
an ANC ticket, but later relinquish-
ed his seat for a more glamorous
career in the Foreign Affairs De-
partment.

As he rose in the ranks, he was
not ruled out for a future career as a
fully fledged diplomat - or even
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

That was until he tried to play
super detective in his spare time -
when he should have been at home.
call to top cop
Engelbrecht would neither confirm nor deny this yesterday.

However, intelligence sources said Engelbrecht had tried twice in the past 10 days to meet McBride, but on both occasions the foreign affairs official did not turn up.

The arrest of McBride — who was sentenced to death for the magoo's bombing in Durban in 1986 but subsequently released in an amnesty deal — has sparked a political outcry and myriad rumours, most of which have been emphatically denied.

McBride told his wife, Paula and the South African High Commissioner to Mozambique, Mangisi Zitha, that he was on a personal mission to investigate arms smuggling from Mozambique to South Africa when he was arrested this week.

They spent about 30 minutes with him in his small prison cell in Maputo on Friday evening.

Paula McBride, who returned to South Africa yesterday afternoon, explained that the man arrested with her husband, Vusi Mbathe, had given evidence about gunrunning to the Goldstone commission.

She said her husband had made an error in conducting an investigation into gunrunning on his own. He had done so because he had felt he could get the cooperation of people who were not prepared to speak to the police.

Earlier, Zitha said McBride had told him that he was not involved in gunrunning and had not criminal intention when he visited Mozambique.

McBride, who Zitha said appeared relaxed and in good health, had denied he had been fleeing police when he was apprehended near the border.

He said the visit was in his private capacity, and that he was investigating arms smuggling by a convicted arms smuggler, Zitha said.

McBride had explained that he had met arms dealer Sipera Mamba (for whom a warrant of arrest has been issued) to confirm that the illegal arms deals were continuing.

McBride told Zitha his investigation was in preparation for a Southern African Development Community meeting on cross-border crime to be held in Mozambique on March 30.

"He said he wanted to make an input into this meeting," McBride said he was operating independently of the South African authorities and had a structure set up in South Africa. Zitha could not, however, recall the name of the structure.

He said McBride had explained his rushed visit to the South African high commission on Monday after allegedly being trapped by Mozambican police during the alleged arms deal.

"He said he went to the commission to look for his friend, Thando Nyawoza, but left a note when he discovered Nyawoza was on leave," Zitha said McBride had apologised for bringing South Africa into disrepute and for the problems his arrest had caused.

The prisoner had told him he had been visited on Friday by a Mozambican judge who had interviewed him and taken statements.

The judge has 40 days to investigate McBride's involvement in the alleged illegal purchase of weapons before a decision is made on whether to lay charges against him.

McBride's denial and version of events contrast strongly with claims by Mozambican police, who are investigating his alleged involvement in a bid to buy a consignment of AK47 rifles and other weapons. They say he was arrested after fleeing from the scene of the alleged offence.

Joseph Ngobeni, spokesman for Police Commissioner George Fivaz, said yesterday that he was not aware of the attempts to arrange a meeting between Engelbrecht and McBride.

Engelbrecht's boss, Assistant Commissioner Sakele Britz, was sent to Maputo this week and Ngobeni said he was on a general investigation. However, intelligence sources said Britz's visit was connected to McBride's arrest.

Britz was quoted in Rapport newspaper as saying that there was little doubt that McBride was a gunrunner.

He said he had seen the information the Mozambican police had on McBride. "In a South African court that would be more than enough to put a criminal behind bars for a long time," he said.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad yesterday requested a meeting with the Mozambican government to discuss the McBride issue.

How they caught McBride: Page 4
Major damage control exercise by the South African Government is underfoot over the international fallout caused by the arrest of senior Foreign Affairs official Robert McBride in Mozambique last week.

A high-powered delegation consisting of Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Aziz Paah is due in Maputo within days as Government moves to resolve the issue go into top gear.

The visit follows a lightning visit by Foreign Affairs deputy director-general Mr Abdul Minty on Wednesday during which Mozambicans were assured of South Africa’s support for their investigation.

McBride’s wife Paula told Monitor yesterday after seeing her husband in the Maputo jail on Saturday that she had also pledged her cooperation with the Mozambican authorities “because I know what he was doing”.

She was full of praise for the way in which the Mozambicans were treating her husband and said South African prison officials could learn from them.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Alfred Nzo, who last week expressed shock at McBride’s arrest, is expected to address Parliament this Wednesday to stem the tide of opposition parties’ criticism of Government.

He will explain to the nation what one of their top officials was doing near known gunrunners in a neighbouring country.

McBride was arrested by Mozambican police on Monday afternoon on suspicion of involvement in gunrunning. He has not been charged and may remain in jail for at least 49 days in terms of Mozambican laws.

Last hope

Mufamadi and Aziz’s visit is seen as particularly significant as McBride is supposed to have been investigating gunrunning from Mozambique to South Africa. Many see the visit as the last hope for McBride to get out of jail.

Mufamadi’s spokesman Mr Andre Martin said no date had been set for the meeting in Maputo.

“We are waiting for the Mozambicans to come back to us with a date and time,” he said.

However, confusion still reigns over what McBride was doing in Mozambique and for whom.

His wife maintains that he was making investigations into gunrunning in the region in preparation for a conference on gun smuggling and money laundering within the Southern African region.

He did the investigation “alone but with the knowledge of a South African structure”. However, Paula refuses to say which structure this was.

There are at least two possibilities that have been bandied about:

- That as a member of the National Intelligence Coordinating Committee representing foreign affairs, McBride may have come across information about gunrunning which he decided to follow up on his own without sanction from any official body.

But if this was for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) conference as Paula says, it would suggest that this was official. It would also suggest that his ministry would have known about the investigation as he would need their sanction to attend and provide a report to a conference dealing with issues not related to his Asia desk; and

- As a member of the ANC security department, he may have been sent by the organisation to investigate the gun smuggling routes following the links drawn between the organisation and the heist of large sums of money by armed gangs.

The arrest made it impossible for the ANC to admit the links, but the organisation will now use Government structures to extricate their man out of the logjam, hence Mufamadi’s visit.

The fact that McBride has also said he was acting on his own is seen as indicative of the impossibility of mentioning the link.
Government silence on McBride draws fire from the media

BY GABARY ABARDE

The Government's handling of the story of Foreign Affairs official Robert McBride's arrest in Mozambique came under fire from editors and journalists at a media conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

Various speakers at the Meet the Media conference, aimed at improving the relationship between the media, the Government and the public relations industry, said the state's failure to comment on the case had spawned many rumours and fuelled speculation.

The conference moderator, radio current affairs anchor Tim Modise, said he was still waiting for government comment on the McBride arrest in Mozambique on allegations of gun-running, seven days after the incident.

The comment, which Modise initially made in jest, sparked a flow of sentiments from the media delegates, who all used this as an example of how the Government should not conduct its communications.

Sunday Independent editor John Batterby said the more information was withheld, the more speculation would arise.

"After the arrest, McBride was linked to cash-in-transit heists and East Timor. The journalists are here to smell a rat and tell the truth. It reflects badly on democracy when information is withheld," Batterby said.

Delivering the keynote address, the state's new head of communications, Joel Netshitenzhe, warned of the dangers of ownership of media institutions influencing reports.

Netshitenzhe, who recently took up a post as head of the Government's Communication and Information Systems, said there was a need for greater diversity of media ownership.

"Diversity in a business of ideas such as the media should enrich that business. When appointments become an old boys' club there is the danger of ownership influencing content. Being a watchdog and serving the public means protecting openness."
SA pledged to help Mozambican authorities with Mbide case.
S.A. must take a closer look at Germany's experience.

Pre-visit to Brussels: Thursday and Friday.

FACTS:

1. Germany has a well-developed system of social welfare and healthcare.
2. Germany has a strong economy and is a major exporter.
3. Germany has a diverse and multicultural population.
4. Germany is a leader in the tech industry.
5. Germany has a rich history and culture.

CHALLENGES:

1. The country faces challenges in reducing unemployment and poverty.
2. There is a need to address the issue of climate change.
3. Germany needs to invest more in education and training.
4. There is a need to improve the country's infrastructure.

CONCLUSION:

Germany is a model for other countries to follow in terms of social welfare, economic success, cultural diversity, and technological innovation.
Getting to know Nam

ANDRE KOOPMAN

As South Africa prepares to take the chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (Nam) in September, the parliamentary foreign affairs portfolio committee is to run a workshop on the international movement this week.

South Africa will be hosting a conference of Nam in Durban over August/September this year and is the leader-designate of the organisation. South Africa will fill the position for the next three years.

Nam was formed after World War II when developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America refused to align themselves with Eastern or Western power blocs.

Chairperson of the portfolio committee Mr Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim said yesterday that the workshop on Thursday and Friday would be open to the public.

It will be held in room 265 at Parliament.

Ebrahim said the workshop had been convened because the committee needed to be informed on Nam — its history and origin — and the role it played in the period of struggle against colonialism.

“We also need to look at Nam’s role in the post cold-war era,” Ebrahim said.

A ministerial conference of Nam held in New Delhi last year identified the following issues of immediate importance:

- The reform of the United Nations, particularly the security council;
- Nuclear and conventional weapon disarmament;
- Economic and social development, with particular reference to poverty eradication and environmental conservation, and
- Enhancing the strength and role of Nam.
Suspension for McBride

By Thembu Malefe

Senior foreign affairs official Robert McBride was suspended without pay from his public service post yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

McBride was arrested on allegations of graft running in Mozambique last week.

The suspension effectively means that the fate of McBride, a foreign affairs director in charge of the Asian desk, is in the hands of the Mozambican authorities.

More ominously, McBride, who spends his ninth day behind bars in Mozambique today, may have to stay in jail for the entire statutory 49 days before being charged.

In terms of Mozambican law, a suspect may be held for up to 49 days pending investigations before being charged.

The Foreign Affairs statement came after President Nelson Mandela was briefed at his Johannesburg home by Safety and Security Minister Sydnye Mufamadi yesterday.

Mufamadi headed a delegation to Maputo to discuss the circumstances of McBride's arrest with Mozambican authorities on Monday.

The statement said: "Due to the gravity of the allegations against Mr McBride and consistent with public service procedures and the Labour Relations Act, a communication was conveyed to Mr McBride informing him of the intention to suspend him from duty in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Mr McBride has since responded saying he understood why the procedure needed to be followed, given the serious nature of the allegations against him, and he regretted the embarrassment caused to the South African Government.

"It should be emphasised that, apart from the departmental investigation, which is continuing, a separate criminal investigation is being conducted by the Mozambican authorities whose sovereignty should be respected.

Cross-border crime

"As was stated by Mufamadi, who was accompanied by South Africa's ambassador to the Organisation of African Unity Mr Welfile Nhlapo during their visit to Maputo yesterday, the South African Government recognises that the due process of law in Mozambique must take its course.

"Naturally the South African Government will provide assistance in the investigation if so required within the framework of the bilateral agreements between the two countries to combat cross-border crime."

Presidental spokesman Mr Parks Makhalana told Sowetan yesterday that the Mozambican authorities had begun investigations into the matter but would not indicate the duration the investigation might take.

And while the Government has confirmed it will not interfere in the due processes of Mozambican law, unconfirmed reports say South African authorities are trying to secure a deal that will have McBride either immediately charged or released.

Makhalana also emphatically denied reports Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Aziz Pahad was to travel to Maputo to secure the deal. This has also been refuted by Pahad himself.

"These reports are not true. We are waiting for the Mozambican authorities to finish their investigation," said Makhalana.

Sapa reports that Makhalana also rejected perceptions of double standards in the way South Africa was reacting to McBride's arrest, as opposed to the arrests in January of five South Africans in Angola on suspicion of smuggling mining supplies to Unita in contravention of a United Nations arms embargo.

A relative of one of the men was quoted in a Johannesburg newspaper as saying: "What has really hurt is the fuss made about Robert McBride's arrest in Mozambique. A bunch of ministers, policemen and top diplomats have intervened, but the South Africans in Angola are just left to rot."

Makhalana said that although the two cases were completely different, the Government had also investigated the circumstances surrounding the arrest of the five South Africans in January.
The man who nobody sent
Cape Town – Severe cuts in its budget over the next three years would make it impossible for the Department of Foreign Affairs to discharge its responsibilities, it was said yesterday.

Ebrahim Ebrahim, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs portfolio committee, said that if the steep cuts mapped out in the medium-term expenditure framework were realised, the department would not be able to function with the money allocated to it.

The budget cuts would result in the closure of at least seven foreign missions and rationalisation of staff at others. The department would also have to place a moratorium on staff recruitment.

It was learnt exclusively yesterday that the budget cuts mean that the following missions will have to be closed: Bratislava in the Slovak republic, Bucharest in Romania and Sofia in Bulgaria.

Ebrahim said the committee had been given the assurance that no missions in Africa would be closed, “but our feeling is that some missions will have to close”.

He said it was “unfortunate” that the budget cuts had come at a time when South Africa had been asked to play an important role in African and international affairs.

The department’s budget has been slashed by more than R136-million this year.

The projected budget allocated in the medium-term expenditure framework is as follows: R1,211-billion in 1998/9, R1,137-billion in 1999/2000 and R1,154-billion in 2000/1. – Parliamentary Bureau
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE ROPES

ANDRE KOOPMAN

VIOLENT cuts in the foreign affairs budget over the next three years will make it "impossible" for the department to discharge its responsibilities.

Chairperson of the parliamentary foreign affairs portfolio committee, Mr Ibrahim Ebrahim, said yesterday the department had "been cut to the bone" in this year's budget and "may be able to survive" with a "lot of rationalisation".

In a dire warning on the future of the department, he said if the steep cuts mapped out for the next three years were realised, the department would not be able to function.

The following missions will already have to be closed under the new Budget: Bratislava in the Slovak Republic; Bucharest in Romania and Sofia in Bulgaria. At least another four missions are to be closed shortly.

The department's budget had been cut by about 10% this year, but the effect of this would be more in the order of 15% if the foreign exchange factor was considered, Ebrahim said.

In 1999 the budget would be in the region of 14%, without taking foreign exchange into account.

In the year 2000, the budget would decrease by nearly 18%, he said.

These cuts would result in the closure of at least seven more foreign missions and the rationalisation of staff at others. The department would also have to place a moratorium on recruitment.

Ebrahim said he was concerned that the moratorium would mean that people who were moved from closed missions abroad would have to be given other posts in the department and that this would affect the transformation of the department.

He said it was "unfortunate" that the budget cuts came at a time when "South Africa has been asked to play an important role in African and international affairs".

"We are going to host the Non-Aligned Movement this year and chair it for the next three years.

"We are chairing the Southern African Development Community and will be hosting the Commonwealth conference in 1999."

South Africa has also assumed the chair of the United Nations Human Rights Commission this week.

Another far-reaching effect of the budget cuts is that missions and officials needed urgently in several countries, and which would reduce costs in the long run, will have to be shelved.

"Only the chancery (mission) in Berlin, which has been prioritised, will be funded," Ebrahim said.

Money was not available to build official residences and diplomatic compounds in New Delhi and Moscow or to upgrade the mission in Washington, he said.

A project to buy mission buildings in Kinshasa has also been put on hold.

President Nelson Mandela had recommended that an official residence be purchased in Geneva, but this had also had to be shelved.

Ebrahim said the committee had been given the assurance that no missions in Africa would be closed "but our feeling is that some missions will have to close as well".

The foreign affairs budget has been slashed by more than R105 million this year.

Trade ties will shade foreign policy issues

Then there is the anti-dumping dispute between South African steel companies and the US government, threatening the closure of two plants and a loss of 7,000 jobs.

There is also the request by the US drug industry asking the Clinton administration to declare South Africa a major violator of intellectual property rights, unless the South African government agreed to amend the Medicines Control Act.

The US industry saw the act as giving Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma carte blanche to violate patents rights in South Africa. The US pharmaceutical industry claims the new act is a violation of South African obligations under World Trade Organization agreements.

Mandela has castigated the US foreign policies in public, but Clinton has never done so, leaving criticism of South African policies to his senior government officials.

As for trade and other related disputes, Mandela and Clinton have never dramatized their differences in public, although they have spoken about them privately. These issues have best been handled by private diplomacy or in committees in the US-South Africa bilateral commission, the coprincipes of the two nations' trade and development programmes.

In essence, disagreements between the two countries over these issues and others before them indicate their relationship has matured enough not to unravel if South Africa sets out its own foreign policy priorities.

So of Africa's 54 countries, South Africa is currently only the one that can call the US's bluff.

The two countries are too entangled politically and economically for either to want to rock the boat.

South Africa's transition from a pariah state into a democracy is the symbol of what Washington says it wants for the rest of Africa and throughout the world, democratic and capitalistic.

The Clinton administration has been overtly enthusiastic about South Africa's handling of the transition from apartheid to democracy and macroeconomic policies.

Clinton has often drawn parallels between US and South African attempts to end racial segregation. Also, both Washington and Pretoria are using the threat of their relationship to mediate in other troubled African countries.

But the mutual need and dependence is most obvious economically. The US is South Africa's biggest trading partner, with bilateral trade worth around $5 billion a year. South African imports from the US accounted for $2 billion.

With Nigeria, Africa's most populous and oil-rich country, in political and economic turmoil, South Africa has emerged as Washington's largest market in Africa since 1994. South Africa accounts for 49 percent of all US exports to sub-Saharan Africa and is the US's biggest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa.

The US has also outstripped European nations as South Africa's biggest trading partner. Pretoria hopes to negotiate further access to US markets, particularly for agricultural products.

Although in total trade South Africa remains dwarfed by Nigeria, mainly because of oil, the composition of US-South African trade is more balanced. Machinery primary produce and technical expertise flow between the countries, making neither unilaterally dependent.

The mutual dependence is even more evident in investment. South Africa is the only African country the US commerce department has designated as one of the top 10 emerging markets. This is a signal to US investors that money is to be made in South Africa, although US companies have been hesitant to make major investments until reassured on security, labour relations and finance.

With billions of dollars in trade and reputations at stake, Mandela and Clinton are not going to allow their foreign policy differences to interfere with their trade and development programmes.
Strong evidence against McBride

TOP police Special Investigation Unit Commissioner Suiker Birt and his team of four detectives are not discounting even the wildest claims following the arrest of Department of Foreign Affairs official Mr Robert McBride in Mozambique.

McBride was arrested last Monday by Mozambican police in the small town of Resano Garcia near the Lebombo border post between South Africa and Mozambique with a man identified as Vusi Mbatha for allegedly buying illegal arms.

Birtz said yesterday that allegations against McBride included suggestions that he was procuring guns for an attempt to overthrow the government, running guns for the Irish Republican Army, obtaining weapons for the Basotho Repe and smuggling weapons for cash-in-transit heists.

"There has been a lot of information and many different stories. We are sorting through all of them," Birtz said.

McBride was suspended yesterday because of the seriousness of the allegations he faced, the department announced.

"Any action which does serious harm to the image of the department is grounds for a suspension," spokesperson Mr Magel van Niekerk said.

Birtz felt there was strong evidence against McBride.

"I have not spoken to McBride," he said, "but I am on record as saying that if I had the same evidence they have in Mozambique, he would be convicted for arms smuggling in this country."

Van Niekerk said McBride had applied for leave from March 9 to 11 and that his use of a diplomatic passport while on leave did not breach regulations.

Foreign affairs would continue an independent investigation, he said.

Mr Colin Eglin, Democratic Party spokesperson on foreign affairs, said the fact that the government had suspended McBride indicated that the situation was serious.

Eglin said that the DF was worried the incident could "cast a pall over the integrity" of the department. "This type of thing has a very negative effect on the reputation and integrity of a foreign service," he said.
Gvt distances itself from Mbeki's actions

by James Ataraka

30th January 1998

Mutumwa says suspended Department of Foreign Affairs official was in Mozambique in his private capacity
Affirmative procurement of up to 90% is planned

Vuyo Mvoko 8D 19/3/98

CAPE TOWN — Government is to implement a programme over the next 18 months to ensure that 90% of public works department contracts at national and provincial levels conform with "affirmative procurement" policy.

At least 50% of all other national and provincial departmental projects, 25% of all local government projects, 15% of all parastatal projects and 10% of all private-sector projects will also be implemented in terms of the policy.

"We have the plan, now we have got to deliver," said public works deputy director-general Sivi Gounden, addressing Parliament's portfolio committee yesterday.

The procurement policy's key objectives are to provide jobs, and to develop small, medium and micro enterprises, particularly those owned by previously disadvantaged individuals.

The policy was developed by a task team appointed jointly by the ministries of public works and finance. It targets the construction and associated industries, including public and private-sector client bodies, contractors and suppliers. It encourages those not previously disadvantaged to form "structured joint ventures" with "affirmative partners."

Gounden said documentation would soon be made available laying down systems and procedures.

These included anticorruption programmes; a framework for deregistration of contractors; information packs for user groups; risk assessment and management procedures; a standard format for the compilation of contract documentation; and a code of conduct for suppliers, service providers and contractors.

Documentation in respect of goods, for example, would contain a guidance manual for officials preparing tender documents as well as a standard contract, he said.

There would be standardised performance specifications on design and construction requirements for building and civil engineering works and specifications on issues such as repair of defects, strength, stability, durability and serviceability.

Gounden said during a pilot project conducted between August 1996 and July 1997, 2,006 building and civil contracts totalling R670m had been awarded. Of that, contracts valued at R260m went to "affirmative procurement" beneficiaries including prime contractors on smaller projects or joint venture partners, subcontractors and service providers on larger projects.

Govt plans 280ha leisure, business node

Robyn Chalmers

GOVERNMENT plans to redevelop more than 280ha of land south of Johannesburg, including recreation and exhibition centre Nasrec and the FNB soccer stadium, into a new leisure and commercial node.

Proposed land uses include a centre for national and international sporting events, a sports academy, a skills training and production centre and a mix of commercial and business facilities, including hotels, restaurants, pubs and retail facilities.

However, analysts said one of the issues to be resolved was ownership of the site. Representatives from the public works department, the National Exhibition Centre, First National Bank (FNB) and Shareworld were holding talks to iron out legal and financial problems relating to ownership.

The total area in question was 280ha, with Nasrec, the FNB soccer stadium and other related buildings occupying about 180ha. Development of the remaining 100ha is under consideration.

Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe said government's development proposals would be thrashed out at a workshop next week. "Strategically positioned within the proposed development thrust of Barlink, Crown City and Orlando."

Continued on Page 2

Umthetho wokuzala ukubhalwa ngesixhosa

Wyndham Hartley 8D 19/3/98

CAPE TOWN — Justice Minister Dulalah Omar made history yesterday by becoming the first minister to table in Parliament a bill in Xhosa — but earned the wrath of some opposition parties for doing so.

The Judicial Matters Amendment Bill, or Umthetho Cwiywayo Wokukelani Silungiso Kwimibandela Yassenkundeni, is a three-page piece of legislation of little significance. It makes technical amendments to a number of existing laws.

National Party (NP) chief whip Izak Pretorius said the action by Omar made a mockery and was in contempt of Parliament as a final decision on the new language policy was scheduled for a meeting next week.

He said the NP welcomed the first bill to be published in Xhosa, but condemned the downgrading of Afrikaans in the process.

This view was echoed by Freedom Front chief whip Joseph Chirise, who said the practical reality was that the African National Congress had already decided on the language policy for Parliament in spite of the planned meeting of the rules committee on March 26.

He said it demonstrated that the decision had been made to make English the effective language of Parliament and that Afrikaans was being downgraded. He warned Afrikaans-speakers that "this step" was one of the most important of the past four years in the attempts to establish English as the nation's official language. It was time for all who spoke Afrikaans to stand together before their language became third-rate, he said.

The proposal before the rules committee is that the practice of publishing bills only in English and Afrikaans be changed. It suggests that all bills be published in English and that the other 10 official tongues take turns as "language of the month."
People who got themselves classified coloured in the old days

With the Times

Changing Colour
McBride's Maputo sting

Wally Mbholo

The arrest of Robert McBride on charges of gun-running in Mozam- bique seems to have blown out a well-ordained police trap, planned with the help of a former Mozambican, Vusi Mabuse, Mossa head of the former Mozambique government's anti-smuggling police, and the South African security forces.

This is the latest in a string of raids on the South African military and police forces by the Mozambican authorities

It has now emerged that Mabuse himself spent a long time working with the former South African military intelligence (SD) as well as being a police informer, while Mabuse was also a police agent. The Mail & Guardian has the name of Mabuse's SD handler.

Mabuse, who is believed to have emerged as the chief witness against McBride, is actually not a South African as widely reported, but a Mozambican holding a South African identity document. The other potential witness to Mabuse was also a South African, but he is believed to have been killed.

The unit was allegedly created to feed false information to the National Intelligence Agency on destabilisation forces and is under the management of a former SD commander. The reason why he did not make available to the authorities the names of the individuals who were involved in the unit is unclear.

The unit had also provided the South African forces with the alleged com- munication structure of the security forces. The South African reported to the authorities that the unit had been involved in providing false information to the government.

A senior government official working close- ly on the McBride matter said this week that although the government did not want to be seen as destabilising the Mozambican government, it had no option but to continue its investigations.

Police sources said that McBride had been arrested on suspicion of gun-running and had been released on bail. McBride had been in Mozambique for several days and had been involved in the failed coup attempt in November.

There were no problems with the arrest, and the police were confident that McBride would be extradited to South Africa. McBride had been working as a police officer in South Africa for several years and had been arrested on several occasions.

The police had been monitoring McBride's activities for some time and had been gathering intelligence on his movements.

McBride was arrested in November on suspicion of gun-running and had been released on bail. McBride had been in Mozambique for several days and had been involved in the failed coup attempt in November.

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Uncle Sam courts Mother Africa with trade
Or is it sexual harassment?

Clinton is also going to visit Rwanda, to pay respects to those slaughtered in the 1994 genocide. Significantly at the time, The New York Times carried a report that US diplomatic missions had instructions not to refer to the mass killing in Rwanda as genocide lest this increase pressure for a UN intervention force. Just weeks ago the Canadian commanding UN forces in Rwanda, General Romeo Dallaire, repeated publicly when giving evidence at the war crimes tribunal in Arusha when he recalled getting orders from UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali, that the Security Council’s backing to withdraw UN forces and let the genocide continue.

No doubt the Presidential safari will be full of contradictions. Not least for most Americans who spend little time thinking about Africa. Washington wiseacres assure visitors that at least 50% of all American foreign policy is really domestic policy in disguise. If that’s so, the Africa lobbyists must have much greater powers of persuasion than we know about.

Neither does commercial self-interest explain it all: trade with Africa accounts for about 2% of the US Export-Import Bank’s credit lines. Cynics suggest the President simply wants a break from Washington’s political heat.

If so, Africa’s own heat will not prove much more accommodating. Clinton’s 12-day schedule looks demanding.

It’s probably the lengthiest and most heterogeneous trip to Africa by any Western leader to date. In SA, the bilateral meetings with Mandela, the latest of several encounters in person and over the telephone, should go well.

But there are real policy differences between Washington and the African country it regards as its closest ally. Trade & Industry Minister Alec Erwin, and some local firms, are not particularly impressed by the US Trade Bill for Africa; neither are Defence Minister Joe Modise and his generals much taken with Washington’s attempts to bring SA into a continental peacekeeping training programme.

A senior Washington official describes his government’s relationship with Pretoria as “good but complex”, which is a change from the “bad and complex” relations between the two capitals prevailing during Carter’s Presidential trip to Africa in March 1978. Then the apartheid SA government was a global skunk while, up in West Africa, Nigerian Head of State General Obasanjo’s government was a doughty fighter for freedom. Perhaps, as he sits in solitary confinement, Obasanjo may wonder who will be demanding his release.

Patrick Smith in London
ANC distances itself from McBride

CT 80/3198

JOHANNESBURG: The African National Congress has also now distanced itself from senior party member and suspended Foreign Affairs official Mr Robert McBride’s actions and arrest in Mozambique in connection with gun-running.

Yesterday, the ANC said it wished “to put on record that the organisation had no knowledge of, or was in any way involved with, McBride’s trip to Mozambique”.

ANC spokesperson Mr Steyn Speed said that nobody from the organisation had made contact with McBride in Mozambique in any official capacity and it was unlikely anybody would in the future.

“Robert McBride is a valued member of the movement and has been for many years, so we can’t shrug things off and say we don’t care. But this is not something with which the ANC feels it should get involved,” he said.

The ANC said it respected the sovereignty of the Republic of Mozambique and wished to re-affirm its commitment to the rule of law and the due judicial process.
Most young people say SA is on right track, poll finds

Johannesburg – Most young South Africans are positive about the direction the country is taking, according to the findings of the 1997 Gallup end-of-year poll.

The poll, conducted by Marklinor research company, indicated that 59% of respondents between the ages of 16 and 24 felt the country was heading in the right direction. By contrast, only 43% of people over 50 felt that South Africa was on the right track.

The poll found a significant difference between rich and poor.

Only 30% of respondents whose households earn more than R10 000 a month thought the country was heading in the right direction as opposed to 60% of those households earning less than R1 000 a month.

It reported that 75% of respondents whose households earn more than R10 000 a month said standards were deteriorating while only 11% in this income bracket felt standards were improving.

The opposite view was expressed by most respondents whose households earn less than R1 000 a month, with 43% feeling that standards were improving, while only 14% believed standards were deteriorating.

When asked how they would describe economic, moral and educational standards in the country, 33% said standards were improving and 28% said they were deteriorating. The youth again displayed a more positive outlook in this regard, with more than 60% saying that standards in the country were improving.

Only 43% of the respondents felt 1998 would be better than last year, representing a 9% drop in optimism levels from 1997 and 15% from 1996.

However, only 23% of respondents felt 1998 would be worse than 1997.

A third of respondents said they felt their sense of personal safety had improved over the last year.

This view was held more strongly among the youth, with 41% of 16- to 24-year-olds indicating that their sense of personal safety had improved. – Sapa
Suiker in pickle over remarks on

By ESTELLE RANDALL

Controversial assistant police commissioner Suiker Britz is under investigation after his comments on the arrest of Foreign Affairs Department director Robert McBride.

The investigation, confirmed by National Police Commissioner George Fivaz, will determine whether Britz's remarks were made with malicious intent.

In statements this week, Britz said there was enough evidence to make a case of arms-smuggling against McBride. A newspaper also reported that Britz (who did not meet McBride in Mozambique during his investigation) had said he was approached by a SANDF general who wanted to urgently meet him to discuss McBride.

In Parliament on Wednesday, Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi warned that statements which impacted on the merits of the allegations against McBride were misguided and should be discouraged.

In a veiled reference to Britz, he said it was clear that information which had neither been "properly processed nor verified" was being fed to the media by people within the state's security forces to "undermine peace and stability".

Britz survived an earlier investigation in 1995, when he was appointed to his current position. At the time, there were doubts about his suitability for this top job, given his failure to crack the murders of several prominent anti-apartheid activists he had been given the task of investigating during 1993.

An inquiry appointed by Secretary of Safety and Security Azhar Cachalia found there was insufficient evidence to take departmental action. But the inquiry report noted that investigators had been denied access to dockets and that certain police members were reluctant to assist investigations.

Advocate Neville Melville, head of the investigation, said he had gained the impression that Britz was "determined to believe the allegations of police involvement and there was a possible bias in favour of the police".

Sally de Beer, a spokesman for Fivaz, said Britz had been sent to Mozambique by Fivaz to gather information on McBride's arrest because Britz was the "obvious candidate". He was in charge of murder and robbery, illegal firearms possession and special projects.

During his mission to Mozambique last week, Britz did not see McBride, only Vusi Madlida, a Mozambican who has been living in South Africa and is a self-confessed informer for the former security forces. He gave evidence to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission last year that security forces had conducted a smear campaign against Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

McBride's arrest has also exposed tensions between military and police intelligence operatives and the rest of South Africa's intelligence establishment. It also raises the possibility that forces active during the apartheid era are still pursuing covert agendas to destabilise South Africa's transformation.

The National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee (Nicoco) - comprising heads of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), the SA Secret Service, Military Intelligence (MI) and SA National Police Service Intelligence - says it knows nothing of the intelligence surveillance under which McBride is said to have been for the past two years. The Cabinet instructed Nicoco on security issues to be investigated.

The NFA was also surprised to learn that McBride had contact with an MI operative who was trying to arrange a meeting for McBride with Engelbrecht.

Engelbrecht is said not to have seen or met the MI operative, despite media reports that he is said to have done so.

Questions also remain about the role of Vusi Madlida (also known as Vusi Mabula) who was arrested with McBride.

Aubrey Lekwane, a former employee of Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR), who is finalising an affidavit for sending to Mufamadi, told the Saturday Star of his extensive contact with Madlida, who approached LHR in 1993 claiming to be an ANC refugee.

After investigation, Madlida admitted he was not a South African, but a Mozambican who had links with the former security forces. He claimed he knew about illegal weapons entering South Africa from Mozambique and that he knew Alex Manga was a weapons smuggler.

Mamba, a Mozambican, is being sought by the Mozambican authorities. He is said to have

bequeathed to "hostile dwellers on the East Rand in the early 1990s."
being abounded in and being aware of the positive impact of peace efforts and reconciliation initiatives in the region. 

The recent interview revealed this role in violence for East Rand townships.

The role of Peace Mediation

Peace mediation is a process where an independent third party helps to resolve conflicts and find solutions. In the context of East Rand townships, mediation can play a significant role in reducing violence and promoting peace. 

The mediator's role is to facilitate dialogue between parties involved in conflict, helping them to understand each other's perspectives and work towards a mutually acceptable solution. 

In East Rand townships, mediation can be particularly effective in addressing issues related to land disputes, gang violence, and communal tensions. By providing a neutral forum for discussion, mediators can help to de-escalate conflicts and find sustainable solutions that benefit all parties involved.

The benefits of peace mediation in East Rand townships include:

- Reduced violence: By addressing the root causes of conflict, mediation can help to prevent violence from escalating.
- Improved relationships: Mediation can help to build trust and understanding between community members, fostering better relationships.
- Increased community participation: Mediation can involve local community leaders and experts, empowering them to play a role in conflict resolution.

While peace mediation can be a powerful tool in East Rand townships, it is important to recognize the challenges that may arise. These include the need for confidentiality, the potential for mediators to become involved in broader political issues, and the importance of ensuring that all parties are treated fairly.

Overall, peace mediation offers a promising approach to resolving conflict in East Rand townships. By leveraging the expertise of mediators and involving local community members, it is possible to promote peace and reduce violence in the region.
WHITE HOUSE MISCHIEF... Clinton's visit may be overshadowed in the American media by his amorous adventures, but for South Africa it is the most important state visit yet.
Bill Clinton road show comes to the Mother City

Parliament gears up to receive a presidential contingent of 800

UNITED STATES President Bill Clinton’s visit to Africa may be overshadowed in the American media by allegations of the president’s amorous adventures, but South Africa is gearing up for what is the most important state visit yet.

Clinton is scheduled to arrive in South Africa next Thursday at the tail-end of the longest and biggest foreign trip of his presidency.

He is the first US president to call on Africa since two decades back, when Jimmy Carter tackled a visit to Liberia and Nigeria onto a South American trip.

The Clinton safari, which kicks off in the West African state of Ghana, includes some 500 Americans, among them veteran diplomats, members of congress, business chiefs and investment experts, security personnel and aides as well as First Lady Hillary Clinton, who visited South Africa last year.

Leading the troops is Assistant Secretary of State Susan Rice, an African-American who is a strong advocate of US engagement in Africa.

While Washington cynics are saying Clinton’s Africa trip is an escape from the heat of the philandering saga which has bedevilled him at home, the trip has in fact been planned for a long time.

A White House briefing this week said the trip had a twofold aim: to change the US’s often negative perceptions of Africa and to signal to Africa America’s faith that the continent would see growing democracy and development and become a full participant in the global economy.

Clinton’s visit comes shortly after its African trade policy framework, the African Trade and Investment Act, has been passed by the US House of Representatives.

The US approach to security on the African continent was drawn up by former Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who formulated an “African Crisis Response Initiative”, which allows US training for African peacekeeping forces.

Although there is a warm relationship between Washington and South Africa it is not all plain sailing.

Both US policy on security and trade in Africa are not without their critics in the SA government, while some of South Africa’s friends abroad, such as Libya and Cuba, are no favourites with the US government.

Some of these issues are likely to be raised in closed-door meetings, while Clinton’s public engagements include a historic address to Parliament on Thursday afternoon, a visit to Robben Island with President Mandela and a state banquet in Somerset West outside Cape Town.

His visit will see high security order the day, with sections of the city closed off.

Convoys of identical vehicles and helicopters will prevent the US presidential transport from being identified.

Parliament has been gearing up since January for the visit, while local hoteliers and shopkeepers are ready and waiting for the Americans to come to town.

On Wednesday Clinton visits Uganda, the country cited by the international community as having the most consistently successful economic policies.

A summit of regional leaders in Uganda will see Clinton meeting with, among other heads of state, Kenya’s president Daniel Arap Moi, who is likely to be quizzed on plans for reform in his country. Also likely to attend is Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in dire need of help in rebuilding infrastructure and attracting investment.
Intrigues surround McBride

The McBride issue has thrown up all kinds of doubts about the intelligence agencies.

By CHIARA CARTER

JUST WHAT is going on in the country’s security establishment is a question likely to linger long after Robert McBride has been charged or released.

This week’s briefing of Parliament by the McBride saga by Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi amounted to little more than a vain attempt to close the stable door after several horses had bolted.

Despite the shuffling of officials to Maputo since McBride’s arrest, Mufamadi said little of substance — aside from dire references to “elements” within the state who were feeding rumours with an intention of destabilisation.

He told Parliament there was an “ill-intentioned frenzy and offensive witch hunt in the state which sought to construct a sensational and false picture of the ANC and its leaders”. Extraordinary, he claimed, have been, with organisations mentioned including the ANC, the IFP, Sam Nkosa and the IRA, Pretoria East and a left-wing group said to be planning a coup.

Equally extraordinary is that many of these rumour, encouraged by the government’s silence, originate from state officials.

So far, the prime culprit singled out has been the police, with Deputy Commissioner Rabecca Mabaso saying the matter is a matter of a matter of serious concern.

Given his track record on failing to solve cases like the Motherwell bombing, it seems an odd choice to deal with so sensitive a matter.

Stung by Britz’s as yet unsubstantiated utterances, Mufamadi sent a strongly-worded letter of complaint to Commissioner George Fivaz, and the detective has been told to shut up.

But that is not the end of the problems in safety and security.

Alex Mamba, the arms dealer who set up McBride, was a long time informant for the South African and Mozambican police and is said to have told the SAPS about the impending meeting with McBride a week before McBride walked into the trap.

If this is indeed the case, the SAPS need to explain what was done about the tip-off.

Meanwhile over at the ministry of justice, Deputy Minister Joe Nhlanhla has a headache or two of his own.

His spooks have been hard at work checking out the multiple of claims, for example that McBride was acting for a shadowy unit which fed information to the National Intelligence Agency (NIA).

Nhlanhla has repeatedly placed his neck on the line by saying not only did McBride not work for NIA or the SA Secret Service, but he also was not passing on information to either organisation.

As a former ANC intelligence chief, presumably, Nhlanhla would know if McBride was acting for a group which had its genesis in the formally disbanded ANC’s intelligence structure — one theory which has been doing the rounds.

If McBride was working for a parallel intelligence structure with official sanction, not only would such a structure be unconstitutional, it would also turn out to have been a dismal failure — nobody with any sense would use such a high profile figure as McBride for so sensitive an operation.

On the other hand, if there was any double play, the putanginti in the information-gathering capacity of NIA and SASS, their seeming lack of any foreknowledge about the looming debacle is an indictment.

Then there is the military, the National Intelligence Coordinating Committee (NICO) and its head Linda Mth stands accused of nothing about a military intelligence investigation into allegations that left wing generals were planning a coup. The inquiry is said to have included a two-factor-long investigation of McBride.

Mth, like all intelligence agencies, is not supposed to set its own agenda, instead it has to carry out tasks assigned to it. If this report does in fact exist it begs questions: who authorised the investigation and for what purpose? Was the report provided to the SAPS without the knowledge of the country’s intelligence co-ordinating structure?

Both the SABC and the Daily Sun said McBride and his companion Vusi Mbhath have long histories of being police informers. Mbatla also had links with the old military intelligence structure.

Not only does all of this lend credence to the theory that McBride was set up but also to the view that there are forces at work within state structures to destabilise the government.

Cops ‘tipped off’ about McBride

By CHIARA CARTER

SOUTH AFRICAN police were allegedly tipped off about Robert McBride’s assignment with a Mozambican arms smuggler about a week before the Foreign Affairs official headed for Maputo.

It is understood the tip-off came from arms dealer Alex Mamba, a long-time informant for both the South African and Mozambican police, who disappeared after McBride’s arrest.

This claim by top police source is but one of several puzzling aspects to the McBride saga which raises questions about the role of members of South Africa’s security structures in the McBride saga.

The government has denied that McBride was acting in an official capacity when he entered Mozambique while on leave.

Deputy Minister of Intelligence Joe Nhlanhla has refuted claims that McBride was acting for the South African and Mozambican police, who disappeared after McBride’s arrest.

Should there turn out to be such an intelligence gathering structure with official sanction it would be a major embarrassment for the government as it is unconstitutional.

A theory gaining ground is that McBride was led to believe he would be supplying information on the arms trade to government intelligence structures.

If this is so, just who set up McBride and where did he get the money allegedly intended for the purchase of arms?

Last year McBride introduced Vusi Mbatha, the man arrested with him, to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a potential witness for the Winnie Madikizela-Mandela hearing.

Mbatha, who is alleged to have been not only a police informer but also an MI informant, told a TRC investigator that he had been a police informer for Medikizela-Mandela’s house and made allegations about gun smuggling from Mozambique.

The TRC took a statement but apparently viewed him as a discredited witness. [Signature]
Top team to probe McBride's case

By Themba Molefe

A SPECIAL South African police team will go to Maputo to join their Mozambican counterparts in investigations into the arrest two weeks ago of foreign affairs official Robert McBride.

The team, comprising top police investigators, will be named early this week and is being assembled after a meeting last week between Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and his Mozambican counterpart Alviro Manceje.

Mufamadi has rejected speculation that top cop Stiker Britz would be dropped from an investigating team probing McBride's activities. He said there was no such team and Britz therefore could not be dropped from a non-existent body.

But it seems unlikely that Britz will form part of the team being assembled because he is currently under investigation for making "irregular" comments about McBride's arrest.

And if Britz is found to have acted outside of police protocol, he could face tough action from the Ministry.

Britz said earlier last week, after a visit to Maputo, there was enough evidence to make a case of arms smuggling against McBride.

Weekend reports said senior government officials believe they have now pieced together how McBride came to be arrested in Maputo.

Meanwhile, Joel Neshitenehze, the chief executive officer of the new Government Communications and Information Service, reportedly confirmed that an investigation was under way into the activities of a "sinister group" involved in attempts to destabilise the Government by means of a concerted disinformation campaign.
Clinton's Africa trip 'significant'

DONALD PRESSLY

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton begins his 11-day six-nation tour of Africa today — being touted as the most significant by a United States president to the continent and the first to include South Africa.

Clinton will join a long list of political luminaries to have addressed Parliament. He meets President Nelson Mandela at Tshwane on Thursday shortly before speaking in the National Assembly.

The visit reciprocates a state visit to the US by Mandela in 1994. Mandela, as ANC leader, also met then president Mr George Bush during a visit to the US before the party came to power.

Mandon's office said the tour was significant “just from the point of view that it is the first time that an American head of state is visiting South Africa”. Presidential spokesperson Mr Parks Mankahlahana said:

“That in itself is a major development ... no (US) president has ever been here.”

The last US president to visit Africa was Mr Jimmy Carter in 1978.

Clinton, who will be accompanied by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter Chelsea, starts the trip in Ghana’s capital, Accra, today. He will also visit Uganda before heading for SA. He will then move on to Botswana, Senegal and Rwanda.

Mankahlahana also said that the tour, on which Clinton will be accompanied by an entourage of 800 business people and journalists, showed that the US “takes Africa seriously” and his three-day stopover in South Africa indicated the importance of this country on the American agenda.

He said the visit was significant from the point of view of improving relations “not only from a political point of view” but also from an “economic and trade point of view”.

National Party executive director Mr Renier Schoeman said South Africa had moved from a tense period of international isolation during apartheid, which had seen “a very negative” period under Carter from 1977 to 1981.

Schoeman, who was deputy foreign minister up to 1994, said he had regularly called on the great powers, who were “very involved” in destroying apartheid, to demonstrate their obligation to “play a role” in the building of a new South Africa.

Through the US-SA bi-national commission, which he described as a very formal diplomatic link, the US was demonstrating the importance it attached to South Africa.

Democratic Party leader Mr Tony Leon said that while he suspected the visit was more symbolic than substantive, “it is far more significant than just public relations”.

He hoped that those who met Clinton would “make the most of it” by demonstrating South Africa’s commitment to “core beliefs” such as free markets, world trade, respect for international competition and the willingness to play a role in international affairs.

Pan Africanist Congress leader Dr Stanley Mogoba said the visit was “long overdue”.

He hoped that the US would desist from “dictating terms” about whom SA should refuse to.

But he said he hoped that the US would use its capitalist clout to help correct the wrongs of apartheid.
President’s ‘army’ to shut roads

The President’s ‘army’ is set to shut roads around the city as part of the preparations for his visit. The army will be seen patrolling the streets, ensuring that the roads are clear for the President’s motorcade. The closures will take place on the morning of the visit, with some roads封闭 for several hours. The full list of roads that will be closed is yet to be announced. Drivers are advised to plan their routes accordingly.

End of roads: Cape Town streets will be closed to parking and traffic from 8am on Thursday.

From 7am, the following roads will be closed to all traffic: Main Road, Bishop Road, Long Street, and Long Street West. These closures will be in place until 9am. Drivers are advised to use alternative routes.

The army’s preparations are in line with security protocols, ensuring the safety of the President and his entourage. The closures are a precautionary measure to prevent any incidents that could disrupt the visit. Drivers are urged to cooperate and follow the instructions of the army and other officials.

For more information, visit the official website of the Department of Transportation or contact the emergency services.

City faces chaos

With the President’s visit, the city is expected to face chaos. The closures of roads are expected to cause traffic jams, and drivers are advised to plan their routes accordingly. The army will be seen patrolling the streets, ensuring that the roads are clear for the President’s motorcade. The closures will take place on the morning of the visit, with some roads closed for several hours. The full list of roads that will be closed is yet to be announced.

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Cape Town is bracing itself for a chaotic week with the President’s visit.
New socialist party is launched in SA

By Joe Mhluleka

SOUTH Africa saw the birth of another political organisation with the formation of the Socialist Party of Azania (Sopa) at the weekend.

The new party, which resulted from the Black National Conference of Review, was launched with about 1,500 delegates and observers in attendance at the Gauteng Youth College in Johannesburg.

Delegates from as far as Cape Town and Mafikeng in Northern Province resolved to fight the "machinations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, tooth and nail and not to allow our continent to be colonised for the second time".

They accused those institutions of being responsible for the "plunder, famine and destruction of Africa".

They said the forthcoming visit to South Africa by United States president Bill Clinton signalled a "seal of approval on what the IMF and World Bank have done".

The party resolved that the Government should reconsider servicing the apartheid debt of R320 billion.

The repayment of the debt was not only immoral, but was a betrayal of the oppressed people of the country as the previous regime incurred it to oppress them, Sopa said.

Speakers said Sopa would align itself with other socialist parties in the country and abroad "so that collectively, we can strike a mortal blow to capitalism which continues to enslave our people".

Newly elected honorary president of the party Mr Drake Koka implored the membership to work "tirelessly to deliver black people from both economic and mental bondage".

Koka said it was not surprising that the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) had failed to cover the "historic founding congress of the party".

"In 1972, when I was coordinator of the Black Consciousness Movement, the same SABC ignored us. When we were an established force and they tried to cover our events we chased them away," Koka said.

Messages of support were received from political parties, trade unions and leading South African personalities, including Mr Salim Vally of the Workers Organisation for Socialist Action and former president of the Azanian People Organisation Professor Jumeleng Mosala.

Among those present at the conference were BC veterans Dr Gomolemo Mokae, Mr Kehla Mthembu, Mr Pule Pule, Mr Koeliho Langaile and Ms Poppie Buthelezi.

Those elected to the new national executive committee included Mr Lybon Mabasa (president), Mr Dusty Nkoana (deputy president), Mr Patrick Mkhize (general secretary), Mr Thapelo Sibusi (deputy general secretary), Mr Asraf Jooma (publicity secretary) Ms Kedibone Moremoholo (gender affairs), Mr Khehla Nkonyana (student wing) and Mr Brand Nthako (youth wing).
THE NEW Coordination and Implementation Unit (CIU) in Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office started work on January 1 with four of its allotted five senior officials, two secretaries, a refrigerator and an erratic computer - but no modern.

Located in the President's wing of the Union Buildings in marginally functional offices, with high ceilings and inadequate lighting, close to the seat of power, the CIU (despite its modest staffing) already suggests a number of questions about the assumptions and intentions of executive power now and especially after Thabo Mbeki is elected as President next year.

Why the preposterous acronym, with its hint of supervisory and uncontrolled use of power, Why the unit, whatever its name? Are the potentially obvious problems of coordination and implementation aided in their resolution by this strengthening of Mbeki's impact on national and provincial government?

The unit grows out of a task team appointment by Mbeki almost two years ago. That task team, whose report is not available publicly, recommended a body with broad responsibilities for planning the entire gamut of Government policy and for overseeing the implementation of that policy.

Its report was presented to the Cabinet in June last year. The planning recommendation was turned down by the Cabinet, whose members pointed to the work of Cabinet clusters which provided for informal discussion among small groups of Cabinet members on specific issues, growing planning capacities within their departments and a modest development of interdepartmental planning and programme coordination structures.

Planning responsibility

Some of them might have been wary of tying planning responsibility to Mbeki's staff after 1999, providing an impetus for the disintegration of the Cabinet system into a de facto presidential system.

With Mbeki giving way to his colleagues on the planning issue, the unit was left with broadly defined responsibilities for ensuring the coordination of both policy making and implementation. No one on the unit's present staff knows where the name came from.

It did not even fit the mandate given it by Cabinet: coordination was appropriate, implementation was clearly not to be its responsibility.

Words like “monitor” or “facilitator” are used a lot now. “Programme evaluation” and “policy oversight” are also rhetorical stock in trade. Given the ill-fitting name and the off-putting acronym, it is not surprising that one official involved with CIU’s preliminary planning discussions in the latter half of 1997 reported considerable “frak” in the Government about its potential role.

An advertisement for senior staff of the CIU in a Sunday newspaper on June 29 said the director was to hold the rank of deputy director-general with overall responsibility to ensure “policy and programme alignment with Government policies”.

Working with him or her would be four chief directors, each responsible for coordinating policy and programmes across the entire range of Government activity: the social sector (health, welfare, education); the economic and development sector (finance, state expenditure); the justice sector (safety and security, justice, home affairs); and international relations (trade, investment, and foreign relations are mentioned in the advert leaving as a question whether defence was intentionally omitted).

Only the justice system chief director remains to be appointed. A second advertisement on February 8 seeks five more staff: an assistant to the unit’s head (at the rank of deputy director) and one “research assistant” for each sector chief director - the one for the social sector holding the rank of deputy director, the other three at the rank of assistant director.

In the few weeks since its inception, the unit staff has met with all the departments of national Government and intends to hold similar introductory meetings with the provincial governments.

First, and centrally, it will provide Thabo Mbeki with a more coherent flow of work-in-progress and formal reports from the Cabinet, departments, commissions, and parastatals. This mundane sounding task has enormous implications.

For the small staff involved, even making optimal use of the “research assistants” to be hired, it will be an enormous burden just to track, summarise and point to areas where the Deputy President or his senior advisers might need to become directly involved.

To do this task well, the CIU staff will need to keep a close watch on both policy-making and on programme implementation.

In practice, certainly over time, the CIU will hold enormous power as “gatekeeper” to the Deputy President.

Two linked dilemmas come into play. At least two of the present senior staff were from outside the national Government. They will need time to build their networks of contacts and to determine whose judgment to trust. In the meantime, the departmental contacts hold the balance of power, because their views cannot easily be tested.

The CIU staff can reduce this dependency by setting a single overriding priority that demands immediate concentrated attention and justifies the resort to Mbeki’s “clout”.

A critical choice: the strengthening of provincial financial management to break the cycle of deepening budget deficits, ineffective service delivery and continued corruption.

Strenuous effort

This priority would demand strenuous effort by the CIU to help optimise efforts under way by most national Government departments, the nine provincial governments, and existing mechanisms between the national and provincial governments.

Even with the bulk of CIU attention given to this single priority, getting the facts and recommending hard but feasible choices for the Cabinet and Mbeki will take extraordinary effort.

The fieldwork that went into the Nebulo Report on provincial governance provides considerable usable information but it also suggests the political difficulty and the costs in energy, time, and money to pin down further specifics prerequisite to recommended solutions.

This self-imposed concentration will prove difficult to maintain. The Unit is already perceived as an entrepot to Mbeki or his senior advisers and some national agencies have already pitched their cases for making their concerns more central in overall Government policy.

All of this is useful towards the overall goal of enhanced coordination. But for a small staff finding its way and given the destructive potential of provincial maladministration, the CIU staff must resist such overtures. Nor should it, despite its commitment to enhancing Mbeki’s effectiveness, let itself be drawn into being utilised by his senior staff or by him in capricious initiatives of any sort.

Helping to make provincial government effective would in itself justify having the CIU - if only its name could be changed.

(De John Seiler is a political analyst who writes about political transitions)
FW, Pik and PW were on AWB’s death list

Truth Commission is told that tight security was all that prevented top Nat politicians from being killed.

By Simon Zwane and Rob Houghtey

The Afrikaner Weerstandsbevordering would have killed FW de Klerk, Pik Botha and even PW Botha if given the chance, a former AWB brigadier told the TRC amnesty committee in Pretoria.

Testifying in support of murderer Corneelus Lottering’s application for amnesty, Dries Kriel said the three leaders had been too closely guarded for the AWB to try to kill them.

Lottering is currently serving a prison sentence for murdering taxi driver Potoko Makalemele in Johannesburg on August 23 1989, robbing a bottleshop to raise funds for his terror campaign and setting explosives outside the home of journalist Jani Allan.

He was also convicted of attempted escape.

When the crimes were committed, Lottering had left the AWB for the Orde van die Dood, a secret group aimed at forcing the government to declare a Boer state. “We had lost all confidence in (AWB leader) Eugene TerreBlanche because of his affair with Jani Allan.”

Lottering said the underground movement’s first objective was to eliminate National Party leaders.

“We later decided that ANC leaders had more power, and that we should rather focus on them,” he said.

Daan Mostert, an attorney representing Lottering, told the amnesty committee that he intended to call TerreBlanche to testify in Lottering’s favour.

This came after Pretoria mass murderer Barend Strydom and Kriel had testified in support of Lottering.

Lottering testified that he and his colleague Fanie Goosen, who has since disappeared, hijacked Makalemele in Johannesburg in August 1989 and later stabbed and shot him to death near Daleside Ski Club.

The AWB and the Conservative Party were allegedly plotting the assassination of De Klerk and members of his cabinet at the time in order to overthrow the government.

Lottering was then ordered by Dawie de Beer, a leading member of the order in Vereeniging, to kill a black person as a trial run to ascertain if he could carry out the planned assassinations.

“We wanted to put pressure on the National Party to heed calls by the black nation for a volksraad,” he said.

Strydom, who was wearing a maroon tie embroidered with a “vleerkleur” flag, told the committee that the AWB viewed anyone who did not support their ideals as an enemy.

“People who were not with us were against us”, he said.

Kriel, who resigned from the AWB, said members of the military wing Aquila, to which Lottering also belonged, were instructed to kill black people, to rob, and to escape from custody when possible.

He said the AWB leadership allowed the Orde van die Dood to function as a splinter group so that the AWB would not be blamed when murders were committed.
Cape Town pulls out all the stops for Clinton’s visit

DONWALD PRESSLY (3044)

UNCLE SAM is set to hit town, but just where he is going to stay remains the big secret.

What we do know is that President Bill Clinton will be accompanied by a dream team of 1,000 fellow Americans, including 150 members of the cream of the world power’s most influential media — the White House Press Corps.

The rest will be made up of members of his cabinet and top businessmen and women.

Police spokesman Captain Karel Breytenbach, who is based at Parliament, and national protection services spokesperson Andre Kruser were reluctant to spell out just how many streets would be closed off.

But foreign affairs official Dumisani Khumalo called on drivers in Cape Town’s increasingly congested streets to reduce the expected traffic chaos by “leaving 15 minutes earlier for work and going home 15 minutes early” on Thursday.

Mr Khumalo said the Americans would be bringing in “millions of dollars” into Cape Town and called on Capetonians to be nice to the foreigners.

He said South Africans should give President Clinton “the best of times” in the true African tradition.

While 120 tickets to the public gallery were randomly selected by computer from 260 applications, about a third of those will be in the national assembly with the rest in an “overflow room”.

Asked where Clinton would be staying, foreign affairs officials said only that “1,000 hotel rooms” had been booked by the Americans. Pressed on how many presidential suites had been booked, Kruser said not even his staff knew this.

Responding to questions about whether operational glitches which marred the visit of Vice-President Al Gore last year, Kruser said “every site” to be visited by Clinton had been checked out by both the American and South African security teams.
Mayor takes on Clinton

THE PRESIDENT of the most powerful nation on earth and his huge entourage arrive in Cape Town tomorrow, with predictions of major traffic jams and a stern warning from the city’s “first lady”. Metro Editor CLAUDIA CAVANAGH reports.

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton’s army of secret service and security agents should mind their step or incur the wrath of Cape Town’s feisty mayor Ms Theresa Solomon, who is ready to take them on single-handed if need be.

Solomon, who is not shielded by the national VIP Protection Unit, said yesterday that she’d experienced several state visits to the city before and “was shoved around like a sack of potatoes”.

This was particularly true when American first lady Ms Hillary Clinton visited Cape Town last year.

“The US VIP Protection Unit, the CIA, FBI, the army, the navy and, in fact, the troops, pushed me around and showed me a lot of disrespect,” an angry Solomon told Cape Town’s executive committee.

She appealed to the council to fax the relevant authorities and request protection for her — or else.

“At twenty past midnight on Thursday I’m expected to greet the president of America at the airport and portray a vibrant city by being a vibrant mayor.”

But in order to do that she needed support, she said. “So when the FBI pryvty to his movements.

While we can expect, and should tolerate, traffic delays of up to an hour, throughout the city, says Cape Town’s city manager Mr Andrew Boraine, it remains a closely-guarded secret where these will be.

“Do not ask me where, I really don’t have a clue,” he told the esco meeting yesterday.

“The Department of Foreign Affairs and the national security forces have requested that none of the routes be discussed in public forums or at meetings.

“This is probably the biggest visit our city has ever seen and the first time a US president has visited South Africa — so we should really weigh up the problems of disruption against the real advantages this visit will hold.

“The picture that top journalists and TV crews beam back to the US of a vibrant, dynamic city is worth millions of dollars in advertising.”

The closest the Cape Times came to seeing a map of Clinton’s itinerary was arriving in a Civic Centre office after one had been rapidly shredded. “It’s a top, top secret,” said public affairs manager Ms Leonora da Sousa. “You’ll get nothing from me.”

But by asking around, we managed to establish that both major highways out of the city will be closed just before and during peak afternoon traffic, so expect some chaos on your way home tomorrow.

Eastern Boulevard will closed to outgoing traffic from 3.10pm to 4.15pm and Table Bay Boulevard, around the Oswald Prow link, from 3.10pm to around 4pm.

The streets around Parliament will be shut to ordinary traffic for most of the day, so it’s probably wise to stay well away from there if you don’t want to become part of a traffic snarl-up.

Boraine said that over the past weeks the city had systematically sealed manhole covers along the route to be travelled by Clinton and trimmed trees lining the roads “for cosmetic purposes”.

The route had also been generally “cleansed”, said Boraine.

So if your street has come in for some seasonal attention from the council, perhaps you’ll get a glimpse of Clinton.

One hopes though, that he and his entourage go nowhere near the N1, said National Party leader in the Cape Town council Mr Clive Justus.

“It’s one route in the city that seems to have received no attention and is lined with plastic bags and cardboard boxes,” he said.

And since most costs would be met by the government and the White House, another councillor quipped: “Couldn’t we arrange a trip through the poorer areas, which have no manhole covers at the moment?”

The elaborate plans being made exclusively for the 200-strong White House media contingent are no secret. They are to be set up in the Civic Centre’s large exhibition hall with state-of-the-art satellite and media equipment.

“But there’s no way that you guys (local journalists) will be allowed to go in there,” explained a Civic Centre source.

On arrival, visiting journalists will be presented with a city information package and on Friday they’ll be treated to a tour of Marieberg, Guguletu and Nyanga, ending at the Spier Wine Estate in Stellenbosch.

“At least that will get them out of this building and looking at parts of the city they’d normally not see,” explained Boraine.

See Page 4
ROADSHOW

NO CHANCES: Welders seal drain covers in Roeland Street yesterday as part of security precautions for President Bill Clinton’s arrival tomorrow.

PICTURE: THEMBA DANILO

CT 25/3/98 304A
and company start to shove the mayor around, the mayor, herself, doesn’t have to shove back."

Her fears are not unfounded.

When Al Gore visited Durban last year, the behaviour of his "bullying" staff reportedly "failed to conquer the hearts and minds" of locals. Traffic chaos became the theme of his visit.

And while the insensitivity and high-handedness of US state security staff are no secret, Clinton's movements around the city certainly are.

When he arrives tomorrow with an incredible 1,000-member entourage, 15 cargo planes, a fleet of bullet-proof stretch limousines and several helicopters, we'll all know he's here by the ensuing traffic jams. That is, somewhere in the city at least. Because nobody, it seems, save the real insiders, is

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**STREETS AFFECTED**

**A** All streets around Parliament will be closed for most of the day

**B** Eastern Boulevard - Closed to all incoming traffic from 3.30pm to 4.15pm and to outgoing traffic from 3.10pm to 4.15pm. All the way from Coen Street, including Strand Street and Hertog Boulevard.

**C** Table Bay Boulevard - Closed at the Oswald Pirow link to outgoing traffic from 3.10pm to 4.00pm and from 5.45pm to 6.10pm for incoming traffic.

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**BILL CLINTON'S ENTOURAGE TO CAPE TOWN:**

- **200 Whitehouse journalists**
- **800 officials, politicians and businessmen**

- 'Airforce One', the Boeing 707 carrying the President himself

- **15 Giant military cargo planes**

- Marine One - The President's personal helicopter, with 3 identical prototypes to confuse any onslaught.
Madiba takes Bill's limelight

Everywhere Bill Clinton goes with Nelson Mandela this week, he will be reminded of his 79-year-old host's suffering during his years of imprisonment on Robben Island.

Mr Clinton, as US President probably the most photographed man on Earth, will for once not have to squint into the glare of 1,000 flashguns.

Press photographers are under strict instructions not to use flashes around Mr Mandela, whose tear ducts were destroyed by 18 years of chiselling into limestone rock in Robben Island's dusty quarry.

The accumulated burning dust endured during hard labour means he has to undergo regular routine corrective laser surgery, the latest only last Sunday.

Mr Mandela will return to the island on Friday to give Mr Clinton an unmissable photo-opportunity – beamed back to the home of the free – with black American voters particularly in mind.

The lure of Robben Island, its history of abject misery, cruelty and suffering, have proved irresistible for Mr Clinton, as for many a world leader before him.

He was preceded there by his Vice-President, Al Gore, in February last year.

The last head of state to visit was German President Roman Herzog two weeks ago.

Clinton aides see the Robben Island tour as one of the most important parts of the trip. For photo-ops and public relations, this is as big as it gets.

The administration, smarting from a stream of presidential sex scandals back home, has left nothing to chance.

Among the advance team dispatched to South Africa by the White House two weeks ago was Mort Engelberg, an ex-Hollywood movie producer who "produces" all of Mr Clinton's trips. It was Engelberg who directed Mr Clinton's successful 1996 re-election campaign.

National security adviser Sandy Berger said the tour of Robben Island should be "quite a special moment".

To spare his eyes from the glare, Mr Mandela will wear dark glasses when he shepherds Mr Clinton around the limestone quarry. – Sapa-AFP

President Bill Clinton visits South Africa

Bus strike will add to road chaos, page 2
Civic Centre goes hi-tech for media, page 2
Graphic: the Clintons come to town, page 3
Defusing Rwanda genocide threat, page 3

Traditional greeting: the Cape Argus decided to give Bill Clinton an authentic South African welcome by sending our teams out overnight to blanket the city with these posters. Be sure to look out for them tomorrow.
Special flight for US flag

Bus strike spells Ċ
Long delays loom if commute

CLIVE SAHNER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A special ceremonial United States flag has been flown from Washington to Cape Town to fly over Parliament during President Bill Clinton's visit.

The special flight was necessary because there was no ceremonial US flag in the country, said parliamentary media liaison manager Barry Steenkamp. Special security measures begin coming into effect today and will peak tomorrow and on Friday when Mr Clinton will address Parliament and visit Tuymahua.

All journalists covering Mr Clinton's visit to Parliament will be thoroughly searched.

In a departure from normal practice, in which accredited parliamentary journalists are allowed to roam freely, it is expected that the newsmen who will sit in the gallery during the speech will not be allowed to roam.

Photographers inside the chamber will also not be allowed to move from their allocated spots during the speech.

An American pool camera inside the chamber will provide a live feed to CNN and the address will also be carried live on SABC television and radio.

US civil rights man joins tour

Baltimore - Civil rights leader Kweise Mfume, a strong critic of South Africa's former apartheid system during Mr Clinton's tenure in Congress, will join the president on his trip to South Africa.

Mr Mfume was scheduled to join the president today, said a spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. Mr Mfume has said it was important that the US redefine its relationship with South Africa and other African nations. - Sapo AP

The planned strike by Cape Town bus drivers will force many commuters to go to work by car tomorrow, aggravating traffic chaos when roads are closed for President Bill Clinton's visit.

The 1 000-strong Clinton entourage hits town just after midnight.

An advance contingent of American personnel arrived in Cape Town two months ago to plan security arrangements with police and the traffic department.

The team made a detailed study of Cape Town and its people and some are said to know the city better than most residents.

The Americans have brought their own fleet of vehicles, which will include at least 15 armoured-plated cars. They were flown from the United States in huge transport aircraft.

Acting city traffic chief Malcolm Little said: "The sheer size of the entourage and its fleet requires a number of traffic shutdowns on high-ways for certain periods which are expected to disrupt normal traffic."

"If the bus strike goes ahead, the situation is going to be compounded with many commuters using the cars. This is going to cause further severe delays in an already disrupted traffic situation."

"If a settlement is not reached to avert a strike, we will have severe traffic congestion problems. Large numbers of commuters to use public transport."

Drivers show

A strike by Golden Arrow bus workers is due to come into effect at midnight if 11th-hour negotiations on a union demand for a 10% wage increase fail.

Unions postponed the strike until 3.30pm today to midnight on compassionate grounds so that they could ferry commuters home today.

The workers are set to join national strike after memo.
linton road mayhem

take to cars, says traffic chief

Spy van: a security vehicle with video cameras mounted on its roof monitors vehicles and passengers entering the Waterfront area.

He said the traffic department did not know specific details of the movements of the presidential cavalcade.

The traffic department would be notified only about 30 minutes before a trip was undertaken. Even then, they would be told to carry out plan A, B or C, indicating specific routes.

He advised drivers to depart early for destinations in case they were caught in snarl-ups.

Motorists could avoid routes that may be affected by using alternative roads to the city such as Klipfontein Road, Lusdowne Road, Swartklip Road, Voortrekker Road, Koeberg Road and Main Road from Muizenberg.

Mr Clinton will stay at the Cape Grace Hotel at the Waterfront.

compassion, delay stoppage

declined to ratify a new wage agreement reached between unions and the South African Bus Employers’ Association.

Golden Arrow general manager Hannes Grebe said certain contingency plans would come into effect if the strike went ahead. These included an arrangement with Metrorail to honour bus clipcards on trains for the duration of the strike. He also said commuters in Atlantis would have to make their own transport arrangements because intimidation had forced taxi organisations to renge on a similar agreement.

Metrorail spokeswoman Riana Jacobs confirmed the agreement and said Metrorail had sufficient trains to carry the extra passengers.

Mr Grebe said the company intended to impose a lockout of strikers from midnight. "This means that only people who are not part of the strike will be allowed on company property for the duration of strike."

W Cape task team is in on the action

The Western Cape provincial crime task team is working in co-operation with the SA Police Services contingent involved with the security of US President Bill Clinton.

The task team was appointed by Premier Hermus Kriel on Monday.

The chairman of the task team, MEC for community safety and environmental affairs Gerald Morkel, said in a statement the team had identified certain problem areas.

He said a special police contingent from the province had been assigned to support the American and South African security personnel tasked with protecting the American president. Sapa
Bill breezes in

JERMAINE CRAIG AND CLIVE SAWYER
Staff Reporters

In Cape Town today, President Bill Clinton came face to face with one of the biggest struggles facing South Africa – providing housing – and committed millions of dollars to help.

He pledged $3 million (about R15 million) during a surprise visit to the famed Victoria Mxenge housing project in Philipps.

He unexpectedly accompanied his wife Hillary, who had been scheduled to visit the project on her own. It was his first public appearance since his arrival early today.

It was Mrs Clinton's second visit to the project, where women save up money and build their own homes. To date it has 280 members belonging to the Homeless People Federation, and 110 houses have been built.

Mrs Clinton said she was delighted to return to the project she visited during her trip to South Africa last year.

“I have been talking about what I saw here since I returned to the US last year. I've been telling my husband about all the work done in South Africa to build the country and what I have seen here in Cape Town.

"Of course he wanted to come to South Africa, to Cape Town and of course he wanted to come with me to see what you have done," Mrs Clinton told the women builders.

The Clintons were welcomed by Mayor Theresa Solomon and hundreds of ululating Philipps residents. They inspected the home of Veliwe Mbeki, one of the founder members of the project. The Clintons then lent a hand to two women building their homes.

Mrs Clinton said her husband had spent a summer building houses about 30 years ago, to which the president replied: "I went into politics so I would not have to work as hard."

Mr Clinton praised the work of the women and said that USAID would pledge a further $3 million this year to build more houses in projects similar to the one at Victoria Mxenge.

"You have taken your hard work, your motivation to have a house and each of you has added something. Now you have houses and you are building a community. I hope everyone of you feels the pride that I have for what you have accomplished," Mrs Clinton said.
with R15m

(3049) ARG 26/3/98

The Mxenge housing project in Philippi today. The president joked that he quit building and went into politics to avoid the hard work.
SADTU TO CHECK ON RIGHTS

Visit blamed for ban on mass action

THE BAN on Sadtu's protest action was as a result of a changed attitude by parents and officials to schools being disrupted, and not because of today's presidential visit, the Education Department says. TROYE LUND reports.

THE Education Department has pulled out all legal stops, and has stopped the country's biggest teachers' union from continuing with a two-day mass action plan that would have coincided with President Bill Clinton's visit.

The South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) claim that the department, which has never gone to the lengths of applying for an urgent Labour Court interdict to stop protesting before, wanted to avoid negative attention while Clinton was in the country.

Before the interdict (which threatened teachers with dismissal on the grounds that they would have to be absent from work) was issued, the Cape Town City Council denied Sadtu permission to march in the city today because Clinton would be in town.

Sadtu spokesperson Mr Don Pasquahee, said: "Teachers have been marching and protesting this whole year, the government has never gone to such lengths to stop them. It is an attempt to make everything look very easy for Clinton when it is not."

National Education Department human resources director Mr Duncan Hindle denied Pasquahee's claim.

"There is a broad public mood that is tired of schools being disrupted and being used for socio-political protest. "Taxpayers pay R3 000 a year each towards teachers salaries and have become less tolerant, especially because there are legal channels to solve grievances."

As far as Sadtu was concerned, teachers had eight hours a year to hold organised activity, and this week's demonstrations would be part of that — legal permission only had to be obtained for strikes.

However, the union said it would postpone its mass action plan until it had clarified its position on protesting during school hours, and then obtain permission to continue with mass action.

If the government did not meet its demands, which include a halt to teacher retrenchments and a concrete plan to redress conditions in poor schools, Sadtu would strike.

This would be over and above the strike against rationalisation in education that Cosatu plans for the Western Cape.

Beware the 'brutal capitalists' — Wosa

ERIC NTABAZAULA

THE excitement caused by the coming of the American president to the city is not seen by all Capetonians as an opportunity for US investment in the city and the country.

Workers Organisation for Socialist Action (Wosa) said it wished to remind South Africans that the American government and the capitalist forces it represented were the single most lethal threat to the happiness of people across the globe and even to the survival of the human species.

"We will not forget the brutalities that these forces have committed. We think of the decades-long embargo against the people of Cuba, tightened recently by the Clinton regime," a statement by the organisation said. It said South Africans should not forget Cuba's selfless support for the struggle against apartheid.

The real reason for this vulgar safari is the reconquest of sub-Saharan Africa for the benefit of the monopoly capitalists in the US who want to control the world, it said.
Mandela takes office
of his office to heart

Perforning President

Congress of South Africa

This is the first time in
parliament in

President

DP to thank

The African National Congress

The African National Congress

Chairperson's Address to the Congress

This is the first time in
parliament in

President

DP to thank

The African National Congress

The African National Congress
Vivibryqvi High School: def work to solve its problem

The school is facing a significant challenge, with multiple factors contributing to its difficulties. These include overcrowded classrooms, outdated facilities, and a lack of proper resources. The administration is working towards finding solutions, such as by reallocating funds and exploring partnerships with businesses and community organizations.
Mandela agrees with report that his office isn’t delivering the goods

He says inexperience and lack of staff must be blamed for shortcomings

President Nelson Mandela yesterday acknowledged shortcomings in the functioning of his office, as outlined in a Presidential Review Commission report which he received the day before.

"The President’s Office has become a source of frustration," he told reporters in Pretoria.

Mandela said the report levelled harsh criticism against himself and his office. It quoted some directors-general as saying the President’s Office was a source of frustration — not answering letters, among other things.

"That criticism is absolutely accurate, and we acknowledge that weakness without qualification. We have to attend to that matter," Mandela said.

"The fact that the President’s Office should be the source of frustration is not healthy for the Government." Mandela cited two reasons. Firstly, he had resisted calls by Public Service and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya to appoint at least five or six more staff.

"(Skweyiya) has said to me there is no president’s office anywhere in the world with so few members of staff. I have said that I have given instructions to the Government and the country for belt-tightening, and I must set an example."

The other reason, Mandela said, was his extremely tight schedule.

"Like today, I will not be able to sit at my desk and attend to the affairs of government. I have so many engagements which take me away from the office."

This did not, however, justify the President’s Office, which was supposed to be the driving engine of the Government, neglecting its work.

Praise for four years of achievement in country

He said the Government had many weaknesses, partly caused by its inexperience.

"One of the things that is easily forgotten when we are assessing the work of this Government is that we were taken from the bush and we were suddenly thrown into this immense responsibility of running a highly developed country."

"We were taken from the bush, or from underground outside the country, or from the prisons, to come and take charge."

Many were people without schooling, skills or expertise.

"Whatever criticisms you have, you must always bear in mind that we are dealing with a government with this background," Mandela said.

However, no government in the history of South Africa had achieved as much in four years as the current one.

The Presidential Review Commission was set up by Mandela in April 1996 to make proposals on the transformation of the public service.
Welcome, Mr President,
City Prices for C-Men

Under Atlantic Skies: With a scene to take the sun, removing all illusion, mother nature's magic work on the rippling waves of the sea. In the absence of worry, the sea's embrace is the perfect escape.

Journey through the heart of the city with a series of fantastical experiences. From the vibrant streets to the hidden cafes, every corner offers a unique story.

Opening the doors to a world of adventure, the concept shop provides an array of creative products to ignite your imagination. Explore the aisles filled with stories waiting to be told.

In the heart of the city, a hidden gem awaits. Discover the art of relaxation at the meditation studio, where the sounds of nature combine with soothing music to create a serene atmosphere.

The city comes alive at night, as the lights of the neon signs create a mesmerizing display. Enjoy the vibrant nightlife, filled with music, laughter, and the enchanting stories of the city.

Experience the magic of the city like never before. City Prices for C-Men awaits you, offering a journey through the heart of the city, where every day is a new adventure.
Trade, reforms high on the Clinton visit agenda

Stephen Laufer

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's three-day visit to SA will go well beyond photo opportunities as he takes time to discuss a wide range of bilateral and multilateral issues with President Nelson Mandela, SA foreign affairs sources said yesterday.

Also expected to participate in talks are Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, several SA and SA cabinet members, and senior officials from both governments. Clinton is due to meet Mandela at Tshwane tomorrow morning, and it is understood that Mbeki and others could attend.

US sources said it was possible Mbeki would meet Clinton separately to talk about the future of the SA's economy. Mbeki is the leader of the SA side in the bilateral commission with the US.

Clinton's US-Africa Growth and Opportunity Initiative would be high on the agenda during his visit, a source said. The measure seeks to open markets in Africa and replace aid with trade, granting preferential US market access for African exports. It also envisages debt relief and the creation of an African infrastructure fund linked to political and market reforms, as well as a high-level US-Africa forum.

Government was still divided on its potential effect on SA, the region, and the continent, and on how far to go in supporting it. Many elements of US policy towards Africa coincided neatly with SA's goal of consolidating democracy, ensuring higher sustainable growth, attracting incoming investment capable of creating jobs, the source said.

The US had lobbied hard for greater access to SA markets, better protection of intellectual property rights, and protection of such industries as pharmaceuticals. Conversely, SA was keen to increase pressure on the US to open its markets to a wider range of South African goods.

The US would be looking for co-operation with SA in Africa, with the proposed multilateral African peacekeeping force high on its agenda. It was likely the US would want to consult on moving Nigeria towards democracy.

However, Clinton was likely to "rap SA over the knuckles" about its relations with so-called pariah states such as Libya, and was expected to explain an apparent easing of US policy towards Cuba.

Mandela and his aides would raise US policy in the Middle East and how it was not assisting the peace process.

Josey Ballenger reports a coalition of African campaigns to ban land mines has called for Clinton to sign the United Nations ban on the prohibition of land mines. All six countries Clinton is visiting on his African tour participated in the international anti-land mine campaign.

Dustin Chik reports that management at Cape Town International Airport denied operations were closed down during the early hours of this morning to facilitate Clinton's arrival. The airport's media relations officer Marlene Jacobs said traffic during the early hours of the morning was traditionally quiet, with the majority of flights being cargo flights.

Health department spending reviewed

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The health department budgeted generously for new equipment, but yet each year surrendered millions of rand in unspent funds, Auditor-General Henri Kruiver said in his 1995/96 report on the department tabled in Parliament yesterday.

He was concerned the trend could lead to over-budgeting and cited the huge amounts surrendered by the department annually during the past five years. These totalled R303m (or 24.5% of the department's total budget) in 1992/93, R710m (32%) in 1993/94, R421m (20%) in 1994/95, R364m (43%) in 1995/96 and R222m (25.3%) during 1996/97.

Generally, Kruiver found financial controls and procedures had improved and the department was making "good progress" in establishing a sound administration. A new tender committee and internal audit division had been set up and staff trained in procurement procedures. Compared with previous years when unauthorised expenditure totalled millions of rand, unauthorised spending for the year and miscellaneous items from previous years totalled only R400 326, most of which related to not following tender board procedures.

Some reports that in a separate audit by Kruiver, it was found the correctional services department had paid out R880 208 in "fruitless expenditure" to its former commissioner, Henk Bruyn, after his employment contract was terminated prematurely.

The audit, carried out for the 1996/97 financial year, had also uncovered R2.9m in unauthorised expenditure, though the treasury later approved R1.8m of this.
Court upholds rights of traditional leaders

Deborah Firen

THE KwaZulu-Natal local government and housing ministry has claimed a victory following a Constitutional Court judgment which upheld the right of traditional leaders to sit on the province's regional local councils by virtue of their status.

The court dismissed an application by the African National Congress (ANC) challenging the constitutionality of a 1996 provincial enactment which established seven regional councils and provided for the ex-officio membership of traditional leaders.

The ANC claimed the enactment violated the interim constitution, still in force when the provincial bill was promulgated. The application was opposed by the local government ministry, the KwaZulu-Natal traditional affairs ministry and the House of Traditional Leaders.

Delivering the court's unanimous finding, Judge Kate O'Regan said the entitlement of traditional leaders to membership of transitional local government structures was an acknowledgement of the potential tension between the institution of traditional leaders and democratic local government bodies.

Allowing traditional leaders membership of local councils ensured continuity and avoided dislocation during the transitional period.

The judgment in effect secures the position of traditional leaders on local government structures until next year's municipal elections. Their position on municipalities after next year is still uncertain.
Mandela acknowledges shortcomings

PRETORIA — President Nelson Mandela yesterday acknowledged shortcomings in the functioning of his office, as outlined in a presidential review commission report.

Sapa reports that he said: "The president's office has become a source of frustration." The commission had levelled harsh criticism against him and his office. It quoted some directors-general as saying the president’s office was a source of frustration. "That criticism is ... accurate and we acknowledge that weakness without qualification. We have to attend to that matter."

Mandela cited two reasons for the problem. Firstly, he had resisted calls by Public Services and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya to appoint at least five or six more staff members.

"(Skweyiya) has said to me there is no president’s office anywhere in the world with so few members of staff. I have said that I have given instructions to the government and the country for belt-tightening, and I must set an example."

The second reason, Mandela said, was his extremely tight schedule. This did not, however, justify the president’s office neglecting its work.

Mandela said government had many weaknesses, partly caused by its inexperience. "One of the things that is easily forgotten when we are assessing the work of this government is that we were taken from the bush, or from prison, and we were suddenly thrown into this immense responsibility of running a highly developed country." Many were people without school education, skills or expertise. However, no other government in the history of SA had achieved as much in four years.

David Greybe reports from Cape Town that Joel Netshitenze, head of government communications, said some of the commission’s recommendations into transforming the public service might require immediate implementation.

"Government set up the commission to assist it in restructuring both the executive and the administration precisely because it was aware, based on its experience since 1994, that we cannot simply step into the structures of apartheid as we found them."

Continued on Page 2

Mandela

Continued from Page 1

He said the copy of the report Mandela received on Tuesday was "pulled off the printing press" and that printing was continuing. Once completed, Mandela would make it public.

"The president will probably ask the public service department to prepare a memo for the cabinet on how to process the report," Netshitenze said.

Public service director-general Paseka Nicholo suggested that because the commission’s establishment had been a political decision, a special cabinet subcommittee be set up to oversee the prioritisation and implementation of issues emanating from the report.

Sources familiar with the commission’s work said recently the report recommended greater powers for the president’s office, including overseeing the public service, as part of a shakeup which would see the departments of sport and public enterprises scrapped.

They said the commission also proposed the establishment of three executive agencies — information (similar to the defunct information department); public service; and information management, systems and technology — in a revamped president’s office.
FACING THE FUTURE: Deputy President Thabo Mbeki contemplates the future as the duties of his office grow.
Mbeki plans super-presidency

AS DEPUTY PRESIDENT Thabo Mbeki prepares to succeed Nelson Mandela as president next year, their offices are being merged to avoid duplication of functions. JOVIAL RANTAO reports.

The office has become the engine of government, and moves to merge its activities with those of the Office of the President have laid the foundation for the establishment of a super-presidency.

Dr Frank Chikane, the director-general in Mbeki's office, put it simply: "This office is responsible for the executive management of government," he said.

In addition to attending to functions delegated to Mandela, Mbeki also chairs the Inter-Governmental Forum, which brings together leaders of government in the national, provincial and local spheres.

To be able to co-ordinate the work of government efficiently, the office has had to establish executive units, such as the co-ordination and implementation unit (CIU), a reaction or operational unit that can be dispatched to provinces or departments in need and programmes unit which deals with cross-cutting programmes that no government department on its own can take on.

There's also a separate unit whose primary task is to run the lives of Mbeki and his wife Zinzi.

Then there are the advisory services. Mr Vusi Mavimbela is the political adviser, Mr Moss Nqaphetha the economic adviser, Mraviyka-Mazimpini the parliamentary adviser and Mr Mojankunyana Gumbi, the legal adviser.

Besides co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation process, the CIU — headed by Mr Pundy Pillay — also attends to departments that are experiencing problems and, as part of the cabinet secretariat, also looks closely at all issues that the cabinet is dealing with, to ensure that issues such as budget considerations are looked at more closely.

"We prefer to empower people, instead of doing things for them," Chikane said in an interview.

Chikane's role is to ensure that crucial parts of the engine remain well-oiled and serviced and in a condition to deliver.

"My role is to make major decisions in the light of broad strategic considerations and make policy entries. On a day-to-day basis we have to manage this company (the government)," he said.

"My responsibility is to manage our operations and to assist Mbeki to achieve the objectives and responsibilities set by the Constitution and those delegated by the president.

"The broad issues we deal with include developing the concept of consensus building. The issues of South Africa have to be taken beyond petty political debate to a broader national interest.

"Every country must have a bottom line, and in South Africa there must be a bottom line.

"The deputy president wants to deal with this, and we want to enable him to do that, and that has implications for how he deals with delivery mechanisms. We have lovely policies and the key challenge now is delivery.

"That's where the executive management of government comes in, and the needs of the historically disadvantaged get met in the process," he said.

Mr Essop Fadah, the Deputy Minister in Mbeki's office, focuses mainly on programmes such as the establishment of a new government information service, and the concerns of the disabled and the youth. Fadah also chairs some meetings on Mbeki's behalf.

After the ANC's 50th national conference in Mafikeng, discussions began on how Mbeki's and Mandela's offices could work together.

It was agreed that because Mbeki's office was increasingly taking on additional assignments and responsibilities, the president's office would support them.

It was also decided that Chikane would be appointed deputy cabinet secretary, which means that Chikane, who has up to now relied on cabinet minutes for information, will be able to attend the meetings.

He will also take joint responsibility for the cabinet secretariat and be in a position to influence it in accordance with the requirements of the deputy president.

The merging of the activities of the offices is also aimed at ensuring that Mbeki's office does not hire additional staff to handle additional assignments delegated by Mandela.

The administration of the offices, in particular the human resources and finance functions, and personal support staff for Mandela and Mbeki, will remain independent.

The CIU, which facilitates the co-ordination of government policy through promoting inter-departmental co-operation and evaluates and monitors the effectiveness of government policies and programmes, will be integrated into the cabinet secretariat.

Communication and legal advisory units from both offices have started to co-operate on a number of issues.

Chikane says the biggest challenge facing the office is to ensure that the executive management of the government was done efficiently and that local people were involved.
Generals draw you also on agenda for talks with Mandela.
Capetonians split down middle over Clinton visit

'Hero' and 'villain' (3049)

HANEEN MAJET
Staff Reporter

Capetonians are divided on whether President Bill Clinton is a hero or a villain.

These mixed emotions surfaced yesterday among the hundreds of people who lined Adderley Street hoping to catch a glimpse of the president or protest against his visit.

Although the Clinton cavalcade was not due to drive that way, people waited on both sides of the street.

What attracted many of them was the demonstration by Muslims Against Global Oppression, who burnt an American flag, chanted slogans like "Death to America, Death to Clinton, Long live Hizbolla" and held placards bearing anti-American sentiments.

A spokesman for the Workers Organisation for Socialist Action said South Africans should remember that capitalism was "the most lethal threat to the happiness of people across the world." He added: "Clinton gets the added racial dividend of more black votes because of his 'commitment' to the cause of Africa."

Francois of Johannesburg said: "He is the president of the world and I'm happy he's come to Cape Town." He thought Mr Clinton was a "real man because I heard he has more than one woman".

Douglas Wagenstrom of Retreat said he was not a fan of America or Mr Clinton and felt "America is always putting its nose where it does not belong."

Simon Butler of Pinelands said: "I am very happy about Clinton's visit and, personally, I think he is good for our country, hopefully helping it economically."

Zola Mkatani of Khayelitsha said he took a day off work especially to see his "hero".

A demonstrator who was only too willing to share his views, but asked not to be named said: "Clinton is not welcome here, he never has and never will represent the people of South Africa."

Joy Welman of Retreat said: "To me, he's just another visitor to our country."
Election wake-up call for ANC MPs

Corruption worries supporters

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

A survey by the African National Congress research arm shows 7% of those who voted for the party in 1994 have reservations about its ability to govern.

Dismay about this and declining numbers of branches have prompted the movement to order its MPs to begin election canvassing.

Senior figures are also soon to be redeployed from Parliament and provincial legislatures to work in Shell House and other structures on the election campaign.

The survey, by the ANC election advisory committee, found there was particular concern among those disillusioned with the movement's performance that it was not dealing effectively with corruption.

"Don’t be complacent – that’s the message," said Max Sisulu, ANC chief whip in the National Assembly.

The parliamentary caucuses were briefed on the findings yesterday.

The notable decline in enthusiasm about the ANC was caused in part by a feeling of alienation that while people felt the ANC’s policies were sound, they did not feel sufficiently involved in their implementation.

On the eve of a four-week recess for the Assembly, national chairman Terror Lekota briefed the caucus on the movement’s programme of action, with particular emphasis on the election campaign.

A particular need was to embark on a voter registration campaign.

Unlike 1994, next year’s poll will be held using a voters’ roll, with the electorate being divided into voting districts.

To be allowed to register and to vote, people will have to show post-1994 identity documents.

Getting supporters to register will be vital for any party’s chances.

Mr Lekota urged the caucus to strengthen the ANC at grassroots level and emphasised the need to revive dormant branches.

Mr Sisulu said he expected the 1999 turnout would be less than in 1994.

He said there was nothing unusual about some branches becoming inactive, noting that issues like a provincial leadership contest tended to enliven them.

Also on the programme is a fundraising campaign.

To assist ANC MPs in the electoral drive, documents on education, crime and corruption, housing, jobs, health care and AIDS are being prepared to help them back up their arguments.

Mr Sisulu yesterday also lashed out at the National Party and Democratic Party for their performance in this week’s Budget debate in the Assembly.

He said these parties were only interested in making political points with a view to the elections.
Row Rages over McBride Probe Policeman

Cape Argus, Friday, March 27, 1998
Putting a price on the past

Bigger penalties may be the only way to preserve heritage sites

SUMMERCON'S bulldozing of an historic house in Saxonwold, Johannesburg, calls into question the value of relics of the past and the appropriate penalties for their removal. Is a R10,000 fine for transgressing the National Monuments Act sufficient?

National Monuments Council (NMC) regional manager Johann Bruwer does not buy the argument of Summercon project manager Simon Buys that the house was "structurally unsound". He says the NMC "should have been allowed to investigate it first".

Bruwer has reported the property developer's transgression to the police. Summercon says it has acted in good faith at all times.

The area's city councillor, Mike Moriarty, hopes for more punitive action than just a fine. "I have written to the NMC asking them to force Summercon to reinstate the house at an estimated cost of R750,000."

Built in 1924 on the corner of Northwold Road and Jan Smuts Avenue, it was the first house in Saxonwold. Summercon director Bruce Peach says the house was substantially renovated in the early Forties and was, in his view, "of little architectural merit".

Moriarty says the developers were well aware of the conditions of building townhouses on the stand. He adds that the Townships Board had recommended that the structure should not be demolished without a permit. Summercon's original site development plan showed the house untouched, surrounded by new townhouses.

According to Moriarty, when descendants of the previous owner asked to acquire the staircase, Summercon refused, saying the house had to remain intact.

Peach denies this. "We told them to take whatever they wanted, including the fireplace and doorknobs, but they decided against it." Moriarty claims the daughter of the owner was compensated by Summercon for not being able to take the fireplace.

He says Summercon promised the council last year it would not tear down the house. Summercon denies this, saying it did not realise NMC consent was necessary.

Bruwer is confident that legislation likely to be promulgated next year will bring in stringent penalties for violators of the Act. "Provincial MECs will look into these. It will make fines stiffer and not a specific amount," he says.

Is it all a storm in a teacup? Bruwer thinks not. "Though there is a distinction from declared national monuments such as Robben Island, all buildings older than 50 years are protected. As we are also focusing on redressing past imbalances and transformations, we have recommended other sites for national monuments."

These include Freedom Square in Kliptown, where the Freedom Charter was adopted in 1955, the site where Mozambican president Samora Machel's plane crashed in Mapumalanga and the late ANC/SACP leader Chris Hani's house. The NMC considers Union Buildings in Pretoria and the Cape Town Castle as equally worthy. "Imbalances in terms of past heritage conservation are evident but we have to be seen to be fair to all communities," says Bruwer.

Surely an old house in Saxonwold is no great loss? "Not so," says Bruwer. "It is still an integral part of our heritage."

Veteran conservationist Flo Bird says punishment for illegally demolishing a national monument should be more personalised. Magistrates should consider imaginative penalties such as sentencing offenders to community service over weekends. This could be of an environmental nature, such as removing illegal posters.

Bruwer retorts that this would work only if the community service involved restoration work. Well, why not?
Clinton’s journey to two Africas

President Bill Clinton is spending 11 days on this continent, but he is really making two different trips: one to Africa and one to South Africa.

South Africa is of Africa, but different too. It is the financial basket case dependent on foreign aid, and its average voter grumbles that their standard of living was better in colonial days.

Its economy dwarfs that of any other African country. Some 3,000 American companies do business here. And in Nelson Mandela, South Africa has a president whose global stature rivals perhaps even surpasses Clinton’s.

While the United States may be able to tell Ghana’s Jerry Rawlings or Rwanda’s Paul Kagame what subjects will be on the agenda, the relationship with South Africa is, if not one between equals, one between a world superpower and a regional superpower.

Yet despite its status, South Africa remains a pretty tough country. Clinton’s visit will be examined carefully here for signs that the US is showing due respect to a nation that is wary about its sovereignty, doesn’t ask for much outside help, does not owe the World Bank a cent and is unwilling to kowtow to a superpower.

The African National Congress government, which constantly hears racist local white and black visitors grumbling that the country will crumble into another African disaster area, is hypersensitive about being told what to do, especially by the Americans. They see the US as an essentially white country that repressed its own blacks for centuries and was a tacit ally of the old apartheid state and the chief foe of African liberation struggles.

South Africa’s cautious relationship with the US is influenced by the shadow of American policy during the apartheid years. During the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George Bush, America was no friend to the ANC.

Many ANC officials remember America as the enemy during the Cold war era and have not taken the US into their bosom so easily.

All this is not to say that South Africans are indifferent to Clinton’s attentions. US companies have already invested more than $2 billion here since 1994, according to Business Mail And the government would certainly like to see more US investment.

But if Americans ever expected an easy relationship with the new South Africa, they have by now learned otherwise. Mandela has proved feisty and independent, several times loudly and clearly rejecting US suggestions.

Last October, for example, when state department officials protested against his visit to Libya, saying it violated United Nations sanctions, Mandela made no secret of his fury. He went ahead with the trip, lashing out at the US at every stop. He said it would be immoral not to acknowledge the role that countries like Libya played in the struggle against apartheid, “one of the most brutal systems in the world”.

“Can they have the arrogance to dictate to us where we should go or who our friends should be?” he asked at one point. “Can you imagine if I said Boris Yeltsin should not visit Albania? They would say that I am the most arrogant black.”

Clinton said that while South Africa and the US could not agree on all things, they agreed on the important things: democracy, peace, open markets and — to loud cheers — “elemental human rights as the birthright of every single child”.

“As Africa grows strong, America grows stronger. We do not only need active consumers of our products from this continent but we need to take products from this continent to our markets,” he said, re-emphasising the theme of free trade that he has continually repeated since he arrived in Africa.

Clinton was also cheered for his endorsement of the African Renaissance, and when he said, borrowing the phraseology of John F Kennedy: “We should no longer ask what we can do for Africa or what we can do about Africa, but what we can do with Africa.” He called for the fulfilling of the promise of the African continent.

“Yes, Africa needs the world. But the world also needs Africa.”

Clinton, who began by referring to the US legacy of slavery, said his country was seeking partnership and true friendship in overcoming the legacy of apartheid in South Africa and moving into a more hopeful 21st century.

Bill who? Graffiti in Cape Town reflects the mood of some locals as President Bill Clinton comes to town. PHOTO: RODGER BOSCH
intelligence report leaked to The Citizen, has initiated an investigation into what it believes is a disinformation conspiracy calculated to destabilise SA’s fledgling nonracial democracy.

The IRA and Frelin allegations can be dismissed. They have been persuasively refuted by a range of relevant actors, from McBride’s wife, Paula, to his alleged collaborators in those movements.

Leaving aside the unprocessed and unverified military intelligence report—which implausibly links McBride to unnamed conspirators seeking to overthrow government—two broad trends can be distinguished in the speculative frenzy.

- Exoneration of McBride in advance, characterised by articles in successive editions of the Mail & Guardian; and
- Condemnation of him, even before he is charged, with Assistant Police Commissioner Suker Britz leading the charge.

The central theme of the Mail & Guardian reports is that McBride was on an undercover mission for either the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) or a “special operations unit” at the time of arrest. His mandate is reported to have been to identify and expose the gun runners supplying the Bophuthatswana Black Troops with cash-in-transit heists in SA.

But a spokesman for the NIA and its sister organisation, the SA Secret Service, emphatically denies that McBride was ever there—ever. A member of either organisation.

Safety & Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi is equally adamant: “McBride did not engage in any activities in Mozambique carried out at the behest of any structure of the SA government, including the intelligence services.”

It is, of course, theoretically possible that McBride was on an official mission that went awry and that his hypothetical superiors—in the best tradition of spymasters—are denying that he is their man.

But in the absence of demonstrable evidence, that is tenuous speculation resting on the assumption that Mufamadi is wilfully misleading parliament.

Commissioner Britz, who heads the police special investigations unit, has pre-empted the outcome from a different perspective. Having seen evidence compiled against McBride by Mozambique police, he states that, if presented to a SA court, it would be sufficient to put him “behind bars for a long time”. Britz has since repeated his initial statement to Rapport on television.

Britz’s statements have been labelled “misguided”. Mufamadi has taken another step: he has written to Police Services Commissioner George Fivaz, informing him that he considers Britz’s statements to have been irregular.

These statements have led observers to ponder whether, as a member of the “old guard”, Britz has an undeclared agenda against McBride, whose role in the 1986 Durban beachfront bombing won him many enemies.

His seemingly rapid rise in the Department of Foreign Affairs—he was a director for the South East Asia Desk—is a proverbial bone in the throat for those who see him as a wanted killer rather than a soldier in an undeclared war.

Britz is unrepentant, standing by his repeated statement: “There is nothing wrong with it because it is the truth,” he says.

Paula McBride, who is confident that her husband will be proven innocent, proffers an explanation for his presence in Mozambique: he was investigating gun running on his own initiative, having acquired insights into the flow of guns to Inkatha hostels residents while working for the ANC in East Rand townships in 1992.

A variant of that explanation, one that imputes mercenary motives to McBride, is that his trip to Mozambique related to an attempt to found an arms company. His wife admits that her husband’s support for black empowerment extends to the arms industry but denies that he personally wanted to launch a black-controlled arms concern. “He certainly would not have done it with illegally procured arms,” she states.

The plethora of conjecture contrasts starkly with the scarcity of fact. Britz labels the spat of speculation invoked by news of McBride’s arrest as “a madhouse of information”.

What is known is that McBride was arrested in Mozambique on suspicion of gun running, that he was there on a private visit though travelling on a diplomatic passport, that he had US$11,000 on him when apprehended, that he has been suspended by the Department of Foreign Affairs and that government has denied that he was there on its behalf.

Presidential spokesman Parks Makahlahla makes a valid point amid the controversy: McBride, like all SA citizens, is entitled to a presumption of innocence until and unless he is proven guilty.
Historic US presidential address in SA

United States president Bill Clinton received several prolonged rounds of applause from a packed Great Hall of Parliament as he delivered an historic address to a special joint sitting of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces.

None was more thunderous than when he declared: “America wants and needs a strong South Africa, and we’re determined to work with you as you build a strong South Africa.”

A murmur of laughter rippled through the chamber and the public galleries when he said – after extolling the similarities between the two countries’ histories and interests – that “sometimes we differ, even in family relationships”.

The parliamentarians on the floor of the House, as well as the dignitaries and members of the public in the galleries above, listened attentively as he spoke.

Mrs Clinton smiled proudly on a number of occasions during her husband’s speech.

As Clinton and Mandela slowly led the procession out of the chamber at the end of the proceedings, Clinton made a point of shaking as many hands as he could and striking up brief conversations with, among others, Democratic Party national chairman Ms Dene Smuts, who had just delivered the thank you address.

Later Clinton was given a first-hand account of the Afrikaner drive for self-determi-
nation when he met Freedom Front leader General Constand Viljoen. Viljoen was one of a group of opposition leaders who met Clinton for what were described as informal discussions after his address to Parliament.

Viljoen said afterwards he and Clinton had discussed the application of group rights throughout the world. Reference had been made to problems in East Europe, as well as the US, where the issue of group rights was becoming increasingly prominent.

Clinton is due to hold bilateral talks with Mandela today and several contentious issues are expected to be discussed, including Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma’s controversial medicines control legislation, which the US drug industry believes violates their patent rights.

He will also reportedly try to persuade Mandela to bring South Africa into an international anti-corruption initiative.

Clinton spent last night relaxing at a private dinner, White House press secretary Mike McCurry said. He had not had much time for seeing the sights of Cape Town, but had remarked how beautiful the city was.

Having overheard some White House aides saying they were going to climb Table Mountain, Clinton had joked that he would like to miss a few meetings and join them.

He will visit Gauteng tomorrow and move on to Botswana on Sunday. – Sapa.
Soweto excited about Clinton's visit tomorrow

US President Bill Clinton will be confronted with stark images of the 1976 uprising when he visits Soweto tomorrow. He will visit the Hector Pieterson Memorial precinct in Orlando West, housing hundreds of pictures of the uprisings.

Yesterday world-renowned lensman Peter Magubane, who took some of the pictures on show, was putting the final touches to his exhibition. Other pictures shown were taken by veteran photographers Sam Zima and Alf Kumalo.

Sowetans were excited yesterday over Clinton's visit and said they would take their place along the route and at the memorial from early in the day. Wozzen were reactivating the Hector Pieterson Memorial precinct and Regina Mundi church in Rockville, where Clinton will attend mass on Sunday.

- Staff Reporter
US president calls for pact based on mutual respect and reward

BY JOVIAL RAMTAR
Cape Town

Trade agreements and an increased flow of US investments to South Africa are on the cards following the call yesterday by President Bill Clinton for partnerships based on mutual respect and reward.

In an address to a joint sitting of Parliament, Clinton said: "Let us work with each other, let us learn from each other to turn the hope we now share into a history we can all be proud of. We seek to be your true partners."

He is being accompanied on his visit by an entourage of more than 1 000, including his wife, Hillary, US cabinet ministers, and businessmen hoping to strike partnership deals.

US and South African cabinet ministers today start negotiations which are expected to lead to agreements being signed within the context of the U.S.-SA Binational Commission chaired by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and his US counterpart, Al Gore. Today's meeting between President Mandela and Clinton is expected to be dominated by trade issues.

In his address, Clinton acknowledged that SA and the US differed on certain issues, but was confident both countries would build partnerships in trade and investment through incentives, such as Opec's new Africa Opportunity Fund.

"We seek to expand joint efforts to combat the grave threat of domestic and international crime through our new FBI and customs office here in South Africa. I hope we can build together to meet the persistent problems and fulfill the remarkable promise of the African continent."

"Yes, Africa remains the world's greatest development challenge, still plagued by poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy and unemployment. "Yes, terrible conflicts continue to tear at the heart of the continent, but from Cape Town to Kampala, from Dar es Salaam to Dakar, democracy is gaining strength, business is growing, peace is making progress."

His address to Parliament was preceded by a ceremony outside Paarl, where he was given a 21-gun salute before inspecting a guard of honour.

Clinton said the US had an economic stake in South Africa's success: "In overcoming your past you offer a powerful example to people who are torn by their own divisions in all parts of this earth. Simply put, America wants a strong South Africa, America needs a strong South Africa and we're determined to work with you as you build a strong South Africa."

Signalling a change in attitude towards Africa, Clinton said US policymakers no longer spoke of "what we can do for Africa" but "what we can do with Africa."

"As Africa grows strong, America grows stronger - through prosperous consumers on this continent and new African products brought to our markets, through partners to fight and find solutions to common problems."

Earlier in the day, he accompanied his wife to the Victoria Mxenge housing project in Philippi, outside Cape Town, where he pledged assistance worth about R15 million.

Peter Fabricius reports that the US and South Africa failed to reach agreement yesterday on the contentious issue of substituting generic medicines for patent medicines.

Officials said it seemed likely the dispute would go all the way to the World Trade Organisation.
America needs a strong South Africa

This is the text of President Bill Clinton's address to the Great Hall of Parliament in Cape Town yesterday.
I am deeply honoured to be the first American President ever to visit South Africa, and even more honoured to stand before this Parliament to address a South Africa truly free and democratic at last. (Applause.)

Joining my wife and me on this tour are many members of our Congress and distinguished members of my cabinet and administration — men and women who supported the struggle for a free South Africa, leaders of the American business community, now awakening to the promise and potential of South Africa, people of all different backgrounds and beliefs.

Among them, however, are members of the Congressional Black Caucus and African-American members of my government.

It is especially important for them to be here, because it was not so long ago in the long span of human history that their ancestors were transported from this continent and sold into slavery in the United States. But now they return to Africa as leaders of the United States. Today they sit alongside the leaders of the new South Africa, united in the powerful poetry of justice.

As I look out at all of you, I see our common promise. Two centuries ago the courage and imagination that created the United States and the principles that are enshrined in our constitution inspired men and women without a voice across the world to believe that one day they, too, could have a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Now the courage and the imagination that created the new South Africa and the principles that guide your constitution inspire all of us to be animated by the belief that one day humanity all the world over can at last be released from the bonds of hatred and bigotry.

It is tempting for Americans of all backgrounds perhaps to see too many similarities in the stories of our two countries, because sometimes similarities which appear to be profound are in fact superficial. And they can obscure the unique and complex struggle South Africa has made to shed the chains of its past for a brighter tomorrow.

Nonetheless, in important ways, our paths do converge — by a vision of real multiracial democracy bound together by healing and hope, renewal and redemption. Therefore, I came here to say simply this: let us work with each other, let us learn from each other, to turn the hope we now share into a history that all of us can be proud of.

Mr. President, for millions upon millions of Americans, South Africa's story is embodied by your heroic sacrifices and your breathtaking walk "out of the darkness and into the glorious light". But you are always the first to say that the real heroes of South Africa's transformation are its people, who first walked away from the past and now move with determination, patience and courage toward a new day and a new millennium.

We rejoice at what we have already accomplished. We seek to be your partners and your true friends in the work that lies ahead — overcoming the lingering legacy of apartheid, seizing the promise of your rich land and your gifted people.

From our own 220-year experience with democracy, we know that real progress requires, in the memorable phrase of Max Weber, "the long and slow-boring of hard boards".

We know that democracy is always a work still in the making, a march toward what our own founders called a more perfect union.

You have every reason to be hopeful. South Africa was reborn, after all, just four years ago. In the short time since, you've worked hard to deepen your democracy, to spread prosperity, to educate all your people, and to strengthen the hand of justice. The promise before you is immense — a people unleashed, free to give full expression to their energy, intellects and creativity, a nation embraced by the world, whose success is important to all our futures.

America has a profound and pragmatic stake in your success because we, like you, need strong partners to build prosperity; a strategic stake because of 21st-century threats to our common security, from terrorism, from international crime and drug trafficking, from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, from the spread of deadly disease and the degradation of our common environment. These perils do not stop at any nation's borders. And we have a moral stake, because in overcoming your past you offer a powerful example to people who are torn by their own divisions in all parts of this earth.

Simply put, America wants a strong South Africa. America needs a strong South Africa. And we are determined to work with you as you build a strong South Africa. (Applause.)

In the first four years of your freedom, it has been our privilege to support your transition with aid and assistance. Now, as the new South Africa emerges, we seek a genuine partnership based on mutual respect and mutual reward.

Like all partners, we cannot agree on everything. Sometimes our interests and our views diverge, but that is true even in family partnerships.

Nonetheless, I am convinced, we agree on most things and on the important things because we share the same basic values: a commitment to democracy and to peace, a commitment to open markets, a commitment to give all our people the tools they need to succeed in the modern world, a commitment to make elemental human rights the birth right of every single child. (Applause.)

Over the past four years, we put the building blocks of our partnership in place, starting with the Binational Commission, headed by Deputy President Mbeki and our Vice President Al Gore. This remarkable effort has given high-level energy to critical projects, from energy to education, from business development to science and technology, cutting through red tape, turning good words into concrete deeds.

We are deeply indebted to you, Mr Mbeki, for your outstanding leadership, and we thank you for it. (Applause.)

The BNC brings to life what I believe you call "Masakhane", the act of building together. (Applause.) As we look toward the future, we will seek to build together new partnerships in trade and
investment through incentives such as OPEC's new Africa Opportunity Fund, already supporting two projects here in South Africa in transportation and telecommunications.

We will seek to expand joint efforts to combat the grave threat of domestic and international crime through our new FBI and Customs and Immigration offices here in South Africa. We will seek to strengthen our co-operation around the world, for already South Africa's leadership and its extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and creating an African nuclear-free zone have made all our children's futures more secure.

I also hope we can build together to meet the persistent problems and fulfill the remarkable promise of the African continent. Yes, Africa remains the world's greatest development challenge, still plagued in places by poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, and unemployment.

Yes, terrible conflicts continue to tear at the heart of the continent, as I saw yesterday in Rwanda. But from Cape Town to Kampala, from Dar es Salaam to Dakar, democracy is gaining strength, business is growing, peace is making progress. We are seeing what Deputy President Mbeki has called an African Renaissance. (Applause.)

In coming to Africa my motive in part was to help the American people see the new Africa with new eyes, and to focus our own efforts on new policies suited to the new reality. It used to be when American policymakers thought of Africa at all, they would ask, what can we do for Africa, or whatever can we do about Africa? Those were the wrong questions. The right question today is, what can we do with Africa? (Applause.)

Throughout this trip I've been talking about ideas we want to develop with our African partners to benefit all our people - ideas to improve our children's education through training and technology to ensure that none of our children are hungry or without good health care; to build impartial, credible and effective justice systems; to strengthen the foundation of civil society and deepen democracy; to build strong economies from the top down and from the grass roots up; to prevent conflict from erupting and to stop it quickly if it does.

Each of these efforts has a distinct mission, but all share a common approach - to help the African people help themselves to become better equipped, not only to dream their own dreams, but at long last to make those dreams come true.

Yesterday in Entebbe we took an important step forward. There, with leaders from Eastern and Central Africa, we pledged to work together to build a future in which the doors of opportunity are open to all, and countries move from the margins to the mainstream of the global economy; to strengthen democracy and respect for human rights in all nations; to banish genocide from the region and this continent so that every African child can grow up in safety and peace.

As Africa grows strong, America grows stronger. Through prosperous consumers on this continent and new African products brought to our markets, through new partners to fight and find solutions to common problems from the spread of AIDS and malaria to the greenhouse gases that are changing our climate. And most of all, through the inestimable benefit of new ideas, new energy, new passion from the minds and hearts of the people charting their own future on this continent.

Yes, Africa still needs the world, but more than ever it is equally true that the world needs Africa. (Applause.)

Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen, at the dawn of the 21st century we have a remarkable opportunity to leave behind this century's darkest moments while fulfilling its most brilliant possibilities - not just in South Africa, nor just in America, but in all the world.

I come to this conviction well aware of the obstacles that lie in the path. From Bosnia to the Middle East, from Northern Ireland to the Great Lakes region of Africa, we have seen the terrible price people pay when they insist on finding and killing and keeping down their neighbours.

For all the wonders of the modern world, we are still bedevilled by notions that our racial, ethnic, tribal and religious differences are somehow more important than our common humanity; that we can only communicate if we have someone to look down on.

But then I look around this hall. There is every conceivable difference - on the surface - among the Americans and the South Africans in this great Hall of Freedom. Different races, different religions, different native tongues, but, beneath, the same hopes, the same dreams, the same values.

We all cherish family and faith, work and community, freedom and responsibility. We all want our children to grow up in a world where their talents are matched by their opportunities.

And we all have come to believe that our countries will be stronger and our futures will be brighter as we let go of our hatreds and our fears, and as we realise that what we have in common really does matter far more than our differences.

The preamble to your constitution says, "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity."

In the context of your own history and the experience of the world in this century, these simple words are a bold call to the future, an affirmation of humanity at its best, an assurance that those who build can triumph over those who tear down, that, truly, the peacemakers are blessed, and they shall inherit the Earth.

Thank you, and God bless the new South Africa.
That’s what the press said when I was appointed...
Let us build together
Although terrible conflicts still tore "at the heart of the continent", democracy was growing and the boundaries of peace were expanding in Africa," President Bill Clinton said in his address to the South African Parliament yesterday.

Clinton's measured speech was reminiscent of British premier Harold MacMillan's "Winds of Change" speech made to the all-white old Assembly in 1960.

Paying special tribute to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki for his work with Vice-President Al Gore in establishing the US-SA bi-national commission, aimed at fast-tracking trade and investment, Clinton said: "We are seeking what Deputy President Mbeki calls an African renaissance.

"Africa still needs the world, but it is equally true that the world needs Africa."

The bi-national commission brought to life "Mashikane" the act of building together, Clinton said.

The first US president to visit SA said his nation needed a strong South Africa "and we are determined to work with you as you build a strong South Africa".

"As Africa grows strong, America grows strong," he said.

Clinton was earlier met at Parliament by a naval guard of honour, resplendent in their white uniforms, and given a 21-gun salute.

Any differences between South Africa and the USA were swept under copious lengths of red carpet laid out from Stalplein to Parliament.

Clinton and his wife Hillary were warmly greeted by President Nelson Mandela and his fashionably dressed companion Ms Graça Machel when they arrived at Tumulus after 4pm.

They then followed the red carpet to a specially constructed red podium surmounted by a white tent.

The two men looked impassively at Table Mountain as the two national salutes were played and a ceremonial American flag, made at the last minute by a Bellville firm, was unfurled.

They were watched by sharpshooters stationed on rooftops and scores of South African and American secret service agents.

Clinton said he was deeply honoured to be the first American president to visit South Africa, "especially" one that was now fully democratic.

The first to clap in the public gallery of the National Assembly when Clinton spoke of the need for a partnership between South Africa and the United States in which “America wants ... and American needs a strong South Africa" was the Rev Jesse Jackson.

"In coming to Africa, my motive, in part, was to help the American people to see the new Africa with new eyes, and to focus on new policies suited to the new millennium."

In the past it had been asked what could be done for Africa. "The right question today is to ask what can be done with Africa," he said.

Clinton said that for all the wonders of the modern world "we are still bedevilled by notions that our racial, ethnic, tribal and religious differences are somehow more important than our common humanity, that we can only lift ourselves up if we have someone to look down on."

"But then I look around this hall. There is every conceivable difference on the surface among the Americans and the South Africans in this great..."
Clinton’s visit may boost SA economy
80 2/12/94 (BNH)

US COMPANIES have rushed back to SA since apartheid ended and now President Bill Clinton is here too, to deliver a timely fillip to ailing confidence.

Clinton is the latest big-name American to join a stampede to SA.

Since democracy arrived in 1994, US firms have become the single largest direct investors in the country and now employ almost as many people as back in 1985.

Clinton’s arrival could not have been timed better. “Safety and security issues, unemployment and the needs and skills shortages of the workplace, slowing economic growth … are all factors that have created an environment of some anxiety,” says JP Morgan MD Ron Gault.

“Clinton can make a difference. He will focus attention on the whole continent and particularly those countries that he visits.”

More than 275 US firms now have direct or indirect ties with SA and have invested close to R124bn since 1994.

The Washington-based Investor Responsibility Research Centre estimates US companies now employ about 86 000 South Africans — close to the 1985 levels when more than 280 US firms were represented in SA.

"SA is on the map and if you’re interested in the continent, it’s a logical place to set up shop," said Meg Voorhes, a director at the centre.

Clinton will be accompanied by a bevy of businessmen and his mere presence is likely to improve the outlook.

Jenny Cargill, a director of Johannesberg consultants Business Map, said US business until now had been largely replacing the production capacity surrendered during the years of disinvestment, but could be encouraged to do more.

"If US businesses sense that SA occupies a special place (with Clinton), it could create a mood back home that will encourage greater involvement," she said.

— Reuters
Clinton punts a US partnership with SA

Stephen Laufer

CAPE TOWN — The US wanted and needed a strong SA in the context of a strengthening African continent, and it was determined to work with South Africans as they built their country, US President Bill Clinton told members of parliament and the National Council of Provinces yesterday.

Speaking after President Nelson Mandela had officially welcomed him with full military honours in front of Tuynhuys, Clinton said the US had a "profound and pragmatic stake" in SA's success and example on the economic, security and moral fronts. It sought a partnership based on mutual respect and mutual rewards.

Punting a strong theme of mutual values and the potential for shared economic growth, Clinton said Africa still needed the world. "But more than ever, the world needs Africa."

The US would seek to build new partnerships in trade and investment through incentives such as Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' new Africa Opportunity Fund. The fund was already supporting projects in transportation and telecommunications in SA.

The US hoped to expand joint efforts in combating crime. It wanted to strengthen co-operation around the world, building on SA's successes in nuclear non-proliferation.

The US and SA should work with and learn from each other in order to turn hope for the future embodied in their constitutions into a history both could be proud of.

They need not agree on everything, but what they had in common mattered more than the differences. This included a commitment to democracy, peace, and open markets.

Both countries were committed to giving all their people the tools they needed to succeed in the modern world and to making human rights the birthright of every child.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and US President Bill Clinton hold talks yesterday at the Cape Grace hotel in Cape Town.

The US, like SA, needed strong partners to build prosperity. It had a strategic stake in a strong SA because of threats to common security from terrorism, international crime and drug trafficking, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

SA's peaceful transition to democracy had set a powerful moral example to people torn by division around the world, Clinton said.

His late afternoon speech followed a morning during which he unexpectedly joined his wife Hillary on a visit to the Victoria Mxenge self-help housing project in Phillipi on the Cape Flats.

He later had an informal meeting with Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in his hotel near the Waterfront.

Clinton referred warmly to Mbeki several times in his speech, praising him for the energy he had brought to the leadership of the US-SA binational commission.

The commission was a "way of turning good words into concrete deeds", and brought to life Masakhanse's spirit of building together.

The speech lasted 18 minutes, disappointing MPs who had expected a longer, more substantive statement on US policy towards Africa. Among the delegation listening from the gallery were US cabinet members, the US envoy on democracy in Africa, Maureen Jackson, and Susan Rice, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa.

Clinton told MPs the US sought "to be your partners in overcoming the legacy of apartheid and exploring the

Continued on Page 2
NUM warns ANC of poll abstentions

Renée Grawitzky

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has warned of mass abstention by African National Congress (ANC) supporters at next year's elections.

NUM president James Moilatsi said at the union's congress in Johannesburg yesterday that ordinary people might be less disposed to vote for the ANC on the same scale as in 1994.

He also said the NUM would press the ANC to amend the constitution's property-rights clause; provincial powers; and strengthen workers' rights in the bill of rights if the ANC secured more than a two-thirds majority.

The NUM, he said, would work hard to ensure the ANC was voted in with more than a two-thirds majority so that it could make such amendments.

However, he said: "Our most difficult task is going to be to prevent mass abstention by voters who believe that the government has failed them in some way." It was crucial at this juncture to evaluate the ANC's performance and if necessary put pressure on government to "take remedial action" ahead of the elections.

Big business had won the struggle for control over economic policy and "our membership of the tripartite alliance has counted for very little". Government was "playing the tune composed by big business in the mistaken belief that if there were completely free markets then employment and prosperity would rise. Concepts such as the Freedom Charter and reconstruction and development programme, "highly popular in one period", had been dropped because of what they meant to business and government.

NUM media officer George Molebatsi said although the bill of rights and the constitution favoured labour, there were problems in the wording of the property clause which effectively protected landowners.

Provincial powers had to be amended to grant central government greater powers as the provinces were impeding transformation. "Provinces should not have the right to fire teachers, it should be a central government issue."

In the bill of rights, employment should be a basic right.

Moilatsi said unless labour, government and business adopted a positive and co-ordinated approach to retrenchments in the mining industry, "we will not be able to contain the anger of our members" and could face strike action.

Moilatsi announced that he would not be standing for re-election next year. NUM acting general secretary Gwede Mantashe was unanimously elected as general secretary.
NOTEBOOK

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MAY 14, 2023

The American Society of Professional Hatchetmen (ASP) is a national organization dedicated to promoting the art and science of hatchetsmanship. Founded in 1952, ASP members come from all walks of life and share a common passion for the hatchet. The society offers training programs, certification exams, and a variety of resources to help its members improve their skills.

As a member of ASP, you gain access to a wealth of knowledge and resources that will help you become a better hatchetman. Whether you're just starting out or looking to take your skills to the next level, ASP has something for everyone.

Join today and become part of the ASP community. Together, we can continue to promote the positive aspects of hatchetsmanship and ensure that this art form remains alive for generations to come.
THE ‘CIRCUS’ COMES TO TOWN

Cheers and jeers for President Clinton

LOCALS showed their respect — and distrust — for Clinton and his entourage when they rolled into the city at the start of their South African visit yesterday. MELANIE GOSLING reports.

Many Capetonians avoided the city centre yesterday in anticipation of traffic chaos surrounding President Bill Clinton’s visit.

Businessmen who spoke to the Cape Times said they had cancelled or postponed appointments in the city to avoid “the circus” in town and, as a result, the traffic was noticeably thinner.

A few hundred spectators gathered in Adderley Street to watch the world’s most powerful leader go by, but missed him as he entered Parliament from the top end of town.

Instead they crowded around to watch a group of protesters, called Muslims Against Global Oppression, burn the red, white and blue American flag and chant “death to America, death to Clinton.”

Some of the placards carried by the 100 Muslim protesters read: “Clinton we hate your guts!”, “One bullet, one Clinton”, “Clinton murderer of innocents”, “Clinton you are a political gauffer”.

One of the co-ordinators, Mr Musin Achmad, said the South African government had not asked the people if they wanted Clinton to visit.

“They had no mandate from the people. We don’t want him here.”

Another organiser, who did not want to be named, said: “Many of the Americans are wonderful people, but the US administration is evil. They have razed Iraq to the ground, left the country in smithereens. They are murderers.”

The group had some trouble setting the American flag alight as it was made of nylon and melted without much flame.

But after several attempts with several lighters and bits of paper, they burned most of it, and then the group grabbed the smouldering remains and tore them apart, chanting “Death to America”, moving off the pavement into the road.

A police officer then walked over to them and told Achmad that unless he controlled his followers, he would take action.

“I’ll give you 10 minutes. If you can’t control them in that time, then we must help you,” said Superintendent Uys.

He formed his officers, carrying riot shields, into a human chain across Darling Street, in anticipation of the crowd moving closer to Parliament.

Most people who waited for a glimpse of Clinton appeared to be more curious than excited.

“I can’t say I like him, but I want to see him all the same, just so I can say I was here,” said one.

Businessman Mr Bob Hadley, who phoned the Cape Times, said: “I’ve made no appointments in town and am not going anywhere near the city centre. Lots of us have done so to avoid the whole bloody farce.”

“Why the Americans have to turn the city into a fairground I don’t know. Look at how the Queen sailed into Simon’s Town so quietly, without fuss — and she’s much more important than Clinton.”

The only traffic jam was caused when an articulated truck broke down at the top of Adderley Street and, shortly afterwards, a car broke down next to it, blocking both lanes. Some policemen pushed the car out of the way while others helped the truck driver get going.

Earlier, traffic officers on patrol ensured that several roads close to Parliament were cleared, and any vehicles that had disregarded the no parking signs along the streets were towed away by room.

The meter maids said most of the motorists had been co-operative.

“But that lady in the red Uno, she just ran away when I told her she could not park here, she wouldn’t listen. Well, if she doesn’t come back before twelve o’clock she will find her car gone. It’s her own fault,” the meter maid said.

The handful of spectators in the Parliament precinct, mainly office workers, watched as President Clinton walked down the red carpet with President Mandela.

As a vehicle full of men in suits and sunglasses sped by, the Parliament’s underground parking, a woman said: “Yo, yo, yo! It’s the FBI. You can tell it’s them because they always have to wear those sunglasses.”

Itinerary for today

10am — Meeting with President Nelson Mandela at Tshwane.
11am — Question and answer session at Tshwane.
12pm — Leave by boat for Robben Island tour by Mandela.
4pm — Leave Robben Island and return to Cape Town.
(From 6am to about 8.30 and then again from 12 noon to about 1pm the elevated freeway to the Eastern Boulevard and the route via Zonnebloem Drive down Roeland Street will be closed.)
7pm — Vereeniging Wine Estate for state dinner.
11pm — Return to Cape Town.
(Evening travel to Somerset West is likely to be by air as traffic authorities have not been instructed to close any roads.)
DEPUTY President Thabo Mbeki yesterday responded to reports that he had criticised elements of US President Bill Clinton's US-Africa Growth and Opportunity Bill, saying both trade and aid had to be addressed.

A front page report in yesterday's Business Day said Mbeki, in an interview with the French political quarterly Politique Internationale, had said that Clinton's formula - trade, not aid - was wrong.

Speaking at an impromptu press conference, after paying a courtesy visit to Clinton, Mbeki said South Africa had received significant aid from the US.

However, there was a need to speed up development in South Africa and therefore both trade and US aid had to be addressed.

Clinton said he was attempting to increase trade with, and aid to, South Africa and the rest of the continent. Although the US had put more emphasis on trade over the past five years, it had certainly not abandoned aid. Trade and private industry were necessary to raise developing countries to mid-income levels.

He said one of the main purposes of his visit was for the people of the United States to see the new South Africa and the new Africa. It was important for the US and Africa to face the challenges of the next century together.

In the past, Africa had been seen to consist of game parks and opportunities for tourism. Not enough emphasis had been placed on concrete developmental partnerships. His trip would encourage this.

Clinton said he was thrilled to be in South Africa and had wanted to visit the country for a long time.

He praised President Nelson Mandela for the role he had played as a world leader in the campaign to ban landmines and said the US intended to increase the budget for landmine-clearing activities. — Sapa
what Clinton told Parliament

Now the courage and the imagination that created the new South Africa and the principles that guide your constitution are all to be animated by the belief that at one day humanity the world over can be released from the bonds of hatred and bigotry.

For America, the views of Americans for all backgrounds, I think, perhaps, may be seen too many similarities in the stories of our two countries. The only difference, now, perhaps, is the fact that the people of South Africa have to move from the past, and our people are forced to move from the past and to turn a page.

The President, for millions upon millions of Americans, South Africa's story is embodied by your heroic sacrifice and your breathtaking walk “out of the dark and into the glorious light.” But you are always the first to say that the real heroes of South Africa's transformation are the people, first walked away from the past and who move with determination, patience, and courage toward a new day and a new millennium.

We rejoice at what you have already accomplished. We seek to be your partners and to be friends in the work that lies ahead—overcoming the lingering legacy of apartheid, setting the promise of your rich land and your gifted people.

From our own 200-year experience with democracy, we know that real progress requires, in the memorable phrase of Max Weber, “the long and slow boring of hard boards.” We know that democracy is always a work in progress, and that the path toward what the world understands as a more perfect union.

You have every reason to be hopeful. South Africa was born, after all, just four years ago. In the short time since, you have worked hard to deepen your democracy, to build prosperity, to educate all your people, and to strengthen the hand of justice.

The promise before you is immense—a people unshackled, free to live in freedom, to express their energy, intellects, and creativity, a nation embraced by the world, whose success is important to all our futures.

America has a profound and pragmatic stake in your success: an economic stake because we, like you, need strong partners to build prosperity; a strategic stake because of the 21st century's threats to our common security, from terrorism, from international crime and drug trafficking, from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, from the spread of deadly disease and the degradation of our common environment. These threats do not stop at any nation's borders. And we have a moral stake, because in overoming your historic challenges you are a powerful example to people who are torn by their own divisions in all parts of this earth.

Simply put, America wants a strong South Africa. America needs a strong South Africa. And we are determined to work with you as you build a strong South Africa.

In the first few years of your freedom, it has been our privilege to support your transition with aid and assistance. Now, as the new South Africa emerges, we seek a genuine partnership based on mutual respect and mutual reward. Like all partners, we cannot agree on everything. Sometimes our interests and our views diverge, but that is true even in family partnerships.

None the less, I am convinced, we agree on many things and on the important things because we share the same basic values: a commitment to democracy and to peace, a commitment to open markets, a commitment to give all the people the tools they need to succeed in the modern world, a commitment to make elemental human rights the birthright of every single child.

Over the past four years, we have been building new partners in trade and investment through incentives such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act. We have supported two projects here in South Africa in transportation and telecommunications.

We will seek to expand joint efforts to promote the world's most important economic zones and to strengthen the engine of the world's economies. We will support the development of critical infrastructure, and we will strengthen the African Development Bank.

I also hope we can build together to meet the persistent problems and fulfill the remarkable promise of the African continent. Yes, Africa is the world's greatest development challenge, still plagued in places by poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, and unemployment. Yes, terrible conflicts continue to tear at the heart of the continent, as I saw yesterday in Rwanda. But from Cape Town to Kigali, from Dar-es-Salaam to Dakar, democracy is gaining strength, business is growing, peace is making progress. We are seeing what President Mbeki has called an African Renaissance.

In coming to Africa, my motive in part was to help the American people see the new Africa, with hopes and dreams, and to focus our efforts on new policies suited to the new reality. It used to be when American policymakers thought of Africa at all, they would ask, what in Africa, or what can we do about Africa? Those were the wrong questions. The right question today is, what can we do with Africa?

Throughout this trip I've been talking about ideas we want to develop with our African partners, and all our people ideas to improve the children's education through training and technology, to ensure that none of our children are hungry or without good health care; to build impartial, credible and effective justice systems; to strengthen the foundation of civil society and deepen democracy; to build strong economies from the top down and from the grass roots up; to prevent conflict from erupting and to stop it if it does.

Each of these efforts has a distinct mission, but all share a common approach—to help the African people help themselves to become better equipped, not only to dream their own dreams, but at last long to make those dreams come true. Yesterday in Inhambane we took an important step forward. There, with leaders from central and eastern Africa, we pledged to work together to build a continent in which the doors of opportunity are open to all, and countries move from the margins to the mainstream of the global economy; to strengthen democracy and respect for human rights in all nations; to banish genocide from the region and this continent so that every African child can grow up in safety and peace.

As Africa grows strong, America grows stronger. Through prosperous consumers on this continent and new African products brought to our markets, through new partners to fight and find solutions to common problems—from the spread of AIDS and malaria to the greenhouses that are changing our climate. And most of all, through the incredible benefits of new ideas, new energy, new passion that arise from the minds and hearts of the people charting their own future on this continent. Yes, Africa still needs the world, but more and more than ever it is equally true that the world needs Africa.

Members of Parliament. Ladies and gentlemen, at the dawn of the 21st century, we can have a remarkable opportunity to leave behind this century's darkest moments while fulfilling its most brilliant possibilities—just as in South Africa, just as in America, but in all the world.

I come today with a firm conviction: we must be well aware of the obstacles that lie in the path. From Bosnia to the Middle East, from Northern Ireland to the Great Lakes region of Africa, we have seen the terrible price people pay when they insist on finding and killing and keeping down their neighbours.

For all the wonders of the modern world, we are still, we believe, by nature that our racial, ethnic, tribal and religious differences are somehow more important than our shared humanity. We can only lift ourselves up if we have someone to look down on.

But then I look around this hall. There is every conceivable difference on the surface among the Americans and the South Africans in this great Hall of Freedom. Different races, different religions, different native tongues, but, underneath, the same hopes, the same dreams, the same values. We all cherish family and faith, work and community, freedom and responsibility. We all want our children to grow up in a world where their talents are matched by the opportunities that we all have come to believe that our countries will be stronger and our futures will be brighter. And as we reduce the fear and hatred on the surface. As we strive towards a better world for all, the programmes of the African Renaissance.

"Democracy is strengthening, peace is progressing...we are seeing an African Renaissance."
God bless the new South Africa.
A new chapter in the Robert McBride saga has unfolded, with President Mandela's appointment of an urgent judicial inquiry into a Military Intelligence report claiming there is a conspiracy to overthrow the State.

The report apparently alleges disaffected former members of Umkhonto weSizwe (known also as MK), the disbanded armed wing of the African National Congress, are behind the alleged coup attempt.

The inquiry, at an undisclosed venue, is being held in camera today. A statement by the president's office said Defence Force chief Georg Meiring was to feature prominently in the inquiry.

The commission of inquiry is to be chaired by Chief Justice IsmailMohamed.

The appointment of the commission is the latest twist in a series of allegations which emerged after the arrest in Mozambique on gun-runnning allegations of top foreign affairs official Mr McBride. At the time newspaper reports, citing security force sources, alleged that a Military Intelligence (MI) report gave details of a plot to oust the Government. Mr McBride was said to have been linked to the investigation.

Sources indicated that the report, which at the time had not been circulated in other intelligence circles, was forwarded to Mr Mandela, who ordered a judicial commission of inquiry. The source of the allegations, and the motive for them having been made, are also likely to come under the spotlight.

James Selfe, Democratic Party spokesman on defence, welcomed the probe. South Africa's transition to democracy was vulnerable in a number of ways, and none more so than the threat that the Government could be overthrown by force, he said.

Even the perception that this could be possible undermined the civil order. Of the utmost importance was the faith and trust which should exist between the president, as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and his senior commanders in the defence force, Mr Selfe said. "Unless this faith and trust exists, instability stares us in the face. This is a very serious situation and for this reason we welcome the commission."

Last weekend Saturday Argus reported that the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee (Niccoc), comprising heads of the National Intelligence Agency, the South African Secret Service, MI and South African Police Intelligence, knew nothing of the surveillance under which Mr McBride was said to have been for the past two years and which is said to have made allegations that Mr McBride was involved in a plot to overthrow the Government. The Cabinet issues Niccoc with instructions.

The president's office announced yesterday that Mr Mandela had appointed a commission of inquiry "into a report which he received from the SA National Defence Force on organised activities with the aim to overthrow the Government."

"The commission has been asked to report urgently to the president on the process relating to the compilation, verification and subsequent treatment of the report," presidential spokesman Perik Mankahana said.
A SHARED MOMENT: US President Bill Clinton and President Nelson Mandela look out of the window of the jail cell where Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years as a political prisoner on Robben Island. The emotional visit took place yesterday.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The White House was astonished at the public lecture President Mandela gave to President Clinton yesterday about how the world's greatest power should conduct its foreign policy and how SA would continue to consort with so-called pariah states, whether America liked it or not.

Mandela also spelt out bluntly his opposition or plain rejection of cherished initiatives or Africa launched by the US government, including its Africa trade bill, the setting of which is one of the main reasons for Clinton's five-nation African tour. "This is a matter over which we have serious reservations," he said about the trade bill.

While showing the utmost respect for Clinton, Mandela nevertheless dished out some direct fatherly advice. In an obvious reference to Iraq, which the US came close to bombing recently, Mandela called Clinton's attention to the United Nations charter which calls upon member states to try and settle their differences by peaceful methods.

"That is the position which has influenced our own approach towards problems," Mandela said. "And the US, as the leader of the world, should set an example to help eliminate tensions in the world."

The White House was also taken aback by Mandela's declaration that he would continue to meet whatever leaders he pleased, whether or not they were democratic.

Mandela responded more positively to American urging for SA to take part in the African Crisis Response Initiative, a US plan to help train African forces to participate in peacekeeping on the continent. Mandela said he supported the idea - but with the proviso that the peacekeeping force be commanded by an African.

SA's objections to the trade bill, known as the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, centre on its eligibility requirements. Only countries pursuing free-market economies and democratic politics will be eligible for the enhanced access to the US market which it offers.

Mandela apparently told Clinton that although SA would qualify, these provisions could harm African countries that had less institutional capacity. Clinton responded that the bill would offer all African countries greater access to the US market - but those countries which met the eligibility criteria would enjoy even greater access.
Plot to topple Mandela probed

By ESTELLE RANDALL and PETA KROST

The Robert McBride saga has led to the appointment of a commission of inquiry into a plot to overthrow the Government.

And President Nelson Mandela has taken the matter so seriously that he has asked the commission to report back to him as a matter of urgency.

Mandela has instructed three top judges to begin the probe today at a secret venue.

Allegations of a possible plot surfaced in news reports after the arrest of senior Department of Foreign Affairs official McBride. The report apparently claimed that dissident former members of Umkhonto weSizwe (MK), the ANC’s former armed wing, were behind the alleged coup.

It is expected that the Chief of the Defence Force, General Geoff Meiring, will feature prominently in the inquiry. But, according to defence sources, Meiring will not attend today’s hearing.

The President’s Office yesterday announced that, in terms of the constitution, Mandela had appointed a commission of inquiry “into a report which he received from the SA National Defence Force on organised activities with the aim to overthrow the Government”.

The military intelligence report was presented to Mandela before the arrest of McBride in Mozambique earlier this month on allegations of arms dealing.

Last week the Saturday Star reported that the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee (Nicoc) comprising heads of the National Intelligence Agency, the South African Secret Service, military intelligence and SA Police Intelligence, knew nothing of the intelligence surveillance under which McBride is said to have been for the past ten years and which is said to contain allegations that McBride was involved in a plot to overthrow the Government.

The Cabinet issues Nicoc with instructions on security issues needed to be investigated. It is understood that one of the main concerns of the Government is who issued the order to compile the report, allegedly without the knowledge of the Defence Ministry.

“The commission has been asked to report urgently to the president on the process relating to the compilation, verification and subsequent treatment of the report,” presidential spokesman Parks Mapakabana said.

The commission will be chaired by Chief Justice Ismail Momonedi and will have two additional members – Constitutional Court deputy president Mr Justice Pius Laboa and Mr Justice Richard Goldstone, a member of the Constitutional Court.

Government sources said the report was compiled by military intelligence and related to a possible coup.

SANDF spokesman Major General Louis Kirsten confirmed late yesterday that the military intelligence report, the basis for today’s inquiry, was the same report handed to Mandela before McBride was arrested in Mozambique.

Guerrillas

“The army gathered information which was compiled and handed to the police (after McBride’s arrest). This is serious business,” he said.

While the inquiry gets under way, there have been several new developments in the McBride investigation:

Mozambican police sources told the Saturday Star that McBride’s co-accused Vusi Mhlasa had confessed that he and McBride planned to send firearms to Frelimo guerrillas fighting for East Timor’s independence from Indonesia.

Meanwhile, Jose Nasimutho, the lawyer who has been assisting Paula McBride with legal assistance for her husband, has clarified his involvement with the East Timorese liberation movement and his involvement in the McBride case.
McBride's co-accused tells police of East Timor plot

Lawyer has rebel sympathy

Vusi Mhata, Robert McBride's co-accused, has told the Mozambican police that he and Mr McBride planned to send firearms to Fretin guerrillas fighting for East Timor's independence from Indonesia.

And the East Timor connection turned up again this week when Mr McBride's lawyer, Jose Nazimento, confirmed he was a member of an East Timor solidarity group in South Africa. However, he said it was coincidence that he was representing Mr McBride.

Mr McBride and Mr Mhata were arrested in Mozambique earlier this month on suspicion of gun running. Mr McBride has been suspended from the South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs, where he is the director of Asian affairs.

Mr Mhata told the police in a statement that the AK-47s and Makarov pistols bought in Mozambique were to be shipped to East Timor via Portugal. East Timor is a former Portuguese colony.

In addition, a Mozambican policeman told Saturday Argus that, contrary to speculation that Mr McBride had been "set up", he was in fact trapped.

He claimed that Mr McBride and Mr Mhata walked into the trap when police secretly supplied the weapons to their contact.

According to the police, Mozambican counter-intelligence officers set the trap because the two men had allegedly bought weapons from the same source before.

The police trap was conceived after Mr McBride allegedly contacted fellow South African Mr Mhata, who also goes by the name Madida. Mr Mhata then got in touch with a third person in Maputo who in turn contacted Alex Mamba. Mr Mamba is suspected of being linked to former apartheid South African security agents.

The "third man", in whose house the trap was set, did not have weapons to sell to Mr McBride and Mr Mhata.

Mozambican police were monitoring the man, who had apparently been arrested before on similar charges and may have been recruited as a police informer as a result. Sources close to South African intelligence services say the man is a "turncoat".

After he was approached to supply weapons, the man, whose name is still unknown to Saturday Argus, contacted the Mozambican police and informed them people from South Africa were interested in buying guns.

The police gave him the go ahead to arrange the deal.

The police provided the guns which Mr McBride was alleged to have bought. The firearms were packed into at least seven sacks.

According to Mr Mhata's police statement, the guns were to be sent to an agent in Portugal, from where they would have been transported to Indonesia.

A Mozambican policeman close to the investigation told Saturday Argus that Mr Mhata said the guns would have been shipped from a container and covered in dried fish to disguise them before being transported to Portugal.

It is believed a contact in Portugal would have intercepted the guns and redirected them to Indonesia.

The policeman said Mozambican police were investigating the possibility that the gun deal may not have been the first conducted by Mr McBride.

They are investigating the possibility that, in previous deals, the firearms could have come from a Mozambican government munitions depot. They are also investigating whether the guns came from a private arms stash belonging to members of the former Renamo rebel movement.

Mr McBride allegedly paid an initial $1,500 (about R7,500) to the "third man".

"We are investigating the basis of gun-running. We want to know what the interest of someone like Robert McBride is in such a matter. We want to know what the profit of the business is. That raises the question of conspiracy," said Nataniel Macamo, Mozambique's deputy police commissioner.

"We are not going to be swayed in any direction, by anyone, on this question. We want to get to the bottom of the problem."
Leaders vow to work

But handshakes fail to mask shared

A warm and prolonged public handshake at Tshwane symbolised the goodwill between President Nelson Mandela and visiting United States President Bill Clinton.

The two leaders spoke of their mutual respect and commitment to working together on issues ranging from trade to security on the African continent.

But sharp differences on some of these issues, notably the US Africa Growth and Development Bill, could not be hidden, however warm the handshakes.

Mr. Clinton said he had reaffirmed the USA's commitment to mutual trade and investment. America was South Africa's biggest investor and "we want to do more," he said.

At the same time, increasing trade did not mean ending aid, a clear reference by Mr. Clinton to a major concern among Africa's leaders.

Mr. Clinton said he was committed to working with the US Congress to keep levels of aid to Africa high.

The president briefed Mr. Mandela on a regional security programme that emerged from a summit held by the leaders of six African governments during Mr. Clinton's visit to Entebbe.

Referring to the speech given by British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan in the 1950s and the gates that have plagued Cape Town this week, Mr. Clinton said: "Together, the winds blowing through Cape Town and South Africa are winds of change and good fortune. I am deeply pleased the wines of change together."

Mr. Mandela, while warmly welcoming the US state visit as a "high water mark" of the past four years, was defiant about his government's continuing close relations with the Cuban, Libyan and Iranian regimes.

Those who criticised him about maintaining ties with the countries that helped with resources instead of mere rhetoric during the anti-apartheid struggle should "go and throw themselves into a pool," this prompted a chuckle from Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Mandela praised Mr. Clinton for his impeccable political instincts. While the two countries had differed on certain issues, in the end their mutual respect had been enhanced because of respect for each other's sovereignty and good faith, he said.

Without referring directly to Iraq or Libya, Mr. Mandela urged the US "as the leader of the world" to fulfill the United Nations charter by negotiating with its enemies to end tension.

Turning to grasp Mr. Clinton's hand, Mr. Mandela said: "This is one of our proudest moments ... you helped us before you became president and continue to help us as president of the greatest country in the world."

But it was during question-time that sharp differences chilled the bonds.

Questioned about the Africa Growth and Development Bill, which provides for conditional promotion of American trade in Africa and has been criticised for tilting towards benefiting the US, Mr. Mandela said the issue had been "fully discussed."

While cautioning that the bill was the subject of sensitive discussions, he said South Africa had "serious reservations" about the measure. "Thus it is not acceptable," he said.

But Mr. Clinton said a correct read-
...you helped us before you became president and continue to help us..."

ing of the bill would show that it would increase the access of all African nations to American markets.

Responding to another question, Mr Mandela said the proposed Africa Crisis Response, the US-proposed continental peacekeeping force, had not been discussed during the meet-
ing at Twynhuys. But he stood firm that South Africa believed any such force, which it supported in principle, should not be commanded by anyone from outside Africa.

Mr Clinton reiterated his support for a multinational force, details of which would have to be worked out through the UN.
Mandela stuns US with lecture tour of 1986

South Africa's former president, Nelson Mandela, made a surprise tour of the United States in 1986, delivering lectures and speeches that captivated audiences. Mandela's visit was significant as it was a rare moment when a representative of the apartheid regime had the opportunity to speak directly to American audiences.

During his lectures, Mandela spoke about the struggle against apartheid and his own experiences as a political prisoner. He emphasized the importance of nonviolent resistance and the need for international solidarity in the fight against oppression.

The tour was a major event in the history of US-African relations, and Mandela's words resonated with American audiences. His lectures were well-received, and he was hailed as a symbol of hope and resistance.

Mandela's visit to the US was a testament to the power of his message and the enduring legacy of his leadership.
China sends top-class ambassador

CP 29/3/98

By DESMOND BLOW

THE PEOPLE'S Republic of China has appointed one of its most experienced and capable diplomats as its ambassador to our fledgling democracy.

And Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Wang Xue Xian's appointment is proof that although South Africa is only a developing country, it is highly regarded by the world's potential greatest Industrial and economic power.

The affable, 59-year-old ambassador has spent 34 years in the diplomatic corps - many of them in the Western world, where he was Chinese ambassador to the United Nations for several years and earlier was the Chinese consular general with ambassador status in Los Angeles. He also spent five years at the embassy in London.

The appointment in China last week as a new premier, Zhu Rongji (89) - known as "the economic czar" because of his overseeing of sweeping economic changes since 1982 when he became vice-premier in charge of economy - is expected to speed up economic reforms.

The last vestiges of the planned economy that controlled China from 1948 to 1979, when the late patriarch Deng Xiaoping launched economic reforms, will be swept away.

And Zhu's major challenges will be the "privatisation" or "abolishing" of unprofitable state enterprises and the reduction of the government service by four million workers.

This radical plan to slash bloated bureaucracy was approved at the present parliamentary session.

Zhu has pledged to maintain a strong, steady growth rate while keeping inflation down. Last year's consumer price increase was 2.8 percent, but growth, which is vital to soak up growing numbers of jobless, fell to 8.8 percent - the lowest since 1991.

The new premier will press ahead with a major ministerial restructuring designed to free businesses from state interference by closing 16 ministries, regrouping three and giving macro-economic control to one commission.

He has vowed to push through most reforms within three years.

He has also approved a $6-billion yuan ($6-billion) injection to wipe out state debts through the year.

South Africa has similar challenges to privatise state enterprises to help reduce government debt and to reduce the civil service by 300,000 over three years.

Ambassador Wang said that although unemployment was only 3 percent in China, it was growing. However, he pointed out that before the economic reforms were introduced in 1978, 250 million lived below the poverty line. Over 20 years this figure had been reduced to about 50 million people - about one person in 24 - in a population now estimated at about 1.2 billion.

The ambassador explained that "this is based on our standard of living, not the standard of living in the Western world - if people have sufficient to eat, are dressed warmly and have shelter, they are considered to be above the poverty line in our society."

This too is something which South African society can also aim for.

The ambassador said: "The Chinese like to work. They believe work is good and that you get rich through your own efforts."

He said efforts were being made to help people start non-formal small and medium-sized businesses.

"People work a five-day week and women are given between three and six months maternity leave on full pay. Farmers can leave the land but are discouraged from flooding the cities as this would cause chaos, he said.

Wang feels South Africa can learn from China and vice versa.

"For instance, you have the best deep mining technicality in the world," he said. "South Africa has mineral wealth that China needs as well as paper pulp, while we can supply high quality goods such as electronics, electrical engineering, construction, chemicals and textiles."

Part of Wang's important diplomatic missions in the Western world has been to obtain foreign investment, and he sees trade and investment between South Africa and China increasing steadily.

Wang said trade between South Africa and China had already increased enormously since South Africa became a democratic country. In 1991, trade between the two countries was only $14 million. At the end of 1997 it had grown to $1.6 billion.

China has an annual foreign investment of $40 billion, second only to the United States.

There has been great criticism of China in the Western world because of alleged human rights infringements, but Wang discounts these criticisms as "political."

He says the Chinese are far better off now than when they were ruled by the Western countries.

"There were signs at public places in China that read: 'No Chinese or dogs permitted,' he said.

"Life is far better for the Chinese today. Before 1949 average life expectancy in China was 35 years. Today it is 72, more than double."

He also maintains his government's policy that both Taiwan and Tibet are part of China and cannot be independent.

"Tibet was part of China four centuries before America was colonised," he said.

ECONOMIC TIES... President Nelson Mandela with Ambassador Wang Xue Xian.
Top generals fail Lie detector tests in probe into...
COMMITTEE ON THE EXTRAORDINARY RELIEF OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF JORDAN

The United States Senate Committee on the Extraordinary Relief of the African People of the Republic of Jordan, United States Congress, 92nd Congress, 2nd Session, ninety-second session of Congress, second session.

Bill (S. 2773) to provide for an extraordinary relief of the African people of the Republic of Jordan.

The committee print (S. 2773) to provide for an extraordinary relief of the African people of the Republic of Jordan.

The committee recommends to the Senate the passage of the bill (S. 2773) to provide for an extraordinary relief of the African people of the Republic of Jordan.

The committee recommends to the Senate the passage of the bill (S. 2773) to provide for an extraordinary relief of the African people of the Republic of Jordan.
There was no drive, the White House and SA press agreed.

But the next day in Cape Town's Old Slave Lodge and in the humanity of the hot midday sun in the Tuynhuys courtyard, the symbolism and the profundity flowed thick and fast.

Before slavery was abolished in the Cape in the 1830s, the only trade ever discussed in the immediate vicinity of the lodge — now the SA African Cultural History Museum — was over flesh and bone.

On Friday, the topic of discussion in the “ LODGE OF SHAME ”, where Clinton was briefed by his advisers before his joint press conference with President Nelson Mandela, was his vision for a “new partnership” with Africa, where millions of Afro-Americans have their roots. And at the press briefing in the Tuynhuys courtyard later that day, the hordes of waiting foreign and local media got their “winds of change” — Clinton style.

Spelling out his country’s relationship with what he described as the “new Africa”, Clinton couched it in a new, metaphorical context.

“For centuries the winds that blow around the Cape of Good Hope have been known for strength and danger. Today the winds blowing through Cape Town and South Africa, and indeed much of this continent, are winds of change and good fortune.”

Macmillan’s “wind of change is sweeping through Africa” speech drew attention to the failure to apartheid South Africa to sense the tide of change sweeping across the face of Africa.

In both his address to Parliament and to the Tuynhuys press conference, Clinton steered away from the two things journalists were searching for: “detail and substance”.

His motive for coming to South Africa, he said, was to help the American people “see the new Africa with new eyes” and to focus US efforts on policies suited to the new reality in Africa.

So, was Clinton’s visit just a symbolic side-show, a cacophony of nice-sounding sound-bites signifying nothing?

Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, takes a different view.

Speaking from an armchair in his parliamentary office shortly after Clinton addressed MPs, Pahad was philosophical.

More important than the details of any trade agreement or the ongoing spat over South Africa’s assistance to remaining friends with Libya, Cuba and Iran, he said, was the fact that Clinton was “breaking negative perceptions about Africa”.

What Clinton’s pan-African tour of Africa, from Ghana to Rwanda and South Africa had done, said Pahad, was to give potential US investors a demonstration of their government’s faith in Africa as a trading partner and investment destination.

“They have a sense of a new type of relationship with Africa,” he says.

It was this impression that Clinton underscored in his speech to Parliament, when he said: “The world needs Africa.”

Significantly, said Pahad, the US sees South Africa as a strategic partner. This is partly to do with South Africa’s dominant economic position and its growing diplomatic influence in sub-Saharan Africa.

But it is also to do with a strange kind of kinship that Americans — particularly Democrats like Clinton — have seen between the two countries. Both nations bear the burden of deep racial division and both have constitutions entrenched civil liberties and human rights.

In the South African “miracle” of transition, Clinton and many of his countrymen see an example of how race can be cast aside as the major fissure in a society. Clinton sees South Africa’s reconciliation as an example for the US to follow.

Added to this is the deeper, more personal agenda that Clinton appears to be following. Being a two-term leader, he will not be eligible for re-election in the US and his mind has begun to turn to the question of the legacy he will leave.

Until his Africa trip began to turn around public perceptions, he looked like he was going to go down as the US president most beset by scandal and unable to resist the temptation of finding women around him.

By embracing the idea of an “African Renaissance” — he acknowledged Deputy President Thabo Mbeki’s authorship of the idea in his speech to Parliament — Clinton has sought to establish a new legacy.

He wants to be seen as the president who turned the tide of race hatred in the US and the man who turned around the fortunes of a beleaguered continent. But if Clinton was hoping for a polite endorsement from Mandela, he was mistaken.

Mandela chose to use the Tuynhuys media briefing to show that Africa would assert its independence from the US on key policy matters.

Turning to Clinton, Mandela called on him to “sit down with your enemies, talk peace”. It was a bold and surprising criticism of the US’s recent aggressive posture towards Iraq.

Turning to the US African Growth and Opportunity Bill, Mandela was again critical.

Africa, he said, wanted deeper debt relief, more aid and better trade terms.

Instead it got legislation which would limit benefits to those states on the continent who successfully implemented policies deemed acceptable to the United States.

What Mandela and the legions of officials who met their US counterparts behind closed doors were trying to achieve was, in the words of Pahad, “to use this unique opportunity...”
Bill Clinton

Ensemble of the African Renaissance. HENRY LUDSKI
relations with the world's only superpower

make two or three very important points.

Clinton will return to the US with a clear idea of the foreign policy differences that separate the two countries and he will know that there is a great deal of unhappiness about legislation he is planning to pass to govern trade and aid with Africa.

What he will now have to demonstrate is that he is seeking a genuine partnership with Africa and not a one-way relationship in which the US dictates the terms. He will have to show how the US is prepared to accommodate African objections to its trade and investment agenda and to its foreign policy on the continent.

If he does not do so, the swelling pool of African goodwill towards the US could sour, with consequences for Clinton's legacy and for US influence on the continent.

Clinton must now know that if his legacy as co-author of the African Renaissance is to be secure, the winds of change must blow through his country's policies on Africa too.
Clinton pays homage to the children...
**Kriegler draws battle lines for ‘long road to 1999 elections’**

By Clare Sawyer

**Cape Town**

Plans are in place to repeat the “Operation Ace” of 1994 which enabled parties to canvass votes in places they might otherwise have feared to tread but the budget for the process was inadequate, according to Independent Electoral Commission head Johann Kriegler.

He said in an interview that political parties, and the national political liaison committee to be set up before the election, would be asked to agree to an ethical code of conduct.

“The difficulty is who will police it,” Kriegler said.

At the same time, the Leader of the Opposition, Frans van Schalkwyk, said he would propose to other parties that they look after each other’s interests at voting stations where opposition numbers were thinly spread.

The judge said the commission would have to rely on responsible behaviour from political parties.

He confirmed that a significant difference to 1994 was that the security forces which then played a major role in securing the poll now had reduced numbers and were involved in their own reorganisation.

The commission has not yet had discussions with security forces about their capacity to assist during the elections.

Kriegler said regulations on party political behaviour near voting stations were likely to be less strict than in 1994, when a ban on party colours and canvassing at close stations was firmly enforced.

“I don’t think we will see wide perimeters (of 1994) which are highly unrealistic in major urban areas.”

 Asked whether the media would have access free to voting stations to take pictures and conduct exit polls, the judge said this would depend on the feelings of political parties.

Election 1999 would probably come only one day.

While the duration of the election would be up to the president to decide, the IEC would recommend that one day should be enough. This was because of the new voting district system, of 3,000 voters to a district in an urban area and not more than 2,000 in a rural area, which would enable faster polling.

Running into more than one day would push up staff costs and create security headaches because ballot boxes would have to be secured overnight.

A blow to parties with hopes for scooping up the votes of the thousands of South African dispersed elsewhere around the globe is that no citizen, apart from diplomatic staff, will be allowed to vote overseas.

This is likely to be a major blow to the National Party and Democratic Party, both of which are understood to have done well from the expatriate vote. Kriegler said the commission will recommend that no voting stations be set up outside the country. The stations abroad had been necessary in 1994 to create a sense of inclusiveness.

He was interviewed after a briefing to the portfolio committee on home affairs, during which he said the commission had concerns about the process.

The IEC would meet State Expenditure officials next week to sort out continuing obstacles to a go-ahead for the payment of salaries to commissioners and officials. “The salary of not one of our staff members has been approved.”

Kriegler confirmed the IEC had run into difficulties with other parts of the state administration, notably the Department of Home Affairs, which also has a role in electoral affairs.

The IEC was “a strange plant that arose in the bureaucratic garden” and had been received with some resentment. Relations were better and a series of issues regarding the election were to be discussed at a meeting between the commissioners and Home Affairs Minister Dr. Tengo Lunganutho Buthleli on Tuesday.

Kriegler said the commission’s technical work was “more or less on schedule” but some work was behind schedule. The IEC is to take three months’ leave from the Constitutional Court next month to concentrate on that work. “We feel we’ve got to take this job by the scruff of its neck and get on with it.”

Kriegler said this year’s budget did not provide money to the commission “commensurate with our needs” but there was no cause for alarm because the commission was confident the figure would be adjusted.

A significant difference to the 1994 election will be that ballot boxes will be opened and counted when voting stations close, instead of being moved to a central counting point as happened in the first poll.

Asked whether the IEC would recommend the poll, which is scheduled to be held either in May, June or July to be postponed, Kriegler said it clear there would be reluctance to do so.

“We will not be asking for a postponement if we have not done our work, don’t you worry about that.”

The president would decide the date of the election.

The IEC was obliged by law to advise the president to postpone the election if conditions in the country were not right. Kriegler was also firm about another difference from the 1994 poll: the importing of costly ballot paper from overseas. This had been done at the request of political parties concerned about local security.

The system this time, of issuing a ballot paper after crossing a voter’s name from the roll, obviates the need for such elaborate and hugely expensive precautions. In a presentation to the committee, IEC official Howard Sackstein said delimitation of voting districts had started this month and would continue until August.

Registration of voters was scheduled from October until January.

Voting districts were compiled after drawing electronic maps of the country and feeding in district population numbers, geographical features and traditional political anomalies.

The sophisticated computer system which drew the maps left no room for gerrymandering. Production of the voting maps was under way and the final draft would be distributed within two weeks.

People will have to register in the voting districts in which they are resident. Door-to-door registration may prove inevitable, but will be used only as a last resort.

Registration will be done by officials rather than political parties, as was allowed before 1994, to prevent abuses. Prohibition of regulations for registering a party was expected this week. Regulations for setting up party liaison committees were expected next week.

Sackstein said legislation to be produced by the commission would represent a fundamental shift in such laws. They would have to be written in plain language, and the process for elections at national, provincial and local level would have to be identical.

The draft Electoral Bill is almost ready and will be submitted to Buthleli within two weeks. After that, the minister will put it to the state cabinet, then the relevant cabinet committee, then to the Cabinet, after which it will be tabled in Parliament for discussion by the portfolio and select committees before being voted on by the Houses.

Other legislation which has to be passed before the election includes the determination of how many seats the new National Assembly and provincial legislatures will have.

“The IEC is making significant progress, but the road to 1999 is long and many challenges still await the commission in the next 14 months,” Sackstein said.
Now that US President Bill Clinton's huge motorcade has been and gone, perhaps we can afford to admit his visit was a good thing for South Africa after all — despite the prevailing mood in SA beforehand of "who the hell are these Yanks to hit town like an invading army and expect us to be impressed?"

A typical reaction was that of the caller to Radio 702 who complained that after all the fuss about how much Clinton's convoy was going to interrupt the traffic, she went to look and was quite disappointed by the small motorcade that whizzed by her en route from Johannesburg International Airport on Saturday so quickly that she barely got a chance to see the president.

By skill and perhaps a bit of luck, the Americans managed to avoid much traffic congestion and other disruptions, or to cause much offence.

SA got millions of dollars worth of free, high-quality publicity from the huge White House press corps which accompanied Clinton. Out of respect for President Mandela, they avoided asking Clinton questions about his sex scandals back home, and that paid off for us because it meant most of their stories were about South Africa and not Monica Lewinsky.

South African officials, from Mandela down, managed to bite their tongues and not say anything too rude about the Americans, although Mandela did surprise the White House with a blunt and rather patronising lecture to Clinton about how to conduct foreign policy.

But the Americans swallowed their pride. White House spokesman Mike McCurry told US reporters later that Clinton was not bothered by Mandela's blunt opinions, even if this was not the way most heads of state acted at joint events with the US president.

"He's Mandela. He's entitled," McCurry said.

What else could he say? And Mandela had coated his stern and avuncular advice to the leader of the free world with some sugary flattery, praising him for having infallibly good instincts on foreign policy issues (even though his officials let him down sometimes) and saying Clinton's visit was the "high-water mark" of the many visits to him by foreign leaders.

"It's hard to say more than that," said US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Susan Rice.

Clinton certainly helped to defuse any incipient criticism about Yankee imperialism and arrogance with a display of unprecedented humility about America's past role in Africa. He was apologetic — though he never explicitly apologised — for the US's role in slavery; he apologised for the US role in propping up anti-communist African tyrants during the Cold War; he apologised for America's failure to intervene in time to stop the massacre of half a million Tutsis in Rwanda in..."
I Regina Mundi in Soweto yesterday. He sat through a sermon on adultery and forgiveness.

1994; and he apologised implicitly for US support for the apartheid government (while also stressing its later role in helping to bring apartheid down through sanctions).

Traps of this sort are perhaps most important for their symbolic and publicity value, rather than their substance. Which is just as well, because not much progress was visible in the hard bargaining – especially the US complaint that SA's new generic medicines legislation violates the intellectual property rights of US pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma and US Commerce Secretary William Daley failed to resolve this issue, and it now seems likely to go to the World Trade Organisation for arbitration.

There were no signs of resolution either of the problem of Sentrachem (now a subsidiary of US corporate giant Dow Chemicals) allegedly falling foul of US sanctions by trading with Cuba, or of the US EMC Corporation's complaint that the SA company Perselit tried to sabotage its chances of winning a contract with Telkom by damaging its equipment.

But US officials felt Clinton had dispelled some of the sharp misgivings and "misconceptions" Mandela had expressed about the new US Africa trade bill and policy the promoting of which was an important aim of the visit.

Mandela had told Clinton that the eligibility requirements of the bill which would deny some tariffs free access to the US market to African countries not pursuing free-market and democratic policies – were unfair to some countries which lacked the institutional capacity to make the necessary reforms.

Clinton told Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in a separate meeting that the bill would improve trade benefits for all African countries – and in addition provide extra benefits to those that met the eligibility requirements. A senior US official said Mbeki, at least, seemed to accept this.

Mbeki publicly backed off from remarks, attributed to him earlier, criticising the bill for going too far in substituting trade for aid to Africa.

Mandela also pleased the Americans with his first public approval of the Africa Crisis Response Initiative, a plan for the US to provide training and other support to African troops to take part in peacekeeping on the continent.

"We support the initiative very fully," Mandela said, but with only one proviso: that any African peacekeeping force that came out of it should be commanded by an African.

US officials said there was no problem as they envisaged the trained African peacekeeping force only going into operations launched by the UN or the OAU.

"I'd give the visit a 10," said Rice shortly before departing for the next stop, Botswana.
Meiring faces the axe

By Mathatha Tsedu
Political Editor

President Nelson Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki have agreed to fire South African Defence Force chief General George Meiring over a report he handed the President alleging a coup plot by African National Congress members.

Senior Government sources told Soetsean that Police Commissioner George Fivaz is also likely to go as he was apparently involved in the dissemination of the report.

On Friday Mandela appointed a high-powered judicial commission of inquiry into the compilation and dissemination of the report. The commission is headed by Chief Justice Ismael Mohamed, assisted by Constitutional Court judges Pius Langa and Richard Goldstone.

It is to report back within days, according to Government spokesman Mr Joel Netshitenze.

Sources said Meiring had given Mandela a one-source intelligence report last month that indicated that a disparate group of ANC people, ranging from Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, General Bantu Holomisa, SANDF chief of staff General Siphiwe Nyando, Deputy Defence Minister Mr Ronnie Kasrils and Lieutenant-General Lambert Moloi, were planning a coup.

It has since emerged that the report, that Meiring did not show to his political head, Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise, was compiled from information given by the now exposed military intelligence informer Vusi Mbatha.

Mbatha was arrested with Mr Robert McBride in Mozambique on gunrunning charges early this month.

"The matter is very serious as under other circumstances the President would have declared a state of emergency," the source said.

Meiring has to explain why an unverified report was rushed to the President, implicating among others the man who is tipped to succeed him (Meiring).

"It raises the question about whether he had wanted to besmirch the name of Nyando so that he should then stay on, or had wanted to plot a coup himself and then blame it on those implicated in the report."

"Mbeki was furious about the matter. He wanted Meiring to be fired. Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi was briefed and when he met Fivaz, he spoke about the contents of the report without saying there was a report."

"He did not know that Sydney already knew. This meant that he had also been privy to the report," the source said.

The source said Mbeki had debated the matter with Mandela and had then written the statement read in Parliament by Mufamadi, blaming elements of the old order for a campaign to destabilise the country.

In hot water ... SANDF chief George Meiring.

PIC: COURTESY OF BEELD

Mandela finally agreed that the two will have to go and the commission is the mechanism to do this publicly so that people can see how the generals have been behaving.

Speaking in a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) interview in Durban yesterday, Mandela said the investigation would not look at the actual allegations made in the report but rather its compiler.

"It is true that the source was tested on a polygraph as we were told, was the report verified, why was it not shown to the Defence Minister before it was brought to me," he said.

Mandela said there were elements of the old order trying to destabilise the country. We cannot be complacent but we are in supreme command, if we find any attempt to destabilise the country, we will blot it out quickly and efficiently," he said.

The commission started hearing evidence on Saturday and Meiring has said he will cooperate.

However, defended the compilation of the report, saying it would have been dereliction of duty not to have done so.

It has been confirmed that Fivaz will also appear before the inquiry.
Clinton pledges to work with S Africa

We thank God for healing wounds of the past and for the new South Africa begun.

President Bill Clinton

By Pamela Duke

ADMNISTRATION PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

98/3/14

Into healing, persons into museums and prisons and prisoners

assisted to take to the heart of America, gunshots, violence, into hope, hurt.

...
Madiba is not worried by ‘plot’

President tells CNN he is aware of elements not loyal to his Government

President Mandela said yesterday he was not worried about a coup but would deal swiftly and decisively with any disloyal or disgruntled members of the security forces who may try to destabilise his Government.

In an interview with CNN's Late Edition, Mandela said the Government enjoyed the support of the majority of members of the security forces. He blamed a report alleging that disaffected members of the army were planning a coup on "elements who are bitter that the minority in this country has lost power".

He added: "We are in complete command of the security forces. We are aware of elements which are not loyal to this Government, but we will be able to deal with them swiftly and decisively should they try anything. So I am not concerned."

The report, compiled by Military Intelligence on the basis of information received from an informant, Vusi Mbatha, became the subject of a top-level inquiry at the weekend.

The MI report alleged that Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, United Democratic Movement leader Bantu Holomisa, alleged arms smuggler Robert McBride and SANDF Chief of Staff General Sphiwe Nyanda were plotting to overthrow the Government.

The head of the service corps, Lieutenant-General Lambert Moloi, and surgeon-general General Davidson Msuka were also named.

Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahana, said the inquiry was not on the contents of the report, but on "the process relating to its compilation and verification".

Defence Force Chief Georg Meiring answered questions at a closed-door meeting yesterday by the three judges appointed to head the inquiry: Chief Justice Ismail Mahomed and Constitutional Court judges Pius Langa and Richard Goldstone.
ANC draws up battle plan to ‘crush all forces’

Massive recruitment drive to be set in motion before election

By Marco Granelli
Pretoria Correspondent

The ANC is to embark on a massive recruitment drive in Gauteng so it can “crush all forces of the counter-revolution” in next year’s election.

In a speech brimming with election rhetoric at the end of the 7th ANC Gauteng conference in Johannesburg yesterday, re-elected chairman Mathole Motshekga warned opposition parties that ANC supporters were not for sale and not up for grabs.

“This conference has drawn up battle plans for the final onslaught against apartheid and the forces of the counter-revolution. Gauteng will never be the same again,” the premier said to a chanting group of about 600 members who had attended the three-day conference.

“We feel recharged, rejuvenated and confident that the ANC will win the coming general elections in 1999 convincingly and we expect no less than a two-thirds majority. With all our battle plans, who can still doubt that this leadership will deliver a two-thirds majority with a good voter turnout next year?”

Among the plans adopted for the next 12 months is a massive registration drive which the party hopes will seize the momentum in the country’s largest party.

This follows a report tabled at the conference on Saturday which showed membership had plummeted from nearly 120,000 in 1994 to only 44,000 currently.

Paul Mashatile, who narrowly beat fellow MEC Sicelo Shicoka for the position of deputy chairman by 201 votes to 296, said the party was not as strong as it should be: many of the branches are dysfunctional and some have virtually collapsed, he said on Saturday.

With only 14 months to go to the election, Mashatile said it was vital that special attention be paid to rebuilding ANC structures, and that branches be revitalised and a massive recruitment campaign be launched.

Mashatile, who is also Gauteng Transport MEC, expressed concern that certain ANC activists were aligning themselves to United Democratic Movement activities, probably because they harboured sympathetic sentiments for UDM co-leader Bantu Holomisa.

Holomisa was expelled from the ANC and Mashatile stressed that he is no longer one of us. Holomisa and Koos Meyer are not friends of the ANC, they are opposition and they have to be defeated together with the National and Democratic parties and other reactionary forces”.

“We must warn all our members: you can’t belong to the ANC and at the same time hol-knob with the UDM. Anyone found to be associating with and pursuing the interests of the UDM will face disciplinary action with the possibility of being dismissed.”

But yesterday Obid Bapela, who replaced Mashatile as provincial secretary after beating Mondli Gungubele by only six votes, said the decline did not mean support was down.

“I don’t believe the membership decline is as terrible as suggested. Our registered members number 87,000 and our target is to reach 120,000 which is less than a 40,000 shortfall. Paid-up membership is where we have gone down to 45,000.”

Motshekga called for a new activism from members, which carried with it responsibility.

“We need activists who are socially responsible, who are challenged by the plight of women and children, who are concerned with problems in our country and who are not just concerned with their own issues.”

Other new office-bearers elected over the weekend were Mandla Nkomfe (deputy secretary) and Joyce Kgouli (treasurer).
Cuba, Libya and Iran will stay SA’s friends

Washington - President Mandela said in an interview yesterday he would forever honour South Africa’s friendship with Iran, Libya and Cuba, while cherishing crucial and friendly ties with the United States.

“I have expressed my view on countless occasions that Libya, Cuba and Iran are my friends and I propose to honour that friendship while I welcome the friendship of the US and other Western powers who, at the time we were struggling, were really helping our enemies,” Mr Mandela told CNN.

Announcing he would visit Iran shortly, he defended his relationships with countries the US considers pariahs.

 Asked whether Mr Clinton was surprised by his defence of ties with countries the US regards as rogue states, Mr Mandela said: “I will be visiting Iran shortly and I do not hide those things. I could not have surprised him [Mr Clinton], because my stand has been very clear right from the time of President George Bush.

“President Bush raised the question of Cuba and Libya when I visited him in June 1990 and I made my position very clear - that no leader with any normal moral authority can accept assistance from a country when that leader was all alone in his fight against apartheid, and on the eve of victory be advised by friends of my enemies that I should dump those who made it possible .”

Mr Mandela repeated the call he made last Friday that the US, “as the leader of the world,” should “call upon its enemies to say let’s sit down and talk peace”.

For his part, Mr Clinton has ignored the negative comments and lavishly praised Mr Mandela. “His emergence from his many years on Robben Island is one of the true heroic stories of the 20th century,” he said last week.

At the time Mr Mandela defended his friendship with Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi and Cuba’s Fidel Castro and said those South Africans who disagreed with him “can go and throw themselves in a pool”.

In the CNN interview, Sandy Berger, Mr Clinton’s National Security Adviser, said: “I can understand Mr Mandela’s sense of loyalty, but our position regarding Libya is also based on principle. We want to see justice brought to the families of the 270 people blown out of the sky over Lockerbie, Scotland, with compelling evidence that Libya is responsible.”
ALLEGED COUP PLOT PROBED

Meiring questioned behind closed doors

WAS President Mandela lied to in a report alleging a coup against his government? An urgent commission of inquiry spent the weekend trying to answer the question.

A National Defence Force Chief General Georger Meiring was understood to be answering questions behind closed doors yesterday by three of South Africa's top judges probing a controversial Military Intelligence report into a left-wing plot to overthrow the government.

At the weekend Meiring welcomed the inquiry and pledged the SANDF's "maximum support" for the judicial probe.

Claims that President Nelson Mandela was posed to axe Meiring should he not answer questions satisfactorily were played down by the President's Office.

"Any suggestion at this stage that the President is contemplating dismissing the Chief of the SANDF is speculative," presidential aide Mr Parks Mankabila said.

Mandela said in an interview with a Sunday newspaper he believed the MI report, claiming certain former uMkhonto ve Sizwe (MK) generals were disloyal to his government, was a "diversion".

Meiring handed over the report to the President on February 5.

Mandela said: "I want to stress that General Meiring was himself as shocked as we were ... Still there are elements that want to defend the old status quo and are not loyal to the new government."

However, speculation is rife in former MK and Azanian People's Liberation Army circles that there are indeed moves to get rid of Meiring in favour of a general aligned to the ANC-led government.

They point to similar attempts last year to oust national Police Commissioner George Fivaz.

Government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, were forthright about Meiring, who is scheduled to retire in July, and said he would play a central role in the commission of inquiry.

The inquiry, announced on Friday by the President, would probe "how, why, and when the report was compiled, the motive behind it, and the way it was handled", the source said.

The government believes that right-wing elements in the security forces want to destabilise the country through disinformation.

The MI report alleged that Ms Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, United Democratic Movement leader Mr Bantu Holomisa, alleged arms smuggler Mr Robert McBride and SANDF Chief of Staff General Siphiwe Nyanda were plotting to overthrow the government.

The head of the service corps, Lieutenant-General Lambert Moloi, and Surgeon-General Davidson Masuka were also named.

Sources have stated categorically they believe Mandela was lied to.

One told Sapa: "We don't believe there was such a plot. We're trying to establish why the President was lied to by being given a base report."

Officials believe Meiring will be relieved of his duties if he fails to explain to the commission why, among other things, the MI report was based on the information of a single source, Mr Vusi Mhatha, who was arrested with McBride in Mozambique.

Claims that Mhatha had passed at least three lie-detector tests could not be confirmed.

It was expected that the commission, which began sitting in camera at an undisclosed venue on Saturday, was to end yesterday, with a report presented as soon as possible to the President. — Sapa
Comp Implementation

Meeting Rejects

[Text not legible due to poor image quality]
Coup report defended by Meiring

CLIVE SAWYER AND MARCO GRANELLI

South African National Defence Force (SANDF) chief Georg Meiring has defended his handling of an intelligence report alleging a leftwing plot to overthrow the Government, saying he was just doing his duty by warning President Nelson Mandela.

He spoke out a day before Mr Mandela was due to be handed the findings of a judicial inquiry into the compiling of the report, which claimed that several African National Congress veterans — including foreign affairs official Robert McBride, who is now being held in Mozambique in connection with alleged gun-running — wanted to overthrow the Government.

Mr Mandela had been scheduled to receive the report today but a spokesman for his office said the president’s commitments on board the QE2 luxury liner in Cape Town meant his meeting with the commissioners had to be delayed until tomorrow.

In an internal SANDF bulletin released yesterday, General Meiring says that failure to have submitted the intelligence report to Mr Mandela would have been a dereliction of duty. He denied claims that no attempt was made to verify the information or that he had not told Defence Minister Joe Modise of his plan to submit the report to the president.

General Meiring said that during 1997 a report was compiled from a number of pieces of information the SANDF had obtained which indicated planning for a possible plot against the Government. The SANDF tried to confirm or refute the information, but by early 1998 had been unable to do this.

He had decided to avoid the normal intelligence channels and processes because of the sensitivity of the information and to submit it directly to Mr Mandela.

The commission looking into the compiling of the report, headed by Chief Justice Ismail Mohamed, began its work on Saturday. It has interviewed General Meiring as well as civilian intelligence heads and Linda Mti, the chairman of the National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee.

It is reliably understood the report was not cross-checked with civilian intelligence agencies.

Meiring defends his handling of coup report

The main source for the military intelligence report is reported to be Vusi Mbatha, who was arrested with Mr McBride in Mozambique. Those who have rejected the authenticity of the claims in the report have called into question Mr Mbatha’s background as an alleged double agent.
Govt ‘trying to do too much with too little’

Kevin O'Grady

SA’s public sector was on the verge of “institutional collapse” brought on mainly by government attempts to “do too much with too little”, National Party (NP) leader Marthinus van Schalkwyk said yesterday.

Releasing the findings of NP research on the public sector and government’s performance in fulfilling its main functions, he said: “The warning lights in our country have been switched on.”

Van Schalkwyk said the findings, which used the World Bank’s 1997 World Development Report as its analytical framework, included that government often embarked on “transformation... for the sake of transformation, losing sight of strategic objectives and basic management principles”.

Philosophical incoherence between the African National Congress (ANC) and its alliance partners had also paralysed policy implementation, Van Schalkwyk said.

The most notable example of this was government’s growth, employment and redistribution (Gerd) strategy, which had “more support outside of government than in the alliance partners”, Van Schalkwyk said.

Of greatest concern to the NP was government’s failure, through Gear, to create jobs. SA had a negative employment growth rate and the Reserve Bank had pointed out that, at the current rate, unemployment could rise from 24% to as high as 40% within 10 years.

Other core functions that government was failing to fulfil included the maintenance of law and order and the effective and affordable provision of basic infrastructure and social services, Van Schalkwyk said.

The provision of health, welfare, housing and education were in disarray.

In order to govern within its capabilities, the ANC had to accept that the state need not be the “sole provider”.

The NP findings said the World Development Report proposed that “when a state goes beyond the basics, it should be done in partnership with the private sector and nongovernmental organisations.”

“The ANC government, on the other hand, turns this proposal on its head by not even providing the basics for South Africans and still believing the state should be the sole provider,” the NP’s report said.
Rift widens as Mandela spurns defence force chief

Pule Molebeleli
and Stephen Laufer

THE rift between Gen. Georg Meiring and President Nelson Mandela widened yesterday as the president's office repudiated a statement by the defence force chief contradicting Mandela on details of an alleged coup plot against government.

Meiring's statement, in an internal bulletin to troops, which was also faxed to the media, said that Defence Minister Joe Modise had prior knowledge of his plan to report the alleged coup plot to Mandela.

Mandela has asked a judicial commission to examine why Meiring brought him the report without first informing Modise, his deputy Ronnie Kasrils, Deputy Intelligence Minister Joe Nhlanhla, civilian intelligence agencies or the parliamentary oversight committee.

Sources thought to be close to Meiring have suggested in the past few days that he suspected Modise and Kasrils of involvement in the plot, which is why he went straight to Mandela.

Presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlama said Meiring's latest version of events was "something new. As far as we know he went straight to the president." It represented a "substantial" contradiction of Mandela's recollection of the incident. The only person who could explain the contradictions was Meiring himself.

Mandela said last week that the intelligence report detailing the alleged plot was brought to him without Modise being informed. The only person from whom Mandela could have gained this impression was Meiring himself, Mankahlama said.

Meiring was the only witness at the judicial inquiry at the weekend to publicly break the confidentiality of the proceedings. Mankahlama expressed surprise that Meiring waited until yesterday to give his version of events, but had not waited an extra day for the commission's report to appear before speaking out.

Ministers and other inquiry participants have been reluctant to discuss the investigation.

Mankahlama said Mandela would receive a report from the judicial commission, possibly verbally, late today after arriving in Cape Town on the QE II from Durban. He would study details before making any decisions.

Mandela "might indicate what he wants to do" by tomorrow or Thursday.

In his bulletin to troops Meiring said he wanted to make it clear that, contrary to media reports, he was not implicated in the alleged plot against government.

He said he welcomed the commission and reaffirmed his support for it.