UN opposes aircraft sale to SA

THE UN is putting pressure on Swiss authorities to prevent the export of 60 Pilatus trainer aircraft to SA for use by the SA Air Force.

The SA government earlier announced that the aircraft would be purchased at a cost of about R500m to replace the SAAF's ageing Harvard trainer fleet by 1995.

A committee, set up by the UN Security Council to monitor the 1977 mandatory arms embargo against SA, last week rejected the Swiss government's submission that the Pilatus PC-7 was not "war material" and could therefore be sold to SA.

The UN committee said in a news release it believed the sale would be contrary to the spirit and intent of Security Council resolution 418 (1977), which established the arms embargo against SA.

"Furthermore, the committee noted that in its resolution 591 (1986), the Security Council had urged all states to prohibit the export to SA of 'items which they have reason to believe are destined for the military and/or police forces in SA, have military capacity and are intended for military purposes, namely aircraft, aircraft engines, aircraft parts ...' and had also called upon states to refrain from participating in any activities in SA which they have reason to believe might contribute to its military capability," the UN said.

The London-based Anti-Apartheid World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with SA, which has been lobbying to get the sale called off, said it would have talks with the Swiss foreign minister on the issue this month.

"We have also been in touch with the manager of the Pilatus aircraft company," campaign director Abdul Minty said.

He said the proposed Pilatus deal also breached an agreement reached by the EC in 1985 and Switzerland would therefore be under additional pressure — especially since Britain and others had made it clear their companies could not enter into deals with the SAAF.

SA Foreign Affairs spokesman Arie Marais said government had taken note of the UN committee's move and developments would be monitored closely.
Protestors in Somalia invade UN compound

MOGADISHU — About 1,000 stone-throwing demonstrators climbed over the wall of the compound of the UN forces building in Mogadishu yesterday.

The protest was staged after secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived in Somalia. The demonstrators tore down the blue-and-white UN flag.

The secretary-general, who first visited a relief centre northwest of Mogadishu, was due to hold a news conference in the UN forces' building.

The demonstrators, supporters of Gen Mohamed Farah Aaidid, one of the principal warlords, first blocked the entrance to the building, then replaced the UN flag with a Somali flag.

The protesters accuse the UN and the secretary-general of supporting Aaidid's main rival, Mohammed Ali Mahdi.

Boutros-Ghali arrived in the Somali capital Mogadishu yesterday to visit a famine relief centre and, later, to meet representatives of the UN Operation in Somalia (Unosom).

He was due to spend three hours in Somalia before flying to the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to chair peace talks today and tomorrow between leading clan factions that have wrecked Somalia.

Aaidid's organisation, one of Somalia's main political factions, announced yesterday that it would attend the peace talks.

But it did not say if Aaidid would attend.

Mahdi has agreed to attend the conference.

Sapa-AFP-AP.
Somalis drive out UN chief
Four groups boycott Somalian peace talks

ADDIS ABABA — Informal peace talks between 14 Somalian groups opened in the Ethiopian capital under UN auspices yesterday and immediately ran into procedural problems.

An alliance of four groups boycotted the opening session in protest against UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali’s failure to invite three other allied groups. The alliance, dominated by the Darod group of clans from southern Somalia, later said it would take part, and UN officials said one of the three extra groups could attend.

To avoid such quarrels Boutros-Ghali had called the talks informal and set no agenda. “Fragmentation and fighting in Somalia have made dialogue nearly impossible. It is crucial that this occasion be used to exchange ideas and promote mutual understanding,” he said, urging the groups to take part in a peace process without preconditions.

Some factions asked the UN to extend the talks but Boutros-Ghali said it could not afford to.

The UN wanted faction leaders to agree on a date, place and an agenda for a national reconciliation conference that would lead to the formation of the first Somalian government since rebels ousted President Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991.

A statement prepared for the talks on behalf of nine factions said the reconciliation conference should be held as early as February. Several of the groups also wanted the UN to set up an interim trusteeship until the Somali economy recovered.

The OAU, the Arab League and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and Western observers were attending the talks.

☐ The US would relinquish command of Operation Restore Hope to the UN by January 20, when President-elect Bill Clinton would be inaugurated, a French military source in Mogadishu disclosed yesterday. Neither the US nor France would take part in the new operation. — Sapa-Reuters-AFP.
Row over UN plan for exiles

The tiny community of Henley-on-Klip, south of Johannesburg, has voiced strong disapproval after news that Eskom buildings have been sold to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for training returning exiles.

Willie van der Merwe, Conservative Party MP for the area, has written to the State President warning that his entire constituency would be in uproar if the plan went ahead.

P D Tunstall, chairman of the Henley Security Association, said the premises were "bang in the centre of this small residential village". He expressed concern about a rise in crime.

"We question Eskom's right as a parastatal body to take unilateral decisions which have nothing to do with its supplying electricity, and to take this particular decision in secrecy and without consultation," he said.
US politicians are unimpressed with the performance last year of both the South African Government and the ANC, reports HUGH ROBERTSON from Washington.

They might not say so on the record, but most of the influential African specialists in the United States generally had a low opinion of the political talents and negotiating skills shown by the major parties in South Africa in 1992.

Surprisingly, since he is known for his bland and cautious statements, probably the most candid remark encapsulating this widely held view came from the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Herman Cohen, when he said at a media briefing last month: "I am not satisfied with the performance of any of the parties in South Africa."

By way of a jocular aside, he added: "How's that for even-handedness?"

In the Senate, in the House of Representatives, in the State Department, the US Treasury and, who knows, in the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency, there appears to be a consensus that the South African Government and the ANC are engaged in some bizarre competition to see who can outdo the other in ill-advised statements and inept decision-making, with both emerging triumphant.

The year started well for the Government, when President de Klerk announced a white referendum to determine whether or not whites wanted the Government to proceed with negotiations aimed at full democracy. The ANC's criticism of the referendum was lost in a deluge of praise from the US media and US officials. But to many Africanists in the US, de Klerk failed to capitalise on his win.

The day after the result was announced, some of them say, should have been the day de Klerk took the white opposition in the military and security establishment.

His long and unexplained failure to take action against manifest wrongdoing in the military and police, wrongdoing exposed more than two years ago in official inquiries into the OCB and certain police shootings, has puzzled many Americans, who are otherwise sympathetic. Indeed, disciplinary steps strongly recommended by judges who investigated various actions by the police as far back as 1990 still have not been taken.

Thus it was not surprising to Americans that Mr Justice Goldstone should have rebuked the Government in the wake of the Bophatong massacre for failing to act on his recommendations aimed at preventing such atrocities and the perception—actively promoted by the ANC—that de Klerk had some interest in allowing the military and the police an unchallenged, unscrutinized hand, gained credence.

The fact that long after all the judicial recommendations, long after the inquiries, and long after the tragedies at Bophatong, Bisho and elsewhere, de Klerk should have ordered an investigation into the role of the military in South Africa's violence and, as a result of police work undertaken partly by the Goldstone Commission, should have dismissed generals and others of high rank for their alleged role in the violence, was reported on extensively—but the praise that might have come De Klerk's way if he had acted far earlier was missing.

Probably the biggest complaint against the ANC in 1992 was the rashness of many of its decisions and actions. The shooting at Bisho, for instance, was widely covered but so was the role of radicals who were accused of having provoked the incident. There was also much questioning of the wisdom of the campaign of mass action, which some in Washington saw as a bid by ANC radicals to wreck negotiations and attempt to force a settlement on the other parties.

ANC radicals also were seen to be behind the collapse of Codexa 2. When the deadlock over a so-called white constitutional veto was reached, the ANC's official position was that it would consider withdrawing from further negotiations. In Washington the impetus for that threat was seen to be the radicals who were viewed with great scepticism, the more so because they are suspected of being unenthusiastic about negotiations anyway.

There is a pervasive belief in Washington, enunciated as much by the State Department as by Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill, that the only forces that would gain from a breakdown in negotiations would be those irrational nationalists on the Left and Right who refuse to negotiate and who apparently believe their interests can be served by violence and confusion.

That is why Washington was so aghast when Codexa 2 collapsed, the campaign of mass action began, and the Bisho tragedy ensued.

What supported American fears was the convenient way in which the horror of the Bophatong massacre was seized upon as a reason for breaking off talks with the Government.

Where previously a simple deadlock in negotiations was cited implausibly as a reason why the ANC might pull out, suddenly that rationale was abandoned and Bophatong was held up, in almost indecent relief, as a more persuasive reason for ending the talks.

Few in Washington were convinced, and the resulting UN Security Council meeting on the massacre, at which the ANC failed to provide the evidence which it claimed to have of Government collusion in the massacre, produced a strictly neutral resolution which did not apportion blame. But the UN meeting had some 000 benefit for South Africa. Aside from the ANC learning that the UN was no longer the playing ground of liberation movements, the ANC was also left in no doubt that the UN was determined to ensure a negotiated settlement, in South Africa.

Insofar as ANC radicals may have spurred the decision to abandon Codexa, the UN meeting must have been a disaster for them. Nothing last year more reinforced the pressure for a resumption of negotiations than the talks behind the scenes which took place quietly during that debate. So forceful were the African countries in their support of resumed talks that the PAC itself made discreet overtures in a lobby off the Security Council chamber to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pik Botha, about the possibility of it joining the negotiating process.

Earlier the PAC, as much as
the ANC, was given unambiguous warnings by African countries, again behind closed doors, that the world would not accept a settlement in South Africa that was not reached by negotiation. Revolutionary dreams of armed struggle, mass action and rendering the country ungovernable were rudely dashed in the sleek office towers that cluster around the UN's headquarters in Manhattan.

As the negotiations deadlock went on, alarm in Washington grew. At the height of the crisis, the US offered the services of its Secretary of State, James Baker, as a mediator to get talks resumed. Baker's interest in Africa was known to be faint, but with klaxons sounding at the National Security Council and the White House, his prestige and influence were made available to the Government and the ANC, separately. Incredibly, both sides rejected the US overture.

Washington continued to agonise as it saw both the Government and the ANC feed the fires of the far Right and far Left, and questions flew about the city. Why did the ANC set out such radical demands as a precondition to resuming negotiations, demands which the Government probably could not meet? Was this a move by radicals to ensure talks did not resume?

What political leadership would fail to see that the only way to end the violence would be through rapid progress towards a truly democratic society? But there were also some shrewd insights which gave hope to the stalemate. If the ANC was playing so hard to get, it must have believed absolutely that the Government was genuine in wanting negotiations to succeed. After all, it would have been absurdly pointless for the ANC to have drawn up a long list of preconditions if it felt the Government wasn't interested in successful negotiations.

And so the faint flickers of hopes were kept alive. But will they survive the inevitable tempest of change that comes when a new administration takes over at the White House? Few are willing to say, since so little is known about the foreign policy that President Bill Clinton will apply anywhere, let alone to South Africa. There are some hints, however. Most of those who will have the final say on South Africa policy are veterans of the Carter administration, though they have matured and grown wiser in the interim. They are honourable, principled people who remain imbued with the Carterian passion for spreading democracy and human rights.

They also believe as avidly as their predecessors that economic freedom is an indivisible part of true democracy. So, while they might be a little tougher on the Government, they are unlikely to embrace the ANC's radicals with much enthusiasm.

In an article under Carter's name, but written by an adviser, support is given for a continuation of local sanctions until an interim government is in place in South Africa.

An area of major disagreement with the Government—and possibly with a future government—will be Armscor's computer programme for the development and sale of advanced weapons of mass destruction. Clinton himself has said that an end to the proliferation of such weapons will be a cornerstone of his foreign policy—and he does not mean only nuclear weapons. As Armscor is aware, the new sanctions imposed last year by the Bush administration related to the production of certain missiles and missile systems, among other things which South African newspapers are not free to report.

In trying to assess Clinton's style, his friends in Arkansas say one thing that should never be forgotten is his capacity to strike deals. And here, they sound a word of caution for South Africa. The whole of Africa is fading from public and political attention in the US except, perhaps, among black Americans. Watch out for South Africa becoming a bargaining chip as Bill the Dealmaker seeks to lubricate some fairly drastic legislation through Congress, where he will need the support of the Congressional Black Caucus.

And watch out, too, they say, for a White House obsessively focused on domestic issues, to the extent that Africa—already a stepchild of US foreign policy—will become more of a nuisance than an area of major concern. —Star Bureau.
Israel dashes deportees' hopes

BEIRUT — Lebanon and Israel stood firm by their decisions to leave 415 Palestinian deportees stranded in a south Lebanon no-man's-land with little food, water and medicine.

But a chink appeared in Israel's Cabinet, previously reported to have been unanimously in favor of last month's expulsions, when Justice Minister David Libai said he had opposed the move.

“Although the circumstances were, the decision was taken against my will,” Libai told Israel television yesterday.

The deportees, expelled by Israel on December 17, were hopeful a new UN envoy would arrange their return home as they shivered through their 20th night at a makeshift tent camp.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri told parliament in Beirut yesterday his government would never reverse its decision not to allow the Palestinians into its territory and to block humanitarian aid to them through Lebanese army lines.

Israel said yesterday it stood by its decision to expel the Palestinians, whom it accused of links to hostile Muslim groups that killed five Israeli soldiers, despite a threat by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to recommend action to force their return.

Israeli spokesmen said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Boutros-Ghali he welcomed a proposal to send a UN envoy to Israel, the second in two weeks.

The UN chief told the Security Council this week that he may have to recommend “further steps” should this second mission fail to secure the deportees' return as demanded by a December 18 council resolution.

Israel's defense ministry spokesman Oded Ben-Arnov said: “The policy of the government of Israel is that the act of removal was used in order to protect Israelis as well as Palestinians. This act was accomplished and the government is standing behind its decision.

“We said we are going to welcome the special envoy. We will hear him and tell him what is on our mind.”

The deportees' spokesman Abdul Aziz al-Hantusi hailed as “positive” Boutros-Ghali's warning.

The Russian foreign ministry said Moscow understood Israel's wish to protect its citizens, but described the expulsion of the Palestinians as a violation of international law.

A Palestinian negotiator said he feared the deportations had cost his delegation the popular support necessary to continue Middle East peace talks. — Sapa-Reuter.
Fears of anarchy in Vaal paradise

By Monica Oosterbrook

The close-knit Vaal Triangle community of Henley-on-Klip fear their beautiful and peaceful garden-village existence will become anarchic after reports that Eskom buildings have been sold to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to house and train returning exiles.

But much of the panic has been due to lack of information, according to Eskom.

Eskom property manager Herman van den Heever said the UNHCR was at this stage only considering buying the property, which has been up for sale since 1988.

It is believed the UNHCR will use the property to train refugees in basic commercial and technical skills.

The buildings, once used as a training centre for Eskom, can accommodate several hundred people in the double-storey hostels as well as dozens of teachers in small houses on the property. Teaching, sport and eating facilities also exist.

Eskom officials believe the refugees would remain only until they moved into the cities to look for jobs and make way for other students.

But residents, who have been kept in the dark as the deal has not been finalised, are worried their peace would be shattered.

One woman, who felt her life would be endangered if her name was revealed, said she was very nervous about living with "terrorists" down the road.

"Nobody knows what is going on. We haven't been told anything and the secrecy is making us very scared," she said.

Many of the residents had moved to this tranquil part of the world to enjoy peaceful and scenic surroundings.

Rural atmosphere

"Look around you and see how special our village is," said William Small, who retired to Henley-on-Klip two years ago.

He pointed out the lush vegetation, the vast array of colourful flowers blooming in gardens, the huge trees lining the lanes, and overgrown hedges, vines and creepers. As he talked about the rural atmosphere, a rider trotted down a side lane on her pony while shoppers strolled past and waved.

"It's a special piece of paradise hiding here in the Transvaal," he said.

He is "disgusted and appalled" by what he thinks is a massive cover-up by the Government and Eskom.

"Violent crime will soar and there will be anarchy because no one will be able to control them," he said.

Labourers, domestic workers and friends who had gathered under trees near a row of shops also expressed concern about moves to allow refugees into the area.

They fear that the refugees' families would pour into the village and that jobs would become more scarce. Some locals, unemployed and homeless, are upset and envious that refugees would be given training and accommodation.

"Surely charity should start at home? Why do refugees get all the opportunities when there are people right here who need attention and help," one man said.

Eskom has offered to make senior executives available to meet any local residents who wish to discuss the proposed sale.

The UNHCR is arranging for a meeting to take place soon at which details of the running of the centre will be explained.
Weak UN abandons democracy in Angola

8/1-14/1/93

The United Nations secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, late last month asked President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola to meet the former rebel leader, Jonas Savimbi, in Geneva. Dr Savimbi has refused to accept the results of the September elections, certified as free and fair by the UN. Mr Boutros-Ghali threatened that if the Geneva meeting were not held, the UN would withdraw its monitoring group from Angola.

The secretary-general's initiative follows three months in which thousands of Angolans have been killed and tens of thousands ousted from their homes. The new government which emerged from the multi-party elections has been prevented by a military offensive on the part of Dr Savimbi's Unita troops from exercising its administration in roughly three-quarters of the country.

The government has repeatedly told the UN that a 20,000-strong Unita army, trained in Morocco and Zaire, was infiltrated into camps in east and northern Angola for this offensive.

The secretary-general's own report to the Security Council about a month ago, after an emergency visit by his top peacekeeper, Marrack Goulding, said the situation had undergone a "catastrophic deterioration." Since then it has worsened daily, according to sources in Luanda, Malange, and Huambo.

In Benguela province alone, more than 80 people at various levels in the administration and the majority MPLA party have been killed or detained by Unita. In Huambo, Dr Savimbi's military fief, among the many buildings destroyed have been churches, mosques and old people's shelters, whose inhabitants have fled to the countryside.

In all other provinces largely under Unita military occupation, telephone and radio communications have been cut. The only information to reach Luanda comes from the anecdotal evidence of those who have managed to flee. The level of human suffering, from the terror of forcible dislocation, hunger and lack of medical care for the many wounded, is incalculable.

Refusing Dr Savimbi, who refuses to meet President Dos Santos in Luanda, a meeting in Geneva, Mr Boutros-Ghali is effectively colluding with the Unita leader's refusal to abide by the democratic process, which gave the MPLA 57.8 per cent at the polls. Ninety-one per cent of Angolans voted in the election, believing it heralded the end of the 17-year war fought and funded by South Africa and the United States to oust the MPLA.

Mr Boutros-Ghali's invitation ignores the flagrant illegality of Dr Savimbi's behaviour — particularly since the elections. He has maintained and ruthlessly deployed Unita's military machine in violation of the peace accord, signed in Bicesse in May 1991, that were to be the basis of the transition to peace and pluralism. Unita withdrew from the new national army days after its senior officers had pledged allegiance to it on the eve of the election.

This latest move by the UN follows the pattern set by the secretary-general's special representative, Margaret Anstee. Mr Anstee, both before and since the election, has been at pains in public statements to place Unita on the same footing as an elected government, 21 per cent of whose members are from parties other than the MPLA, which is trying legally and constitutionally to defend its citizens against Unita.

There can be no justification for the secretary-general's putting the prestige of his office behind a US proposal that President Dos Santos travel abroad to meet an Angolan citizen who refuses to comply with the laws of his own country.

President Dos Santos won more of the popular vote (49.57 per cent) than Bill Clinton (43 per cent), and is committed to holding a run-off election, though Unita's military offensive makes this impossible.

By Victoria Brittain

How would US citizens feel if President Bush demanded, under threat of violence, a leading role in Mr Clinton's administration?

US officials maintain that their long history of support for Dr Savimbi ended with the peace process. Herman Cohen, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, told Congress on October 8 that Washington would establish diplomatic relations with the government of Angola once the UN certified the elections. On October 30, the UN Security Council's resolution 785 endorsed those elections as free and fair.

The US is still withholding recognition, and is promoting the right of the defeated election candidate to hold negotiations on his personal future.

The collapse of authority in Angola is directly due to the UN's failure to check Unita's military offensive, and to declare Dr Savimbi's demands illegal. The UN has 210 military observers and 77 police observers in a huge country at war. This is not even the authorised strength of 360 and 316 respectively. More than 10 times this number have been sent to Mozambique and a hundred times more US troops to Somalia.

The UN's weakness in Angola has visited a tragedy upon the country in what should have been its first period of peace in three decades. Mr Boutros-Ghali's proposed meeting in Geneva can only compound the problem created by the US's refusal to give up its oldest cold war client in Africa.
UN negotiators Somalilands ceasefire
Observer 'doctors' costing us millions UN chief

By James Tomlin
Star Foreign Service 13/11/92

PARIS - UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali says one of his main problems was financing the deployment of UN observers in more than 30 countries, including South Africa.

He told Le Monde in an interview today: "We have sent 100 observers to South Africa and this is costing a lot of money. "My problem is who will pay for all these requests for UN observers which we receive from all over the world. More than 30 countries want us to supervise their elections. An operation of this kind entails sending 1,000 observers for six to eight months, and this costs millions of dollars."

"During the Cold War, the United Nations suffered from a lack of credibility. Today, it suffers from an excess of it. Everybody wants UN observers, but unfortunately, we cannot avoid the frustration and disappointment of many people."

Explaining the role of UN observers, he said: "They are like doctors who treat an illness. That is their role and they are not there to give an opinion on how the patient became ill."

The secretary-general said he favoured a permanent UN army to be used in "peace operations". France and Scandinavian countries supported this project.

"The UN aims to sign military agreements with 40 countries, enabling us to field 80,000 troops," he said.
Swiss urged to cancel sale of trainer aircraft to SA

BERN — The Swiss authorities are examining a complaint by the United Nations committee on sanctions against South Africa over the proposed sale of 60 Pilatus trainer planes to the South African Air Force, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Bern yesterday.

The committee has written urging the Swiss authorities to cancel the sale worth $120 million (about R420 million), saying it believes the sale transgresses the embargo on arms to Pretoria.

Under Swiss legislation, the PC-7 type aircraft are for training purposes only and are not considered war material.

The Swiss government will discuss the issue shortly.

Previous Swiss sales of the Pilatus plane, notably to Middle East countries, have aroused controversy since they are easily fitted with military accessories like rockets.

The South African Government has declined to comment on press reports regarding the sale. — Sapa-AFP.
Unita sets conditions for peace talks

LISBON – Unita will not attend peace talks with the Luanda government in Addis Ababa, according to a Unita statement yesterday.

The statement came as fighting raged between Unita and government troops in several regions of Angola.

Earlier yesterday, state radio in Luanda announced that General Higino Carneiro would lead a government team in talks with Unita in the Ethiopian capital at the weekend or early next week.

However, the chief UN negotiator in the country, Margaret Anstee, was quoted as saying no talks could be expected this weekend.

In the statement, Unita said that what was needed was not a meeting between military officials from both sides, but one between political leaders.

Unita laid down five conditions for talks:

1. They were that they should be held “under United Nations mediation”, that a UN intervention force should be deployed, that the UN should guarantee the safety of participants, that peace corridors should be set, and that a summit should be organised between Unita leader Jonas Savimbi and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. — Sapa-AFP.
Somalia: US to give reins to UN

MOGADISHU — The United States plans to transfer military control of Somalia to a UN command in as little as two weeks, a US spokesman has revealed.

Marine Colonel Fred Peck stressed that the Security Council had not yet adopted resolutions necessary for the transfer. It also has to decide on a command structure and the rules of engagement, he told a joint conference yesterday.

Peck also announced that the Marines will send in its first combat troops — a battalion of 850 — home on Tuesday.

Smooth

"We feel we are rapidly approaching the point where we'll be able to make a very smooth handoff to the UN command that's going to follow us," he said.

"The tough nut is still here in Mogadishu, but the commander of this sector has given himself a goal of trying to achieve relative stability and calm here by the end of the month."

The announcements came on one of the quietest days in Somalia since US troops landed on December 9 to restore order in a nation that has lost 350,000 people to famine, fighting and disease in the last year. An additional two million people are considered at risk.

In still another indication of improving security, a convoy of 25 trucks carrying nearly 400 tons of food set out for the first time over 640 treacherous kilometres to western Somalia.

French troops accompanied the convoy.

"It's much cheaper if we can manage to move food by road on a regular basis," said Brenda Barton, spokeswoman for the World Food Programme. "That means we're going to be able to gradually wind down the airlift operation."

Mohamed Farah Aaidid, one of Somalia's most powerful warlords, predicted a three-day-old ceasefire among the country's warring factions would hold.

Aaidid was returning from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the agreement was signed by 14 factions on Friday.

His heavy weapons and those of main rivals, have already been confined to special camps in terms of the agreement.

There are now some 25,000 American military personnel in the country plus an additional 11,000 soldiers from 20 countries rounding out the international force. — Sapa/AP.
M'BANZA CONGO (Angola) — The United Nations is intensifying its evacuation of peace monitors from provincial outposts as the government and Unita rebels continue to battle over three key Angolan cities.

Diplomats said the possibility of peace talks planned for Addis Adaba this weekend had faded following the government's rejection of conditions by Unita. UN officials said the government was trying to win control of southern Menougue and was pounding with artillery and air strikes Huambo, Unita's headquarters in the central highlands.

The officials said more than half of the organisation's 59 provincial outposts — normally staffed by two or three people — had been closed.

There was an exchange of fire on Saturday in M'Banza Congo, near the north-western border with Zaire.

Some military experts believe Unita has 30,000 to 50,000 men and enough stockpiled weapons to fight another six to eight months. — Sapa-Reuters.
Recognition for the indigenous peoples

By Ruth Bhengu

The international community has finally woken up to the fact that indigenous peoples have something worthwhile to offer the world.

The result is 1993 has been declared the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

The United Nations General Assembly - which launched this event in New York on Human Rights Day, 10 December last year - is hoping to focus the attention of the international community on "one of the planet's most neglected and vulnerable groups of people" as the UN coordinator for the year, Mr Antoine Blanchet, puts it.

The UN defines indigenous peoples as "descendants of the original inhabitants of many lands, strikingly diverse in their cultures, religions and patterns of social and economic organisation".

Indigenous people include Australia's Aborigines, Africans, the native Americans (known by the derogatory term of Red Indians), the Bontoc in the Philippines, the Karen in Thailand, the Saami in Finland, the Aymara in Bolivia, and the Khoi Khoi and San people in Southern Africa.

Many events and activities are being held internationally to celebrate the Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

These include the International Day of Solidarity With The Struggling People of South Africa on June 16, The International Day of Solidarity with The Struggling Women of South Africa on August 9 and the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners on October 11.

Ironically, South Africans are not even aware of these forthcoming events.

A snap survey among community workers to find what activities were planned drew a blank. None of the leaders interviewed were even aware of the Year of the World's Indigenous People.

An estimated 300 million indigenous people live in more than 70 countries, from the Arctic regions to the Amazon and Australia.

Today indigenous peoples are among the most disadvantaged groups on earth.

Aborigines

The Sowetan will be running a series of articles on the Aboriginal people of Australia in keeping with the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

Senior reporter Ruth Bhengu, who has just returned from a two-month stay in Australia where she travelled through five states, including Western Australia, the Northern Territory Outback, South Australia, Queensland and North South Wales, spoke to Aborigines from different walks of life about various aspects of their lives.

The story of the Aborigines is the first in a series of articles about the indigenous peoples of the world.
Former leaders to see FW
CAPE TOWN — President F W de Klerk will on Friday meet seven former heads of state attending the Inter-Action Council's "Africa summit".

The group, headed by former British prime minister Lord Callaghan, will also meet ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu and KwaZulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi during their three-day meeting in Cape Town this week.

Council co-ordinator Dr Hans d'Orville said the group had hoped to meet ANC president Nelson Mandela, who is attending this week's inauguration of US President-elect Bill Clinton in Washington.

Callaghan is accompanied by Maria de Lourdes Pintasillo (Portugal), Gen Olusegun Obasanjo (Nigeria), Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia), Daniel Msilu (Zambia), Kamal Hassan Ali (Egypt) and Malcolm Fraser (Australia).

The 26-member Inter-Action Council was established in 1983 to harness the skills and experience of former statesmen to address international political and economic problems.

This week's meeting, from Thursday to Saturday at the National Gallery, will focus on strategies to counteract the political and economic marginalisation of Africa.

Meanwhile, OAU observer team head, secretary-general and Botswana ambassador to the UN Legwaila J M Legwaila visited Transkei yesterday. Legwaila met Transkei military ruler Maj-Gen Bantu Holomisa and Transkei government officials on the political situation in SA.

Holomisa said the deployment of UN armed forces in SA was long overdue. He called for tough timeframes for SA's transition to democracy, saying these should be binding on "white South Africa" and enforceable by the UN Security Council.

This was the only way to allay black fears of possible backtracking by the NP government, he said.

International observers had been rendered "toothless and ineffective in curbing violence" by the watering down of the OAU's resolutions, Holomisa said.

He questioned why the international community "allows itself to be seen as a paper tiger by SA blacks when it acts swiftly and decisively against leaders and countries viewed as threats to Western national interests".

Zambian Foreign Minister Vernon Mwaanga on Monday called on SA liberation movement to revive the patriotic front and approach negotiations as one.

Africa could not accept the division of "democratic forces", he said.

Mwaanga met PAC president Clarence Makweni in Johannesburg yesterday.

Mwaanga said he would meet Mandela before travelling to Namibia. — Sapa.

Mandela and police hold frank talks
BILLY PADDOCK
ANC president Nelson Mandela met senior officials of the SAP and SA Order Minister Heran Kriel on Saturday to discuss force attitudes that needed to change in a new SA. ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said yesterday.

He said it was an informal meeting to discuss a wide array of topics, with combating of violence being the major focus.

The meeting, at the request of Kriel, was apparently very frank. Mandela was accompanied by MK chief Joe Modise and national executive member Joe Ntshaba.

According to Niehaus the discussion centered on trying to improve the understanding between the police and the ANC.

"Mandela discussed the changing situation in SA and the attitude changes that will have to come on the part of the police to win the trust of the whole community in their ability and will to do their job," he said.

Both sides discussed the problems they had with each other, with Kriel expressing concern over the number of violent incidents in which the ANC was involved. In response the ANC expressed its concern at police methods of combating violence and crime.
Johannesburg.

The deployment of UN armed forces in South Africa was long overdue, Transkei leader Major-General Bantu Holomisa said yesterday.

Speaking during a visit to the Transkei by OAU secretary-general Mr Mzwakali Legwala, Legwala, he called for tough timeframes for South Africa's transition to democracy and said that these should be binding on "white South Africa" and enforceable by the UN Security Council.

SAPA 19/11/93
Savimbi agrees to UN peace talks.
JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday accused UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of turning a blind eye to the “terrorism” of Islamic fundamentalists.

His comments followed Boutros-Ghali’s call on the UN Security Council to take “whatever measures are required” to ensure that about 400 Palestinians deported to southern Lebanon are returned home.

Boutros-Ghali “is turning a blind eye to extremist Muslim terrorism,” Rabin charged on radio.

The UN chief’s report to the Security Council “does not take into account the aim of terrorism, which is to put an end to the peace process. That is an example of double standards,” Rabin said.

“The Security Council is making almost unprecedented demands on Israel,” Rabin said. “On one hand we are asked to continue the peace process despite terrorism, something we are ready to do, while on the other our measures to eliminate terrorism and the most extremist elements are presented as an obstacle to peace.”

Israel deported the Palestinians on December 17 after accusing them of having links to radical groups.

The US ambassador assured Israelis that President Bill Clinton was “most unlikely” to allow UN sanctions forcing Israel to repatriate the Palestinians.

An interview with ambassador William Harrop was aired by army radio yesterday after Boutros-Ghali recommended the Security Council take “whatever measures are required” to force Israel to comply with a resolution demanding the return of the deportees.

“I think it is most unlikely that the US would want to see sanctions against Israel but we have not used our veto for two years,” Harrop said.

Israeli officials have expressed confidence Washington will use its veto to block any attempt to impose sanctions to enforce Israel’s compliance with Resolution 789.

Israeli UN envoy Gad Yaccobi, calling Boutros-Ghali’s report unjust, told Israel Radio the Security Council could meet as early as today to consider its next step.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said he regretted Boutros-Ghali acted before the Israeli High Court made its ruling on the legality of the deportations. The court, which has rarely differed with Israeli governments on security issues, allowed the deportations to proceed in December. — Sapa-AFP-Reuters.
Edward Mowrer

(34)

Goon-2/173

OF IT’S OWN SUCCESS
ENHANCED ROLE

makes UN a victim

"OF ITS OWN SUCCESS ENHANCED ROLE"

Lebanon - Panama - United Nations

war against the UN

military operation - the Security Council

"not under its jurisdiction, control"
High Court upholds Palestinian expulsion

JERUSALEM — Israel’s High Court yesterday upheld the government’s expulsion of 418 Palestinians to Lebanon, putting Israel on a collision course with the UN.

The decision, exactly six weeks after the men were driven across the border and dumped in no-man’s land, reinforced the government in its refusal to obey a UN Security Council resolution demanding it let the men return home.

“The court in its ruling today approved retroactively the legality of the government’s decision,” said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin’s office.

Israel’s UN ambassador Gad Yaacobi said the US was working to prevent the Security Council imposing sanctions to make Israel reverse the expulsions.

Human rights lawyers had applied to the court to annul the expulsions.

The ruling, by the seven judges who allowed the expulsions to go ahead on December 17, was condemned by Arabs.

Rabin said he was satisfied.

The remaining 396 deportees received the news in rain and biting cold at their camp between Lebanese and Israeli army lines in south Lebanon. Nineteen of them have left the camp, either for medical treatment or because Israel expelled them by mistake and has let them back.

Lawyer Leah Tsemel called the decision a “catastrophe” that could be used to justify mass expulsions, a crime under international law.

The court ruled that each deportee could be present at an appeal against his expulsion but did not say where this should take place. “The absence of prior appeal is not in itself a reason to annul the individual deportation orders,” said the ruling.

Rabin had said the 418 men had links with militant Islamic groups that killed five Israeli soldiers. However, none had been charged with a crime.

Deportee leader Abdul Aziz al-Rantisi said Israel would regret the day of the verdict.

The future of the peace talks remains in doubt because the Palestinians refuse to take part until the deportees return home. Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouzec said the court action “does not facilitate or even support the continuation of the peace talks.”

In Tunis, the PLO called for an urgent Security Council meeting to impose sanctions on Israel.

Rabin had tried to delay a Security Council meeting until after the court ruling. On Wednesday he predicted US President Bill Clinton would block any sanctions against Israel. — Sepa-Reuters.
**Peace secretariat image ‘could suffer’**

FINANCIAL control exercised over the national peace secretariat by the Justice Department was negatively affecting perceptions of its independence, leading peace accord and UN officials have said.

National peace committee chairman John Hall said yesterday there was “a lot of merit” in the secretariat being independent and reporting to the State President.

“It is clear that the national peace secretariat being financed by and reporting to the Department of Justice does raise questions,” he said.

Hall’s statement followed a speech by UN observer mission chief Angela King in which she said that the secretariat needed to be removed from Justice, which also administered the NIS.

UN observer mission spokesman Kevin Kennedy said the fact that Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee was also responsible for the NIS led to a “perceived conflict of interest”. He said the Goldstone commission’s witness protection programme could suffer from negative perceptions if potential witnesses realised the programme was being funded by those who also administered the NIS.

“Who knows if there is a real conflict of interests, but there certainly is a perceived conflict,” he said.

King had already made representations to government and the peace secretariat on the matter, he said.

A spokesman for the President’s office said no statement would be made on the issue by De Klerk before the opening of Parliament. It is believed De Klerk may address the future of the secretariat in his opening speech.

King made her remark in response to a question after an address to the South African Institute of International Affairs on Wednesday night. In her speech she described the national peace accord as “that truly unique experiment created by the political parties and entities and government to resolve disputes peacefully”.

“A special relationship has developed between the Goldstone commission and the international observers, including the UN observer mission in SA,” she said.

**HRC warns of township violence**

POLICE and unrest monitors needed to prepare themselves for a possible eruption of violence in the strife-torn townships of Thokoza on the East Rand and Randpark Ridge this weekend, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) said yesterday.

National director Safoora Sadek said her organisation had received reports that residents of the townships were preparing to take the law into their own hands to “defend themselves” against killings by a gang in the area.

The funeral of ANC activist Mampuru, which was scheduled for Randpark Ridge tomorrow, could become the focal point of renewed violence, she said.

Police spokesman Capt Nina Barkhuizen said both townships could expect a heightened police presence over the weekend and additional forces would be mobilised to maintain security at the funeral.

Barkhuizen said police had no specific evidence violence would erupt, but both areas remained major trouble spots.

The HRC had appealed to international monitors to be present at Mampuru’s funeral to reduce the likelihood of violence, Sadek said.

The HRC said the PWV had experienced its bloodiest week since November last year in the week ending January 20.

The HRC’s latest weekly repression report said 23 people died in the PWV in the week ending on January 26, two more than died in Natal in the same period.

A total of 52 people died countrywide during the week — including seven commuters. Three commuter deaths in Natal, which has been relatively untouched by train violence, were “of great concern”, the HRC said.

Meanwhile, Soweto police said they had confiscated 14 firearms and arrested 15 people at hotels in the Meadowlands area yesterday.
WHO head re-elected despite opposition

By John Parry in Geneva

HIROSHI NAKAJIMA of Japan has been elected to a second five-year term as head of the World Health Organization (WHO) despite a fierce US and European campaign to unseat him.

The WHO's executive board voted 18 to 13 to reconfirm Nakajima in his job over the American and European candidate, Algerian neurologist Mohammed Abdulmoumen, 52, who was Nakajima's deputy until last summer when he was fired, reportedly for declaring his interest in the top job.

The United States and its allies waged a long and public campaign against Nakajima. They claimed the 64-year-old chemist has mismanaged the UN agency, which has a budget of $850 million a year, engaged in nepotism and created a personality cult.

Japan, which fought to keep its man in office, countered by accusing Washington of mounting a disinformation campaign based on little more than animosity against Nakajima by some officials of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Jonathan Mann, the high-profile American who quit as head of WHO's AIDS program in 1993 in a public fight with Nakajima, is accused privately by Japanese officials of being behind the U.S. position.

National pride is also believed to be involved on the Japanese side. Nakajima was the first Japanese elected — rather than appointed — to head a UN agency. His widely respected counterpart at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, is a political appointee.

The WHO battle developed last fall and turned what would have been a routine rolling over of the top job into a highly publicized dogfight. The United States and Japan, the two largest contributors to WHO's budget, both denied through their officials here that they would cut their share if their candidate lost.
Cash-strapped Kenya asks UN to send home refugees

KENYA has asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to help repatriate Kenyan refugees who have chosen to return to their homeland.

The request comes as the country faces challenges in managing the large number of refugees who have fled from neighboring countries due to conflict and violence.

The Kenyan government has been struggling to manage the influx, with limited resources and capacity to support the refugees.

The request is expected to be a significant burden on the UNHCR, which is already dealing with a huge backlog of cases around the world.

The move is seen as a necessary step to reduce the burden on the Kenyan economy and resources, while also respecting the rights of the refugees to return to their home countries.

However, the process of repatriation is expected to be complex and requires careful planning and coordination.

The UNHCR is expected to work closely with the Kenyan government and other stakeholders to ensure a smooth and peaceful repatriation process.
UN ban is anachronistic - but it works
Peace plan behind schedule

MAPUTO — Key elements of the Mozambican peace process have begun falling into place but it is still several months behind schedule.

A UN start is expected soon, however, on one of the most urgent tasks: neutralising the more than 2,000,000 landmines that are estimated to be strewn around the country.

UN special representative Aldo Ajello said over the weekend that the first of the 49 assembly points from which Fretilin and Renamo troops will be demobilised should be opened this month.

The first 12 assembly points have been surveyed but cannot yet be opened because only 14 of the 354 UN observers have arrived in the country.

The R72 million UN programme for the lifting of the landmines envisages a force of 200 specially trained men to neutralise the mines left over from both the civil war and the war against Portuguese colonialism.

There are no maps showing the location of the Portuguese minefields and inadequate maps for the others.

The UN programme will not begin until April, but before then a force assembled by the British company, Lonrho, will start lifting mines along main roads to allow Red Cross relief convoys to get to famine-stricken areas.
AIDS cases soaring — govt

MARIANNE MERTEN

At least one out of 16 South Africans were infected by the AIDS virus, National Health AIDS directorate head Natalie Stockton said yesterday.

She appealed for solidarity between government and non-governmental organizations dealing with AIDS.

There were 4,589 known AIDS sufferers in SA. A further 250,000 to 300,000 were infected with the virus and this figure was increasing daily by about 400, National Health figures indicated.

AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power Warrick Allan said government's inaction and indifference had contributed to the large pool of infected people. It was only in 1991 that government initiated a mass HIV information campaign, but by then prejudice was deeply entrenched.

"The SA public has failed to grasp the enormity of the endemic," he said. This year's Budget set aside only R11m for AIDS, none of which went towards specialised care for AIDS sufferers.

Muse International hoped to establish community support and care centres in rural areas.

SA should empower UN monitors to stop carnage

DURBAN — The UN mission monitoring violence in SA must be given a strong mandate to intervene in a meaningful way to stop the carnage, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) general secretary Enzo Friso said yesterday.

He told a media conference that in spite of the belief abroad that President F W de Klerk was a democrat "his government continues directly and indirectly to perpetuate violence".

Friso claimed "security forces were exploiting political differences to destabilise democratic forces in the black community".

An ICFTU delegation visited the main flashpoints of violence in Soweto, Cape Town and Durban.

Friso slated government and homeland leaders for their "direct and indirect involvement in the ongoing carnage in SA" and attacked employers for "exploiting the situation in a bid to strengthen the trade union movement".

SAPA reports that a delegation from three Dutch police unions had been refused visas to visit SA to research patterns of violence at a township near Johannesburg, according to the Foundation of Middle and High-Ranking Police-men (VMHP).

VMHP executive member Gert van Beek said in Amsterdam the delegation was also hoping to investigate the manner in which complaints about violence were handled. "In this way the unions wanted to contribute to the debate about violence and violence control in SA."

See Page 10
Union leader wants UN to stop carnage

DURBAN. — The United Nations mission monitoring violence in South Africa must be given a strong mandate to intervene in a meaningful way to stop the carnage.

This was said by Mr Enzo Friso, general secretary of the 113 million-strong International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) at a press conference here yesterday.

Mr Friso said that in spite of the belief abroad that President F W De Klerk was a democrat, "his government continues directly and indirectly to perpetuate violence". ICFTU represents 104 trade union federations from 117 countries.

Mr Friso said the ICFTU's Co-ordinating Committee on Southern Africa was to meet today for the first time inside South Africa.
LUSAKA — The UN Development Programme has committed $8.8m towards implementation of capacity building in economic management in Zambia.

The grant was part of a technical co-operation programme aimed at decreasing the country's dependence on expatriates, the UN Development Programme resident representative, Omer Yucer said in Lusaka yesterday.
More peace politique

Violence can be curtailed to allow free and fair elections in South Africa, but there are a number of preconditions. Politicians, among others, must do more to bring about peace. The sooner ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi meet, the better. These are the views of Angela King, leader of the United Nations team of observers in SA.

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KING, 54, hails from Kwa-

zia-

ca, loves classical music and has seen

much of the world and its problems in

the course of United Nations work.

This is her message to South Africans:

"Think continuously about the future of your country. Not only about today and about the violence, but what the country will look like within a year and a generation ahead.

"All South Africans must become actively involved in the peace process and they should not be critical about it. Peace is as strong as the number and the dedication of the people who participate in it.

"Every person in the country - man, woman and child - must make a commitment to do or say something every day which will promote the peace process. They must also show respect and tolerance towards other people. South Africans must be proud of their country. It is their country.

Critical

With reference to the violence, King said the situation in the country is very critical.

"When I arrived in the country three months ago we found a distinction between criminal violence and political violence. We find it to be rather confusing.

"At times it is very difficult to distinguish. However, the level of violence in the country is very high.

"A culture of violence has developed here which must be stopped. The authorities should follow a stronger policy to persecute criminals. Many cases remain pending. I think it is very important that this should be done.

"I was rather concerned to learn that 500 criminals will be released within the following months. Should they be political prisoners or not, it appears to me that the influx of such large numbers must have an influence on society, especially because there is no work for them.

King, who, among other things, studied sociology, says politicians should do more to ensure peace. They must use every possible opportunity to promote the peace process as a means to ensure an effective transition to a united, democratic SA.

"They should stop their posturing and not entice other politicians to do the same in the process. They should talk to each other and must be seen doing that. At times they must also admit that there are differences, but that they are working on it.

"We are very concerned because Mandela and Buthelezi don't meet to talk about peace. The UN secretary general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, personally wrote to the two leaders. Special envoys met with both of them and accentuated the importance of a meeting between them.

"Nobody in the international community thinks that a single meeting can solve the problems, but it would be very meaningful. It would be very symbolic should they meet. This would be the starting point from where other efforts could flow, she said.

"Violence can definitely be curtailed to such an extent that free and fair elections can take place.

"There are a number of preconditions. The leaders of political parties must not only show political tolerance by their actions, but they must also propagate it. They must go to people at grassroots level and prove they mean it.

"I repeatedly hear 'Why should I join the peace structures? Look at the look what they are doing.' "People want to see examples," important, especially to the people of the country.

What must be done to curtail violence? "The government must take serious action and implement some of the measures, for example the banning of dangerous weapons. It still has to
UN's King warns on culture of violence

refused to sign the Peace Accord and remained at a distance and criticised it, had to be drawn in.

"All parties demanding a share in the future of SA must participate in it, even though they have not signed the accord."

"A specifically appeal to the leaders of Transkei, the PAC, Azapo, the CP and others. I think it is very important that they should do that, or they will run the risk of being marginalised."

There is still the top-to-bottom idea going around, where peace is being perceived as something which is coming from the top rather than from the bottom. There are people at the grassroots level who care very much about peace and the future of their children, but they don't yet feel completely involved in the peace process.

Apartheid

What are the causes of the violence?

"Much of the violence derives from the heritage of apartheid. Apart from that there is political intolerance and inter-party violence, not only between different parties, but also in the homelands, in Bophuthatswana and KwaZulu. There is an unwillingness to allow free political expression."

"There is a whole culture of political intolerance which the National Peace Secretariat wants to change."

Furthermore, the economic situation in the country is a great cause of violence. People don't have housing, free access to work, education and training. They see others who have these opportunities. It causes unhappiness and jealousy. Then there are also the numerous weapons which are available. For one or another reason the government is reluctant to implement the proclamation against dangerous weapons.

"I realise this is a complex matter, but since Cyrus Vance was here, it was agreed that it must be done. There are also armed formations to the left and to the right and the numerous security companies. Weapons are freely available. People have four or five firearms. There is also the political uncertainty during the transitional period in the move to the new South Africa. The uncertainty gives cause to violence."

At the moment there are 30 UN observers and a number of administrative personnel in SA. About 10 more observers are expected here. They will come from 30 different countries and 65 percent are women.
UN leader in plea to all parties to sign peace accord

Political Staff

THE leader of the United Nations observer team in South Africa, Ms Angela King, says a major step towards solving the violence is for all parties "demanding a share in the future" to sign the National Peace Accord.

In a report on the violence, Ms King said elements that refused to sign the Peace Accord, and remained at a distance, had to be drawn in.

"I specifically appeal to the leaders of Transkei, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Azanian People's Organisation, the Conservative Party and others to sign the accord," she said.

"Much of the violence derives from the heritage of apartheid," said Jamaican-born Ms King.

She also identified political intolerance and the availability of numerous weapons as other major causes of the carnage.

She said that in addition to apartheid there was political intolerance and inter-party violence, not only between different parties but also in the homelands. There was an unwillingness to allow free political activity.

"There is a whole culture of political intolerance which the National Peace Secretariat wants to change.

She said the scenario was compounded by the economic situation.

"People do not have housing, free access to work, education or training. They see others who do and it causes unhappiness and jealousy."

Ms King said the situation was critical as it became more and more difficult to differentiate between political and criminal violence.
UN observer is attacked

A UN observer, Mr. Jim Anderson, was attacked in Alexandra at the weekend and stabbed in the arm.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said yesterday that Anderson was pulled out of his car by a group of men at the corner of 13th Avenue and London Street at about 2pm on Saturday. His assailants sped off in his vehicle after stabbing him. The car was later recovered by police.
UN observer stabbed

JOHANNESBURG — A United Nations observer, Mr. Jim Anderson, was stabbed in the arm and robbed of a UN vehicle in Alexandra township, Sandton.

Mr. Brian Kelly, one of the team of UN observers in the country, said yesterday Mr. Anderson was not seriously wounded.

He said Mr. Anderson had been leaving the township in a car with UN markings when he lost his way.

"He rolled down the window to ask directions and two assailants approached him from behind on the driver's side," said Mr. Kelly.

They forced him out of the car, stabbing him in the arm, and drove off.
United Nations observer Jim Anderson was stabbed in the arm and robbed of a UN vehicle in Alexandra on Saturday afternoon.

Brian Kelly, a member of the UN observer team, said Anderson was not seriously wounded.

He said Anderson was leaving the township after an Alexandra Interim Crisis Committee meeting when he lost his way. He was attacked by two men when he stopped to ask for directions.

"He rolled down the window to make inquiries and two assailants approached him from behind on the driver's side," said Kelly.

When one assailant drew a knife, Anderson tried to protect his face and was stabbed in the arm. One attacker snatched the car's immobiliser and Anderson was forced out of the vehicle.

The men sped off with the car, which had UN logos on both sides.

Police recovered the vehicle, but had not made arrests. -- Crime Reporter.
Concern over slow response to unrest curbs

By Brian Sokutu

The United Nations is concerned about the Government's failure to implement last year's recommendations by UN special envoy Cyrus Vance to curb violence, according to the UN chief representative in South Africa, Angela King.

Recommendations contained in the Vance report included the banning of dangerous weapons, the dissolution of Koevoet and Battalions 31 and 32, and a code of conduct for the SADF.

Interviewed in the latest edition of the ANC journal Mayibuye, King said the Government had done "nothing significant" to implement the Vance recommendations, despite making an undertaking to do so.

She said the UN found it "very ironic" that a year after the signing of the National Peace Accord (NPA) and the establishment of peace structures, on which SAP and SADF members also served, there "still exists a lack of communication and discussion on their part with communities in many areas".

Turning to the country's youth, King said the UN would suggest an amendment to the NPA to fully incorporate the youth. The UN was concerned that the youth - "a very important element in the country's future" - "does not seem to have any outlet".

King said a greater effort was needed to bring the youth to play a role in the country's political transition.

She described the country's youth as "extremely articulate" and said they could play a very important political role.

Asked whether it was difficult for the UN to appoint her, as a woman, as head of the UN observer mission in South Africa, King said UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was committed to appointing women in prominent decision-making positions throughout the UN.

She added: "He has made a statement that the UN, by its 50th anniversary in 1995, should be able to show that at least 50 percent of its professional staff are women."
UN chief for Mozambique

MAPUTO — Brazilian Major-General Lello Gonçalves da Silva took up his post yesterday as commander of UN forces overseeing Mozambique's transition to democracy.
UN forces take on their toughest task

THE newly embraced role of the United Nations as peace enforcer will be tested to the limit in Somalia, where the organisation plans using 25,000 troops to mend a shattered land.

Western political and military analysts say few other world trouble spots will prove as tough as this lawless Muslim country of six million people. The mission could go on for years.

In the past, virtually all UN troops have been involved in passive peacekeeping roles, reluctant to be seen to be interfering in the internal affairs of member states.

But the UN's proposed force in Somalia will try to disarm hundreds of thousands of stubborn militiamen long used to living by the gun.

UN spokesman Farouk Mawlawi says success or failure will be judged by whether law and order is established after two years of civil war, anarchy and famine that has killed at least 300,000 people.

The UN has made it clear that, unlike the existing United States-led multinational force trying to stop looting of food aid mostly for southern Somalia's hungry, the UN's "blue beret" troops will fan out in the huge Horn of Africa state to try to disarm all groups.

This means moving into northern Somalia, proclaimed an independent state by the Somali National Movement after the 1991 overthrow of dictator Siad Barre but recognised by no government. — Sapa-Reuter
Tokyo challenged to join world peace enforcement

BOUTROS Boztros-Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General, has issued a forthright appeal to Japan to play a larger role in the UN, and suggested the country might start by sending a "symbolic" contingent to help UN peacekeepers in Mozambique.

Boztros-Ghali said on a visit to Japan that it must do more than offer money to solve the world's problems.

"If you are an important country you have important responsibilities. My message to the Japanese Prime Minister was: 'We need more participation from Japan, which is an important country'."

Japan is currently agonising over its role in the UN: Tokyo covets a permanent seat on the Security Council, but is sensitive to criticism that it lacks the necessary international experience.

Boztros-Ghali, speaking at a press conference, carefully kept his comments within the bounds of diplomatic politeness. But his underlying message was clear: a stark challenge to Japan to face up to the new demands of "peace enforcement" being placed on UN members, to boost its participation in the UN's work in New York, and to widen its focus from neighbouring Asia to encompass the whole world.

At the moment, Japan's only commitment of personnel to UN peacekeeping operations is in Cambodia, where 600 troops are engaged in repairing roads. Because of Japan's constitutional restraint on using force to settle international disputes, these soldiers are legally obliged to withdraw the moment any fighting breaks out.

Boztros-Ghali suggested last week in New York that Japan should change its constitution to enable it to participate more fully in the new style of peace-enforcement missions that are becoming part of the UN's work in the wake of the Cold War. This caused a strong reaction in Japan, where the issue of the constitution is highly sensitive.

Boztros-Ghali did not specifically mention constitutional reform in Japan. But referring to recent UN activities in Somalia and El Salvador, he said the organisation was now being asked to move beyond "simple peacekeeping" to greater levels of engagement. Japan should not be shy to take part, he implied.

Another problem for the UN is the small number of Japanese working in the institution. Japan has a few highly publicised agency leaders - like the controversial Hiroshi Nakajima, who was recently re-elected as head of the World Health Organisa- tion with heavy lobbying by the Japanese government.

But apart from the prestige jobs, Japanese representation in the UN staff is about 50 percent of what the country is allotted by virtue of its financial contribution. Lack of language skills is one of the problems. This has tended to put Japan on a low footing within the UN.

The UN chief said that if Japan were to participate in Mozambique, for example, it would have a symbolic value, and would "show that Japan has a global approach". He said it was also important that UN forces should be representative of as many countries as possible.

Boztros-Ghali was neutral on the issue of Japan's desire to become a permanent member of the Security Council.

"It is a possibility, yes, but the decision must be taken by the members of the UN," he said.
- The Independent News Service.
Donors' attitudes are hardening UN report

SA's development organisations are likely to undergo fundamental changes as the country moves towards an interim government, according to a new UN report.

And donors are hardening their attitudes towards development assistance to SA.

"Those were the conclusions in the first UN Development Programme report on SA released recently.

Urban Foundation executive director Fred Siglinga said: "Once we have a transitional or new government in place, I am sure overseas aid agencies will take a second look at SA." At present government received no official development aid, according to the World Bank 1992 report, but it would be possible a proportion of foreign aid would be given to an interim government, the report said.

Foreign funds traditionally have been channelled almost entirely through local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The four main recipients are the Southern African Council of Churches, Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, Kagiso Trust and labour unions.

Last year foreign funding of about $343m was committed to SA, the most in a decade. The EC alone committed 80-million ecus last year and 90-million for 1993, "the largest programmable aid programme we are running," EC mission chief Tim Sheehy said.

A trend analysis of aid donations was difficult because historically much of the funding received in SA was secret solidarity funding to apartheid organisations, the report said. This source of aid had virtually dried up since 1990.

It was also possible the number of organisations receiving development aid would be reduced as organisations merged.

A future possibility for various NGOs active in the same areas was to co-ordinate their actions and even merge to form a single local development body.

The report said the future of SA's development aid industry would depend on its ability to co-ordinate and manage development in a professional and accountable manner.

It said a better policy framework for development must be established to co-ordinate resources and project implementation.

Donors and non-governmental organisations had experienced frustrations over the perceived lack of co-ordination, it said.

Kagiso Trust executive director Eric Molobi said the challenge to SA's NGOs would be to find workable projects which still involved communities and imparted skills to them.

"The change in donor attitude must happen and we welcome it. Projects must be properly accounted for and administered professionally."

Of development aid money received in SA last year, the biggest sum - 45% - was allocated to education and training, mainly in the form of tertiary education bursaries. Community development projects accounted for about 11.5%.
UN trio face split over peace roles

Sowetan Africa News Service

APUTO — Signs of friction between countries involved in the Mozambican peace process have begun to emerge even before the process is well under way.

The Italians have expressed unhappiness about their role in the United Nations monitoring force, Umonoz, and have delayed the dispatch of their contingent.

Meanwhile, the British and the Portuguese are sparring over the right to train the joint national army that will be formed from Frelimo government and Renamo rebel forces.


The rest of the 1,300-strong Italian contingent were to have flown in today but their departure has been delayed.

Initially defence minister Salvo Ando threatened to keep the men at home until their country was given "an adequate role" in the command structure of the UN force, Umonoz.

Ando did not specify what role he had in mind for the Mozambican contingent but appears to object to the appointment of a Brazilian general to command the Umonoz force when Italy is making the major military contribution to that force.

Mozambican commentators have pointed out that Italy has already been given the top job in the UN operation in Mozambique, which is under the overall direction of an Italian, Aldo Agello.

The Mozambican news agency reports that representatives of Britain and Portugal were unable to iron out differences over the troop training issue when they met in Lisbon with delegates from France, the third nation invited to help in this part of the peace process.

The British indicated that they wanted to train the new army, while the Portuguese made proposals that would effectively edge out Britain altogether.

Under these proposals, Lisbon would supervise the formation of all three services: army, navy and air force.
We'll cancel talks, UN warns Unita

ADDIS ABABA — The United Nations yesterday gave Angola's rebels an ultimatum to send a representative to peace talks in Ethiopia or they will be called off.

UN spokesman Joao Albuquerque said if the rebels had failed to respond by 8 am today "no one is going to wait for Unita after the deadline".

The ultimatum followed meetings between the UN representative in Angola, Margaret Anstee, and Unita representatives in London and New York, the Angolan government delegation and observers from the United States, Portugal, and Russia.

The talks were scheduled to begin on Sunday, but the rebels said their key negotiators were unable to leave the southern city of Huambo because of heavy bombardment by government forces.

On Saturday, Anstee proposed a nationwide truce beginning at midnight Angola time and offered to send two helicopters and senior UN officials to pick up Unita representatives at a place of their choice.

The Unita officials were to be flown to an undisclosed destination and later to Kinshasa, Zaire, where a UN plane was waiting to fly them to Addis Ababa for today's talks.

Albuquerque said the United Nations was insisting that Unita take Anstee's offer.

Huambo yesterday morning, Angolan national radio reported. It said Unita had also brought in new reinforcements from Bie province.

The renewed hostilities began after Savimbi rejected results of elections in September. The elections were a result of a United Nations-brokered agreement last year.

Two Unita delegates who traveled to Ethiopia from London and New York said yesterday they, too, were awaiting the response of their negotiators, but they were not very optimistic.

"I have to say I'm getting pessimistic. The government controls Gove and we don't want to see any more of our leadership killed. It's a bit like using honey to trap a fly," said Marco Samondo, Unita's UN representative.

"We will wait and see what they say. But I think we may have to seek a postponement."

Members of an observer delegation from the United States, Portugal and Russia, who have been trying to steer the peace process back on track, were non-committal about chances of the Addis Ababa talks getting off the ground.

Of the three nations observing, Portugal is Angola's former colonial ruler. Washington backed Savimbi in 18 years of civil war and Moscow-backed the socialist government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

— Sapa-AP-Reuters.
UN explains lifting of boycotts
Staff Reporter

The United Nations has reminded foreign entertainers and sportsmen wishing to perform in South Africa that this should be done only through "anti-apartheid" bodies.

Although the "blacklist" of people who had ignored the sport and cultural boycott had been withdrawn, the UN said in a recent statement that the 1991 resolution which ended the boycott stated that re-established links were still intended to bring about democracy in South Africa.
UN explains lifting of boycotts

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UN special committee to assess SA

A DELEGATION of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid is visiting South Africa for the first time to assess political developments.

The six-member group held talks with African National Congress national chairman Mr. Oliver Tambo, ANC Women's League president Mrs. Gertrude Shope and ANC and South African Communist Party executive Mr. Aziz Fahad yesterday.

In an interview, delegation leader Mr. Ibrahim Gambari said the group would report back to the special committee — which reports to the General Assembly — on the preparations for and obstacles to the resumption of multiparty talks.

He said his delegation's mandate was much wider than that of the UN Observer Mission in South Africa (Unomsa), sent to observe political violence after a Security Council decision last year.

"We are looking at the whole issue of negotiations, how to jump-start them, how to eradicate apartheid at the earliest possible time and also to lay the foundations of international support for reconstruction."

During their 10-day visit the delegation will travel to Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria to meet a wide spectrum of political leaders and opinion makers. They will also meet business groups. — Sapa.
UN apartheid

group visits SA

By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter

The first delegation of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid to visit South Africa is in the country to compile a report for the organisation’s General Assembly.

The group will assess "all aspects of the South African condition", said the leader of the six-man team and chairman of the committee, Ibrahim Gambari.

He told The Star yesterday that they would specifically look at obstacles to resuming talks, the negotiation process, violence and reconstruction.

Gambari noted that his delegation's aim was wider than that of the UN observer mission, which was focusing on violence and reported to the Security Council.

The group, which arrived in the country on Sunday, met PAC president Clarence Makwetu on Monday.

The delegation met ANC national chairman Oliver Tambo and other ANC officials yesterday.

Members of the delegation will also consult President de Klerk and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.
UN apartheid group in SA

JOHANNESBURG. — A delegation of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid is visiting South Africa for the first time to assess political developments.

The six-member group held talks with ANC chairman Mr Oliver Tambo, ANC Women's League president Mrs Gertrude Shope and ANC executive member Mr Aziz Pat-

had at the ANC's head office here.

Delegation leader Mr Ibrahim Gambari said the group would report back to the special committee — which in turn reports to the General Assembly — on the resumption of multi-party talks and political violence and examine ways in which the international community could help in “the recon-

struction of the country”. — Sapa
Historic visit by UN group

Mission to assess political developments, violence and new talks

A delegation of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid is visiting South Africa for the first time to assess political developments.

The six-member group held talks with ANC national chairman Mr Oliver Tambo, ANC Women’s League president Mrs Gertrude Shepe and SA Communist Party executive Mr Aziz Pahad in Johannesburg yesterday.

The delegation’s leader, UN ambassador Mr Ibrahim Gambari, said the group would report back to the Special Committee — which in turn reports to the General Assembly — on the preparations for, and obstacles to, the resumption of multiparty talks. It would also assess the level of political violence and examine how the international community could assist in the “reconstruction of the country”. He said the delegation’s mandate was much wider than that of the UN Observer Mission in South Africa, sent to observe political violence last year.
Focus on violence against women

Weekend celebrations for Alexandra.

Violence against women will be the theme of International Women's Day, celebrated worldwide this Sunday.

The theme has been selected by the United Nations, whose observer mission in South Africa (Unomsa) has organised a programme with the Alexandra branch of Women for Peace to mark the day.

A draft international declaration on the elimination of violence against women will be considered later this month in Vienna, Austria, at the current session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, according to an Unomsa statement this week.

The declaration, once adopted by the UN General Assembly, is intended to serve as a blueprint for all countries to use in defining and dealing with the problem, and as a legal framework for national legislation.

Celebrations at the Women for Peace centre in Alexandra will start at 1pm and will include a statement by Unomsa chief of mission, Angela King, and a panel discussion featuring Mmatshilo Motsei, the initiator of a domestic abuse prevention project based at Alexandra Clinic. - Sope.
Mozambique begins reconstruction

AFTER 16 years of war, Mozambique is taking the first tentative steps towards reconstructing its socio-economic and political infrastructure, despite the fact that it is still dependent on outside assistance and the UN peace process has been delayed from its outset in October last year.

Mozambique will become the UN's biggest commitment in Africa, but at the moment only 60 UN military observers are in the country four months after the signing of the peace agreement.

However, the first contingent of Italian troops under the UN flag were due to arrive yesterday after a battalion of 180 Alpine troops left Turin on Tuesday night, Sapa-Reuters reports.

The Italian contingent will grow to 13000 by the end of the month. About 7000 troops are eventually expected to implement the peace process.

However, UN peacekeeping operations worldwide are under financial threat because most member states have failed to pay their annual contributions.

UN special representative Aldo Ayello said UN troops would arrive in one month stages to coincide with the phased opening of assembly points for demobilised soldiers.

The UN operations in Mozambique had secured 12 of 49 assembly points for demobilising soldiers and would open them next month. It was investigating the next 12 assembly areas.

The demobilisation process is crucial for the success of the operation: Lessons learnt in Angola have meant elections will not be held until all soldiers are demobilised.

Ayello, Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama and President Joaquim Chissano have agreed to delay elections until after the rainy season in June 1994.

About 21000 Renamo and 61000 government soldiers will demobilise in the next months, a diplomatic source said.

By April 12, each side should have contributed 15000 soldiers to a joint defence force, but Maputo military sources believe Renamo will find it difficult to provide this number.

UN assembly will provide tents to demobilised troops, who in turn are expected to build their own accommodation. Medical aid is also given.

Although Maputo has working electricity, water and sewerage systems, office space and accommodation is hard to come by.

Since the signing of the peace agreement, many refugees are returning to their homes in the country side. However, urban overcrowding has not eased significantly.

UN officials estimate about 3.9-million people will depend on food aid this year while 1.5-million people are expected to return from neighbouring countries and more than 5-million internally displaced people also will require settlement aid.

At the Rome conference in December last year, $330m was pledged by the international community towards the peace process.

However, seeds and tools pledged last year did not arrive in the country for last year's planting season, making rural resettlement for the returning refugees impossible.
UN is asked to denounce Unita rebels

LUANDA — The Angolan government yesterday threatened to violate a Security Council resolution and enlist foreign military support in the renewed civil war if the United Nations did not formally denounce Unita rebels by next week.

A government spokesman, General Higino Carneiro, said if the UN did not show support for the Angolan government by Tuesday "there will be no alternative but to secure external military assistance," Portuguese news agency LUSA reported.

"We will use all viable means to see that it is the guilty party in this conflict that is punished," Carneiro said.

Earlier yesterday Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura said the government would appeal directly to the UN to repeal the ban on military aid to Angola.

But Jeffrey Davidov, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, said providing weapons was not even being considered by the three countries monitoring Angola's failed peace accords.

"We understand the government's great frustration, but it is clear that what Angola needs is peace — not more arms," Davidov said.

Before peace accords were signed in May 1991, the United States and South Africa supported Unita in its 16-year battle to topple the then-Marxist government, backed by Cuba and the Soviet Union.

The steady flow of weapons turned Angola into a Cold War proxy battlefield, killing more than 500,000 people and devastating this once prosperous and fertile southern African nation.

The peace accords called for demobilisation of the 'rebels' army and creation of a unified military, and banned the sale of lethal weapons to Angola until a new government was formed by democratic election.

But fighting broke out before the country's first multiparty elections, held in September, could be completed.

After Unita lost a parliamentary majority to the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and Unita leader Jonas Savimbi lost the first round of presidential polling, the rebels seized control of three-quarters of the country.

On Wednesday morning the Angolan government said it had taken the mercenaries from Namibia to Huambo, the embattled town in central Angola where Savimbi has his headquarters. Valentim gave the mercenaries' surnames as: Borman, Buys, Gerber, Renens, and Olivier. Unita has also accused Unita of using Namibian forces and Zimbabwean mercenaries. — Sapa-AP-AFP.
Reluctant imperialists

IT IS only three years since the last black African colony became independent but African nostalgia for colonial times, once unthinkable, is heard more and more frequently. Most Somalis welcome the Americans on the streets of Mogadishu on December 9. It may have been a welcome borne of despair but elsewhere, mainly in rural areas, farmers say quite unselfconsciously: "Why don't the British (or the French or Portuguese) come back? Life was better in those days.

Will America come too?

Will the collapse of Africa and the creeping Western control of Africa's economies and, increasingly, its politics, usher in an age of neo-imperialism? The original takeover of Africa paved the way to the plea for humanitarian intervention. More than 100 years ago David Livingston called on the world to save Africa from slavery and poverty and to "heal this open sore of the world". His plea encouraged European powers to step in. Instead of setting Africa free, however, they took it over for their own commercial and strategic interests.

The modern-day Livingstones, the aid agencies, are calling for help just as he did. Most would be horrified at the suggestion that they are contribut- ing to a new takeover but the reality is that in the weakest countries they are already playing an imperal role. Their financial resources and access to the world media give them immense power. As in Livingstone's time, their pleas could end with Western powers stepping in, especially if African voices are added to theirs. As wars and famines increase, aid agencies become less and less able to cope and only govern- ments with guns and aircraft can intervene effectively. That intervention creates dependen- cy and a form of imperialism.

No one wants to colonise Africa these days. No one wants territory for settlement or self-aggrandisement. No one wants to take on responsibility for Africa's horrendous problems. But television pictures of starva- tion, especially man-made starvation, cry out for intervention.

After Kuwait, Kurdistan and Somalia, it is clear that the best formula for intervening in situations which require quick and effective military action is an American force backed by a UN mandate. But the lesson America is learning in Somalia is to tread lightly, for whatever motive, is intervention. Whatever carefully laid plans and timetables you go in with, once you are in it is difficult to get out again.

The United States is ambiva- lent about intervention. Americans react to television pictures of hunger and famine by push- ing to get in there and solve the problem. At the same time, their instinct is isolationist. They don't want to get involved. American troops left Vietnam 20 years ago but their one-time involvement still dictates present attitudes. The commanders now in Somalia all served their apprenticeship in Saigon and it forged their attitude to intervention. General Robert Johnson served in Vietnam as a young marine, and Robert Oak- ley, the US Special Envoy, was a young diplomat there in the 1960s. Vietnam crops up in their conversation continually. In many Americans Vietnam created a gut desire for revenge, a need to prove something, but Oakley learnt painful lessons.

"We went in there and did all sorts of wonderful things American-style without really understanding that we were playing a neo-imperial role... but one day we left and all those things we had created collapsed because they were built by us, not by them. So painful as it is, you've got to let them work it out."

But Washington hasn't given Oakley the time to let Somalis work it out. Terrified of being sucked into an imperial role, the Americans are trying to withdraw as soon as possible. The mandate they gave themselves was to go into a limited area for a limited period and establish security for food dis- tribution. But they are learning that the problem with Somalia was, and is, that the state, the last vestige of authority and structure, has been destroyed. The daily meeting in Mogadishu of the UN organisations and the aid agencies chaired by the mar- ines, is the nearest thing to a government that Somalia has.

Despite the breathing space the Americans have created there is no new Somali political culture emerging. The killers are just taking a rest between bouts and the elders, intellec- tuals and others who might be able to restore sanity to Soma- lia have no mechanism for gathering popular support or creating even local government.

The marine has adminis- tered an anaesthetic to Somalia, but there is no evidence that the disease which brought them in has been cured. If they leave, the devil will return, tenfold.

The United Nations is sup- posed to take over from the mar- ines — Boutros Boutros-Ghali has suggested May 1 as a hand- over date — but the UN opera- tions have been a disaster in So- mali and it looks in no shape to run a country.

The best hope for Somalia is that the Americans will stay on by stealth, seconding senior of- ficers to command and control the UN operation, providing logistical backing and keeping a strike force off the coast ready to step back in again if necessary. They must also move faster to disarm and marginalise the warlords and create a new forum for Somali political representation. In the meantime, though, some Somalis may begin to blame their troubles on the foreign presence instead of the reason which brought it there. When that happens, will the Americans have the stomach to stay?

But it is not just the future of Somalia at stake. Somalia is the test. If it works, there will be other candidates for intervention—Bosnia, Sudan, Angola and—looking ahead—Tajikistan. Just wait for the television pictures, the huge dull eyes and wasted bodies, the enraged arrogance of the guns that stop the food aid. Again the cry will go up for intervention. If Soma- lia is a success that outcry will be effective. If Somalia slips back into disaster, the cry will be "Remember Mogadishu".

The Independent News Service.
'Observers for SA poll'

By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will be urgently informed of the need for international observers to monitor South Africa's coming election from an early stage.

A delegation of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, which today completes a 10-day visit, will also inform Boutros-Ghali of the need to increase the numbers of the UN violence monitoring team and to widen its mandate.

The committee's chairman and Nigerian ambassador to the UN, Ibrahim Gambari, said the central message of his report to the General Assembly will be that the promising process of transition should be encouraged by the international community.

But the first two issues were so urgent that he would inform Boutros-Ghali of them before he has written his report, said Gambari.

The six-member delegation spent 10 days in South Africa on the first visit to the country of the Special Committee against Apartheid. Wide ranging discussions were held with many political leaders.
Encourage transition – UN group

By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter

This was the view yesterday of the chairman of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid and the Nigerian ambassador to the UN, Ibrahim Gambari, who leaves South Africa today.

After 10 days of activity, it was felt the observer team should be enlarged and its mandate widened.

The six-member team detected "cautious optimism" about the resumption of talks, during discussions with ANC president Nelson Mandela, PAC president Clärece Makwetu, Constitutional Development

Minister Roelf Meyer and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Obstacles to negotiations were the lack of agreement on regionalism/federalism and the status of Codesa agreements.

The delegation detected fears that violence would increase before elections but noted the view of key players that it would not be allowed to disrupt the process.

Reconstruction was a "tremendous task" but it could not begin until a legitimate government was in place.
Risky Future for Somalia force

As the US pulls out, there's no sign of the violence stopping, reports The Economist.
Risky Future for Somalia

As the US pulls out, there's no sign of the violence stopping, reports The Economist
NEWS IN BRIEF

Positive view of talks

The international community viewed renewed efforts to convene multiparty talks and SA's declining violence positively, UN Observer Mission head Angela King said yesterday. Speaking after a visit to New York, where she briefed UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali on developments in SA, King said monitors had reported a consistent decline in violence. She said talks leading to the next negotiation phase were proceeding very well, and that peace committee officials should be praised for their efforts.
IN A policy about-face, government has decided it does support the idea of economic sanctions after all, and has prohibited SA companies from trading with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia — made up of Serbia and Montenegro.

The ban — in keeping with a UN decision to stop trade because of Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina — has been gazetted.

A Foreign Affairs spokesman said the decision was taken in line with an announcement by Foreign Minister Pik Botha last year that SA would adhere to all mandatory UN Security Council regulations, including sanctions.

The spokesman would not comment on whether SA had changed its long-held view that sanctions were ineffective as they hurt ordinary people and not those in power.

Trade and Industry chief director of foreign trade Bert Plenaar said the move was unlikely to have any effect on SA businesses as his department was not aware of any SA company engaged in trade with Yugoslavia.

He said before the break-up of Yugoslavia, SA companies had exported steel to the country, but this was no longer the case because of the civil war.

"It's like Angola. Nobody's doing trade with Angola, there's too much conflict there," he said, adding: "It would be highly irresponsible for SA not to go along with UN sanctions."
Donors Wary On Somalia

By Jennifer Parmelee

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Donor countries agreed at the weekend to meet most of a United Nations appeal for $186.6 million in assistance for Somalia, but many contributors withheld major pledges, warning Somalia that continuation of aid would depend on whether order can be restored in the chaotic African country.

"Each episode of violence that hinders relief operations, including the tragic deaths of relief workers, forces us to ask whether Somalia is worth the risks," said Richard Cobb, head of the U.S. government delegation to a U.N.-sponsored conference on humanitarian aid.

The three-month-old foreign military intervention in Somalia has greatly reduced the level of violence that raged during two years of civil war and famine following the fall of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre. Nevertheless, nine aid workers, including three foreigners, have died since the U.S.-led military force arrived, and rioting and sporadic factional fighting have highlighted the continuing divisions among Somalia's many clans.

At Saturday's final session of talks on aid, donors agreed to provide approximately $130 million to a U.N. plan aimed at rebuilding Somalia during the coming year. Most of the funds, which include about $30 million from the United States, would support projects aimed at helping Somalis feed themselves, find jobs, and send their children back to school.

The total donations fell short of the U.N. target because many donors withheld substantial pledges, saying it was up to Somalia to demonstrate a commitment to protecting aid workers and resolving the country's political divisions. Representatives of the European Community, in particular, said they would condition their response on the outcome of the peace talks.

"Somalis themselves must demonstrate their commitment to their country by a greater contribution to creating a secure and peaceful environment in which the rebuilding of Somalia can begin," Britain's ambassador to Ethiopia, James Glaze, told participants.

The United Nations initially had sought $283 million, but donor nations balked at what they called an overly ambitious proposal that failed to set specific, realistic goals. Glaze, echoing the views of many Western donors, said the international response to Somalia's needs depended heavily on stronger and better-coordinated management by the United Nations, which is scheduled to assume control from U.S. military forces May 1.
UN backs opening of business data system

PETER DELMAR

TWO UN agencies have publicly endorsed SA's inclusion in an international business information system.

The UN Industrial Development Organisation (Undio) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) have backed the SA launch of the Swiss-based Kompass Information system.

Safito is launching the SA edition of Kompass which will feature 15 000 local companies.

Kompass currently operates through 61 companies in 130 countries.

Undio director-general Domingo Slaason said the local publication was a long-awaited development. "Undio sees extensive scope for co-operation with SA companies in its efforts to secure new investment for, and transfer of technology to, the developing countries," Slaason said.

Until now UN agencies have been reticent about openly expressing commercial links with SA. The UN Development Programme recently denied it was compiling data on potential SA contractors for development projects in Africa.

Kompass chairman Max Neuenzwaniger said yesterday the local publication would boost small and medium-sized business while exposing SA products to export markets worldwide.

Development of a local database was encouraged by the two UN bodies, said Neuenzwaniger, who had been compiling a worldwide network on their behalf, of which SA would form an important part.

One use would be in Unctad's efforts to boost international trade with developing countries through the 200 trade efficiency points identified by an Unctad summit last year.
Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people.

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law.

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations.

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realisation of this pledge, now therefore...

The General Assembly proclaims this

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms, and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the people of territories under their jurisdiction.

article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude, nobody shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

article 5

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national authorities for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.
Declaration on Human Rights

article 9
No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

article 10
Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

article 11
1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
2. Everyone shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavy penalty be imposed than that one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

article 12
No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to protection against interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence.

article 13
1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to it.

article 14
1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum against persecution.
2. This right may be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

article 15
1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

article 16
1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

article 17
Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

article 18
Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

article 19
Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

article 20
1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

article 21
1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

article 22
Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Download the full text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the United Nations, which contains all the articles mentioned above, to fully understand the comprehensive protection of human rights enshrined in this fundamental document.
UN peacekeepers arrive at last in Mozambique

By Eric Janssen
Star Africa Service

BEIRA — After months of delays, the United Nations' peacekeeping operation is finally off the ground in Mozambique.

Yesterday the third aircraft arrived here, carrying 190 Italian troops and bringing to 670 the total number of officers and soldiers now in Mozambique. By tomorrow this will have grown to 1,050.

The arrival follows the weekend's off-loading of equipment, including eight military helicopters, two light aircraft, 260 vehicles (including armoured cars, ambulances, trucks, field kitchens and trailers) and 72 containers of supplies.

The Italian contingent — the largest from those of eight countries which have sent personnel to Mozambique — expects to be fully operational by April 1.

A base and headquarters have been set up at Dondo, 30 km west of Beira.

Lieutenant-Colonel Giovanni Marizza, Italian chief of staff, said about half of the Italian contingent would move to Chimoio, near the Mozambican border, later this week.

"Our main task will be to safeguard the Beira Corridor. The UN must still work out the details, but our armed force will serve as a deterrent to bandits and soldiers thinking of taking up arms again. We will also set up some of the 49 assembly points where Renamo and Frelimo soldiers will be disarmed," said Marizza.

While officers from Bangladesh, Brazil and Botswana have already arrived, their countries' soldiers will follow later.

Zimbabwean soldiers are presently safeguarding the western part of the Beira Corridor, but command will officially be handed over to the Italians on April 9 at Chimoio.
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He says the appointment indicates more widespread acceptance of SA by the international community and allows SA to now openly take part in Edifact, the UN body that administers EDI standards in more than 100 countries.

The Edifact African board, formed last Friday at a UN Economic Commission for Europe meeting in Geneva, aims to bring trade documents for inter-computer exchange up to world standards.

Its four founding members include Gabon, Nigeria, Senegal and SA, but invitations will be extended to all African countries. Its secretariat will be based in Gabon.
 task in war-ravaged Angola

UN and agencies face grim

336
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Making U.N. More Accountable

WITH the vast increase in United Nations activities and expenditures resulting from its new-found status as a global emergency number, the organization's capacity for ensuring the integrity of its operations is more important than ever. (336)

The recent report by the U.N. Financing Advisory Group, led by Paul Volcker and Shujuro Ogata, noted specifically that "support for improved financing will be dependent upon a perception that funds are economically managed and effectively spent."

Unfortunately, the mechanisms in place to promote such a perception and to deal with allegations of fraud, waste and abuse within the United Nations are lacking; internal audit units are woefully understaffed, external audit functions are ill-defined, and the latest report of the $4 million a year Joint Inspection Unit deals with "Managing Works of Art in the United Nations."

What is needed is a new Office of Inspector General, staffed to effectively audit, investigate and lay the basis for remedial action in serious cases of conflict of interest, misappropriation of funds or other corrupt practices.

Creation of this office should be coupled with adoption of a comprehensive code of conduct with strict financial disclosure requirements for key U.N. staff members, a moratorium on further expensive worldwide conferences, reduced travel expenditures, elimination of "feather-bedding" practices and more strenuous control over the unnecessarily wide array of U.N. publications, all as recommended in the report I presented to Secretary General Boutros-Boutros-Ghali upon the completion of my one-year assignment at the United Nations.

The inspector general's office is, however, the centerpiece of this reform agenda. The United Nations' current structure for audit, inspection, investigation and program evaluation is so fragmented and inadequately staffed that, time and again, we were called upon to create ad hoc teams to carry out inquiries into allegations of serious wrongdoing. The delay inherent in the process of recruiting and staffing these pickup teams often allowed the trail to grow cold and deprived the effort of the vitality and professionalism that would come from more regular procedures.

The need for closer and more effective scrutiny of U.N. operations is especially crucial given the mounting concern of donor states (including the United States) about the rising level of expenditures of the U.N. in nearly every area, estimated to exceed $4 billion this year.

These major donors, and indeed all member states, deserve the reassurance that their contributions are being wisely and prudently spent so that they, in turn, can convey such reassurance to their taxpayers, the ultimate supporters of all U.N. activity.

My recommendation in this regard is largely a result of my own previous experience with inspectors general, both as governor of Pennsylvania and as U.S. attorney general. In each case I found the office of inspector general to be of immeasurable assistance in keeping management fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to program administration and operations and about the necessity for and progress of corrective actions.

Such a management tool is essential, indeed long overdue, for today's United Nations.
UN support for continued talks

NEW YORK — The UN Security Council has deplored the "brutal murder" and affirmed its support for those refusing to allow violence to hold up negotiations.

The council said the assassination "saddens all who are working for peace, democracy and justice in South Africa." It welcomed the commitment by the ANC and others to talks.

— Special Correspondent
Time now ripe for peace, prosperity

PEACE and prosperity is a sure thing for Mozambique, says Aldo Ajello, the UN secretary-general's special representative to this southern African country. "With the signing of the peace accord last October came rain, interrupting a long season of drought," he notes. "I like the idea of linking peace and prosperity."

Sitting on the 11th floor of the Protea Ryvuma Hotel with only a UN flag decorating a sparsely decorated office, Ajello is constantly interrupted by a stream of officials, phone calls and secretaries.

This tall, slim, silver-haired Italian diplomat, who has been in Mozambique since October, is convinced that both Frelimo and Renamo are committed to peace.

"I am optimistic, especially since I met the two leaders (President Joaquin Chissano and Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama). I feel both parties want — and need — peace."

Dhlakama is a particularly impressive person, Ajello says. "He has an instinctive political skill and he adores the new game. He wants to become a political leader and leave the role of guerrilla chief."

"The government knows it cannot win a war. They have already been fighting for 16 years without success. So there is vested interest in both sides to achieve peace. All the elements for success are there."

The delay in moving the process along, he says, has been largely because of logistical problems. As one observer noted, the deadline suggested in the ceasefire agreement was "optimistic, even by the standards of Western countries, never mind an African country racked by two decades of bloody civil war."

The biggest problem at the moment is getting a basic agreement signed with the government which will allow the UN to function properly. It would, for example, guarantee freedom of movement and grant certain immunities, without which the arrival of the rest of the UN troops will probably be delayed. Already the first free elections are expected to be held only in June 1994 (they were scheduled for October this year) because of the delays in implementing the ceasefire agreement.

Other major obstacles have been Renamo's decision to demobilise its troops only once 65 percent of the UN troops are stationed in the country, and the government's refusal to assist in funding Renamo's shift from a military organisation to a political party.

"Renamo's only capital is its troops and weapons. Dhlakama is concerned that nothing should happen to them, which is why he is waiting for the deployment of the UN troops before doing anything."

At present there are only 1,300 UN troops in Mozambique; in all, some 7,500 are expected from Italy, Botswana, Bangladesh, Uruguay and Zambia. There are currently 154 UN military observers from 12 nations in the country; at full strength there will be 378 military observers from 19 nations.

Pledges from the international community totalling $1 billion have already been made for the reconstruction of Mozambique, and there is huge interest, both from South Africa and the international community, in the opportunities a peaceful Mozambique offers, Ajello says.
Boutros-Ghali
in peace plea

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appealed to all South Africans not to allow the "senseless" murder of Chris Hani to derail constitutional negotiations. In a statement issued in New York on his behalf, he voiced concern at the possible escalation of violence and noted that the killing was aimed at disrupting the peace process.
Ceasefire obstacle in Angola talks

ABIDJAN—The Angolan government and Unita rebels failed to reach agreement on a ceasefire yesterday, but pressed on with talks as UN officials said both sides wanted to overcome the obstacles to peace.

"We're moving directly on to the second point" on the UN agenda for the talks, UN spokesman Joao Albuquerque said between negotiating sessions. This point is implementation of the initial peace accord signed in Portugal in 1991.

Jorge Valentim, delegation chief for Unita, said: "We agreed today that it was impossible to implement a ceasefire because of the complexity of the situation."

The ceasefire issue will come up again, however, as participants pointed out, since the May 1991 Bicesse accords provided for a UN-monitored ceasefire, the presidential and parliamentary elections held last September and the formation of a single, joint army.

The negotiations were blocked earlier when Unita called for an "immediate suspension of hostilities", but the government demanded a "ceasefire, in the full meaning of the term", sources said.

Renewed civil war began after Unita refused to accept it had lost the UN-supervised general elections to the MPLA, in power since 1975.

In the presidential poll, the incumbent Jose Eduardo dos Santos narrowly missed winning enough votes to avoid a run-off round with his main rival, Unita leader Jonas Savimbi.

Unita General Eugenio Munakuola said suspending hostilities would be a "sort of gentlemen's agreement", which would enable us to consider all the issues in a favourable climate.

Valentim complained that the Bicesse accords provided for "no referee".

"It was like a football match but there was nobody to blow the whistle for fouls."

This approach was categorically rejected by the government team, however, which considers that the ceasefire had already been signed at Bicesse.

— Sapo-AFP.
ABIDJAN — A United Nations official at Angolan peace talks has reported progress towards a ceasefire declaration, but a senior government delegation does not share its optimism: "We are coming nearer to an acceptance of the ceasefire." Joao Albuquerque, the spokesman for the UN-brokered talks in Ivory Coast, told reporters.

Although both the Angolan government and the Unita rebels say they want to stop the war, they have been divided over a ceasefire pact.

After Saturday morning's session, the senior military officer in the MPLA government's delegation had his doubts about prospects for a ceasefire. But, added General Rigeno Carneiro, the parties both approved about 80 percent of a peace package.

Albuquerque said both sides wanted the United Nations to have a stronger role in Angola than the advisory and monitoring one it had before the 1991 peace accords collapsed last year. — Sapa-Reuter.
Govt and ANC learn a lesson

GOVERNMENT and ANC negotiators said the lesson they learned from Monday's negotiations was to be better prepared and to focus on substance and content.

Government chief negotiator Nzofele Meyer and ANC negotiator Mac Maharaj forecast that Friday's talks would make better progress.

Maharaj predicted that the planning committees' proposals that six technical committees be set up to deal with the Codesa reports on issues such as a transitional executive council, independent media commission and armed formations would be accepted by all the parties.

He pointed out that all the parties had accepted the resolution of the negotiating forum on April 1 that technical committees would enhance the process.

Meyer denied claims by Inkatha and the Concerned South Africans Group that it and the ANC were trying to steamroller the process, stating that the timesframes and the way forward had been discussed with these parties in bilateral talks.

He admitted that this was the fundamental difference between parties as Inkatha and its allies rejected the need for interim structures. However, he was still hopeful that government and the ANC could sell their plan to the objecting parties.

He said negotiating parties should not allow themselves to be distracted by side issues, but should focus on moving forward speedily.

Mangope digs in on independence

BOPHUTATSWANA President Lucas Mangope yesterday dug in his heels on the issue of reincorporation, saying there was no question of the territory giving up its independence.

He told the opening of the territory's National Assembly: "There is no question whatever, I repeat no question whatsoever, of Bophuthatswana giving up her independence."

He said his government was surrendering nothing, and least of all would it consider relinquishing control over its security forces. "That is our bottom line. That is where we stand, at present. We merely want self-rule... no more... no less."

However, Mangope said: "Let me hasten to add that Bophuthatswana is not inflexible or intransigent."

President PW de Klerk said last week that progress with leaders of the TBVC states on reincorporation was good and that if there was no intransigence by any parties on the issue, it could be resolved by June.

Mangope said because Bophuthatswana had enjoyed "such remarkable success we shall be ignored by any future central government in SA while the former independent and self-governing states which ran themselves into the ground through maladministration, mismanagement and corruption will bleed the system in order to catch up with the rest of us."

As a result, Bophuthatswana would stand still for years and its resources would be redirected to other developed areas.

This was one of the main reasons his government demanded that the boundaries, powers and functions of regional states in a new dispensation had to be determined at the multi-party forum and not left to "the whims and prejudices" of an elected interim administration.

"In other words, the form of state for the new SA must be finalised before anything else at the present negotiations," Mangope said.

Principles of a new constitution needed to be finalised at negotiations and approved in a referendum before elections were held.

This would obviate the need for a transitional government and a transitional executive council. It would also allay the fears of many who suspected the course being charted would lead to the same sort of benign dictatorship of the old SA.

He warned against government and the ANC proceeding with the reform process and excluding parties which were not co-operating with them and said it would be a mistake to underestimate the importance of Bophuthatswana in the negotiations.

‘Generous assistance’ awaits SA

CAPE TOWN — The UN, the US and the World Bank have promised generous, non-partisan assistance for the political transition in SA, says Goldstone commission chairman Judge Richard Goldstone.

Addressing a news conference yesterday after returning from the US, he said the offers of assistance were non-prescriptive and reflected the international community's wish to ensure the success of SA's first democratic government.

Foreign experts could be called in to assist the commission's inquiry into the prevention of violence and intimidation during elections.

While in the US Goldstone met members of the UN Security Council and the UN Special Committee on Apartheid as well as US state department and World Bank senior officials and legislators.

"My strong impression is that there are many good and positive benefits waiting for SA as soon as a representative and legitimate transitional executive is in place, and even more so when we have a government of national unity," he said.

The US anti-apartheid lobby had substantially transformed itself into a strong pro-democratic SA campaign which supported all South Africans working for a peaceful and democratic country.

Financial assistance from the World Bank and IMP was virtually assured provided SA moved rapidly towards a political settlement.

Members of the US House of Representatives and the Senate foreign relations committee appreciated the need to begin amending or repealing the 150 statutes which prohibited assistance to SA. — Sapa.
‘Africa requires $950bn to cure its economic ills’

ADDIS ABABA 25/4/93

A top African economist said yesterday the world’s poorest continent, hit by civil wars, drought and debt, needed $950bn in aid in the 90s to emerge from its cycle of economic ills.

UN Economic Commission for Africa executive secretary Layachi Yaker told a meeting of economic experts in Addis Ababa that Africa had to start by mobilising its abundant resources.

"They (African states) must increase their own efforts to mobilise domestic resources and boost the efficiency and productive capacity of their utilisations," Yaker told delegates.

"It also requires political commitment and sacrifices by the African countries if their dismal economic performances are to be improved," he added.

Infrastructure

Yaker said Africa needed up to $950bn in external development funding from 1993 to 2005. With that money the UN had targeted its annual growth at 6%.

"The task of mobilising these resources is a shared responsibility between Africa’s peoples and governments on one hand and its development partners on the other," he said.

Political conflicts and civil wars had inflicted "incalculable damage on the existing fragile infrastructure while economic activities virtually came to a stop in many of its conflict-ridden countries," Yaker added.

Western aid officials say living standards have fallen consistently and the continent’s massive debt burden has grown in spite of $105bn of net development assistance in the 80s.

Debt has doubled to $280bn since 1982, although African countries have paid more than $230bn in debt service between 1983 and 1991 — more than the whole debt burden in 1982.

Yaker called on African countries “to focus with renewed vigour” on strategies which would help launch sustainable development.

The four-day meeting of economic experts would prepare an agenda for a conference of African economic and finance ministers in Addis Ababa next week, commission officials said. — Sapa-Reuter.
Big aid offers for reformed SA, says judge

Goldstone brings message of hope:

THE United Nations, the United States Government and the World Bank have promised generous and non-partisan aid for the political transition in South Africa, Goldstone Commission chairman Mr Justice Richard Goldstone said yesterday.

Addressing a Press conference in Cape Town following his visit to the United States, he said the offers of help were non-prescriptive and reflected the international community’s wish to ensure the success of South Africa’s first democratic government.

Goldstone said foreign experts could be called in to help the commission’s inquiry into the prevention of violence and intimidation during South Africa’s first non-racial elections.

During his two-week trip, the judge met members of the UN Security Council, the UN Special Committee on Apartheid as well as senior officials in the US State Department and World Bank, and legislators in the US Senate and House of Representatives.

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The powerful US anti-apartheid lobby had substantially transformed itself into a strong pro-democratic South Africa campaign which supported all South Africans working for a peaceful and democratic country.

Goldstone said financial aid from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund was virtually assured provided South Africa moved rapidly toward a political settlement. — Sapa.
ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast) — Close to signing a truce in their 18-year conflict, Angola's warring factions yesterday jockeyed for last-minute advantages in the UN role in their peace process.

"We hope to sign something soon," chief rebel delegate Jorge Valentim said.

Joao Albuquerque, spokesman for UN mediator Margaret Anstee, said any differences "could be overcome in the next few hours if goodwill exists between the two delegations".

The government continued to express scepticism about Jonas Savimbi's announcement on Tuesday that he had agreed to a ceasefire.

Conference sources said US observers talked late into Tuesday night with the rebels they used to support, applying pressure for them to sign.

Unita had been adamant it would agree only to a temporary suspension to fighting while political and military issues were negotiated.

The talks yesterday was only of a ceasefire. Valentim confirmed that, but refused to say it was a concession.

Unita delegate Jardo Muekala said they discussed the role of UN peacekeepers and how the UN could help in the formation of a national army.

— Sapa-AP.
NEW YORK — Cyrus Vance's connection will retain his connection with SA as UN representative after he bows out this week as a Balkans peacemaker.

Questions were raised whether Vance, a former US Secretary of State, might hand over his responsibilities. But UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali is understood to have asked him to continue to monitor the constitutional process in SA.

However, he is expected to make only infrequent visits to the country except in crises after he returns to his New York law practice. Boutros-Ghali is said to have great confidence in Angela King, head of the UN observer team, with whom Vance will maintain contact.

At the age of 76, he is handing over his Balkans duties to Thorvald Stoltenberg of Norway, who will work with Lord Owen, the European Community mediator in the, so far, futile peace effort in former Yugoslavia.
UN appeal for refugee aid

By Michael Spark

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plans to launch an international appeal on Monday for $200 million (about R350 million) to finance the repatriation of Mozambican refugees over a three-year period.

The repatriation of the 1.5 million who fled the civil war is the largest organised repatriation project yet undertaken by the agency in Africa. It is hoped that the programme will start next month, said the head of the UNHCR mission in South Africa, Kallu Kalumbya.

While Malawi has shouldered the largest burden with 1.1 million refugees settling in that country, refugees have settled in other countries in the region including 300,000 in South Africa.

A delegation of senior UNHCR executives is due to return today from Malawi and Mozambique where they inspected the preparations for the repatriation effort.

Kalumbya said the repatriation programme had been made possible by the accord signed in October between the Mozambican government and Renamo.

The agency plans to spend about R95 million for reintegration projects inside Mozambique in the first year.

Efforts to co-ordinate the return of those refugees in South Africa with the Government have so far been unsuccessful, and the agency called for an end to the forced repatriation of the refugees.

While recent rains and the voluntary repatriation had improved things in Mozambique, there was concern that more than 2 million landmines and the destroyed infrastructure would impede the operation's success.
Pessimism on Angola talks

Abidjan — UN-sponsored talks in Ivory Coast on the Angola conflict resumed yesterday on a pessimistic note as a Unita rebel leader accused the government of being out for revenge and of using humanitarian aid as a weapon in negotiations.
UN peace mission to Angola in jeopardy

By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN

WITH the United Nations chief threatening to pull UN peacekeepers out of Angola unless progress is made in peace talks, the Security Council has extended their mission for only one month.

The council voted unanimously on Friday to let the peacekeepers remain in Angola until May 31 and to re-evaluate their mission based on the outcome of peace talks underway between the Angolan government and Unita rebels in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was asked to report his recommendations on the future of the mission before the end of May.

The Security Council also demanded a halt to attacks on humanitarian relief flights in Angola, and urged both parties, including Unita, to ensure the safety of flights and of UN personnel.

Unita has accused the government and the UN World Food Programme of using food as a weapon and Unita forces have attacked UN relief aircraft four times in as many weeks. The World Food Programme said it had cancelled all relief flights after a Unita missile brought a plane down on Monday. The Russian pilot died.

Unita claims food is only being distributed to government-held areas, and that the planes are being used to carry weapons and strategic supplies to government forces. Allegations that the World Food Programme and other relief agencies did so were denied.

Sopa-AP.
UN takes command of Somali relief efforts

MOGADISHU — The US turned over command of Somalia relief efforts to the UN yesterday, marking the start of reconstruction for the war-ravaged country.

In a low-key ceremony typical of the goal for a "seamless transition", Marine Lt.-Gen Robert Johnston handed over control of the US-led coalition to Lt.-Gen Cevik, who has safeguarded food convoys and virtually ended the starvation and civil war that claimed 350,000 lives last year.

But he said a lot of work remained for the UN force, which will include more than 4,000 Americans. — Sapa-AP.
lock motorist in boot

motorist escaped from four armed hijackers
locked him in the boot of his car in Emere-
south of Johannesburg, at the weekend.
when he stopped at the roadside. He forced
the boot and jumped out, police said.

UN repatriates
Mozambicans

LUSAKA - The office of the
United Nations High Com-
misssioner for Refugees
(UNHCR) will begin repa-
triating 1.3 million Mozam-
bian refugees next month in
the largest such operation
yet carried out in Africa.

The UNHCR said in Lus-
ka at the weekend that more
than half a million of the ref-
ugees were expected to re-
turn home this year under
the programme.

The UNHCR estimates
there are 250,000 unregis-
tered refugees in South Af-
rica. *Spa-Reuters*

estimators

Gem trade riven

police arrested a 69-year-old
man at his home yester-
day after he allegedly
fired shots at an SAP
helicopter searching for two
suspects in Akasia, near Pre-
toria.

The suspect had stabbed
an elderly couple on a small
holding at Winterness, police
said.

Police spokesman, Major
Andrew Leach said a security
guard at the old age home
in Akasia claimed to have
seen the man fire at the hel-
icopter.

He said the planted bullet
was fired for the past 14
months after an inter-
couple row! (70)
Victorious Right unthinkkable

SELF-determination does not mean what Van Tonder believes it does. Sypa Stemple US
More Japanese join UN force

MAPUTO - A total of 42 Japanese soldiers arrived in Maputo yesterday to serve in the UN peacekeeping operation in Mozambique.

The full contingent of 42 Japanese troops, six of whom arrived as an advance party on Thursday, will be engaged in patrol and airport duties in Maputo and Beira.

The UN military presence in Mozambique is now virtually complete. It is made up of five infantry battalions with a total of 4,721 soldiers.

Bangladesh has sent the largest battalion of 1,339 soldiers to protect the corridor from Manzini to Nacala.

The Italian battalion of 1,039 soldiers is guarding the Beira corridor which runs across central Mozambique from the Zimbabwean border to Beira.

The 821-strong Zambian battalion is stationed along the Limpopo corridor from Chienala to the south-western Zimbabwean border, across southern Mozambique to Maputo.

Some 920 Uruguayans are guarding the main north-south road that runs from Maputo over 1,500 km to Cabo Delgado on the border with Tanzania.

The last of the corridors, in Tete province, is being protected by a Botswana battalion of 721 soldiers. — Sapa-AFP.
A ngola, on brink of war...
Tsegaye Tadesse looks at the OAU's role in peacekeeping and economics

Africa’s ‘UN’ spreads its wings

Africa’s “United Nations” turns 30 next month. It might be a little late in life to be coming of age, but that is what is planned for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Cairo.

“The Cairo summit will be a turning point,” a summit for reflection. A summit for action,” said OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim.

Derided by Western critics as a toothless talk shop and an anachronism, the OAU—planned to carve a new role for itself by tackling the poverty and war that dog its development.

It is the world’s largest regional organisation, the voice of more than 500 million people, many of them among the world’s poorest.

But for years it has been an ineffective voice because member states routinely fail to pay their dues. This year, as in many previous, it has received little more than 10 percent of its annual $35 million budget.

It has stood by powerless while nations such as Somalia and Sudan destroyed themselves in civil wars. It has found little to agree upon except a deep hatred of apartheid.

But now, for the first time, and with the support of some Western governments, the OAU will discuss setting up a force to solve the many conflicts between governments and rebels across Africa.

It will debate the creation of a pan-African peacekeeping force to police wars which rage from Angola to Liberia and from Sudan to Senegal — and whose principal victims are innocent people.

This will be a ground-breaking move. Until now, such intervention has been thwarted by OAU statutes which bar members from interfering in the internal affairs of another.

“Africa’s new leaders founded the OAU to lobby for an end to racism in South Africa and to break the last shackles of colonialism,” said Salim.

But poverty remains the heaviest burden on the world’s poorest continent, and long-delayed moves towards regional economic co-operation and integration are now taking shape.

They have been spurred by the reluctant awareness in Africa that free-market reforms are the cornerstone of future economic growth and that rich countries tend to help those African states which are seen to be helping themselves.

Salim said Africa was in the process of a double transition in the 1990s — the switch from one-party politics to pluralism and a move towards the free market.

After years of heavy state-run economics.

“The whole question of economic co-operation, integration and conditions which will make economic co-operation possible — such as the issues of stability, security and commitment to democratic transition — will be considered”, he said.

OAU planners have long lobbied and made blueprints for an African Economic Community to sweep aside barriers to inter-African trade, which represents only a tiny fraction of all commerce carried out on the continent.

But only 25 of the 51 member states have so far approved the plan which requires 34 signatories to become OAU policy, although it will not be binding.

Salim strongly criticised the industrialised world for what he called its failure to support Africa’s efforts towards economic progress.

Rich countries mistakenly saw Africa as nothing but chaos and used this as a pretext to deny aid, he said. — Sapa-Reuters.
NEW YORK — South Africa leads all countries on the African mainland in human development, according to a new United Nations report.

The republic, which is listed as a developing country in the economic context, ranks 55th in a human-development index, just behind Saudi Arabia and just ahead of Sri Lanka.

With the world’s highest longevity and high per capita income, Japan again ranks top in this annual index, prepared by the UN Development Programme.

South Africa is listed among a group of states with “medium” human development, which includes Botswana, China, Cuba, Iraq and South Korea. Seychelles is the only state in South Africa’s region to be ranked ahead of the republic at 62.

Mahbub ul Haq, a former Finance Minister of Pakistan, led the team that prepared the report. Because of objections by several states to a “freedom index” that appeared in past reports, this was dropped from the latest one.

The difficulties arising from the preparation of a document of this scope and magnitude are apparent in the fact that while being ranked one ahead of South Africa, Saudi Arabia has been accused of violations of human rights, including slavery. Saudi women are still not allowed to drive cars. Yet the country has escaped the opprobrium that South Africa has borne at the UN for years.

A box of information in the report about blacks in South Africa says they “continue to live in a world apart” as the white 5 percent of the population owns 60 percent of all private property.

“Half the population, mostly black, lives below the poverty line,” it is stated. “Many poor black children are being stunted by malnutrition.... One third of the black population over 15 (some three million people) is illiterate.”

The report says three-quarters of black teachers are either unqualified or underqualified, so the education system “perpetuates a vicious circle of deprivation and discrimination.”
In some rich, selfish company

Ramsey Miller on a survey that measures quality of life around the globe

SA in some rich, selfish company

Date: 2/8/1978
New Sheen from Southern Touchstone
UN reduces
Angola team

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council decided yesterday to withdraw some of the UN monitors in Angola.

The council blamed Unita rebels for the failure of the accord.

The United Nations has 236 monitors and officials in Angola, but the Security Council accepted a recommendation to reduce their number "for the time being" to 194.

— Sapa-AP.
Four-day week could cut unemployment

NEW DELHI — Will a four-day work week help industrial nations curb growing unemployment and avoid layoffs? It's worth trying, says a top UN economist.

“Reduced working hours, innovative proposals for work sharing and redefining the very concept of work” were being considered by Western nations, said UN development programme head Mahbub ul Haq.

“Industrial nations may have to consider whether it is better for most people to work five days a week in order to benefit some people on unemployment benefits, or whether it is better for all people to work, say, four days a week,” Haq said while releasing the UN’s 1993 human development report last week.

His organisation was chronicling the quality of employment around the world. The report dealt with the quality of life and ranked countries on human development record — a yardstick combining life expectancy, educational level, availability of health care and basic purchasing power.

It ranked the US sixth after Japan, Canada, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden.

Haq, a former finance minister of Pakistan, said an alarming trend in developing countries indicated unemployment had been proceeding at about half the rate of the increase in the output of goods during the past three decades.

“Expanding unemployment benefits is no solution in a world without many jobs,” he said. Developing nations were experiencing double-digit unemployment. They would have to create a billion new jobs this decade to absorb the growing reservoir of unemployed workers, the report said.

In Germany, from 1960 to 1987, total output of goods increased more than 2.5 times, but employment fell 9%.

Unemployment in the European members of the OECD rose from 3% in mid-1970s to about 10% in 1992. — Sapa-AP.
Four-day week could cut unemployment

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In Germany, from 1982 to 1987, total output of goods increased more than 2.5 times, but employment fell 9%.

Unemployment in the European members of the OECD rose from 3% in mid-1970s to about 18% in 1992. — Sapa-AP.
UN monitors to quit Angola

NEW YORK — The Security Council decided on Tuesday to withdraw some of the UN monitors in Angola two years after peace accords had raised hopes of ending one of Africa's bloodiest civil wars.

The council, by a vote of 15-0, blamed Unita for the failure of the peace accords and pledged continued UN efforts to settle the conflict.

The UN has 235 monitors and officials in Angola, but the Security Council accepted Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's recommendation to reduce their number to 194. The rest will stay until July 15, when it is hoped it will be clear whether they should all be sent home, or a new larger force should be sent to monitor a new peace accord.

UN-sponsored peace talks in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, collapsed last month. Since then, Jonas Savimbi's Unita has launched blistering attacks, further consolidating its military advantage over beleaguered government forces.

According to UN estimates, about 360,000 people have died in the war that broke out in 1975 following independence from Portugal.

Portuguese television reported yesterday that fire had broken out at the Kifueira onshore oil storage tanks near Soyo in northwestern Angola, but the cause of the blaze was unknown.

The Soyo area was captured by Unita last week.

Because of fighting around Soyo, Kifueira has been out of action since January. It normally handles about 25,000 barrels per day of onshore production by Petrofina and 65,000 barrels per day of offshore output by Texaco Inc of the US.

This was the first reported damage to oil installations in Soyo since Unita recaptured the offshore oil base on May 34.

Unita last week accused foreign oil companies in Soyo of helping the government's war effort and threatened reprisals against them, but it backed down on Tuesday.

Diplomatic sources said that last week Unita forces in Soyo lobbed an artillery shell at Texaco's offshore platform. It landed 400m away. The sources said it appeared to have been a warning shot.

Sapa-AP-Reuters.
United colours of Europe on the Beira road

By ANDREW MELDRUM

STYLISHLY equipped with sunglasses and the United Nations trademark blue berets, one thousand Italian soldiers have arrived in central Mozambique.

They speed along the Beira to Moçambique road in gleaming white buses and armoured personnel carriers, basking in the heat on their way. The Italian machine guns and state-of-the-art radio communications equipment.

With the exception of imported pastas and freshly-baked pizzas, the Alpini brigade from Turin is happily settling in for a six-month stay in the tropical plains surrounding Chimanimwe, midway between Zimbabwe and Beira.

"We are used to patrolling Italy's northern border in the Alps," said one Italian officer. "But we are getting used to this area of Mozambique, it is very hot and we are used to the heat in Italy."

The many Italian brigades is doing more than making Mozambique safe for farmers and olive oil. They are operating in the war zone, stopping traffic at a checkpoint, blocking and controlling traffic on the Beira road to Beira.

"They are patrolling in groups of four, armed with AK-47s and machine guns, to protect the road against any possible attacks," said a British military observer. "But the farmers are quite used to the presence of the Italian soldiers. They are quickly finding their feet in Mozambique and should carry out their mission well."

Additional UN brigades from Uruguay, Japan, Benin and Zaire, are patrolling other important transport routes. Brazilian Major General Lelio Goncalves Rodrigues de Silva commands the entire UN force in Mozambique.

Emotional and energetic, the crack Italian force has made sure that traffic is safe along the strategic routes.

Trucks and other vehicles now drive freely along the Beira road, as well as on secondary roads close to the Beira road for years. But by late afternoon, vehicles can be seen for their destinations — there have been 100 hostile attacks on roadsides along the road in the past two months, according to a UN official.

"The Italians do a good job of keeping the roads secure during the day, but at night the road belongs to the black market," said a Mozambican government official. The after-dark danger is posed by the many fighters, from both Renamo and the government, who are armed, poor and hungry.

The UN forces have attempted to eradicate all weapons throughout the sprawling country, but neither of the warring sides, the government army or the Renamo rebels, have been disarmed or demobilised. Nor has Renamo taken up its seats in the parliament on the government's promises to disband the guerrillas and to ensure peace. Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama and his top deputies remain at their secret headquarters in Mutare near Mount Gorongosa in central Mozambique.

It is the lack of progress in disarming and demobilising Mozambique's two opposing armies that is most worrying. Neither the estimated 20,000 Renamo rebels nor the 40,000 government troops have assembled in camps and given up their weapons. Dhlakama has said his rebels will only disarm when the camps are open.

The major stumbling-blocks to the Mozambican peace process have come from Dhlakama's delaying tactics, and from the lack of a quick, decisive response from the UN in getting the peace plan going. In December last year the UN representative in Mozambique, Italian Aldo Ajello, persuaded the Security Council to agree to an ambitious UN mission to Mozambique with a budget of $200 million and more than 4,000 military personnel, and 3,000 administrative and monitoring staff.

Ajello stressed the UN would not make the same mistakes in Mozambique that were made in Angola. He said that the election campaign would not begin until after army and Renamo troops were disarmed and a new national army comprising fighters of both sides was established.

Ajello's Gronchi (a Portuguese acronym for UN Operation in Mozambique) administrators are working to get all sides to agree to a new timetable for demobilisation and elections, which may be the only way to end the civil war. This is mid-1994.
UN call for more local peace committees

JOHANNESBURG. — While good progress has been made in the formation of regional peace committees, the number of new local peace committees (LPCs) being established and maintained is disappointing, United Nations observer mission head Angela King has told a National Peace Secretariat chairman's meeting.

Ms King said most of the regional and LPCs were also not representative of the local population mix, political viewpoints or community groups, women and youth.

"However, we have seen some positive development and commend those LPCs which are reaching out to involve non-signatories (of the Peace Accord) such as the PAC, the CP and Transkei in its structures," she said.

But some of the regional peace committees continued to function erratically.

"Decisions taken are subject to different interpretations, depending on the political philosophy of the parties or organisations most involved. These decisions then translate into directives that lack clarity and coherence for implementation by the National Peace Secretariat," Ms King said.

To compound this situation, the secretariat of the peace committees was severely understaffed.

Inadequacies at the regional and local levels sometimes led to a tendency to rely heavily on the international observer mission's attendance at events.

"Our role is to support and assist — not substitute or replace."

Ms King suggested that peace structures consider upgrading the Peace Accord's code of conduct for political parties and adapting it to the needs of an election period and issuing Mr Justice Goldstone's guidelines for the conduct of marches as part of the Peace Accord.

She also suggested the setting up of a monitoring and evaluation unit to oversee and ensure implementation or recommendations of the peace structures.
UN pulls out Somalia aid workers

MOGADISHU — The United Nations yesterday evacuated peacekeepers in Somalia after 22 UN troops and up to 23 Somalis were killed in fighting on Saturday.

Warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid was blamed for the violence, which erupted as UN troops inspected sites where weapons taken from Somalis, in accordance with UN demands, are stored. The UN casualties were mostly Pakistanis, who recently replaced US Marines in Mogadishu.

A Pakistani army spokesman in Islamabad said 22 Pakistani soldiers were dead, 10 were missing and 50 wounded. Officials at Mogadishu hospitals said 15 to 23 Somalis died and more than 100 were wounded.

Witnesses at the scene said some of the missing peacekeepers were captured, tortured and killed.

• Full report — Page 4
Rousing ovation for Roelf, Cyril

By Peter Fabricius
Washington Bureau

BOSTON — Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer and ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa received an unprecedented standing ovation in Boston on Saturday when they stood together to receive honorary law degrees from the University of Massachusetts for their contribution to realising democracy in South Africa.

It was the first time a South African Cabinet Minister and a leader of the ANC had together been honoured in this way.

The large crowd of students, professors and Boston community leaders in America’s premier education city abandoned academic decorum and rose to their feet to acclaim the two key negotiators, who were the undisputed stars of the event.

The ceremony symbolised the international community’s recognition of the convergence of views which resulted in last week’s announcement of April 27 1994 as the date for the country’s first democratic election.

Resplendent in red and blue academic gowns, hoods and black mortar boards, the negotiating pair stood together on the podium shaking each other’s hands and basking in America’s approbation.

They were told afterwards that even popular actor Robert Redford — who recently received an honorary degree from the same university for environmental contributions — had been given a standing ovation on graduation day.

Reading the citation to the South Africans, University of Massachusetts chancellor Sherry Penny called Ramaphosa an “able negotiator, masterful organiser and pivotal force within the ANC”.

She called Meyer a “shining emblem” of a country which was struggling to achieve democracy and praised him for his tenacity and vision in leading the Government’s negotiating team.

Meyer and Ramaphosa were both honoured in particular for their vital role in keeping the democratisation process alive by maintaining personal contact when formal negotiations broke off last year.
R10-million of UN cash 'unaccounted for'

‘Alleged fraud linked to exiles reintegration fund’

JOHANNESBURG. — Dockets concerning the disappearance of a large portion of the R55 million donated by the United Nations for the reintegration of returned South African exiles have been submitted to the Attorney-General of the Witwatersrand.

Mr P Stander of the A-G's office confirmed that “quite a few names” linked to alleged fraud at the now defunct National Co-ordinating Committee for Refugees (NCCR) had been submitted for investigation.

A total of R55 million was channelled through the NCCR by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) between 1991 and 1992, 80 percent of which was to be granted to returnees, said UNHCR mission head in South Africa Kallu Kalumia.

The NCCR was established under the auspices of black liberation movements and religious bodies to administer the reintegration of former exiles.

The UNHCR terminated its agreement with the NCCR at the end of 1992.

An internal investigation into the NCCR found about R10 million of UN money unaccounted for, with alleged fraud by temporary NCCR staff and people posing as returnees involving about R590,000, said attorney Yasmin Sooka, a representative of a committee which formally dissolved the NCCR on April 1.

She said fraud dockets were opened in August last year after it was discovered that some employees had deposited money into their own bank accounts. A network of purported returnees who claimed grants on the basis of falsified United Nations voluntary repatriation forms was also uncovered.

Ms Sooka said the names of about 10 people had been submitted to the attorney-general's office for possible prosecution. This could not be confirmed by Mr Stander, as the prosecutor in charge of the investigation was out of town.

Ms Sooka said audits into NCCR books and an independent inquiry by two jurors were continuing. The probe by advocates Edwin Cameron of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Witwatersrand University and Kgomo Moroka of the Black Lawyers Association was drawing to a close, she said.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR will this week begin processing one-off payments to former exiles who returned to South Africa in 1992 and who have not yet received their allowances, said Mr Kalumia.

Qualifying returnees would receive R2,500 per adult and R250 per minor.

— Sapa.
UN seeks killers of peacekeepers

MOGADISHU — Heavy gunfire erupted in the centre of Mogadishu today as United Nations officials pondered how to bring to justice the killers of 23 Pakistani peacekeepers.

Helicopter gunships attached to the UN peacekeeping force clattered through the night sky after a fierce gun battle around K4, a battered roundabout normally guarded by UN troops.

The firefight lasted about 15 minutes. Residents said it was impossible to see who was firing at whom in torrential rain and a city stripped of its street lights.

The shooting followed a day of tension and gunfire during which residents waited to see whether the UN would attack warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed, who has been blamed for the 23 deaths.

Pakistani troops shot dead two Somalis in a skirmish hours after the Security Council demanded that the killers of the 23 Pakistanis be tracked down and brought to justice.

Aideed's radio station said UN troops killed 17 Somalis and injured 26 when they strayed down a road which had been sealed off by peacekeepers.

The radio station was itself the scene of Saturday's killings, some of the worst since the UN started peacekeeping operations.

UN envoy Jonathan Howe said the 23 Pakistanis were killed inspecting an arms depot at the station. Aideed said his men were attacked by the UN in an attempt to seize the radio.

The Security Council stopped short of blaming Aideed directly. It has been trying to bring him and other warlords into a federal style parliament to underpin peace since a United States-led force returned law and order to Somalia last December.

Confronted by a 30,000-strong international military force, Somalia's warlords agreed this year to store most of their heavy weaponry in designated sites open for inspection by UN teams. They also agreed to disarm their militias over a period.

There are fewer arms on Mogadishu's streets these days, but vast arsenals are believed to be hidden around the city.

Pakistan openly blamed Aideed for the killings.

"It is clear that this attack was a calculated and premeditated ambush instigated and conducted by criminals commanded by Aideed," said Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanja.

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali skirted the idea of Aideed's direct responsibility but said those responsible could be tried by a special tribunal.

— Sapa-Reuters.
SA jails clean but very violent, says study

By Mike Littlejohn
Special Correspondent

NEW YORK — While significant reforms had been implemented and conditions improved in South African prisons, they remained places of extreme violence and the ratio of inmates to population was one of the highest in the world, says a new study.

The report by Human Rights Watch was issued ahead of the opening in Vienna next week of a United Nations conference on human rights.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the authors of the report termed their findings, which covered several countries other than South Africa, "discouraging".

UN rules were being violated in virtually every state investigated.

The group called for the creation of a UN body with a mandate to inspect prisons.

A Human Rights Watch team investigated prisons in South Africa last year and included Pretoria Central and Robben Island in their survey.

"The most striking feature of prison life in South Africa is its violence," their report said.

In a gang system, assaults occurred daily and sexual abuse was common while there was substantial evidence of collusion by warders, "even to the extent of instigating murder".

However, said the report: "South African prisons must be among the cleanest in the world. Those in the homelands were run down.

There was overcrowding as well as inadequate facilities throughout the system and, in the rural areas, little provision for outside visitors to see inmates.

Perhaps the most important result of political developments in South Africa affecting prisons was the release of large numbers of security prisoners and the repeal of racially discriminatory laws relating to the system, the report said.

Department of Correctional Services spokesman Colonel Barry Eksteen said the department was "fairly satisfied with the accurate and objective observations" by Human Rights Watch but some aspects of their report were misleading.

He said there had never been any evidence in a court of law of warders' collusion in the gang system, or that warders had instigated murder.

Also, considering South Africa's enormous prison population — about 110,000 with an annual turnover of 400,000 — the number of assaults was relatively low, Eksteen said.
US shifts policy on UN

NEW YORK — The Clinton administration has begun a campaign to make Japan and Germany permanent members of the UN Security Council, a move likely to set off a free-for-all with other countries seeking the same status.

Any council reform that simply adds more wealthy and powerful nations to the council and omits the developing world is likely to run into major opposition.

In a speech to the Foreign Policy Association on Tuesday, the United States ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright, announced the new US policy shift.

"Previous administrations resisted Security Council expansion," she said. "The Clinton administration, by contrast, believes that both Germany and Japan should be made permanent members."

The council has often been criticized for under-representing the more populous Third World in its permanent members and for overlooking major world powers such as Germany and Japan. — Sapa-AP.
Despite hiccups, elections breathe life into democracy

'Ve complain that we have only half the vehicle we need, or that we have run out of water, or that the military protection for a particular polling station is inadequate. Usually we are told that nothing more can be done. In turn, our polite response is always: 'No problem. This is the 'no problem' election.'

WHEN first driving through the chaotic streets of Phnom Penh, one could easily take a few valueless words, uttered by one of the international polling site officials deployed by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), as a joke.

There are potential sources for South Africa in Cambodia. First, despite a UN-endorsed pre-electoral peace accord between the main Cambodian political and military groups, the agreed process of mutual disarmament never took place. Second, the election eventually took place despite the withdrawal and active opposition of one of the co-signatories — although the Khmer Rouge's threatened disruption of the elections largely failed to materialise. Third, the election was affected despite instances of intimidation and the alleged absence of political opposition by some of the 20 competing parties in the run-up to the elections.

According to an Untac Human Rights Component statement, the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) was primarily responsible for this issue. Several instances of intimidation and disappearances of political opponents by some of the 20 competing parties in the run-up to the elections.

In South Africa, it is unlikely that the UN's involvement will render the extent of disaffection akin to Cambodia's. For this reason, it is also the more important that the current negotiations process generate agreements which are binding and enforceable on the competing parties, especially with regard to 'sustaining the political stability prior to an election.'

South Africa can derive valuable insights from other countries' experiences at the polls.

GRAEME SIMPSON observed the UN-run election in Cambodia this month and concluded that even if conditions are not perfect, the process can be of great value in building national reconciliation.

It would seem that multi-party control of the police is a critical dimension of the pre-election negotiations in South Africa, as neither South Africa nor the UN can afford the deployment of more than 16,000 troops from 41 countries, as in Cambodia.

The single most critical factor in the election was the United National party's overwhelming victory in the national assembly and ultimately in facilitating a nationwide voter turnout of more than 90 per cent.

The clear magnitude of the enterprise: in the year leading up to the election, the UN trained 36,000 Cambodians to work as poll workers and staffed over 1,400 polling sites for six days of fixed and mobile polling. Ultimately, they overcame the damaging rumours of government satellites or 'magic pencils', which it was feared would compromise votes in the secrecy of the ballot.

There were hiccups, some more damaging than others. Having spent approximately $5 billion on the whole process, the UN offered a use of cheap plastic overnight seats on the ballot boxes. Many of the seats broke while the boxes were being transported by the UN military from the polling sites to places of security, yet another reminder that the integrity of the election must be maintained. Many of the seats broke while the boxes were being transported by the UN military from the polling sites to places of security, yet another reminder that the integrity of the election must be maintained. Many of the seats broke while the boxes were being transported by the UN military from the polling sites to places of security, yet another reminder that the integrity of the election must be maintained.

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On a slightly lighter note, voter education clearly failed in some minor respects. I witnessed several voters who, having confidently marked their ballots, voted for a person running for a position that was not on the ballot. Many of these jumbled the ballots into holes in the card, but the voting booths were designed to prevent such an outcome. And many voters finally voted in the ballot box.

In the final analysis, Cambodian policies are unpredictable, as are the UN's efforts to mediate the conflict of Phnom Penh. While Untac involvement in Cambodia may have secured the 'minimum conditions necessary for a free and fair election', there is no lasting mandate by which the UN can guarantee the security of Cambodia's people. This has subjected the UN's position to the question of why elections are better than no election to considerable criticism.

Yet, as one of the few Cambodian human rights workers stated: 'The people of Cambodia need to vote.' It is in the participation of nearly 90 percent of Cambodians in their first free elections that the hope of Cambodia resides. It is possible that the opportunity to exercise a vote — and the broad-based educational process that went with it — may be just the source of empowerment which will breathe life into a democratic poltical culture in Cambodia.

Herein, too, lies a major lesson for South Africa. Even if conditions are not perfect for an election, the process itself could be of great value in building national reconciliation.

But, in this respect, it is instructive to recall the warning of one Untac electoral official at a conference that there was a danger of a superpower role. He said: 'If you can do it yourselves, it is better than anyone doing it for you.' Only truly this in the only way to build a lasting peace.'

There is little prospect of a UN programme in South Africa which is comparable to that in Cambodia. But it is equally important that no one South African political interest group has an exclusive administrative control over the electoral process.

While the government's civil service may offer the necessary infrastructure, it alone cannot offer either the credibility or the prospect of empowerment to the crucial political process.
NEW YORK — Though almost always a subject of criticism by international human rights groups for its treatment of prisoners, South Africa has received unexpected and generous praise by a UN-sponsored organisation.

Human Rights Global Watch says "significant reforms" have been made in South African prisons. The report, submitted this week to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, hand South Africa one further bouquet: "South African prisons must be among the cleanest in the world," it says.

By contrast, even in relatively prosperous countries, plumbing, which it describes as "an essential ingredient in a humanely run prison", is often faulty or entirely absent, it says.

In Britain, for instance, nearly 40 percent of jail cells have no plumbing, forcing prisoners to use plastic buckets as toilets or for washing, it points out.

The report, which attributes the improved conditions in South African prisons to the political changes that had taken place since 1990, was based on an investigation of prison conditions in South Africa in 1992 and 1993, during two visits by Human Rights Watch investigators.

Among the prisons visited were Pretoria Central, Durban Westville, Robben Island, Pollsmoor, Modderbee and Brandwyl.

The investigators, however, tempered their praise for the improvements that had taken place with several criticisms, the sharpest of which were levelled at overcrowding in many prisons and prison violence.

The report points out that with 355 prisoners per 100,000 citizens, South Africa continues to have one of the highest prisoner-to-population ratios in the world.

"Many aspects of prison life remain depressingly unchanged from the years of official apartheid," the report says.

Racial discrimination continues to play a role in the prison system, it says, adding that the most significant variations in physical conditions in South African jails are caused by different treatment for black and white prisoners.

Though apartheid in the prison system has formally ended and white and black prisoners are now held in the same prisons, whites often receive better treatment, ranging from housing in less crowded cells to greater access to training facilities and less onerous work.

In another aspect that drew favourable comment by the investigators, the report says job training on "quite a sophisticated level" is available in some prisons, usually those that formerly housed only white prisoners.

Though US prisons were generally held to be adequate, the organisation points out that with a ratio of 455 prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants and with more than a million people behind bars, the US could claim "the dubious distinction of being among the world's leaders in both categories".

On any given day there are 1,300,000 inmates in US jails. More than 500 condemned persons are awaiting execution in the 36 states
Air ban points to UN

Mandela me

TAKING PIRATES BY THE HAND...Mikkel M. Hagen in

ASSC president Nelson Mandela and Zukunft's

Yasser Arafat met yesterday to discuss the

TAXED: UN/CDCPdaily.

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Out... "The ban is a clear sign that the UN is losing control of the war..." - UN

47

Air ban points to UN
Attack on Somalia imminent

MOGADISHU — Mogadishu airport was to close at midnight last night to all non-United Nations traffic, a UN military spokesman said yesterday.

It was the clearest sign yet that the UN was gearing up for a military strike against Somali gunmen held accountable for the slaying of 23 Pakistani peacekeepers last weekend.

"From midnight, we are closing the airport to non-UNOSOM (United Nations Operation in Somalia) aircraft," US Army Major David Stockwell told reporters. "It will remain closed until further notice."

In Washington, the Pentagon said the US aircraft carrier wasp and three other ships with 2,000 marines aboard had been ordered to leave the Persian Gulf and stand by in the Strait of Hormuz for possible movement to Somalia.

All flights of the UN Operation in Somalia, UNOSOM II, and of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were being suspended in the Somali capital for an unspecified period, sources said in Nairobi, Kenya.

African Airlines, the only private company flying into Mogadishu from Nairobi, was also informed of the air traffic ban.

The airport is in the southern part of Mogadishu, held by General Mohamed Aideed, who is widely accused of being behind an attack last Saturday in which 23 Pakistani peacekeepers were killed and 62 other UN troops injured.

Virtually all aid workers and UN civilian officials have been withdrawn from Mogadishu since the clashes.

Diplomatic sources said that if there was a strike, it would probably be led by the US Quick Reaction Force of more than 1,000 elite troops who remain under US command.

White House spokeswoman Dee Myers on Thursday confirmed reports that four US AC-130 Spectre gunships had been sent to Somalia.

The planes are heavily armed versions of the US Air Force's four-engined C-130 transport aircraft, and are packed with sophisticated computer equipment.

French reinforcements also arrived, a battalion of about 130 men moving in from the southern town of Baidooh with four armoured personnel carriers to reinforce the mainly Pakistani troops.

UN military officials said they were ready to move against Aideed, but were waiting for the green light from UN civilian officials.

The most likely scenario seems to be an air strike against Aideed's arms depots and compounds to avoid exposing UN forces to the perils of street battles, diplomatic sources said. — Sapa-AFP.
UN hits back in Somalia

By JONATHAN EWING

[Image of Times logo] 3/6 93

UN FORCES, hitting back for the killing of 23 Pakistani peacekeepers, bombed weapons stores, and a radio station, rounded up suspected gunmen and fired at protestors, killing a Somali yesterday. They met scattered sniper fire, but no major resistance from the militia of General Mohamed Farah Aidid, the Mogadishu warlord blamed by the UN for the deaths of the Pakistanis.

The UN forces also began house-to-house searches for General Aidid.

The Pakistanis were slaughtered last Saturday in what the UN said was a carefully prepared ambush.

But several hundred Somalis took to the streets after yesterday's military action chanting "Down with the UN" and "Down with US!"

Witnesses said Pakistani troops fired on a crowd stoning a UN compound, killing a Somali and wounding two.

Military sources said the UN had taken more than 100 prisoners by midday, eight hours after the attack began.

American AC-130 Spectres, carrying 105mm guns, carried out the main air attack before dawn, and the capital was quiet by the time the sun rose.

There were no reports of casualties among UN troops, but foreign residents feared an angry backlash.

"Why do you do this to us, we hate you," a young Somali shouted at several foreign journalists.

Osman Arta, General Aidid's chief financier, told journalists Somalia would fight back if the UN arrested his leader. "They may have the better weapons, but we have the better motivation," he said.

The killing of the Pakistanis posed the first big test of the UN command in Somalia since taking over peacekeeping operations on May 4 from the US-led force that arrived in December to protect famine relief convoys from civil war looting.

The UN has about 18,000 troops from 24 countries in Somalia, including 4,000 from Pakistan. — Sapa-Reuters

See Page 12
Exiles' fiasco harms UN role in SA

By SHARON CHETTY

SUSPECTED fraud by the now-defunct exiles' repatriation committee has hampered developmental work by the United Nations in South Africa.

A senior UN official said plans for a training centre, various projects run by the UN Children's Fund and further donations to exiles had been jeopardised by the disbandment of the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Repatriation of Exiles (NCCR).

The committee was disbanded late last year in the wake of fraud investigations against staff and claims by donors that funds had been abused.

The organisation — set up in May 1990 by religious, liberation and professional groups — was a conduit for funds from sources including the UN, European Community, foreign governments and international non-governmental organisations.

The UN donated R5-million to the NCCR, to be distributed through eight regional offices.

With the collapse of the NCCR, developmental organisations had no way of maintaining contact with exiles to help reintegrate them into their communities, said the official.

The official said there was great disappointment over the NCCR disbanding without fulfilling its role.

Fraud docket involving at least 10 people were submitted to the attorney-general's office this week.
Call to destroy weapons

By JOHANNES NGCOBO

THE ANC and the PAC this week endorsed a call by the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa for the public destruction of all dangerous weapons confiscated by police.

UN political adviser Mr Munia Ndula called on police "to work out a programme to ensure that all dangerous weapons taken during police raids are destroyed in public".

Mr Ndula said: "For people to be convinced that all weaponry confiscated by police does not find its way back to killers who use them against unarmed communities, the arms should be destroyed in public."

Confirming that police did not destroy all weapons seized in townships, an SAP spokesman in Pretoria said that some of the confiscated weapons were used by the police, and other state departments.

The spokesman said 9mm firearms were used, but AK-47s were destroyed.
SA declines UN invite

The South African government has turned down an invitation by UN Secretary-General Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali to attend a nine-day human rights conference in Vienna.

The World Conference on Human Rights, which starts today, is being held under the auspices of the UN General Assembly.

"As South Africa (is) still denied participation in the activities of the General Assembly, it would be premature to seek to take part in meetings arranged by that body," Foreign Minister Mr Fik Botha said in a statement at the weekend.

Mr Botha said he had received official invitations from Dr Boutros-Ghali and from the Austrian foreign minister.

"The government had, however, decided not to attend," he said. — Sapa
SA turns down UN conference invitation

THE South African government has turned down an invitation by UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali to attend a nine-day human rights conference in Vienna.

"As South Africa is denied participation in the activities of the General Assembly, it would be premature to seek to take part in meetings arranged by that body," Foreign Minister Pik Botha said at the weekend.

The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, which starts today, is being held under the auspices of the UN General Assembly.

Mr Botha said he had received official invitations from the UN Secretary-General and from his Austrian counterpart.

"But the government has decided not to attend," he said.

When South Africa's position in the General Assembly changed in future "South Africa will be in a position to take part in meetings... without becoming embroiled in a controversy on the very question of participation," said Mr Botha.

But he called on participants, especially the advanced industrial democracies, to display sensitivity and understanding for the problems facing developing countries, in order that the highest degree of consensus could be achieved at the human rights conference.

He said human rights were too important to fall victim to political differences.

He also said South Africa had made great strides in human rights, citing the proposed draft Bill of Fundamental Human Rights for inclusion in the new Constitution.

Human rights, Mr Botha said, would form the cornerstone of relations between government and individual citizens in the new South Africa. — Sapa.
Report on local govt ‘ignores business role’

SACOB said yesterday it was "gravely concerned" that the President's Council report on a new local government dispensation failed to recognize that business was a major contributor to local coffers, and would be affected most by revenue collection and expenditure decisions.

The council released the report yesterday, before its dissolution today.

It called for strong autonomous third-tier government combining primary local authorities and services councils in metropolitan and rural areas.

In a statement released yesterday SACOB said that while the council recommended formal participation for ratepayers' associations and civics, no mention of regular consultation with business was made.

Business could provide valuable information on how best to use scarce funds and other resources, the organisation said.

SACOB questioned the advisability of a dual ward and proportional representa-

Nonracial SA ‘a top priority’

THE goal of a democratic, nonracial and united SA "is and must remain one of the highest priorities of the international community".

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said yesterday.

In a June 16 message to commemorate the UN's International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of SA, he urged all parties to make every effort to reach agreement on remaining issues, and called on them to do everything possible to facilitate the establishment of a broad-based government.

"One of the most immediate challenges which South Africans face is the task of putting an end to the present widespread violence and disorder. Achieving this objective will require goodwill and courage as well as a strong determination by all parties.

"The creation of a peaceful political climate is essential if democracy is to take root and grow, and it is a vital precondition for meaningful progress in addressing the serious socio-economic problems which SA now faces."

Boutros-Ghali said while the UN had confidence in the ability of South Africans to create a democratic and nonracial future, "we do realise the complexity of the situation in the country and we understand that the people of SA need the support and assistance of the international community."

He added the UN would continue to provide such support.

"Sketching the already extensive involvement of the UN in SA, Boutros-Ghali said it was widely agreed the measures had had a salutary effect on the political situation in the country and had helped to advance the peace process."

He said the UN was committed to continuing such assistance until a democratic, nonracial and united SA was established.

"In a world full of conflicts and crises, recent developments in SA have been most encouraging. The peaceful resolution of the conflict... would be an encouraging example for others and an important lesson to all."

"Its benefits would be felt not only by the people of SA but also by millions of people far beyond SA's borders." — Sapa.
In name of the UN stop it

The UN has stumbled very badly in Somalia, in an operation which was misconceived from the start. No matter how grievous the assault a week earlier on some of its peacekeepers, a revenge attack was not the answer. Predictably what had been billed as swift and precise action from the air has spattered messily into much more slaughter on the ground. President Clinton has claimed the intention to defend the effectiveness of peace-keeping elsewhere by acting decisively in Mogadishu. It will have entirely the opposite effect if the UN alienates and kills the people whom it is supposed to protect.

The UN special representative Jonathon Howe said that he "hoped it was not true" that the Somali people in Mogadishu had turned against the UN. Tentative hopes are not enough when dead bodies of unarmed civilians litter the local hospitals. It is useless to suggest, as UN sources were doing, that "allowances must be made" for the anger of Pakistani troops, 23 of whose colleagues had been ambushed and killed a week before. Any sensible strategy envisaging the use of airpower should have anticipated — as aid workers were warning last week — that the population of Mogadishu would become both frightened and angry. The cause of General Aideed, the target of the raids, may actually have been advanced by the popular anger in the streets.

General Aideed, to no one's enormous surprise, escaped capture in the follow-up. The US ambassador to the UN then announced that "a whole series of ground-force actions ... are contemplated in the future". Though conducted in the name of the UN, this was essentially another special operation from the same US team who gave us the "crippling of Saddam Hussein". Saturday's raid could even be watched live on CNN, with supplementary graphics depicting the state-of-the-art equipment of the AC-130H Spectre II Gunship. The deep flaws of a strategy based upon high-technology revenge have again been revealed. By agreeing to assign US forces to the UN structure in Somalia, rather than insist on separate command, Mr Clinton had previously adopted a more genuinely internationalist view of US participation in peace-keeping. But this operation will only encourage the suspicion to which less powerful countries are prone that the US and the UN are interchangeable.

Mr Clinton invoked "the lessons of Desert Storm" in his first public comment on the raid. The US would continue to play "its unique role of leadership in the world . . .", he said, "through multilateral means, such as the UN, which spread the costs and express the unified will of the international community". That is a singularly unfortunate way of describing the relationship between Washington and New York which may be quoted in the future against the UN.

It is a grim irony that in this military field the UN is doing too much in Somalia and not nearly enough in Bosnia. Of course the resort to quick and pseudo-surgical air strikes would be as disastrous against the Serbs as against General Aideed. In both cases what is needed is a unified strategy where military force, sparingly used, is properly geared to the political and humanitarian goals of peace-keeping intervention. Responsible aid agencies who have long been involved in Somalia are right to complain that the original aim has been obscured. The Security Council's resolution last week ordered an investigation, not retaliation. It should now call an immediate halt to this disastrous operation and think again.
Government help gives the system a flying start

EDI has been implemented successfully in several countries with strong financial backing from governments. The Taiwanese Government has, for example, committed US$220 million to getting the country EDI active over five years. The Government of the Netherlands has spent 40 million guilders to do something similar. Both governments want their countries to be economically competitive.

In South Africa the situation is a little more complex because of other priorities. However, the Government through SITPROSA has been involved in the simplification of trade for some time.

SITPROSA represents both public and private interests in trade simplification. With a limited base, it plays the role of facilitator and adviser in the implementation of EDI. It runs courses, its officials attend conferences and advise businesses interested in EDI.

Standard

When EDI came to be recognised as a major way to simplify matters, the United Nations (through Economic Commission for Europe, Working Party 4) was asked to provide the international standards for EDI. Since then 126 messages have been published, plus rules and guidelines.

The standards being adopted in SA are largely based on those recommended by the UN and known as the EDI FACT vault (EDI for administration, commerce and transport). It is a standard that can be used by all industries, in all vertical markets and is not limited in terms of application.

SITPROSA's role is twofold: to represent SA at deliberations on the UN recommendations and to publicise and promote them in this country.

SITPROSA chief executive Albert van Aardt has been elected to what is believed to be the highest appointment of a South African in the UN to date. He is the vice-colleague of the new UN board to standardise EDI in Africa.

His election indicates more widespread acceptance of SA by the international community.

Mr van Aardt says: "This work is essential if South Africa wishes to keep abreast of other countries."

The subcommittee for EDI (EDISIC), which falls under the SABS Technical Committee for Information Technology, is made up of representative organisations. They range from mining, chemicals, health care, retailing and freighting to government bodies.

The SABS along with SITPROSA and SAANA (SA Article Numbering Association) have formed working groups to develop messages for specific industry sectors where no international messages exist or where UN standard messages are not suited to the SA environment.

Once the working groups have standardised messages, they are approved by the subcommittee and eventually published as recommended practice.

The manager, electronic engineering and physics standards, at the SABS, Woke Stowranski, says: "At this stage we are publishing them only as recommended standards because things are changing so fast that we must be able to review and update them."

Vanguard is out to break barriers

THE South African Vanguard Initiative is a non-profit organisation devoted to promoting economic development, productivity and international competitiveness through the use of value-added and data services.

The first stage of the Vanguard Initiative was to identify the needs of value-added data services, to quantify them and identify the funding.

Steering committee chairman Bob Page says: "In other countries similar initiatives have been largely government backed."

Role

"But in this country it is up to private industry to develop strategies to promote international product distribution and domestic productivity through the implementation of electronic trading."

"Until now EDI communities have been evolving vertically with little cross-industry pollination. But eventually there has to be communication horizontally among different industries. It is our role to facilitate the breaking down of industry barriers."

The Vanguard Initiative is putting together a project plan which includes a promotional campaign, training scheme and consultancy.

"Similar campaigns have worked overseas and with sufficient funding we plan to implement them here," says Mr Page.
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UN Creative a Murdorous Martyr

Mogadishu battles are sowing seeds for future conflict, writes Karl Miller
Somalis in anti-US demo

MOGADISHU — Hundreds of Somalis staged anti-United Nations and anti-US protests yesterday as food aid distribution resumed under tight security in the stronghold of warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid.

Demonstrators shook their fists at UN helicopters overhead and screamed hatred of US President Bill Clinton, as just offshore four US ships carrying thousands of marines lay at anchor as UN forces planned Aidid’s capture.

Sports stadium

While the demonstrators threw up barricades and spilled across the road outside a wrecked sports stadium, thousands of destitute women and children queued.

They stood a few kilometres away for rations of wheat supplied by aid agencies for the first time since five Pakistani peacekeepers were killed at a food distribution point on June 5.

"Down with Bill Clinton, down with (UN Secretary-General) Boutros Boutros-Ghali, down with (UN Somali force) Unosom," chanted the demonstrators, protesting against the attack on Aidid’s headquarters last Thursday.

UN special representative Jonathan Howe has ordered Aidid’s arrest over the June 5 killings of a total of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers, allegedly by Aidid’s militiamen.

Food distribution

Pakistani troops were out in force yesterday at the food distribution centres.

They were surrounding them with coils of razor wire, armoured vehicles, truckloads of blue-helmeted soldiers and guards stationed on rooftops.

"Everything is going absolutely fine," said Major Farukh Husain, commander at a distribution point close to the K4 roundabout where Pakistani troops killed some 20 demonstrating Somalis on June 13.

"There is no hatred," he said, referring to the June 5 attack on Pakistani forces. "That was a small group.

"The poor people had nothing to do with it."

An aid worker watching the distribution said the suspension of the daily food handout had caused serious hardship to the refugee families.

Sticks and sacks

These families live in hovels made of sticks and sacks and plastic on wasteland throughout the derelict city.

"They cannot really survive without the dry rations, they will have been begging and scavenging," he said.

Civil war

Some 350,000 Somalis are believed to have been killed by civil war and famine following the overthrow of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991.

— Sapa-AFP.
Europe shuts out political refugees

Asylum rules are tougher and strictly enforced, reports Leonard Doyle
REWARD FOR AIDID

THE United Nations is offering a reward for the capture of fugitive Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid, UN sources said yesterday.

They said helicopters were dropping thousands of leaflets over Mogadishu promising an unspecified sum for information leading to the arrest of Aidid, who went underground last Thursday.

Aidid resurfaced on Tuesday to give a televised interview to NBC News, the American news organisation, in which he denied guilt in the June 5 killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers.

The UN accuses him of masterminding the ambush and of holding large quantities of arms in contravention of peace agreements he signed under UN auspices.

It ordered his arrest last Thursday and UN officials said he could be tried for war crimes.

Tunisian and American troops killed two Somalis when a Tunisian contingent came under fire at its compound in Mogadishu university complex on Tuesday night, they said.

The US Quick Reaction Force, which reinforces the 18 000-strong UN force in Somalia, sent helicopters to the scene and destroyed a "technical" battle wagon, the sources say. —Sapa-Reuters.
Amnesty International has denounced the biggest international conference on human rights in decades as a hugely expensive waste of time and money. Western officials, however, claimed the issues of justice, decency and rights were being pushed up the global agenda.

Pierre Sane, the Senegalese secretary-general of Amnesty, said the current Vienna meeting would do little more than reafirm United Nations human rights declarations of 1948.

"They have spent time, energy, money to reopen issues that were closed 50 years ago. It's a sham," Mr Sane said. "This is a total flop."

The two-week UN World Conference on Human Rights, bringing together 160 countries and more than 1,000 pressure groups from all over the world, was three years in the making and opened here a week ago.

It ends this week with the expected adoption of a declaration that is to sum up the achievements of the conference and set the agenda for international action on rights and liberties.

Mr Sane accused the delegates of fiddling at taxpayers' expense while many parts of the world burned, likening the eruption of local conflicts fuelled by nationalism and territorial claims to the run-up to the second world war.
Testing the Ll

The United Nations

Cyanide in Africa

The Weekly Mail, June 25 to July 1, 1993
The Limits of Might Versus Right
Peacekeeping role is becoming more interventionist, writes Stanley Uys from London:

UN dilemma of might v right

The other day I crossed the Green Line in Cyprus that has divided the Greek-controlled south from the Turkish-controlled north since the Turkish invasion in 1974. No Greeks or Turks are permitted to cross this "Berlin Wall", but foreigners may cross for the day.

The crossing point is in the capital Nicosia. Between the Greek and Turkish border posts is the short strip of no-man's land where the UN peacekeeping force has its headquarters, in the bullet-scarred Ledra Palace hotel.

Cyprus is one of the many countries where UN peacekeeping forces are stationed. They are still peacekeepers in the familiar sense of the term, but the UN role is changing rapidly. Increasingly, those forces are becoming interventionists, as in Bosnia and Somalia.

I have touched on this subject before: the concept of the UN as the world's policeman, shaking an admonishing finger at governments and warlords who go too far, and sending in troops, fighter aircraft and bombers where the situation dictates.

The transition is still somewhat tentative at this stage, but the development is unmistakable. The conference, bringing together 5,000 delegates from 160 countries and more than 1,000 human-rights pressure groups in the biggest such gathering for 25 years, grappling with the very idea of human rights, whether there are universally valid prescriptions, and what should be done to enforce observance.

This is the way the world is moving.

Two problems arise and one is the legality of intervention. The UN is operating in Somalia without legal precedent. It has never before interfered in the internal affairs of a member state in this way without invitation.

The legal case in Somalia, as one writer observes, "is novel, unproven and confused". But this has not prevented intervention, and as Dick Thornburgh, a former UN under-secretary-general and former US attorney-general under President Bush, remarks: "International law is more politics than law."

A US specialist in international law, Professor Robert Goldman, contends that crimes against humanity are treated under international law, and any country has the right to try someone accused of crimes against humanity no matter where the offences were committed.

The Guardian newspaper reports that Goldman sees no reason to prevent the Security Council from creating a UN-sanctioned tribunal to try Somali warlords, if and when they are captured.

The other problem is that the UN lacks an established enforcement mechanism. Clearly what is happening - at least for the present - is that the US-led forces will be the UN's enforcer of last resort.

A considerable debate has started on whether the UN should have a permanent enforcement arm (Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has indicated support for such a move) and the question of might and right could then be put on a more legitimate basis.

There is a cautionary tale in all this for South Africa's white right-wingers. If they impose their will on the country, either directly through military action or indirectly through using selected politicians to block President de Klerk's reforms, they will not escape international retaliation.

Military intervention by the UN is not the issue. What a right-wing seizure of power in South Africa would achieve - however it is carried out - would be to draw the threads of the international crusade on human rights together and give the movement an immediately more definable form and consensus.

There will be no dissenters on this score. The crusaders will seize on a right-wing takeover of power in South Africa as a way to bring together a floundering, groping...
Human rights move falls short

MORE than 160 nations hailed a new declaration on human rights adopted in Vienna this week as a historic document that will give hope to people across the world, but activists said it would do little to end the suffering of millions of abuse victims.

Delegates to the UN World Conference on Human Rights adopted the document on Friday after two weeks of debate overshadowed by the war in Bosnia — less than 400km from Austria's borders.

"We leave Vienna with the accomplishment of hope ... and understanding that the commitment has been laid for future progress," conference secretary-general Ibrahim Fall of Senegal told delegates.

Despite hours of bickering over the 32-page document, negotiators failed to agree on the most controversial issue of establishing a UN human rights commissioner with the power to report an individual state for violations to the UN Security Council.

To save further delay in issuing the final declaration, the conference passed the controversial issue on to the next session of the General Assembly.

The idea of a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights was strongly backed by the United States, the European Community and Japan, but developing nations argued that the time was not right.

Despite reservations, US chief delegate John Shattuck said the conference had "produced a strong forward-looking document that reaffirms the universality of human rights and..."
Rights meeting ends in split

Ian Traynor in Vienna

The largest international human rights conference in decades ended last week after a bruising battle over whether new United Nations agencies should be created and empowered to enforce observance of rights worldwide.

After a lengthy and acrimonious row, pitting the West against a group of hardline Asian and Arab nations, the issue was shelved by passing it to the UN general assembly.

Western delegates insisted that, taking into account the difficulties of achieving consensus at a meeting of 170 countries, the final declaration marked a step forward in seeking to move human rights higher up the international agenda. But leading lobby groups said that the high hopes vested in the conference had been dashed.

The conference secured progress on various contentious issues by strongly attacking violence against women, endorsing rights of indigenous people and children, and reaffirming that rights are universal despite Arab and Asian attempts to stress factors of culture, region and tradition.
UN arms embargo threat faces Unita

NEW YORK — The UN Security Council will threaten Unita with a worldwide arms embargo unless it honours peace accords by September 15, according to a draft resolution being considered yesterday.

The resolution, expected to be adopted later in the week, renews the mandate for the small UN Angola Verification Mission (Unavem) until September 15.

The draft calls on Unita and the Angolan government to restart, as soon as possible, talks on establishing a ceasefire and implementing peace pacts.

Unita took up arms after it lost elections last October, contending they were fraudulent. It controls most of the countryside.

In an apparent effort to pressure Unita, the draft says the Security Council would be ready to impose sanctions "on the sale or supply to Unita of arms and related material and other military assistance to prevent Unita from pursuing its military actions'.

The move towards sanctions would be dropped if Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported by September 15 that an effective ceasefire was in force and that agreement had been reached on "full implementation' of peace accords signed in Lisbon in May 1991.

It was not certain what impact an arms embargo would have. Some weapons are delivered by mercenaries involved in the civil war. Angola is also rich in diamonds, other minerals and oil.

Unita was once supported by successive conservative US administrations and SA, while Russia and Cuba helped the leftist government.

The Clinton administration recently recognized the Luanda government.

Unavem has been reduced to 45 civilian staff members, 50 military observers, 18 police observers and 11 military paramedics spread across five locations.

In a report to the Security Council, Boutros-Ghali said humanitarian assistance was needed and urged Unita to allow access to several besieged cities.

Unita said on Tuesday it had signed an accord with UN officials for aid to be delivered to Huambo, Bie province, the central towns of Luena and Jamba and the southeastern town of Mavinga.

An emergency UN aid programme began on June 21 but Unita denied access to the cities of Cuito, Menongue and Malange.

The government then suspended aid flights until secure conditions were established. — Sapa-Reuter.
Namibia calls for UN help in Angola

THE UN should establish a presence in Angola, said Namibian Foreign Affairs Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab at a meeting with Security Council members this week. He also called for the international community to start thinking about the war-battered country's reconstruction.

He said Angola had suffered massive destruction of cities, its economic infrastructure, mines, public utilities, hospitals and schools. And reconstruction would go a long way to convince the warring parties that there was a better future in peace.

Mr Gurirab added that the Security Council should also take strong and effective measures to deny Unita arms.

He said the international community should realize that the Unita leadership was prepared to sit the UN out, adding that Unita leader Jonas Savimbi had distinguished himself as the only obstacle to peace.

Sefa-Reuters
SA role in Africa crucial, says UN

THE UN yesterday took another step towards reintegrating SA into its African economic development planning, warning that only co-operation between SA and the rest of Africa could halt the continent's marginalisation.

The Economic Commission for Africa (Uneca) senior regional adviser Prof Sam Asante told a development conference outside Johannesburg that Uneca was poised to collaborate with SA experts, technocrats and democratic institutions in Africa's economic recovery.

The Towards a Development Strategy for SA workshop, which has been convened by Uneca and several local research institutes, SA has been excluded from Uneca since 1985 and was the subject of a 1989 Uneca report which criticised its destabilising role in southern Africa.

Asante said Uneca had established a special southern Africa desk and task force to focus attention on the changes and challenges in the region.

The need for co-operation between Africa and SA, the need to think together, act together and build together has never been so compelling as it is today, when viewed against the background of the profound changes taking place in the international environment," he said.

The emergence of world trading blocs had created for Africa and SA the challenge of drawing up a joint strategy for the 1990s and beyond. A growth strategy depended on self-reliant and self-sustaining development, human resource development, the aggressive pursuit of economic reforms aimed at growth with poverty reduction, reversing environmental degradation, realising the central role of women in African economies, nurturing grassroots development organisations and stressing regional economic co-operation.

"The reintegration of SA into the African regional economy will have a tremendous positive impact and challenge that will contribute towards fundamental change and transformation," Asante said.

Pretoria University vice-chancellor Filip Emili, who is Chairman of the Africa Institute of SA, warned that SA should not expect too much from a peace dividend, either in terms of additional financial resources or the addressing of socioeconomic backlogs in the short to medium term.

He said Africa and SA had for too long relied upon natural resources. It should use these to create a competitive advantage which required investing in science, technology, education and training.

Finally, it was important to create a suitable policy environment and macro-economic stability.
SOUTH AFRICA has two months left to invite the United Nations to send observers to monitor the elections on April 27, according to Mr Ismat Steiner, deputy head of the UN Observer Mission to South Africa.

Steiner said he did not think it would be immediately practical for a UN peace-keeping force to be deployed in South Africa because the UN was already overstretched.

"Present commitments have put budgetary constraints on the UN. But if there is consensus from the World Trade Centre that we should come, the UN may accede to a request for a smaller peace-keeping force," he said.

There have been calls from various quarters for the deployment of a UN peace-keeping force to quell the violence which has claimed several hundred lives since the announcement of the election date.

Steiner said although the UN was willing and waiting to be invited to monitor the election, no invitation had been received.

He said the organisation needed six months notice to prepare itself. "We need time. We need to know what is expected of us, what our role will be and how many people we should send," Steiner said.

He said unless there was an international presence, elections would be open to question.

Steiner appealed to negotiators at the World Trade Centre to reach consensus on the transition soon. He said the UN would have to be invited by the transitional executive council and the electoral commission, neither of which had yet been formed.

The UN would need to send at least 12 000 observers if the country was to have at least 11 000 polling stations.
UN reaffirms support for 'peaceful change' in SA

NEW YORK. - The United Nations Security Council has reaffirmed its support for a peaceful transition to non-racial democracy in South Africa and has condemned violence, "especially in the East Rand."

In a statement adopted by consensus, the council noted that it was the responsibility of the "South African authorities" to take all necessary measures to stop the violence.

South Africa's UN delegation had some reservations on this point, but were reassured by a subsequent affirmation that "all parties" must help prevent the opponents of democracy from using violence to threaten the transition.

A delegation spokesman, Allen Shardlow, termed the statement "even-handed."

The council welcomed efforts by the leaders of the ANC and Inkatha to convince their followers to avoid further violence and urged all the country's leaders to work jointly to prevent violence in the election period ahead.

It commended the role of international groups such as the OAU in helping to curb violence and claimed that UN observers in the country had "made a difference."

The council stressed the key role of the multiparty negotiating process and urged parties to reaffirm their commitment.
PAC worried about FW

By Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

There is concern in anti-apartheid circles around the world following reports that President FW de Klerk is to address the United Nations later this year.

The Pan Africanist Congress' chief representative at the United Nations, Dr SEM Pheko, in particular, is concerned about rumours in New York that the oil embargo against South Africa would be lifted on September 1. In an urgent communiqué to the PAC's head office in Johannesburg on Wednesday, Pheko requested clarity on the matter and was preparing to brief African ambassadors to the UN about the matter. The PAC yesterday referred Pheko to existing agreements such as the United Nations Consensus Declaration of 1989 which distinctly prohibits the total lifting of sanctions and the oil embargo until elections for a constituent assembly were held.
UN chief warns Mozambicans

Maputo — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warned the Mozambican parties that the international community will not tolerate long delays in the implementation of the Rome peace accord.

The implication is that the UN may be forced to review its monitoring and other support on the ground if there are further delays in the peace process, which is already several months behind schedule.

Under the new timetable, the opposing armed forces are supposed to begin gathering this month at the assembly points from which they will be disarmed and demobilised.

Half of them are expected to be demobilised by January and the rest by May.

The UN chief put the blame for the delay in the troop demobilisation on Renamo, saying that "the government has indicated its readiness to send its troops to the assembly areas as soon as Renamo is prepared to do the same".

End the delays ... 
Boutros Boutros-Ghali.


"The international community would not entertain further attempts to attach conditions to the peace process or to gain more time and obtain further concessions."

The Secretary-General urged the Frelimo government and Renamo to accept "without further postponements" the revised UN timetable for the peace process.

The UN mission mandate in Mozambique runs out next month.
The United Nations, forever bumbling away in the backwaters of our lives for the past half century, is that it is difficult to imagine the time when the real work of the United Nations will be done. There won’t be any more. Yet even the evidence now suggests that its days are numbered.

Many people once hoped that the UN might become a place where the voice of the small and the voice of the powerless could be heard. But now, the hopes have clearly not been fulfilled. In the UN, the voices of the rich and powerful are not drowned out by the voices of the small and the weak.

One has only to recall the list of countries above, of Third World states that have given priority to the UN, to understand why there is no longer any significant Third World representation in New York. With the exception of a few, the paladin of non-alignment, has self-destructed. Algeria, once the voice of the world south, has turned to Islam. Once the voice of the military revolution, Egypt is now a theocracy, Cuba is a one-party state, and state capitalism, is now an ardent supporter of Western interests. Cuba is the only one with a moral survival.

In fact, the UN has usually proved the opposite in the world’s most conservative powers. It is certainly so today. Although there has always been a powerful isolationist lobby in the United States, presenting the US from using the UN, the UN is now the US. The organization has served American interests well, and it has been a beacon for American foreign policy.

The UN is not the only organization that has been left behind. There are many others that have been left behind.

The lack of public support for the UN will prove eventually to be its Achilles heel. An isolationist President in the United States will have neither the time nor the inclination to manipulate the United Nations. Without American support, the organization will collapse.

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The soldiers are feasting on a dying city

O’Kane finds evidence of UN profiteering and drug-smuggling in war-torn Sarajevo

ALBERT PERIC street, where the chimney pots are turned into light-fittings and the facades of the buildings are blackened by war. A new police station was opened last week. The building is hole in the wall, not a trace of windows or doors. The walls are covered with graffiti, depicting a soldier in a gas mask spraying tear gas into a crowd of civilians. The graffiti reads: “The police are killing innocent people.”

The area is known as “The Ghetto,” a nickname given by the locals due to the high concentration of Ottoman houses. The houses are mostly one-story, with small, narrow windows and doors. The street is narrow and winding, with buildings on both sides. The area is known for its poverty and crime.

The soldiers are feeding on the city’s soul, taking anything they can find. They are seen looting shops, breaking into homes, and stealing anything of value. The locals are scared and run for cover when they hear the soldiers approaching.

The army is sending food rations to the soldiers by helicopter. The rations consist of canned food, bread, and sometimes fresh fruit. However, the soldiers are not satisfied with this and continue to search for more food.

The situation in Sarajevo is dire. The city is under siege for over two years, and the residents are struggling to survive. The lack of food, medicine, and basic necessities has led to a high number of deaths and injuries.

Local residents are calling for international intervention to end the war and provide relief to the people of Sarajevo. They are also calling for the protection of civilians and the return of peace to the city.

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UN bill in Parliament

Political Staff

LEGISLATION was tabled in Parliament yesterday that will authorise President F W de Klerk to make UN Security Council resolutions applicable in South Africa.

The Application of Resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations Bill authorises the State President to give effect to Security Council resolutions by proclamation. The legislation is required by the UN.

It is the first piece of legislation that seeks to put into effect South Africa's international obligations.
SA may be back in UN in November

NEW YORK: South Africa could return to its seat at the United Nations, from which it was barred in 1974, as early as November.

Sources at the UN here said yesterday it was also possible a one-line resolution repealing all UN sanctions resolutions, except the arms embargo, could be passed early next week.

ANC President Mr. Nelson Mandela is expected to call for the remaining economic sanctions to be lifted when he addresses the UN on Friday.

Mr. Mandela is accompanied by Major-General Bantu Holomisa, who will address the UN on his tour of the US and Europe.
UN mission in SA to be upgraded

NEW YORK — The UN observer mission to SA is set to be upgraded to a "UN interim mission" before the end of the year.

The chairman of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, Nigeria's ambassador to the UN Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, will make the recommendation to upgrade to the world body.

This year's UN debate on SA is scheduled for November, when Gambari will deliver his annual address and present recommendations.

Gambari, 48, has been the chairman of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid since 1990.

This week he said the expanded UN observer mission would have three specific tasks:

☐ To establish an "engaged" observer mission to monitor violence;

☐ To monitor the scheduled April 27 election, in conjunction with other international agencies such as the EC and Commonwealth. The UN would have to have its monitors in place at least six months before the election, he said. That would mean by the beginning of November at the latest; and

☐ To send a team of economic and social planners to work with SA authorities and communities.

The planners would look specifically at the areas of employment, housing and health "to address the glaring imbalances caused by apartheid", Gambari said.

The group of specialists would identify "priorities and strategies" to help SA deal with these problems as it grappled with radical political change.

Gambari said his recommendations followed his third trip to SA earlier this year.

He added that he expected remaining UN sanctions, except for the arms embargo, to be lifted when the transitional executive council was finalised and functioning.

According to government and ANC negotiators at Kempton Park, the council would be established some time after the middle of October.

Gambari said he was not keen to lift sanctions before then, at least not until the political changes in SA were irreversible.

"Right now we have only promises (of irreversibility), but it will be more appropriate to lift sanctions when the council is up and running."

It was all a question of timing, Gambari said. — Sapa.
SA may soon take its seat at the UN

Political Correspondent

FROM a practical point of view, South Africa had resumed its place at the United Nations, Foreign Minister Pik Botha said yesterday.

However, South Africa would first negotiate its debt to the UN before taking up its seat in the General Assembly.

Mr Botha, the last South African to address the General Assembly almost 20 years ago, said the UN would be asked if this country's arrears in membership payments could be reduced or paid in instalments.

The minister's spokesman, Mr Arie Marais, said South Africa would also need to lobby the UN's credentials committee to make sure no countries would attempt to block the Republic's re-admission to the General Assembly.

The risk factor of this happening had been reduced by recent reforms "but much fancy footwork lies ahead"
SA 'back in UN'

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa has resumed its place at the United Nations "from a practical point of view", Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said on his return from the United States.

Mr Botha, who is South African representative, addressed the UN General Assembly in 1974, said "technical details" remained to be worked out.
3 UN seats remain empty

NEW YORK — South Africa did not take its long-vacated seat at the United Nations General Assembly when the general debate began this week.

The three seats behind the nameplate "South Africa" remained empty as US President Bill Clinton addressed the general assembly.

UN sources said there was no indication that South Africa would be resuming its seat in the immediate future. For that to happen South Africa would need to have its credentials accepted. — The Argus Foreign Service
UN likely to lift sanctions this week

BY MIKE LITTLEJOHN

New York — The UN General Assembly is expected to lift most sanctions against South Africa this week because "the transition to democracy has now been enshrined" in new laws.

However, the oil embargo would not be cancelled until the Transitional Executive Council becomes operational.

African diplomats said they would propose that the two-week general debate, in which presidents and other delegation leaders are making their policy statements, be interrupted to permit the introduction of the resolution, which Zimbabwe prepared as the current chairman of the African group.

At his request, Nathan Shamuyarira, the Zimbabwe Foreign Minister, had a meeting with Pik Botha shortly before Nelson Mandela called for the lifting of most sanctions in his UN address last month. A diplomat who was present said each promised the other good co-operation.

Zimbabwe is expected to move to establish diplomatic relations with South Africa even before the April elections.

Action by the General Assembly is bound to help Mandela, who had problems with US business leaders during his tour to drum up investment in the "New SA."
UN lifts curbs and EC pledges SA aid

In Brussels, the European Community announced it would immediately step up economic and financial aid to South Africa, particularly to assist in the run-up to the election.

EC spokesman Xavier Monne said the community was to make $8.5 million (R22 million) immediately available for voter education.

He was speaking after a meeting at the headquarters of the European Commission, the executive arm of the EC, between Mandela and commission president Jacques Delors.

After talks with President F W de Klerk in Cape Town, Barbados Prime Minister Lloyd Sandiford said on the steps of Tuyhuys that Barbados and other Commonwealth countries stand ready to work for the development of a non-racial, democratic South Africa.

— Own Correspondent and Sapa-Reuter-AP.
The lifting of sanctions has put SA business in line to benefit from up to R8.5bn ($2.5bn) which UN agencies spend yearly on global development.

A delegation from five UN agencies will arrive in SA in March next year to meet SA businessmen to explain procurement methods employed by major UN agencies.

The UN agencies expected in SA next year to discuss development strategies include the UN Children’s Fund, UN Development Programme, UN Industrial Development Organisation and UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Government and export agency officials said this was only the tip of the iceberg, as other donor agencies such as the World Bank, the private sector arm the International Finance Corporation, and the African Development Bank had set aside about R70bn to fund private sector projects in Africa.

They said the focus shift away from governments to private sector schemes in Africa was relatively new. The World Bank recently expanded its private sector arm and African Development Bank created a private sector development unit.

A move by UN and other donor agencies into SA would provide a boost to many ailing industries, particularly the construction, agriculture, education, telecommunication and medical sectors.

Billions of dollars are spent every year by agencies involved in activities such as infrastructural development of roads and water supply, modernisation of industries, primary health care and education, feeding and sheltering of refugees and population control.

UN agencies will concentrate on suppliers of construction equipment, building materials, food, hospital/medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, cars, agricultural and telecommunications equipment, computer hardware and software, educational materials and stationery.
Mozambicans have been designated as a result of the agreement.

The agreement, signed by Foreign Minister Pik Botha, Mozambique Deputy Coordination Minister Oldimiro Baloi and the UN commissioner's Africa director Nicolas Owakiraf, set out the terms of the repatriation, including the transportation, of the refugees at an estimated 250,000 Mozambican refugees.

In terms of the agreement the UN — whose secretary-general Boutros-Ghali was expected to arrive in Maputo yesterday — would foot the bill for the repatriation, including the transportation, of the refugees as close to their homes as possible. 181093

The UN has said about $500m is required over the next three years to repatriate the 1.6 million Mozambican refugees scattered throughout southern Africa, Sapa reports.

A Foreign Affairs spokesman said the refugees, who had fled Mozambique during years of civil war, lived mostly in Kwa- Ngwane and in areas along the SA-Mozambique border.

Foreign Affairs' multilateral section deputy director-general Jeremy Shearar said estimates of the numbers of Mozambican refugees were rough at best.

It was difficult to gauge how many Mozambicans had entered the country illegally, and the registration of refugees would be one of the first tasks of the joint trilateral.
UN, Pik to work on chief

Maputo — Both the UN and Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha have pledged to try to bring IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi back to the negotiation table.

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the UN would continue to apply pressure on Buthelezi to rejoin the negotiation process.

Yesterday Boutros-Ghali said Buthelezi’s refusal to continue negotiations was a major stumbling block.

"Buthelezi is a problem but we will continue to work with the IFP through discussions to get them back to the negotiation table."

Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha also promised to work towards a solution.

"We can’t proceed without the IFP, the CP and General Constand Viljoen’s group. We can’t go on until substantial numbers of major political parties agree to the transitional constitution."

He said if the process went on without them, South Africa was in for a very troublesome time.

Botha said he was convinced Buthelezi believed what he was saying and added that it was time all the other parties — including the NP — took another serious look at federalism.

"We must reach agreement by a process of give and take," he said.
ANC, PAC should lose privileged access - King
UN special status may end

BY CHRIS WHITFIELD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The special status enjoyed by the ANC and PAC in the United Nations may be coming to an end.

UN Observer Mission to South Africa (Unomsa) chief Angela King yesterday suggested it would seem “logical” to end the status which gives the liberation movements special privileges and access at the UN, and which she said was a personal opinion.

In a speech yesterday to the African-American Institute, she also:

- Hit at the Government for not acting more strongly to clamp down on the proliferation of weapons in the country, saying it could have done much more by publicly destroying dangerous weapons and enforcing existing laws.
- Said ANC leader Nelson Mandela and his IFP counterpart, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, had not done enough to ensure their agreement of July 23 to facilitate free political activity was acted upon at grassroots level.
- Described the use of slogans such as “Kill the beer, kill the farmer” as “barbaric”.

Speaking to The Star after the speech, King said the ending of the ANC and PAC’s special status would require a resolution of the UN General Assembly.

She said she did not wish to prejudge the assembly’s debate on apartheid scheduled for December 14-16.

King added that the Peace Accord did not have enough teeth to be effective, but thought this problem would be addressed by the new Electoral Act and the Independent Electoral Commission.

She said the UN believed “there is a need for a substantial number of international monitors” during the election and estimated that as many as 1000 might be required in the country. At present Unomsa has 50 such observers, but the number is to be doubled.

Turning to the role of the UN in post-apartheid South Africa, she said the organisation was "poised to take prompt, effective and concerted action."

It would, in conjunction with South Africa, identify programmes where UN assistance and support would be most appropriate to boost the economy.

The UN Development Programme would be moved into the country, she said, soon after the April 27 election.
ANC's 'special status' queried

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. - Removing the special status the UN had accorded the ANC and PAC over the past 20 years would help the organisation's claim to impartiality during monitoring of the April election, said UN observer mission chief Ms. Angela King yesterday.

Ms. King was speaking during a meeting of the African-American Institute. Asked about perceptions that the UN was too close to the ANC, she said the time would come when the UN would end the special status accorded the ANC and PAC.

This was a decision for member states, and the issue would be debated during the UN's December debate on apartheid.

Violence

Ms. King said violence was probably the single most negative factor threatening next year's elections. While there were allegations of a third force, and credible claims of police brutality, much of the violence was caused by political intolerance.

She called on political leaders to bring home to their followers the need to reduce the levels of violence.

Ms. King said that the UN observer mission in South Africa would soon be doubled to 100 people, but she believed up to 2,000 international observers might be needed to assist local monitors.

— Sapa
Poll 'may need 2 000 UN observers'

UP TO 2 000 international observers might be needed for elections, UN observer mission chief Angela King said yesterday.

Replying to questions at a meeting of the African-American Institute, she said it would help the UN's claim to be impartial if it removed the special status it had accorded the ANC and the PAC. The issue would be debated next month.

The UN observer mission would soon be doubled to 100 people, but she believed up to 2 000 international observers might be needed to assist local monitors.

The request to the UN for additional observers would have to come from the Independent Electoral Commission and the Transitional Executive Council.

"We believe that the presence of international observers at the elections will help reduce suspicion and doubt about the integrity of the process."

King said violence was probably the single most negative factor threatening the elections. There were allegations of a third force and credible claims of police brutality, but much of the violence was caused by political intolerance.

King said Goldstone commission reports showed "the jury is still out" on whether it believed there was a third force.

She called on political leaders to educate followers on the need to reduce violence.

King criticised the "lack of total engagement" by government, political groupings and particularly the media in helping prepare the country for the elections.
South Africa back in UN food and agricultural fold

PRETORIA. — South Africa was readmitted to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) yesterday, the first United Nations agency to accept the country back into its fold since political reforms were instigated.

Delegates to the FAO's biennial conference in Rome applauded when results of the secret ballot — 128-10 with five abstentions — were announced.

But South Africa, which left the FAO in 1964, will be given full rights and privileges only once the transitional executive council is in place.

Welcoming the decision, minister of agriculture Kraai van Niekerk said membership of the FAO would enable South Africa to offer her expertise, technology and facilities, while sharing in the expertise available in the rest of the world.

Foreign minister Pik Botha said: "Readmission of FAO is a tangible recognition of the irreversible political progress achieved so far.

"It is a milestone on the path of regional co-operation."

South Africa's readmission increases FAO's membership to 169. — Sapa.
UN denies scheme to buy Mozambique’s weapons

MAPUTO — The UN denied yesterday it was involved in plans to buy up Mozambique’s surplus weapons but said it was concerned about the gun-running that has fuelled SA violence.

"There is no such programme involving the UN," said a spokesman for the UN operation in Mozambique.

The spokesman was reacting to comments on Monday by SA Law and Order Minister Hermus Kriel that Pretoria had been negotiating with the UN on the matter for two to three months. Kriel said his government, which during the ‘80s supplied Mozambique’s Renamo rebels with thousands of captured AK-47s and other weapons, had been negotiating with the UN to acquire all the AK-47s in Mozambique, with the international community paying the major share and Pretoria making a contribution.

He said AK-47 assault rifles smuggled from Mozambique were a major factor in SA’s political violence. It had proved impossible to prevent them being carried across the border.

A senior Western diplomat said there could be as many as a million AK-47s in Mozambique.

Under the terms of an October 1992 peace agreement ending Mozambique’s 16-year civil war, soldiers and former Renamo guerrillas would start gathering this month at UN-administered demobilisation areas where they had to hand over their weapons. But many weapons had already reached the black market.

Other plans to try to dry up the supply of weapons in Mozambique included a "Buy a Gun for Peace" plan offering gun owners cash and an amnesty, and another offering bicycles or sewing machines in exchange for weapons. Neither worked.

Sapa reports that the ANC suggested the SA Police’s intended purchase of AK-47 rifles from Mozambique was an attempt to undermine the UN arms embargo.

The ANC said it would oppose any move by the SA government to undermine the arms embargo.

The Ciskei government had also recently bought AK-47 rifles for use by the homeland’s “hit squads”, the ANC said.

It appealed to the Organisation for African Unity and the UN to ensure the embargo remained in force until a democratic government was in place. — Sapa-Reuters.
UN appeals to all SA parties to respect interim accords

NEW YORK. — The United Nations Security Council has welcomed the successful completion of agreements on an interim South African constitution and electoral bill and has urged all parties to respect the accords.

The council said in a statement read at a brief meeting that it looked forward to elections scheduled for next April and urged "all parties in South Africa, including those that did not participate fully in the multiparty talks, to respect agreements reached during the negotiations, to recommit themselves to democratic principles, to take part in the elections and to resolve outstanding issues by peaceful means only."

The council reiterated its continued support for peaceful democratic change for the benefit of all South Africans and invited Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to accelerate planning for a possible UN role in the election process.

This would include co-ordinating with observer missions to be sent by the Organisation of African Unity, the European Community and the Commonwealth.

The council urged the early establishment of the Transitional Executive Council and Independent Electoral Commission, key institutions on the road to a non-racial democracy.

"The Security Council considers South Africa's transition to democracy must be underpinned by economic and social reconstruction and development, and calls on the international community to assist in this regard." — Sapa-Reuters.

Winning taste at cigarette
UN formally lifts SA oil embargo

New York — In another big step towards the normalization of South Africa's international relations, the UN General Assembly has formally lifted all restrictions on the sale of oil and petroleum products to the country. The decision also reopens the possibility of foreign investment in the South African petroleum industry.

The only coercive measure now remaining is the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council in 1977, which is not expected to be revoked until some time after the April election. That event is also certain to lead to the South African delegation's return to the General Assembly.

— Star Bureau.
approach to SA

a delicate bank takes

SIMON BARRIER IN WASHINGTON

Bury 4/12/43

World Bank takes

the approach is the import

nyt, a popular commercial development in the

department near the center of the

city. The new structure is designed to accommodate

a variety of business enterprises, providing

space for offices, retail stores, and other

amenities. The construction of the

building has been carefully planned to

maximize efficiency and convenience for

businesses and their customers.

In addition to its functional

design, the new building also

incorporates sustainable

features to minimize its impact on

the environment. The use of

renewable materials and energy-saving

technologies makes the

building a model of

environmental responsibility.

The new building is

scheduled to be completed by

the end of the year,

marking a significant

milestone for the

community and the

local economy.
N election team arrives

JOHANNESBURG. — The United Nations' role in the April elections will be assessed by a team arriving here today, according to a statement by the UN Observer Mission in South Africa (Unomssa) yesterday.

The team will be headed by Mr Horacio Bongino, director, UN electoral assistance unit, department of public affairs. The team is expected to spend 10 days in South Africa and will tour the country to assess electoral observers' requirements. — Sapa
Govt, ANC have faith in UN election monitor

KATHY STRACHAN

GOVERNMENT and the ANC said at the weekend they were looking forward to a good working relationship with the newly-appointed UN special representative to SA, Algerian Lakhdar Brahimi, who is visiting the country.

Neither government nor the ANC would comment on allegations in the Weekly Mail that the former Algerian foreign minister had been involved in nullifying the results of an election in Algeria, and in a palace coup.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said comment would be inappropriate. He said the ANC hoped to have a good working relationship with the UN envoy.

President F W de Klerk's office said it had confidence in UN Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros-Ghali and in his appointments, and welcomed Brahimi.

At a meeting with Brahimi in Cape Town on Friday, De Klerk had emphasised the importance of impartiality and co-ordination between international observers.

This had been acknowledged by the special representative, who had assured De Klerk of his mandate of strict impartiality and his wish to serve SA as a whole.

At the meeting De Klerk also raised concern about intimidation of voters and asked the UN to report this wherever it occurred.

The Weekly Mail alleged Brahimi had previously displayed a disregard for democratic procedures which did not augur well for his new role as top elections watchdog.

The report said Islamic fundamentalists swept the boards in the Algerian general election in 1991, routing the ruling party of which Brahimi was a leading member.

The party responded by nullifying the elections and acting against the fundamentalists.

Days after the cancellation of the election result, Brahimi joined other Algerian party officials in squeezing President Chadli Benjedid from office in a palace coup, the report said.

Benjedid was replaced by a body calling itself the Supreme Security Council, with Brahimi one of its leading members, the report said.
‘No free electioneering in Bophuthatswana’

PRETORIA — The arrest of four ANC members, including three regional office bearers, under Bophuthatswana’s internal security legislation at the weekend had fuelled concerns about the extent of free political activity in the region. Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) said yesterday.

Bophuthatswana police spokesman Col Dave George confirmed the arrests of regional chairman Temba Gxaban, secretary Ephraim Motoko, youth league public officer secretary Diale Kgantsh, and LHR employee Joyce Tshwane, under Section 28 of the territory’s Internal Security Act, but said three of had been released.

LHR regional director Thabiso Ramphele said the arrests, together with alleged harassment of voter education programmes employees, had made preparations for April’s election difficult.

George said the Bophuthatswana police were “more than aware of the delicate situation” and would not have arrested the four unless information had been received which “could not be ignored.”

“We don’t go out of our way to antagonise people.” He said interrogations were conducted by the police’s special branch so no comment on the allegations could be offered.

Army of monitors for SA

A SMALL army of international observers will be in SA to monitor the April 27 election, which officials say is going to be one of the most-watched polls of the decade.

The Commonwealth said yesterday it was planning to send at least 70 election monitors, but this was only a fraction of the numbers being sent by the UN, church groups, foreign political parties, labour organisations and foreign governments.

UN sources said between 2 000 and 4 000 UN observers could be expected and Japan alone was said to be sending 100. The UN will co-ordinate all the observers.

Commonwealth Observer Mission spokesman Colin Lowe-Morna said there were three categories of official monitors: political parties, domestic (which included non-governmental organisations, business and churches) and international monitors.

“Governments will also be sending some observers... so in total you will have a fair amount. The UN will obviously have the largest contingent.”

She said the Commonwealth group, expected to include at least one former prime minister, would be the largest sent to monitor an election.

Acting head of the EC observer mission Leslie House said Europe was sending 912 monitors.

Talking about the importance of international observers during the election period, Lowe-Morna said: “I should stress we are very much only a back-up to existing domestic monitors.”

Lowe-Morna and House agreed that the safety of the observers was cause for concern. More than 13 000 people have been killed in political violence in nearly four years of apartheid reforms and political observers fear an escalation of unrest in the run-up to the election.

But what made it easier in SA was the fact that there were “identifiable areas where security is a concern... the main areas are Natal, Tzokwane and Katlehong”, Lowe-Morna said.

Home Affairs spokesman Norman du Plessis said there would probably be two to three policemen at each polling station.

“We are not talking about policemen in polling booths — that would be politically incorrect and affect the credibility of the elections.”

He said police and members of an embryonic multiparty peace force would in the main be responsible for security at the election. — Sapa-Reuters.
Stals, Manuel to speak at UN meet

Own Correspondent
LONDON. - Reserve Bank Governor Chris Stals will be one of the keynote speakers, together with ANC economics chief Trevor Manuel, at a UN sponsored conference to be held here later this month.

The conference is on sustainable economic growth and development in SA, and will include a look at the policy priorities which a democratic government should adopt in its early years.

The conference, to be attended by about 40 SA businessmen, politicians, labour representatives and academics, is being co-sponsored by the London School of Economics' Centre for the Study of the SA Economy and International Finance. The other keynote speaker will be the PAC's Moseshane Malatsi.

ANC economist Max Sisulu will chair a workshop on mobilising domestic resources, Independent Development Trust CE Wiseman Nkuhla a workshop on mobilising external resources, and trade unionists Tommy Oliphant and Alec Erwin a workshop on restructuring the domestic economy.

The conference will conclude with a roundtable discussion on the process of policy-making under a new democratic government with speakers including Anglo American's Bobby Godsell and Kagiso Trust's Eric Molobi.
WASHINGTON. — United Nations secretary-general Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali is to recommend that between 1,000 and 2,000 UN observers be sent to monitor South Africa's elections, in a report to the UN Security Council due by the end of the week, diplomats said.

The report, based on an assessment mission undertaken at the request of the Transitional Executive Council, is understood to call for the observers to be phased in over the next three months.

In Pretoria, the TEC yesterday announced the names of international observers it had appointed to the Independent Electoral Commission. They are Professor Walter Kamba (Zimbabwe), Mr R K C de Silva (Sri Lanka), Mr Ron Gould (Canada), Mr Amare Teckle (Eritrea), and Ms Gay McDougall (United States).

Planning at this stage calls for a UN observer to be placed at each polling site in areas considered volatile. Elsewhere, monitoring would be carried out by mobile two-person teams who would be responsible for covering a number of sites.

The UN contingent is expected to be supplemented by 312 observers from the EEC, 70 from the Commonwealth and up to 50 from the OAU. Their activities will be co-ordinated by the UN, but each group will probably issue its own findings on the conduct of the election. — Own Correspondent, Sapa
SA welcomes UN decision

THE South African Government has welcomed the decision by the United Nations Security Council to increase the number of electoral observers in South Africa to 2,840.

In a statement at the weekend South African Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said the Security Council's decision had been based on discussions that had been held over the past few months, commencing with a meeting between State President PW de Klerk and UN Secretary-General Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali in September last year.

According to Botha's statement the United Nations observer contingent would be 1,778; the Organisation for Africa Unity 50; the European Union 332; the Commonwealth 70; and other UN member states 600.

Botha referred to a letter by him to the UN secretary-general in December last year in which he said there was general consensus in South Africa that the observers sent to South Africa so far had done "an effective job of work and made a major contribution to the National Peace Secretariat and other Peace Accord structures to reduce violence".

"The South African Government therefore shares the view that this work should continue and that given its experience in this field, the UN should be encouraged to give effect to its offer of assistance during the run-up to the elections," Botha's letter said. — Sapa.
Books at the children's library

Africa to observe the country's first nonracial election on April 27. Helen Grange

In sizes up approaching to April poll

Editor by Mcinie Shuma

THE STAR, SUNDAY, MARCH 1994
UN ‘optimistic over democracy in SA’

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The United Nations mission in South Africa, which has attended close to 10,000 meetings and events during the past 16 months, is very optimistic about the outcome of moves towards a democracy, says mission chief Angela King.

Speaking during a panel discussion on “The quest for democracy — which way forward for Africa?” at yesterday’s session of the International Press Institute’s general assembly, King said the April 27 election was not being held “in a vacuum” but was the culmination of three years’ efforts.

She did not want to paint an unrealistic picture about election prospects, but believed South Africans had “moved forward to a degree that presages this country from ever going back to where it has come from.”

The National Peace Accord of September 1991 remained South Africa’s primary forum for conflict resolution and it was of the utmost importance to reinforce the gains already made.

The Goldstone Commission had the credibility to play “a crucial watchdog role.”

The commission would be used to investigate allegations of intimidation during the election.

In search of media to serve the truth — Page 15
UN contract opportunity

SA ENTERPRISES could look forward to exploiting $1.5bn in supply contracts to UN projects this year, officials said yesterday.

Senior UN officials will brief SA firms this week on the possibility of linking into the lucrative procurement contracts, Sapa reports.

UN Inter-Agency Procurement Services head Peter Adler told a news conference the global organisation looked to source supplies for a project close to the site. "If we have projects in Africa we buy in Africa," he said.

Of the estimated $3.5bn in total UN procurement last year, 35%-40% of the amount was tied up with projects in Africa while 3% of the supplies were sourced from the continent.

"The opportunities hold extraordinary potential for the country's economic growth, if local executives seize them," said Piet Steyn, CE of the Rennies Group, which is sponsoring the conference.

With the formal lifting of economic sanctions late last year, SA firms are now eligible to compete directly for about 200 000 UN supply contracts awarded each year.

The UN's supply contracts relate to agricultural products, building materials, chemicals, food, vehicles, pharmaceuticals, and electronic and telecommunications equipment.

JOHN DLUDLULU reports UN officials told the news conference many agencies of the organisation would soon open procurement offices in SA. These included the UN Population Fund, the UN Industrial Development Organisation and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

UNHCR senior purchasing officer of supply and transport services Lucie Potier said the establishment of an office in Johannesburg would create enormous demand for vehicles, as the office would service southern Africa.

Food and Agriculture Organisation administrative director Dominique Alberthiere said jobs would be given to local people first.

Discussions would be held with government departments and local small business to assist them in taking full advantage of the UN agencies' procurement opportunities.

The agencies which will take part in today's conference include the UN's Industrial development organisation, population fund, and development programme as well as the UNHCR and the World Food Programme.
Avoid SA, Australians told

Bloodshed mustn’t stop poll – UN

BY MIKE LITTLEJOHN

New York — In its first official response to the violence in Johannesburg, the UN Security Council last night deplored the bloodshed “in the strongest possible terms” and concluded that it was clearly aimed at derailing the transition process.

After lengthy private consultations, the council issued a formal statement declaring that intimidation, violence and provocation could not be permitted to deny South Africans “their opportunity to join the community of democratic states”.

Eschew violence

The council called on all the people of South Africa “to eschew violence” and voiced hopes that all parties would participate “peacefully in the elections.

“The council reiterates the importance it attaches to the holding of the first general, free and democratic elections in South Africa on April 27 1994, as previously agreed upon,” the statement said.

“The council considers that this question is of the utmost importance and is determined to follow the election process closely.”

The statement was read by Jean-Bernard Merimee, the French ambassador, who is council president this month.

Australians have been warned not to travel to South Africa until the end of May because of worsening violence, John Dunn reports.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade issued the warning yesterday saying all non-essential travel there should be deferred until one month after the coming elections.

The statement came after Monday’s gunfighting in central Johannesburg marked the first time black factional trouble had spread to the heart of the country’s main city.

Meanwhile, the Melbourne Herald-Sun in an editorial today demanded that the Australian cricket team come home immediately.

Obscene

“It is obscene that 22 men in white flannels are playing Test cricket in the Durban sun as 31 people lie dead in the bloodied streets of Johannesburg,” it said.

“But moral considerations aside, it is the height of folly to have our cricketers exposed in arenas for the four one-day matches still to come when Canberra is warning other Australians not to go to South Africa.”
SA ‘has reached a turning point’

By Richard Steyn
Editor In Chief, The Star

G ENEVA — The new South Africa will be asked to help mediate in world trouble spots, believes United Nations secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In an interview in his Geneva office on the eve of his first official visit to South Africa, Boutros-Ghali said South Africa’s transition to democracy offered a lesson to all UN member states.

The UN chief, scheduled to arrive in Johannesburg at the weekend to attend next week’s inauguration of President-elect Nelson Mandela, added candidly that the visit would boost his own morale.

Besides coming to lend support to the conclusion of an important success story, he said, “we have been confronted ... by so many setbacks and difficulties, we just want to enjoy it”.

Boutros-Ghali said the wisdom of South African leaders who had been able to promote reconciliation in spite of the past could provide a valuable role model. He believed South Africa’s admission into the African family of nations could be a turning point in the history of Africa.

South Africa’s position in Africa and its technical, economic and military expertise would lead to the UN asking it to help in peacekeeping and other operations.
UN to lift arms embargo on SA

24.11.94

New York — The UN Security Council decided in principle yesterday to lift a mandatory arms embargo imposed on South Africa in 1977 and will adopt a formal resolution to that effect tomorrow, council sources said. (SAPA)

The arms ban is one of the last remaining UN sanctions against South Africa.

South Africa has yet to regain its seat in the General Assembly and related UN bodies from which it was suspended in 1974. This could happen some time next month.

Non-binding sanctions voted by the General Assembly in the economic, business, sports and cultural fields were all lifted in recent years as the country moved towards non-racial democracy.

South Africa's First Deputy President Thabo Mbeki is expected to attend tomorrow's council meeting, as are Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Fahad and the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Rusty Evans.

The UN Committee Against Apartheid is due to visit South Africa in early June to prepare the final report that will enable South Africa to reclaim its General Assembly seat.

While suspended, Pretoria has refused to pay its UN dues or its share of UN peacekeeping costs, which total about $260 million since 1977. Some arrangement is expected to be made about the debt before it regains its assembly seat.

Despite the suspension, South Africa has always remained a UN member. Prime Minister Ian Smuts was a signatory to the UN Charter in 1945. — Sapa-Reuters.
BY PETER FABRICIUS
STAR BUREAU

New York — Deputy President Thabo Mbeki has broadly committed the new South African Government to playing a role in international peacekeeping and peacemaking, especially in Africa.

He told the United Nations Security Council yesterday, as it lifted the last UN sanctions on SA — the 1977 arms embargo — that SA would help the world as it had been helped in its hour of need.

Mbeki, who, as the ANC’s head of international affairs, was instrumental in isolating the National Party government — also said yesterday that SA could resume its seat at the UN General Assembly almost immediately.

The deputy president told reporters before his address that the president of the UN General Assembly, Samuel Insanally of Guyana, had told him yesterday that SA could simply occupy its seat — “maybe as soon as tomorrow”.

Credentials

But Mbeki said the Government would first hold discussions with the UN to discuss the legal implications of restoring the UN credentials which SA lost in 1972.

One matter that would need to be discussed was SA’s outstanding UN membership dues, totalling more than $100 million (about R660 million).

But Mbeki said he did not foresee any problem. “I think an agreed solution will be arrived at. Everyone has agreed we should start functioning as a full member of the UN as soon as possible.”

Mbeki said at an earlier press briefing that there was a general expectation that SA would now play a role in peacekeeping and peacemaking, especially in Africa.

He said it was “somewhat early for the new Government to have concrete plans. But we are sensitive to the fact that the world helped us in our hour of need. To the extent that we can help...we will be willing to assist.”

He said there had been “no prior determination” to contribute SA troops to UN peacekeeping missions.

Mbeki noted that SA was already playing an international role through its diplomatic intervention in the Lesotho conflict and its humanitarian and mine-clearing help to Mozambique and Angola.

On the Rwanda crisis, Mbeki said American Vice-President Al Gore had told the new SA Government that because of its history it would bring “a certain moral authority” to international conflicts.

Mbeki said the Government was ready to begin discussions on the Rwandan conflict with the OAU, the UN, the contending parties in Rwanda and the Tanzanian government. Until these were concluded, he could not say whether SA would become involved in Rwanda. “The Government is too new to have discussed these matters in detail.”

> OAU welcomes SA
SA wants seat on UN council

Political Correspondent
SOUTH AFRICA aims to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Aaziz Pahad said yesterday. He told a parliamentary select committee on Foreign Affairs of a proposal that Africa be given a permanent seat on the council. "We believe that South Africa should have that seat."
UN committee seeks aid for SA

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — A major aid package for South Africa is to be proposed by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid.

A high-level delegation of the committee, which led the fight against apartheid at the world body over the years, is in South Africa on a fact-finding mission to enable the committee to submit a final report and recommendations to the General Assembly of the UN.

After this it will disband.

The delegation is under the leadership of Nigerian permanent representative at the UN, Professor Ibrahim Gambari. It will meet President Mandela and Deputy Presidents Thabo Mbeki and F W de Klerk. It will also have interviews with other ministers and political leaders as well as leaders in business, labour, religious and academic institutions.

Professor Gambari has expressed satisfaction at the progress towards national unity and the elimination of violence since the first democratic and non-racial election.

He expressed the hope that the international community would support South Africa's reconstruction and economic development plans.

He said the final report of the committee would reflect the Government's efforts in these areas.

It would urge the international community to help by providing generous assistance and encouraging investment in South Africa.

A delegation of the committee visited South Africa for the first time last year.
UN KILLS THE LATTER CALL AS NZO LEADS SOUTH AFRICAN RETURN
Country that came in from the cold

in New York as the Star's VN correspondent

Requested by Gerald Tavge who covered the exhibition in 1971 while stationed

South Africa's return to the United Nations General Assembly yesterday is

Edited by Mike Stumma

THE STAR / FRIDAY JULY 24, 1954
ral Assembly yesterday is m in 1974 while stationed respondent from the cold

For 20 years the lone empty seat in the crowded chamber was a memorial of a victory over apartheid but also a reminder that the battle was not yet won. Now at last the battle is over, apartheid has gone and yesterday South Africa resumed the seat in the United Nations' General Assembly from which it was banned on November 12, 1974.

A standing ovation greeted Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo as he took the seat from which his predecessor, Fik Boph, was excluded to applause of a different kind.

It has taken two decades for the jeers to turn to cheers, in which time a lot of water has flowed under history's bridge, much of it bloodied from the struggle against white domination in southern Africa.

The right to bar apartheid South Africa from the General Assembly was itself one in which no holds were barred. In the end, it put Africa's demand for justice up against the First World's regard for legality.

The ruling by the then General Assembly president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria, that apartheid's delegates might not take their seats disregarded the long-standing finding by UN legal counsel that South Africa could not legally be barred from the assembly even though its credentials had been rejected.

It was on the basis of that finding that the 1970 president, Edward Hambro of Norway, had ruled that South Africa could not be excluded.

His ruling held good until 1974, when the African militants got their own man, Bouteflika, into the assembly chair and he promptly upended Hambro.

Quickly challenged by the United States, Bouteflika's ruling was put to the vote and overwhelmingly endorsed by 91 votes to 22 with 19 abstentions.

As the electronic voting boards flashed the result, the normally sedate chamber resounded to the cheers of the Africans and their supporters, including the representatives of the South African and Namibian liberation movements, in the seats reserved for diplomats and observers.

The first to applaud was David Sibeko of the PAC. Clenched fists were held high, Western delegates sat silent.

The historic General Assembly vote became a turning point in the struggle against apartheid. It gave a new legitimacy to more extreme measures and may have bestowed new respectability on the ANC's decision in 1961 to resort to armed struggle.

By demonstrating that the legality of the UN charter could be overridden by majority demands, it changed the nature of the world body and undermined the dominance of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Stature reduced

Some expressed the view at the time that the vote had badly damaged the stature and credibility of the UN as a whole. Given the low esteem in which it is held today that may have turned out to be true.

Others might argue, however, that as a result of the 1974 vote the UN became a more representative body, more attuned to the needs of its Third World majority and less constrained by a charter that had been written by Western powers - with a major contribution from South Africa's own Jan Smuts.

They might argue that it would never have been necessary for the Third World majority to put political expediency before legality if the UN had not been controlled in the ultimate by the five permanent members of the Security Council, whose Western majority had blocked attempts to expel South Africa from the world body.

These arguments will continue after South Africa's return. But this time South Africa will be on the other side, a member of the African bloc.

As a member of the Organisation of African Unity, into which it was formally resolved at the conference in Tunis this month, South Africa will be expected to vote with the African bloc when Africa's interests are at stake.

It will, of course, be free to put its own interests first, and no doubt will, but if this means voting differently from the bloc it could be politically painful, if not damaging.

When Nzo entered the General Assembly chamber yesterday he was accompanied by the South African ambassador to the UN, Jim Steward, and for Steward history turned full circle.

A veteran UN diplomat, he was a member of the South African delegation during the events that led to its exclusion from the assembly in 1974.

While South Africa thereafter remained a member of the UN and maintained a peripheral presence at the New York headquarters, its participation was limited largely to defensive appearances before the Security Council.

When Nzo took his seat as South Africa's first black occupant, he might have got some amusement from the knowledge that it was from the same seat that one of his predecessors, Eric Louw, once defended, unapologetically down the line when the National Party thought the sun would never set on the policy.
SA is officially back in ‘its proper place’

BY PETER FABRICIUS
WASHINGTON BUREAU

New York — South Africa’s long years of international isolation ended officially yesterday when Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo resumed SA’s seat in the United Nations General Assembly after an absence of 20 years.

After the assembly voted unanimously to restore SA’s credentials — taken away in November 1974 — General Assembly president S R Insanally invited the SA delegation to “take its proper place”. The assembly then applauded as Nzo, UN ambassador Jins Steward, director-general of foreign affairs Rusty Evans, Thabo Mbeki, political advisor in the office of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, deputy head of UN mission Ferdi Berg and Nzo’s private secretary took their seats.

For Steward and Mbeki the moment had special emotional significance. Steward was deputy head of SA’s delegation when it was kicked out in 1974. Mbeki was the last head of the ANP’s mission to the UN before that mission was disbanded recently. The moment symbolically ended SA’s years of international isolation and the international community’s fight against apartheid.

The assembly voted to end the UN’s Special Committee Against Apartheid which had directed the UN’s opposition to SA for 31 years.

“The struggle against apartheid has become a mission accomplished,” the chairman of the committee, Nigeria’s Ibrahim Gambari, said. And the assembly formally removed the standing item on the elimination of apartheid which has been on the agenda every year for three decades.

SA’s resumption of its seat means that it will now participate fully in Assembly debates. “A new South Africa now takes its place among the family of nations,” UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in welcoming. “The fight against apartheid — the most important fight of the century — was finally over.”

Nzo thanked the international community and United Nations for their support, “a critical factor in our final victory over apartheid. Your constant involvement and assistance throughout those long years of something South Africa’s people will never forget.”
In its Proper Place

General Assembly

SA Puts the UN

A
Africa 'should have permanent UN seat'

NEW YORK - Military-ruled Nigeria says Africa should have a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and has reasserted its own candidacy to join the exclusive club of world powers with a UN veto.

Foreign Minister Baba Gana Kingibe also used his speech to the UN General Assembly to defend his military government's commitment to democracy, which he said had been misconstrued.

"The resolve and commitment of the Nigerian people and government to democracy remain firm and unshakeable in the full realisation that the task of democratisation is primarily our responsibility, and is for the good of the nation," Mr. Kingibe said.

His speech coincided with the swearing-in in Abuja of a new and exclusively military ruling council by the country's military leader Sani Abacha, who sacked the council's only civilian members but still pledged to move towards civilian rule.

General Abacha seized power in a military coup in November.

Some members of the Security Council have expressed reservations over extending permanent membership to Nigeria because of the absence of democratic rule there. Mr. Kingibe said activities by political parties leading to general elections would begin next year, but he offered no date for elections. — Sapa-AFP.
Africa ‘should have permanent UN seat’

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Legal experts will seek to reinstate Moshoeshoe

MASERU.— Lesotho’s restored prime minister said legal experts from South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe would arrive in the kingdom this week to help find a viable way of reinstating deposed King Moshoeshoe.

Ntsu Mokhehe told parliament in its first sitting since the ex-monarch’s son, King Letsie, sparked a crisis in the southern African mountain state by dissolving his government, that the restoration of Moshoeshoe would take time.

“The restoration of the former king is not purely a political matter capable of accomplishment within a short time,” Mr. Mokhehe said, adding that the three neighbouring states had the expertise and commitment to help the impoverished kingdom of 1.6 million people.

Mr. Mokhehe was restored to power almost a month after his August 17 sacking by the king, which sparked protest marches in which five people were killed, strikes that paralysed the kingdom, international condemnation and threats of sanctions. — Sapa-Reuter.
With apartheid rule over, South Africa’s relationship with the United Nations is entering a new phase. UN Press officer Fidellis Swai talks to Reporter Sharon Chetty about the expectations the former government did its utmost to destabilize. And a prominent South African, Judge Richard Goldstone, is heading the Yugoslav war crimes court.

"People look at South Africa and see a nation that managed to overcome apartheid and is now committed to a Bill of Rights. There are many lessons for others in that. Development work and upholding human rights are crucial tasks that South Africa can lead the way in," Swai said.

He predicts that South Africa, within the next five years, be able to apply for a permanent position on the UN Security Council — the most powerful group in the world body.

"In the past the UN was South Africa’s enemy ... now they are partners," Swai said.
SA owes R365-m in dues to UN

BY MIKE LITTLEJOHN

New York — With negotiations on South Africa's UN dues still uncompleted, the republic now is the second largest debtor for the regular budget and the fourth largest overall.

Figures for the end of November, just released, show that member states owed the organization $2 billion (R7.1 billion), of which $910 million (R1.81 billion) was for the regular budget and $1.5 billion (R5.3 million) for peacekeeping.

The United States led the debtors' list with $666 million (R2.345.6 million) owed overall, including $270 million (R959 million) for the regular budget and $336 million (R1.406 billion) for peacekeeping.

SA's overall debt was $103 million (R365.56 million) with $57 million (R222.1 million) owed on the regular budget. It is assumed the country will have much of its debt excused given the denial of its participation rights for 20 years.
After decades, SA takes chair in the UN General Assembly

The Argus Foreign Service

NEW YORK. — For the first time in decades a South African has occupied the presidential chair in the UN General Assembly hall.

The review conference of the 178 parties to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty is taking place in the hall and South Africa is a vice-president.

In that capacity, Tom Wheeler, head of the special South African delegation to the conference, sat in for the president yesterday.

Among those paying the ritual tribute to the chair was the Iraqi delegate who delivered a bitter attack on Israel for failing to sign the treaty while allegedly developing its own nuclear weapon.

The last time South Africa held a UN vice-presidency was when Eric Louw was foreign minister in the late 1960s.

Mr Louw is remembered for a "double standards" speech in which he listed states critical of apartheid that discriminated within their societies, including Sweden which, he said, discriminated against its Lapland people.
SA lobbying UN countries to set aside R367m in arrears

Adrian Hadland
CAPE TOWN — SA diplomats are currently lobbying UN member countries in a bid to have SA’s R367m in fee arrears to the organisation set aside, Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said yesterday.

Responding to a Parliamentary question by DP MP Colin Egin, Nzo said the issue of the arrears — which accumulated during the period SA was excluded from the UN’s general assembly — had become a political rather than an administrative issue.

The UN’s general assembly would have to pass a resolution freeing SA of the arrears, Nzo said.

SA was trying to canvass nations to support it.

Once SA had resumed its seat and had its rights in the assembly reinstated on June 23 last year, R40m had been forwarded to the UN in respect of fees, Nzo said.

This amount was allocated to the UN’s working capital fund, its regular budget and towards peacekeeping operation costs.

Despite the payment, as well as a UN resolution acknowledging SA’s indebtedness, the arrears were not cleared.

Nzo said the decision to seek arrears clearance was a result of “conditions beyond its control” and coincided with its loss of voting rights, SA was still listed as a debtor state late last year.

UN administrators had informed SA’s permanent UN mission that a general assembly resolution would be required to settle the arrears question.

The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), meanwhile, launched an assault in question time yesterday against Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi’s perceived leniency on pornography.

ACDP MP Louis Green said SA had been subjected to a “rape” in recent months.

Incidents of rape had increased by 50% since this proliferation, ACDP’s Kenneth Mshoeshoe said.

“Innocent women are raped daily by lustful men obsessed by pornography,”

ACDP members called on Buthelezi to be as rigorous in his approach to pornography issues as he was concerning the autonomy of KwaZulu/Natal.

Buthelezi said that rather than prohibit pornography, the emphasis should be on managing and regulating it.

A draft Bill was being prepared and would be introduced to Parliament soon.

‘Poor communication behind hospital chaos’

Kathryn Strachan

THE National Education, Health and Allied Workers’ Union (Nehawu) yesterday blamed labour tension at Johannesburg Hospital for confusion which occurred at the institution during the Cosatu march on Tuesday.

The hospital complained that services in operating theatres were in total disarray when general assistants left to join the march. Patients already under anesthetics could not be operated on as there was no one to clean theatres.

However, Baragwanath and Hillbrow hospitals said the demonstration had not disrupted services. A Johannesburg Hospital spokesman said it had been too late to make contingency plans as the union had informed management of the march just before 4pm the previous day.

Nehawu had asked all hospitals be informed last week of the decision to march.

“The trouble at Johannesburg Hospital is that shop stewards and management cannot communicate,” said Nehawu president Vusi Nhlapo.

A skeleton staff was in attendance at Johannesburg Hospital theatres, he said. The confusion caused the tension between shop stewards and management during the balloting back in a 1993 strike.

Popcru said its members did not take part in the march, mainly because the deadlock centred on collective bargaining with business. There was no dispute on essential services.

Within the next two months the four state hospitals in the Vaal region would have depleted their reserve budget for the financial year, Vaal region chief medical superintendent Dr Norman Kernes said yesterday.

The budget, which was down 30% from last year’s, was totally inadequate to maintain the hospitals. Steps had been taken to curtail services, but it was not possible to make further savings without cutting into the salary bill.

Kernes said such a service could not take place once the funds had expired.

“For two months we have been trying to get answers from the Gauteng health department but there has been no response.”

Services were curtailed at Vereeniging, Sebokeng, Hendrik van der Bijl and Lenasia hospitals at the end of last month to cut costs.

All non-emergency surgery was stopped, general and outpatient services were limited, and private patients were barred.

The decision on private patient admissions was reversed earlier this week after the Medico-Surgical Association of SA complained it was creating problems at other hospitals.

Other measures were to leave posts which became vacant unfilled. Vaal hospitals were already very short-staffed.

Kernes said hospitals had been instructed that no over-spending would be tolerated.
Former UN chief still has a vision of world harmony

The Perfect World is like the Holy Grail -- a vision which has been sought by man ever since the slingshot was perfected, the bow and arrow gave way to bullets, and the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

No one in the world of today can really blame anyone for wanting to cross the threshold of ethnic and cultural differences to living in harmony where dialogue is the key to peace, and least of all former United Nations secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar. De Cuellar held down the job for 10 years, literally keeping the peace while all around him the nations of the world squabbled among themselves while he was in charge of the 30-year-old international organisation.

Now he devotes his energies to the World Commission on Culture and Development, a Unesco organisation of which he is president.

De Cuellar and his colleagues have been in South Africa in recent days to hear the views of many Africans from all over the continent on culture and development and, particularly, African ideas of how "the many problems humanity is facing in the next millennium" can be managed. It will form part of an international report which the WCCD will be publishing later this year on its findings.

De Cuellar said the object was to obtain a "unity among the diversification of culture". After listening to hundreds of people all over the globe, the WCCD is now ready to set up its type of code of conduct which would seek to build bridges between cultures, and at the same time "preserve the wealth of religion and of cultures".

De Cuellar says, correctly "that a decade ago, the environment and protection of the environment was important to humanity. A lot of questions were posed about it. One question was simply what to do about it, and this set in motion a process which would allow people in many countries to begin to look at these issues together."

But, as the WCCD has found, it is not that easy to unite the races on any issue -- they have had to deal with political problems.

I asked De Cuellar whether he and his colleagues were not perhaps living in a fool's paradise by painting a picture of what could only be termed a perfect world, and whether the world was ready for dialogue given the apparent international breakdown in law and order, the war in Bosnia, ethnic violence in Africa, and the fruitless dialogue over the French nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

"The real significance of our work is what is important for us as human beings, and to create a solidarity around all human beings.

"If we don't try, if we keep our scepticism, we will never know. We are not naive. We know there are problems.

"Our intention is to draft a report that people will understand, that will contain crystal-clear recommendations and try to be as persuasive as possible," replied.

Pointing to author Rachel Carson's award-winning book, Silent Spring, published in the mid-1950s, De Cuellar and his colleagues say that no one at that time thought that the ecological movement would ever come to anything, but that that precisely what did happen and they are hoping that their ground-breaking work on culture and development will provide the jump-start to meaningful international dialogue.

De Cuellar said: "I think we have to prepare governments and peoples to face the next millennium. My belief is that the UN should dedicate all its efforts to the global problems of terrorism, the environment, infectious diseases and hunger. These don't know borders.

"I think it would be marvellous seeking peace and harmony ... former UN chief Javier Perez de Cuellar and it is important we start thinking, now." This is not the first time that Unesco has strived to be in the forefront of change.

It regards itself as an observatory which studies and identifies emerging trends and future needs.

To its credit, it put forward the idea of world heritage in the 1990s, and this has resulted in the preservation of monuments and sites, the variety of cultural traditions, and environmental areas. It has also made a huge impact on cultural identity.
The 21st century might be a testing one, counsels Clinton

UN warned to remain relevant

United Nations - The world's leaders from US President Bill Clinton to Russia's Boris Yeltsin to Cuba's Fidel Castro paid homage to the United Nations on its 50th anniversary, but could not agree on how to make the world body credible in the 21st century.

Few new proposals emerged to give the United Nations a new vision or pull it back from the verge of bankruptcy during yesterday's opening sessions of the largest gathering in history of presidents, prime ministers, kings and princes.

But at the same time there was no sentiment from any corner of the world to weaken the world body, with many developing countries demanding it take a far greater role in world economic policy and in projects that would benefit them.

While Clinton warned the United Nations that it must reform to remain relevant in the 21st century, many other leaders praised the world organization for helping resolve conflicts from Cambodia to Namibia.

General Assembly president Joao Frelvas do Amaral of Portugal said reform was necessary but: "We must not allow this organization to die at the hands of its critics." Clinton pledged to find ways to make the US Congress pay the $1.25 billion (about $1.5 billion) owed to the United Nations, mainly for expanding peacekeeping ventures.

He also promised "that the United States will be there with our friends and allies" to help secure peace in Bosnia if the combatants reach an accord during peace talks next week.

But minutes later Yeltsin said Russia would contribute troops to a peacekeeping force only if they were subject to a strict Security Council mandate, directly opposing Clinton's move to have it commanded by Nato.

The United States and Russia then differed over who should control future peacekeeping troops in Bosnia, a key issue for their all-day meeting today in Hyde Park, New York.

Aid comments -- are, the order of the day as New Zealand and Japan attacked France and China again over their resumption of nuclear testing.


And Portuguese President Mario Soares entitled the "outrageous situation" in East Timor whose decolonisation he said had been "brutally interrupted" by 20 years of Indonesian occupation.

But for sheer pageantry, it was Castro who played a starring role in the United Nations and on the streets of New York, turning the city into his stage despite official UN efforts to snub him.

Most delegates called for reform of the United Nations, with the smaller countries saying the prestigious Security Council had to be enlarged and the larger states insisting that the bureaucracy had to be pruned. -- Reuter.
Johannesburg: The UN hopes to set up an office in South Africa to help deal with the housing shortage, Mr Wally N'Dow, chief of the UN Conference on Human Settlements, said yesterday.

"We aim, with the government, to have a unit here." -- Reuters
UN insolvency "causing death, human suffering"

NEW YORK. — In an impassioned appeal to member states "at a moment of grave crisis", United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the UN's insolvency was causing death and human suffering and the organisation's very life was under threat.

"The United Nations is one of the most important mechanisms in international co-operation, but it is facing the worst financial crisis of its 50-year history," he said.

His remarks were addressed to the World Bank/International Monetary Fund Development Committee.

He pleaded with finance ministers to ensure that their governments paid debts to the UN.

About 70 of the 185 member states had not paid their assessment for the regular budget and troop contributors for UN peacekeeping were owed $900 million (about R3.2 billion) by the UN, he reported.

As a result, he had to reassess peacekeeping operations. Bosnia alone was costing $5 million (R18 million) a day.

— The Argus Foreign Service.
Yavuz's warns on NATO expansion

Yavuz says the meeting is part of the Assembly's plans to protect the country.
UN must reassess role

UNITED NATIONS: President Nelson Mandela said yesterday the UN Security Council did not reflect the diversity of nations and people in the world.

Addressing the General Assembly's 50th anniversary celebrations, Mr. Mandela said: "The changed world circumstances permit neither the continued misdistribution of resources, nor the related misdistribution of decision-making power within this organisation itself."

The United Nations, he said, needed to "reassess its role, redefine its profile and realign its structures."

"It should truly reflect the diversity of our universe and ensure equity among nations in the exercise of power within the system of international relations in general, and the Security Council in particular," he said.

Security Council is not as effective as it should be in the face of major world problems of peace, development and human rights. It must be strengthened, not weakened," he added.

Mr. Mandela also said that governments had to think "that what we are about is people - the proverbial man and woman in the street. These, the poor, the hungry, the victims of petty tyrants, the objective of policy demand change," he said.

Mr. Mandela further indicated that SA was willing to join UN peacekeeping ventures.

Mr. Mandela also won the support of the Nordic countries for South Africa's campaign to wipe out the African Union's debt. He said the African Union had been "suspended from the organisation — from 1974 to 1994."

--- Reuters

See Page 2
SA joins call to democratise UN

Let all of us set agenda for the new century - Mandela

By Peter Fabrizius

The Star / Tuesday October 24 1995
UN council must give more weight to smaller nations

NEW YORK—The UN should consider restructuring the council to give more weight to smaller countries, President Nelson Mandela said at a special UN sitting yesterday.

Calling for a more democratic UN, he said the world needed new leadership for a new age. Changed world circumstances permitted neither the maldistribution of resources nor the related maldistribution of decision-making power within the organization.

The UN had to reassess its role, redefine its function and reshape its structures. "It should truly reflect the diversity of our universe and ensure equity among the nations in the exercise of power within the system of international relations in general and the security council in particular."

The agenda of the next century and the programme of action to promote it could be true to the purposes of the UN only if they were set by all its members.

"We must...constitute a new leadership for the new age, and bring sunshine into the hearts of billions, including women, the disabled and children."

His call for restructuring in the UN echoed the concern of other African nations. Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko said all organs of the UN, including the security council, had to be adapted, while Botswana President Seretse Khama told the assembly the increase in the UN's membership called for equitable, broader representation.

Mandela said that as the UN matured into the new millennium, it was time to act now.

After an hour-long meeting with Nordic heads of state, who pledged to intensify their involvement in peacekeeping training in the southern African region, Mandela said SA would

not hesitate to take part in UN peacekeeping operations, where it could.

The task of the UN was to promote peace and security and it was the duty of all its members to help with this, said Mandela.

Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, the Netherlands and Belgium said they would help. South Africa said it would support SA's bid to have its R360m UN peacekeeping arrears written off. Mandela said SA appreciated that the UN was short of funds. "But we have to see that the situation where we inherited this huge debt..."
SA won’t pay its UN debt – Pahad

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

South Africa had no intention of meeting its multimillion rand United Nations debt, Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad told a UN 50th anniversary function in Pretoria yesterday.

The debt was accumulated from unpaid membership fees and other costs accrued during the 1974-1994 period when the country’s credentials were not accepted by the UN’S General Assembly because of its apartheid policies.

Pahad said at the opening of a photographic exhibition about the work of the UN and the apartheid era: “We are not going to pay. We cannot be held responsible for what happened on the part of the previous government.”

He was replying to UN southern Africa representative David Whalley who told guests that the organisation was facing its “most serious financial crisis of our 50 years of existence”.

Whalley had disclosed that the UN mission, which moved into a new SA government-donated building in central Pretoria yesterday, had been curtailed in its efforts to provide a glittering opening ceremony because of lack of cash, and had had to accept donations from local organisations and companies.

Pahad said in a short speech before touring the exhibition that for most of its 50 years of existence, the UN had had to deal with “the South African travesty”, a reference to the apartheid era of government, and that in the future the UN would have to play a role expected of it by the organisation’s founding fathers at San Francisco in 1945, “particularly following the end of the Cold War”.

The exhibition contains graphic photographs of events during the Angolan war, the South West Africa (Namibia) campaign, and results of destabilisation raids on countries such as Mozambique and Lesotho carried out by South African troops.

Yesterday’s event was one of two arranged in Pretoria. The other was a gala evening held at the Zwartkop air force base, near Pretoria, at which government ministers, diplomats and other dignitaries were present.
Secretary-General endorses scathing report on world body

UN critics get top backing

The critics are right: the United Nations is a mess and there is a report endorsed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to prove it. Not surprisingly, release of the lengthy indictment prepared by Karl Theodore Paschke who functions as an inspector-general was delayed until after the 50th anniversary commemoration.

This was perhaps because it confirms some of the unkindest cuts thatattered tributes to the UN by more than 150 world leaders.

If the former German foreign ministry personnel chief had issued the findings – after only a short time in office – at the same time as presidents Bill Clinton, Jacques Chirac and Nelson Mandela were among those calling for sweeping UN reforms, it might have blighted the party.

Paschke is the under-secretary-general for Internal Oversight Services.

He speaks of a bureaucracy that has "grown without pruning for many years", of procedures that are "too rigid, frustrating creativity and individual initiative" and of "overlap-ping and duplication of responsibilities".

These are complaints that have long been aired by the more diligent contributors to UN expenses.

Paschke's litany goes on:

He cites "too complicated" rules and regulations, a "cumbersome" personnel system that obstructs the hiring of good people and makes it hard to find slackers, unimpressive management and "a lack of horizontal communication" (meaning evidently that the right hand knows nothing but what the left hand doeth in a secretariat of 150 nationalities with "quite different perceptions of public service").

On specifics, Paschke says more than 50% of all audits found "weaknesses in the internal control system".

Similarly, audits of corporate contracts revealed procedures that did not lead to fair, competitive prices through proper bidding.

In addition, there was almost 50% non-compliance with rules, regulations and instructions.

The peacekeeping operation in Yugoslavia costs R18-million a day and is a cause of the current financial crisis, since few governments are paying for it, but Paschke says an audit of the civilian sector found "unnecessary, excessive and extravagant expenditures".

In Somalia, the UN bought water for 90c a litre, two and a half times the going rate, at an extra cost of R5.8-million.

Food worth R5.4-million was transferred to a contractor and only recovered following an audit.

The Star Foreign Service.
SA leads race for Africa's UN Security Council seat

By RAY HARTLEY
Political Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA this week edged closer to a prized permanent seat on a refashioned UN Security Council.

A two-pronged strategy — to win support for the idea that each continent be allocated a permanent seat on the council, and then to win international support for South Africa as the African representative — appeared to have found favour with influential international lobbies during President Nelson Mandela's visit to the UN this week.

Government officials said Mr Mandela's appeal for the restructuring of the council into a more widely representative body had found favour with the US, Russia, Nordic countries and most African states.

The Security Council is the UN organ which bears chief responsibility for maintaining international peace. There are five permanent members — the US, Russia, China, France and Britain. They have veto rights on the council which give them extraordinary clout in world affairs.

There has been a concerted campaign to expand the council to give Japan and Germany permanent seats. This in turn has prompted demands by Latin American and African countries that their continents be given representation.

Addressing the commemorative meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday, Mr Mandela said: "Changing world circumstances permit neither the continued maldistribution of resources, nor the related maldistribution of decision-making power within this organisation."

He went on to call for a reshaping of UN structures "to truly reflect the diversity of our universe and ensure equity among nations."

Mr Mandela then met US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. South African officials have given their backing in private to the restructuring process but will not go public with their support until the debate reaches a more advanced stage. A final decision on restructuring the council will be taken in more than a year's time.

The heads of the Nordic states also invited Mr Mandela to a bilateral meeting where they are understood to have backed his stance.

South Africa's second battle — to win favour as the country most appropriate to represent Africa — is also said to have won support. Its competitors, Nigeria and Egypt, are said to have lost favour due to domestic problems related respectively to repression of opposition and the rise of a Muslim fundamentalist agenda. Egypt is also said to have lost ground because an Egyptian, Boutros-Boutros Ghali, is UN secretary-general.

South African government officials are bracing for a souring of relations with Nigeria, expected to be angry at losing status as the African country most likely to make it onto the Security Council.

Tensions could come to a head at next month's meeting of Commonwealth heads of government in New Zealand, where Nigeria's human rights violations and military regime are expected to endure heavy criticism, some from South Africa.

South Africa is also believed to have won the backing of the Nordic countries, the US and Russia, for the scrapping of its multimillion-dollar UN debt incurred by the previous government's non-payment of dues.

Mr Mandela also told the UN: "We must, without delay, constitute a new leadership for a new age and bring sunshine into the hearts of billions... Circumstances may tempt us to bend to the pressures of realpolitik. However, like the founders, we are faced with the task of ensuring the convergence of word and deed."
Joining UN fund 'would benefit SA

Louise Cook

SA WOULD join the 168-member International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), a UN agency for alleviating rural poverty, as soon as Parliament ratified the application, agriculture department chief director Attie Swart said yesterday.

The Cabinet had approved the move and ratification was likely to follow next year, he said.

Ifad had planned a special workshop on poverty to be held in SA in February next year, with Southern African Development Community countries, Ifad members and the World Bank expected to attend.

The workshop would be an opportunity for different countries to share experiences in the battle against rural poverty.

"Joining Ifad would be a major boost for SA. We would then be in a position to contract for agricultural, fisheries and forestry projects on the African continent. It means business for SA," Swart said.

Foreign affairs deputy director Rob Mackay said SA would benefit "in a big way" by joining the fund.

"It means we can bid for projects. The UN has moved away from the idea that projects have to be done from the US or Europe. They now want the services to be provided locally."

SA would also qualify for soft loans from Ifad, but this was not the main reason for seeking membership, he said.

Meanwhile, SA was elected to the council and the finance committee of the Food and Agriculture Organisation at its biannual meeting in Rome last week. SA rejoined the organisation last year after an absence of more than 30 years.

The council would run a budget of $850m over the next two years to promote agricultural development in poor countries, Mackay said.
Mandela thanks Unesco for its contribution

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — President Nelson Mandela yesterday thanked Unesco for its contribution to bringing apartheid to an end.

In a speech read to the 50th anniversary celebrations of Unesco in Paris by Arts, Science, Culture and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane, Mandela said: "SA salutes Unesco for enabling us to take our place in its structures with integrity and dignity.

"It was only last year, when SA achieved democracy, that we regained full membership of Unesco after an absence of 38 years. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to play a full role within this important body in the family of nations."
New SA spells out steps for human rights to UN

PETER FABRICIUS
The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — As President Nelson Mandela mounts an international sanctions campaign against Nigeria for its execution of dissidents, South Africa has reminded the United Nations that the promotion of human rights is the cornerstone of its foreign policy.

Diplomat Peter Soal said this to the UN human rights committee in New York yesterday, in a speech reviewing the new South African government's many steps to institutionalise respect for human rights.

These included the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Constitutional Court's landmark ruling declaring the death penalty illegal because it violated the provision of the constitution, which enshrined the right to life.

South Africa had also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and parliament had given approval last month for South Africa to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.

The final steps before depositing the instrument of ratification for this convention were now under way.
SA's R367-million debt in UN arrears cancelled

BY PETER FAURIUS
Star Bureau

Washington - The United Nations will today take the unprecedented step of forgiving South Africa the $102-million (about R367-million) it owes the organisation in membership dues for the apartheid era.

Diplomatic sources said the cash-strapped UN had never before wiped out the membership arrears of a country.

They attributed the achievement to President Mandela's special influence and hard lobbying by South African diplomats.

"That's quite a few houses back home" one gleeful official said.

The new SA Government has paid the dues SA owes for the period since it resumed its seat in the General Assembly last year.

But it was adamant that it would not pay the dues incurred by the National Party apartheid government, which in any case had been barred from UN activities since the mid-70s.

Mandela began the effort to cancel the debt when he visited UN headquarters in New York two months ago to attend the organisation's 50th anniversary.

He quietly lobbied four of the five heads of state of the Permanent Members of the Security Council.
UN agrees to write off SA's R367 million debt

WASHINGTON. — The United Nations will take the unprecedented step today of writing off the $192 million (R367 million) South Africa owes it in membership dues for the apartheid era.

Diplomatic sources said the cash-strapped UN had never before wiped out the membership arrears of a country.

They attributed the move to President Mandela's special influence.

The new South African government has paid the dues it owes for the period since it resumed its seat last year. But it was adamant that it would not pay the dues incurred by the apartheid government — which in any case had been barred from the UN since the mid-1970s.

Mr Mandela began the effort to cancel the debt when he visited UN headquarters in New York two months ago to attend the organisation's 50th anniversary.

He quietly lobbied four of the five heads of state of the Permanent Members of the Security Council — US President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major, French President Jacques Chirac and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr Mandela did not meet the Chinese leader, as far as could be established. At that time Mr Clinton gave his support but Mr Chirac was opposed, while Mr Major seemed undecided.

It is understood that 132 of the 184 UN members have agreed to co-sponsor the resolution forgiving SA's arrears which will be introduced by Algeria and debated by the General Assembly today.

This all but guarantees it will pass and it may even be approved by consensus.

The only country which strongly objects is Mexico which may offer the only nay vote, or it may just go along with the rest to make the decision unanimous.
UN writes off nearly R365m in SA debts

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alfred Nzo, yesterday welcomed the United Nations decision to waive South Africa's debts to the body.

The UN general assembly decided on Friday to cancel nearly R180-million (R365-million) in unpaid dues accumulated by South Africa over 20 years.

For its part, South Africa announced it would make a voluntary contribution to UN peacekeeping operations in Africa. The amount was not specified.

Mr Nzo said in a statement that South Africa appreciated the efforts of all member states in reaching the decision. "I want to thank the UN and the international community for their committed efforts during all the years it took to dismantle the apartheid order," he said.

He said the payment of the country's debt would have been "an increased burden" on the reconstruction and development programme.

Mr Nzo also thanked President Nelson Mandela, South Africa's UN ambassador, Josiah Jele, and the country's missions abroad for their interventions, which influenced the waiver of the debt.

He was due to leave for London last night for the Commonwealth Group of Eight meeting.

The resolution, sponsored by South Africa and nearly 140 other UN members, said the waiving of the debt was due to the "exceptional and unique circumstances" of South Africa's reintegration into the general assembly last year.

It said the assembly had taken the "moral and political decision" to exclude South Africa and that Pretoria had requested exemption for that period.

The back dues comprised $52.3-million (R197-million) for the regular UN budget and $40.2-million (R149-million) for peacekeeping operations.

The document said the cancellation of the dues "shall under no circumstances constitute a precedent," reflecting the world body's dire financial straits. At the end of November the UN was owed some $2-billion (R7.4-billion) in unpaid peacekeeping assessments and $600 million (R2.4-billion) for regular budget dues.

Poland expressed reservations about the resolution.

Source: Reuters/AFP
UNITED NATIONS

1996 - 98
UN faces shutdown threat

MIKE LITTLEJOHN
The Argus Foreign Service

NEW YORK. — Taking a leaf out of the United States book, the United Nations could face a shutdown of "non-essential" operations because of its severe financial problems.

According to official sources here, unless member states come up with a sizable chunk of cash in the meantime, three-fifths of the UN staff may be suspended in April.

At a news conference, Joseph Connor, UN under secretary-general for administration and management, spoke of a "precarious" situation with the UN "close to the edge" of insolvency.

Arrears of $2.3 billion (about 98 billion) on member states' assessments continued to rise, with the US still the biggest debtor.

By contrast, financially hardpressed Russia has paid all of its regular dues, and promised to reduce peacekeeping account arrears in substantial instalments.

Innovative proposals by member states to resolve the UN crisis, which

Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced in a speech at Oxford University recently, have been angrily decried by Senator Robert Dole and other Republican leaders as a bid by the organisation to become an international tax assessor.

UN spokesman Sylvana Foa said the critics were using the UN as a scapegoat for their political ambitions and Mr Connor, a former boss of Price Waterhouse, emphasised that all Dr Boutros-Ghali did was quote from ideas that others, including Sweden, advanced.

Dr Boutros-Ghali's hopes for re-election ride on US support.

Many believe the first African in the job will have an uphill battle.

Asked about the possibility of a partial UN shutdown, Mr Connor said he would present a financial report on February 5 and Dr Boutros-Ghali would make a statement two days later.

So far, only a dozen countries have paid their dues for 1996, due by January 31. South Africa is on the "honour roll", having paid all of its dues of more than $5.5 million.
SA to play UN peace role after debt write-off

By Norman Chandler
Defence Correspondent

South Africa has agreed to participate in United Nations peacekeeping activities, in return for the cancellation of the country's multi-million rand debt to the world organisation.

This was divulged yesterday by Defence Minister Joe Modise at a South African Air Force Day parade at Zwartkop Air Force Base near Pretoria.

Assuring the air force that its future was guaranteed despite defence budget cuts, Modise said the demands on the country's military would be considerable in the future. Air power played an important part in military capability, he said.

"Peace and security in our region is obviously a very high priority," Modise said. "It is my hope that (regional) co-operation will develop into a joint defence concept and capability, in which we equitably share the security burden of our region.

"South Africa is also committed to participation in United Nations peace operations, and we have a direct responsibility in this regard following their cancellation of our debt.

The UN General Assembly last year agreed to write off South Africa's R360-million debt, accumulated over the years when the country was suspended from membership because of its apartheid policies.

No timetable has been set for when the South African forces would begin assisting the world body. The governments of the countries concerned will first have to be consulted, but it is believed South Africa will help with UN peace-enforcing operations on the African continent in the foreseeable future.

South Africa has already assisted with humanitarian aid to Angola, Rwanda and Mozambique.

Yesterday’s parade — also attended by Deputy Defence Minister Ronnie Kasrils, Chief of the SANDF Gen Georg Meiring, outgoing Chief of the SAAF Lt-Gen James Kriel, and Secretary for Defence Pierre Steyn — is the first of a series of events to commemorate this year’s 75th anniversary of the founding of the Zwartkop base.

It was established in April 1921 and was the first "air station" of the fledgling SAAF, which last year turned 75.

Nine units were yesterday presented by Modise with their unit colours. They are Zwartkop AB, 4 Air Depot, 104 Volunteer Air Squadron, 111 Volunteer Air Squadron, Ellipses Reporting Post, 503 Security Squadron, Combined Auction Centre, Mobile Communications Unit, and Air Space Control Unit.
Pulling UN from the edge

John Goshko
at the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this week proposed several steps to pull the UN back from what he called "the edge of insolvency", including giving the United States Congress a greater incentive to pay America's back dues by cutting the US share of the UN budget from its present 25% to 15% or 20%.

But Boutros-Ghali stopped short, at least for now, of accepting a recommendation from the UN's top management experts to make the most drastic personnel cuts in the world body's 50-year history by trimming 1,500 positions from the ranks of its 10,000 permanent employees.

Instead, while acknowledging that staff reductions will be required, he deferred mentioning specific numbers until the heads of the UN's various departments recommend ways to save money. "The full impact of the reductions will become clear only after the completion of this review," Boutros-Ghali said.

By choosing this approach, the secretary general seemed to express the view - shared by most member countries - that the UN's most pressing need is to convince the US to pay the sizable back dues it owes.

Otherwise, he appeared to be saying, the organisation will be "tired so deeply in debt that there won't be any point in pursuing the long-term reforms and economies that the US Congress and the Clinton administration demand as the price for continued US financial patronage.

Four months after 128 heads of state and government gathered to laud the UN on its 50th anniversary, Boutros-Ghali gave a grim message to a General Assembly working group trying to combat the worsening financial crisis. On January 15, member countries were $3.5-billion in arrears - $1.6-billion to the regular budget and $1.7-billion for peacekeeping activities. About $1.5-billion of that amount is owed by the US, which is assessed 25% of the regular UN budget and 31% of the peacekeeping costs. However, for years, the US Congress has refused to fund these obligations in full. Last year, it unilaterally reduced the US peacekeeping contribution to 25%, and hostility toward the UN has climbed to an all-time high under the present Republican control of Capitol Hill.

To help counter the complaints from Capitol Hill, the Clinton administration convinced the General Assembly to adopt a no-growth budget of $2.6-billion for 1996/97. To reduce spending by $1.8-billion, the management experts proposed sweeping personnel cuts.

But, in his presentation, Boutros-Ghali chose to turn that recommendation aside for the time being and emphasise what he called "the immediate crisis caused by the failure to pay assessments when due".

He pledged to appeal for quick payment to the heads of each delinquent government, and he called for a special session of the General Assembly to address the financial crisis.

While he did not mention the US by name, his suggestion that no country be assessed more than 15% or 20% clearly was aimed at those in the Congress who believe the US pays too much. - The Washington Post
Costs of conference trimmed to R18-m with some hi-tech help

BY TROYE LUND

It will cost the Government around R18-million to host the ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), newly appointed Minister of Trade and Development Alec Erwin has announced. Erwin said this bill would be covered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and he considered it a reasonable price to pay for the benefits developing countries stood to gain from the two-week conference at Midrand’s Gallagher Estate, from April 27 to May 11.

African who will be president of Unctad for the next four years, said 3,000 delegates from 188 nations will be debating how a rapidly growing, globalising world market can co-exist with the 2 billion people in the world’s developing countries and ensure sustained development for them. The delegates are due to start arriving in South Africa this week.

“What does a country like South Africa do in a dramatically changing new world economy where isolating yourself is probably extremely unwise but, if you open the doors tomorrow, a large part of your manufacturing sector may not be there,” asked Erwin.

SA’s executive director of Unctad André Joquet said: “We do not know exactly how much this will cost the Government. We estimate around R18-million, depending of course on what the rand does (on foreign currency markets).”

He expects the most hefty bills to be the 200 air tickets for the Unctad secretariat, who will also receive a R120 a day allowance from the Government for accommodation and other expenses. Joquet stressed that he and his team had cut costs where possible. For example, he limited the number from the secretariat to 200 when 400 usually attend major UN conferences.

“We certainly have not said yes to all UN wishes. We also cut the conference length by half. We have avoided bringing translation staff out and all documents will be e-mailed to Geneva for translation by UN staff there.”

Another bill for which South Africa’s taxpayers will be footing out is the R5.5-million charge for the use of Gallagher Estate facilities.

The Government is also employing a 1,400-strong South African support staff, who will be working in shift during the conference. Government will provide a computer station for each delegate, telephones, other communication equipment, transport and security.

The radio, television and media facilities the UN initially asked for came to R1.7-million but has been trimmed to R950 000.

Other savings have been made by limiting photocopies of documents to 5 million.

“The Government will not pay for any telephoning done by delegates. Photocopy, and pin-codes and phone cards will ensure that delegates pay for their calls.

“Government will also not pay for any entertaining, as this has either already been sponsored or will be paid for by each delegate,” said Joquet.

“In the two weeks of the conference delegates will be spending around R30-million. It is the private sector that will benefit, especially the tourism, hotel, restaurant and craft industries.”

From squatter to chef of five-star cuisine

BY TROYE LUND

When squatter Moses Hlalo (31) was first asked what a line fish was, he replied that it must be a fish with a very long bone.

But now, after he and 159 others graduated from an intensive 12-week food preparation and cooking course, they will be able to prepare and serve five-star cuisine for 3,000 UN delegates who will arrive in SA for their 9th Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad 9).

When SA won the bid to host the conference, management at Johannesburg’s Gallagher Estate where Unctad 9 will be held realised they would need more staff.

“We decided to turn the first UN conference ever to be held in SA into an opportunity for the local community to share in,” said Gallagher general manager, Brian Davidson.

With the financial support of the Department of Labour, Davidson advertised positions on a 12-week training course to the local communities of Gauteng.

Of the 1,000 applications received, 900 were asked to come in for an interview. The list was narrowed down to 437 candidates. These went through another screening and 160 were selected for the course.

Students were slotted into one of the three functional areas the hospitality skills programme covered – accommodation services, food and drink service, and food preparation and cooking.

The Hospitality, Development and Education (HDE) organisation gave them a six-week basic theory and practical course, which included life skills. This was followed by a six-week in-service training at Gallagher Estate.

“The culture shock was huge for all of us. This was a whole different world for these people who are mostly squatters,” said one of the six HDE trainers, Eugene van Rensburg.

He said students would be placed at Gallagher Estate after the conference and would undergo further training.

At the graduation ceremony last Friday, Hlalo said: “In five years’ time I will have opened a fast food restaurant. This opportunity has ensured that I will give my family a good life.”
By Ross Herbert

South Africa is, depending on one’s confidence in the Government’s diplomatic skills, either about to embark on a four-year collision course with the developed world or take a leadership role in establishing world institutions to the plight of the developing world.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) started on Saturday in Midrand near Johannesburg.

South Africa has been active in setting the agenda for the 14-day event, and Alec Erwin, Minister of Trade and Industry, will begin his term as president of the organisation for the next four years.

As its organisation, Unctad is struggling to find a mission. It is under severe budget pressure from donor nations critical of the inefficiencies and bureaucracy of the United Nations (UN) system.

The question central to the Unctad conference is: ‘What should be done with the organisation, if anything?’

Its trade functions have largely been replaced by the formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and others now call the tune in development.

Free trade policy

There is a significant belief among senior Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) staff that the free-trade philosophy that imbues WTO, the World Bank and IMF has often worked to the detriment of the developing world.

Some speak conspiratorially about the First World duping the Third World into a WTO that is by definition unfair to the developing world.

The DTI team preparing strategy for Unctad wants the organisation to become adviser and advocate for the least developed countries, many of which do not have the resources, expertise or savvy to go into WTO negotiations and strike an advantageous deal.

And herein lies the potential conflict.

The developed countries; and the United States in particular; want Unctad to be scaled down and to stay out of WTO affairs. Moreover, their diplomats say Unctad has been taken stock in a “South-versus-North, developing-versus-developed-world” mindset.

They want the confrontation to end and are not eager to fund an Unctad that is a soapbox for criticism of the developed world. The US also wants Unctad to be confined to providing research and technical trade support.

South Africa plans to advocate a much broader, more controversial agenda. DTI wants greater debt relief for developing countries.

There is also discussion, but no clear decision, over whether formal talks should extend the phase-in period over which the developing world must remove its trade barriers.

South Africa, with its large reserve of international goodwill, is uniquely positioned to influence the developed world. And advocacy does not necessarily have to turn into antagonism.

Influential position

If managed well, the presidency of Unctad could secure an influential position for South Africa as honest broker in world disputes. Realistically, the situation is more complicated.

Erwin may be president of Unctad but he will not necessarily control its bureaucracy. He will get the blame from a First World irritated by Unctad criticism. There is sympathy in developed countries for debt relief, but other issues will find determined First World opposition.

The US and Europe will press for linking labour standards in the WTO process so that nations engaging in child labour or slave labour could be brought before the WTO and possibly forced to pay penalties.

Developing world diplomats see this as meddling and disguised protectionism. Similarly, DTI plans to lobby to keep environmental restrictions out of the WTO.

The developed world, heavily swayed by pro-environment activists, will have a hard line on controlling rapacious forests and fisheries. If South Africa really champions deligation of labour and environmental standards, it will find a hostile audience in many developed countries.”

Uncntad’s fate will be determined largely by the size of its budget. If the wealthy nations have already decided to effectively gut Unctad, has South Africa taken on a losing cause that will drain precious staff time in DTI for the next four years and deliver few tangible benefits to South Africa?

And how hard should South Africa push and what does South Africa gain in fighting battles for its developing world friends? Most of the issues DTI plans to champion have little direct benefit for South Africa.

For itself, South Africa is now lobbying for more seats in, free trade with Europe. South Africa does not need debt relief and faces no major environmental linkage issues.

Labour standards

On labour standards, DTI’s position is actually contrary to that of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu). Congress wants to force developing world economies to comply with international labour standards so that South African labour is not priced out of the market.

Taking on a Third World advocacy role in Unctad cannot be viewed in isolation. Alfred Nzo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, recently expressed South African solidarity with Libya.

Gustav premier Tokyo Sexwale has just returned from a trade mission with Cuba. And the controversial American Louis Farrakhan met President Nelson Mandela.

So far, South African trade has benefited immensely from appearing to be the only responsible nation in Africa. What risk does the country run if world perception shifts and the world sees South Africa as the friend of rogues?

One London currency trader, who was briefed last week by Trevor Manuel, Minister of Finance, expressed surprise that South Africa had aligned itself with Libya at a time when the rand was plunging in value.

As he put it: “If the markets were more aware of that, they would be alarmed.”

“Libya is seen in the market view as a rogue. I think it would be highly counterproductive if South Africa is seen repeating its support of Libya.” — Independent Press Service.
UN conference focuses on rich-poor divide

Choice of SA to host gathering symbolises country’s return to international world, says UN official

BY SAPA AND TROYE LUING

A meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development opened at Midrand near Pretoria on Saturday with warnings that the gap between rich and poor might be widening.

Most of the world’s people were no more secure at the end of the 20th century than they had been during the Cold War, President Nelson Mandela told the meeting.

“Poverty and need continue to blight their lives,” he said.

The UN meeting, one of the largest to be held in Africa and the first to be held in South Africa, opened with a mass choir of 400 children singing the national anthems, traditional dancers and the pounding of an African drum.

The choice of South Africa to host the United Nations summit on trade and development (Unctad) was more than symbolic of the country’s return into the international world of states, said Unctad secretary-general Roberto Ru-
cupero.

At a press conference before the opening ceremony, Rucupero said SA faced the same problem as the world economy: It had a vast and widening gap between rich and poor which had to be narrowed.

“This is the main theme some 3,000 UN delegates from 188 states will debate over the next two weeks at the Unctad conference at Gallagher Estate in Mid-
rand.

Rucupero stressed SA was now not only an important world leader but a living demonstration that development in Africa was not impossible.

He also emphasised that the conference aimed to set up concrete mechanisms that would deliver better services to developing countries and “make a difference in people’s lives”.

Minister of Trade and Industry Alec Erwin, who will be president of Unctad for the next four years, yesterday said he intended to make Unctad an “aggressive and dynamic organisation” that implemented concrete support systems for developing countries to grow by improving on issues like financial and trade efficiency.

One in 3,000 delegates objects to accommodation

Of the 3,000 UN delegates attending the conference on trade and development at Gallagher Estate in Midrand only one has complained that the accommodation was not acceptable.

The Russian delegate was not satisfied with his hotel because he said there were no restaurants nearby and he could not find anywhere to go for his first meal on Friday evening after he arrived.

Delegates are staying in 29 Johannesburg, Midrand and Pretoria hotels in which a UN team that visited the country last year inspected and approved as being of a sufficiently high international standard.

Rod Rutter, the American Express representative who is based at the conference and who had dealt with the hotel bookings, said: “There are plenty of restaurants the man could have gone to. He just did not know the area.”

After getting better acquainted with the area around his hotel, the Russian delegate is reported to be “not as disgruntled” and said he would stay in his hotel. - Staff Reporter.

UN rules bar Taiwanese journalists from conference

BY TROYE LUING

Taiwanese journalists, no matter which country their publication is affiliated to, have been barred from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) because their country is not a member of the organisation.

South African delegates, including government ministers, attending the conference in Midrand near Johannesburg agreed that the barring was unfair but said SA as host country “still had to play by UN rules”.

Taiwanese citizen Chang Jer-Shong confronted Unctad’s Secretary-General Rubens Rucupero on the issue at one of the first press conferences of the summit this weekend.

“This is unbelievable. It seems to say that non-member nations have no right of access to information, no right to read the newspaper or watch television. The UN charter does not allow for gagging of the press and does not intend to discriminate journalists in carrying out their work,” said Jer-Shong.

Jer-Shong, who has been a journalist for 30 years, works for the Chinese Central News Agency which is based in Taiwan and distributes news to China. Rucupero asked the chief of media accreditation, Sonya leafca, to reply to Jer-
Shong.

In a written reply, Leeca said Jer-Shong could not be allowed to cover the event because of a decision taken by the UN’s General Assembly in 1971 which declares “there is an indispensable link between an accredited correspondent and the agency he/she represents”.

That same UN meeting ruled that all accreditation from journalists representing “government-supported media in Taiwan” be withdrawn. Jer-Shong is not satisfied and intends to fight his exclusion: “I have covered a great number of UN events before and have never been denied the opportunity. I should be judged as a journalist and not as a representative of Tai-
wan.”

Although Jer-Shong is the only Taiwanese journalist at Midrand, more of his colleagues were expected to arrive later this week.
Unctad set for rebirth with SA at the helm

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is set for rebirth under South Africa's leadership, with consensus starting to replace the body's old confrontational style, a delegate said yesterday.

"There were fears in the run-up to the meeting that it would deteriorate into the old Unctad of confrontation, and that the United States and the European Union were out to emasculate the organisation," said Xavier Carim, a member of the South African delegation to the ninth Unctad conference. "But it's on track."

The US feels that South Africa has the muscle to urge developing countries to confront their own shortcomings and abandon their previous "victim mentality," he said.

"The South African presidency is just what Unctad needed right now, because it has credibility on both sides of what has been a development divide," said a delegate from an EU country.

There has been much support among delegates for proposed Unctad help for less developed countries to prepare for World Trade Organisation talks. Until now, developed countries have wanted trade talks restricted to the WTO forum, but they now say most developing countries need preparation for the negotiations.

"What the developed countries seem to want is for Unctad to give these countries technical help to fulfill their current trade obligations," Carim said.

He added that Unctad's role was evident in WTO talks on a telecommunications agreement in Geneva. "Developing countries have not signed it because they don't know what the issues are. The talks are stalled. Unctad can help push the WTO agenda forward."

Carim said it was fair to say that Unctad had "turned the corner" at the conference, but industrialised countries were suspending judgment until they saw what happened over the next four years.

He said SA Minister of Trade and Industry Alec Erwin was making Unctad a priority. Erwin's blunt style went down well at the conference, winning over the more sceptical developed countries and giving confidence to developing countries. - Reuters
Tackle labour issue or face crisis, SA warned

By Trove Linds

The Secretary of Commerce of India has issued a strong warning to South Africa that, unless it resolves labour unrest, improves people’s productivity and work culture as well as gives employers the right to lock workers out, it will not develop or become economically stable.

During a recent interview with The Star at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) in Midrand, Tejendra Khanna cautioned that the country would be in “serious trouble” unless it stabilised relations between labour and management within five years.

Khanna said workers’ rights were essential but he was adamant that employers have to be protected from “unreasonable labour action”.

Employers must be given the right to lock employees out as this was an “integral part of balanced, symmetrical” labour policy, he said at Gallagher Estate where the conference is being held.

Incentive to keep productivity high was another “crucial step” South Africa has to take, he said.

“Factories in India have started paying people more if they get higher productivity and keep running costs lower. This works wonders when people realise that some months they can nearly double their basic pay,” he said.

The secretary added that South Africa would be left behind other developing countries if it did not bring down its domestic costs.

“These dangers facing the country have to be overcome if it is to reach its tremendous potential to become a world competitor and to accelerate growth in the rest of Africa,” said Khanna.

He highlighted unemployment as another threat to success. Boosting small-scale development, he said, was the only way to overcome unemployment.

For the past 40 years India has been creating policies to the advantage of small-scale industry. These include a “significantly lower” rate at which small businesses can borrow money. There are also more than 800 types of industries which India’s government has reserved exclusively for small business. Over 35% of that country’s manufactured goods are produced by small-scale industries and they make up 40% of the country’s exports.

“SA must realise the importance of cultivating peace and stability at home,” said Khanna.

SA aims to make good cents out of being Unctad ‘chair’ for four years

By Trove Linds

The 3000-strong United Nations delegation attending the conference in Midrand on trade and development will not be spending all their time in meetings.

More than 20 day and night trips have been laid on for them, most costing less than R70 (about R30).

“South Africa, acting as host to this summit and having accepted presidency of Unctad over the next four years, has to use this to project itself. We are going to make every rand we have spent work for us,” said a spokesman for the Minister of Trade and Industry, Alec Erwin, at Gallagher Estate in Midrand where the conference will be held over the next two weeks.

Playing host to the summit will cost the Government about R18-million.

Tour operators say the most popular tour so far is the one to Soweto. For R250 delegates are driven to the township through the financial district of Johannesburg, Baragwanath hospital and Vista University.

In Soweto a highlight is to have tea with the mayor and his councillors and a walk around the business and shopping districts. Another popular tour is to Alexandra, which gives delegates the opportunity to find out about hostels life, township clinics and educational centres.

They also have the opportunity to cook a South African meal, and enjoy it with the country’s finest wines for around R200. Another highlight is a visit to the SA Breweries Centenary Centre in central Johannesburg which will include an invitation to down two glasses of South African beer.

Other tours include visits to museums, the Mint, art galleries and the planetarium.

For R250 visitors can get a taste of Johannesburg’s nightlife. This includes a sumptuous meal and jazz until the early hours at venues across the city and Soweto.

Underground visits to gold mines, overnight stays at Robben Island, trips to Sun City and to exclusive game farms are included on the list of entertainment put on for delegates.

“We are determined this conference gives delegates an insight into the real South Africa and its people. They must get out of their first world conference and hotel rooms. Tourism could become the country’s biggest moneyspinner and must be promoted,” an SA Tourism Board spokesman said.
John Dladlu

AS THE countdown to tomorrow's deadline continues, delegates from 188 countries of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are working long hours to reach agreement on the pre-conference text.

Trade department deputy director for bilateral relations Xavier Carim said negotiators had still not formulated a plan to involve developing countries in discussions on the proposed multilateral investment treaty.

The debate on the treaty is taking place within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, excluding poor countries.

The plans for a rules-based multilateral investment regime, along the lines of the World Trade Organisation, have already been criticised by non-governmental agencies from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

These groups say the plans for an investment treaty will take away governments' ability to support national industries and small firms.

Although the conference officially ends on Saturday, officials are planning to conclude work by tomorrow.

Apart from a political declaration from the presidency to guide UNCTAD for the next four years, agreement has to be reached on three areas of the pre-conference text: globalisation, development and trade; enterprise development and competitiveness; and UNCTAD's future work.

However, Carim said negotiators were moving towards agreement on UNCTAD's relationship to the WTO.

809/5/96 See Page 17
Delegates call for revamp of Unctad

THE role and the future of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, which is holding its ninth plenary in Midrand, has been put under the spotlight by delegates.

Ministers from Unctad's 188 countries took turns in what appeared to be ritual drum-beating, punctuating their 10-minute addresses with calls for the restructuring of Unctad.

Speakers called on Unctad, the only international agency that looks at the developmental dimension of trade, to refocus and streamline its activities.

The frequency and the tone of the calls almost obscured, rather than highlighted, the crucial role of Unctad in world trade: that is, lifting the dwindling share of developing nations — notably the least developed segment of this group — in global trade.

Critics of the organisation say it is the world's most spectacular "talking shop" and lacks effect at the country level.

But this claim is likely to be countered or even overshadowed by a short catalogue of achievements. This list, according to secretary-general Rubens Ricupero, includes driven countries in the 1970s to write off $6.5bn worth of public debt owed by developing countries and pioneering the general scheme of preferences, a system that grants, on a nonreciprocal basis, tariff preferences to developing nations.

In subsequent years, the organisation also played a role in the reduction of commercial debt, which continued to weigh on poor countries.

During the many rounds of trade talks, leading to last year's establishment of the World Trade Organisation, Unctad played a supportive and advisory role for poor nations in articulating their plights.

UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali adds to this list the role played by Unctad in international commodity agreements on cocoa, rubber and tropical hard woods.

Although the achievements are impressive, the global landscape under which Unctad emerged has changed dramatically: today, for instance, there are more actors in the development arena, compared with the 1970s in which governments and multilateral financial institutions dominated the scene.

In the trade arena the protracted talks on a rules-based multilateral trade system resulted in the birth of the World Trade Organisation last year.

In addition, UN observers say, Unctad's bureaucracy of 430 people — known as the secretariat in bureaucratic speak — is becoming huge and "top-heavy".

This situation, in spite of the many noble goals Unctad served, could not just be allowed to continue, especially when the UN system was starting to feel the pinch of financial crisis.

It is against this background that many Unctad members made the stern calls for reform of Unctad and realignment of its activities. It was, perhaps, the very same set of circumstances and the anticipation of these calls from member governments that prompted Ricupero to begin the introspection ahead of this year's conference.

On April 15 (weeks before the Midrand conference), Ricupero — with unswerving support from Boutros-Ghali — announced sweeping changes to the secretariat, cutting its nine divisions in four; appointing a co-ordinator for least developed countries and closing the top list.

The divisions are: globalisation and development strategies; investment, technology and enterprise; international trade and commodities; and services for development and trade efficiency.

It is still not clear how much will be saved by the restructuring, or how many people will lose jobs. Ricupero says even if there was no financial crisis in the UN system the changes, which come into effect after Midrand, would have been necessary.

Ricupero says there is a close link between the current session and the planned revamp of the secretariat. One of his wishes is to see mechanisms from the conference on implementing these areas of future orientation.

However, the real test of these changes will not be whether member states' voices are silenced, but the extent to which the changes in the secretariat are accompanied by Midrand declarations tomorrow — make a real difference in assisting developing countries to enjoy the opportunities of growth and trade in a globalising and liberalising economy.
SA praised for its role at UN trade conference

SOUTH Africa has drawn widespread praise for its role in forging compromise on difficult questions about liberalising trade between rich and poor countries at the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

The two-week conference, which was attended by 168 countries, ended in Midrand yesterday.

Under the leadership of South Africa's Trade and Industry Minister, Alec Erwin, it emerged revitalised and with a clear set of priorities.

Mr Erwin said it had been "very successful".

The conference's secretary general, Rubens Ricupero, said: "To a great extent the success of this conference is due to the role played by South Africa — the leadership of Mr Erwin and the example of South Africa itself."

The conference spent a lot of time discussing its future role. Mr Ricupero said the organisation had experienced a "rebirth". It had agreed on major reforms which focused the work of the conference around "a few priority trade and development issues on which it can make a substantial impact."

Three commissions were established to provide policy advice and technical assistance on trade, investment and enterprise development.

The idea of partnerships between developed and developing countries, and between governments, the private sector and non-governmental organisations, as the driving force for development was a central idea to emerge from the conference — and South Africa's experience made a large contribution."

The most important outcomes of the conference include:

● The world trade system: The conference was mandated to analyze issues around trade rules before these are presented at the World Trade Organisation. This is to ensure that interests of developing countries are taken into account. In particular, the impact of the recent rules on net food importing countries and stringent intellectual property rights should be assessed.

● Investment rules: The conference is to discuss the framework for a multilateral investment agreement, an issue being discussed by OECD countries.

● Environmental sanctions: to ensure that environmental policies in developed countries are not used to prevent market access by developing countries, policies must be transparent and their impact on developing countries must be assessed; and

● Debt reduction: the conference reaffirmed the need for debt relief, and decided to encourage agencies like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to consider ways to do this.
NEW FOCUS FOR THE YEAR

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UN's first chief from black Africa in catch-22 situation, say envoys

NEW YORK - Kofi Annan, who will replace Boutros Boutros-Ghali as Secretary-General of the United Nations, faces a daunting task to transform the overburdened and financially drained world body into a lean and effective organisation.

Mr Boutros-Ghali, who withdrew from the race to lead the UN for five more years after the unrelenting objections of the United States, was widely respected for his intellect and devotion to the job, but his critics, led by Washington, said he had embraced small-scale reforms only under pressure.

They said he was more interested in policy than in sound administration.

Now Mr Annan, a 58-year-old Ghanaian who has been praised by President Bill Clinton as "an able and energetic manager - professional, impartial, well-versed in the issues at hand and a true proponent of reform" - must implement far-reaching changes as soon as he takes over from Mr Boutros-Ghali on January 1. He will be the first head of the UN from black Africa.

After the 15-member Security Council voted to recommend the UN bureaucrat as the next secretary-general, Mr Annan said: "My highest priority will be to work with all member states to redefine the objectives of the organisation in the post-Cold War world. It is time to agree on what the UN can do and must do and what it cannot do."

But sceptics wonder how Mr Annan, himself a product of the UN bureaucracy, will be able to implement the tough reforms demanded by the Clinton administration and its allies such as Britain and Germany.

The reforms include "paring away deadwood", reducing staff and perks, reining in outdated agencies, cutting paperwork and conferences and reducing the number of peacekeeping operations.

"It is difficult to imagine how Annan will implement all of these changes without rocking the boat, particularly because he is the product of the same bureaucracy he must dismantle," said one African diplomat.

Another African envoy said: "He faces a catch-22 situation. If he moves slowly, he will be condemned like his predecessor. If he moves quickly, he may demoralise the UN. One way or another he may get his fingers burned."

Mr Annan has had a 30-year career with the UN, with posts in Ethiopia, Egypt, Switzerland and the United States where he operated as under-secretary-general for peacekeeping.

"If he comes out early with a plan to make top-to-bottom reform, he will find people in the US Congress willing to work with him," said Marc Thiessen, a spokesman for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee led by conservative Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

Mr Boutros-Ghali did implement a few reforms, cutting his senior staff when he came in 1991, proposing to cut a further 10 percent of the 10,000-strong permanent UN staff and stick to a zero-growth budget.

Now Mr Annan must do better than this.
ANNAN TAKES OVER

An emotional Daniel-Abibi, the Congo delegate to the UN, said: “This is a great day for the sons of Africa.” The occasion was the swearing in of Kofi Annan, the 58-year-old Ghanaian, as the first UN Secretary-General from sub-Saharan Africa.

Unlike his Egyptian predecessor Boutros Boutros Ghali, vetted out of a second five-year term by the US after a turbulent first term which included the bungled peace-keeping mission in Bosnia, Annan is universally popular at the UN.

He is popular even though, as Under Secretary in charge of peace-keeping, he was at the sharp end of affairs in Bosnia. He was sent to Sarajevo last year amid speculation that Boutros Ghali was trying to put a rival into a political no-win situation as the failed, demoralised UN Protection Force handed over to Nato.

But Annan emerged with plaudits all round and ultimately the winner of a battle in the Security Council between France and the US. Having backed Boutros Ghali and then two Francophone African candidates (both vetted), France finally accepted Annan — who speaks French.

For all but two years — 1974-1976 when he diverted to head Ghana’s Tourist Development — the UN has been Annan’s career since 1962. Indeed some delegates were initially uneasy about his long absence from Africa.

The son of Henry, paramount chief of the Fante people, Annan was educated in Ghana but won a Ford Foundation scholarship to study economics in the US, went on to earn a post graduate degree in Geneva and finally an MSC at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Starting with the World Health Organisation, Annan worked mainly in administration and personnel in UN agencies in Geneva, Cairo and Addis Ababa and married a Swedish artist, Nane (they have three children), before moving to headquarters in New York in 1986.

There Annan handled some of the stickiest jobs — programme planning and the budget — given the woeful state of the UN’s finances, before being appointed in 1993 to his first diplomatic post as head of peace-keeping in the middle of the Bosnian crisis.

As the first UN professional to become Secretary-General, Annan knows exactly what is involved. He describes the job as multifaceted — administrator and manager but “also a political and diplomatic role and, above all, a moral voice which should be heard when necessary.”

He acknowledges the UN failed in its protective role in Bosnia and such horrors as the massacre of Muslims at Srebrenica but says lessons have been learnt. In the Bosnian situation Unprofor lacked a clearly defined mandate and was “seen as being everything to everybody.”

The UN had also learnt the need for its “Blue Berets” to have a concrete mandate plus the resources to carry it out and to defend themselves.

On the subject of Germany and Japan being elected permanent members of the Security Council, Annan says this is necessary to reflect today’s realities as opposed to 51 years ago.

But “they cannot expect to get in (as permanent members) alone,” he said. “There are other countries in other regions with legitimate aspirations and if we are going to try to make this organisation a bit more democratic, then we need to broaden the council.”

He has little sympathy with UN member countries who complain of being “pushed around” by bigger nations. They had “a right to speak up and defend their interests.” If some felt they were victims “it is their own fault. . . Nobody can push you around unless you allow it.”

Annan said Africa would take “quite a lot of my time” but added that only political solutions could resolve the crises in the Great Lakes region, Sudan, Liberia and Angola.

Refusing to comment directly on whether Boutros Ghali had been made a “scapegoat” by the US, Annan paid tribute to the Egyptian’s contribution, adding: “I think history will judge him much more kindly . . . and realistically than I have seen in some quarters.”

Annan is giving priority to the task of improving relations with member governments and restoring the UN’s credibility, especially with the US whose budget contribution is $1.6bn in arrears. He says it is important to get member states to reaffirm their belief in the UN.

“But it is equally important that we really demystify the UN and not make it so bureaucratic and distant from the average person. I believe that if we have the support of the people, if they understand what we are trying to do, the politicians will be there.”
Plans to restructure the UN unveiled by Annan

New chief in bid to meet US demands so that they pay arrears of about $1-billion

Secretary-General Kofi Annan has outlined the first detailed, concrete plans for streamlining the United Nations in the hope of polishing its image, solving its financial problems and persuading the US Congress to authorise spending for about $1-billion (about R4,4-billion) in unpaid American dues.

His proposals, the first part of a reform programme Annan, of Ghana, promised when he assumed the job in January, deal mainly with management and organisational matters that fall under the secretary-general's personal authority.

They involve shifting some $200-million (about R880-million) in bureaucratic spending to development aid, reducing budget and staff levels and reorganising parts of the New York-based secretariat.

The response was favourable, both from the administration and from the most powerful critic of the United Nations in the US Congress, Senator Jesse Helms, the Republican chairman of the senate foreign relations committee. Annan called Helms earlier this week to brief him on the proposals.

Helms' spokesman, Mark Thiessen, called the secretary-general's announcement "a good first step in the right direction." But he said the senator wants to ensure the staff cuts are real. "We don't want any shell games here," he said.

He added that Helms will press for conditions to be written into legislation authorising payment of Washington's arrears to ensure that certain goals are met before any money is paid.

Annan was chosen for the position after Washington vetted a second term for his predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt, saying he had not done enough to promote change at the United Nations.

"Congress said it will pay if it gets reform. We are giving them reform. I hope they will deliver on their part of the bargain," Annan said at a news conference.

Washington's chief delegate to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, called the proposals "a significant step towards the kind of structural reform that will help the United Nations do more, better and for less."

Annan said he will present a package of more sweeping suggestions in July for the long term, for which he would seek members' states' approval.

Diplomats say that any improvement in the UN's financial prospects is likely to be tied to the fate of this second package.

Among the changes the United States is hoping to negotiate is a cut in its share of the total UN budget.

The administration wants Congress to appropriate some $1,2-billion (about R5,5-billion) to pay back dues to the United Nations and other international organisations but favours withholding most of the money until 1999, when the outcome of the latest spending cuts should be clear.

Under the new budget, 1,000 staff posts, mostly currently vacant, will remain unfilled.

Other plans include the merging of the secretariat's three separate departments dealing with economic, social issues into one, taking steps to co-ordinate aid agencies' field operations more tightly and consolidating the separate administrative, personnel and procurement services these agencies maintain in New York.

The secretary-general also plans to overhaul the UN information department and draw up a code of conduct for staff. While he can make most of these changes on his own authority, much more depends on the US administration. Staff cuts, including of 2,5% of the Peacekeeping budget, to the tune of $100 million, are expected to be the first to be announced from thepeacekeeping budget, to the tune of $100 million, are expected to be the first to be announced. The cuts approved by the Security Council, which is made up of permanent members of the Security Council, are expected to be the first to be announced. The cuts approved by the Security Council, which is made up of permanent members of the Security Council, are expected to be the first to be announced.
UN gears up for radical reforms

THE UNITED NATIONS’ largest fiefdoms are under threat from a move to consolidate its scattered agencies, JAMES BONE writes from New York.

The United Nations is preparing a radical restructuring of its humanitarian and development functions as part of a sweeping reform plan intended to ready the organisation for the next century.

Officials say that plans are being made to consolidate disparate UN agencies and departments in a move that threatens some of the largest fiefdoms of the organisation’s system. The UN Development Programme, the UN Fund for Population Activities, the UN Children’s Fund and the three economic departments of the UN Secretariat are to be brought together in what has been tentatively titled the Development Operations Group or “Dog”.

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs at UN headquarters in New York, which was created at Britain’s insistence after the exodus of the Iraqi Kurds and the floods in Bangladesh in 1991, will be wrapped into the Geneva-based UN High Commission for Refugees. Mr Kofi Annan, the secretary-general, is under pressure to revamp the organisation to win back the whole-hearted support of the United States, which owes more than $1 billion (R4.5bn) in dues to the world body.

The UN chief has promised to unveil his blueprint for reform in July and has appointed Mr Maurice Strong, a Canadian businessman and UN expert, to prepare the report. The first details of the planned restructuring began to seep out at UN headquarters as agency heads and other senior officials gathered in New York last week to discuss the changes.

Questions still remain, however, about the place of the World Food Programme, whose work is three quarters humanitarian relief and one quarter development. Also uncertain is how the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation will fit into the new structure. The Departments of Political Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations at UN headquarters are expected to remain separate, although they will work more closely together.

The cumbersome Department of Public Information has already been renamed the Office for Communications and Media Services and a committee set up to redirect its work.

Annan has pledged to cut 1,000 posts by attrition from the 10,000-strong bureaucracy of the UN Secretariat by the end of the century, saving tens of millions of dollars a year. But there is growing concern about the ageing of the UN staff, which has been caused by a long-running hiring freeze.

The average age of the permanent UN staff is now 48 and about half are due to retire over the next 10 years. Only 5% of staff in the UN Secretariat are under 35. Germany, meanwhile, is pushing for the creation of a new World Environment Organisation and is offering office space in Bonn which is to be vacated when the German government moves to Berlin. The proposed body would take over from the troubled UN Environment Programme, which is based in Nairobi, and the Commission for Sustainable Development created after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, is expected to make his country’s pitch for the new organisation at an environmental summit scheduled to take place at UN headquarters at the end of next month. — The Times, London.
Cabinet to debate bid for UN security council seat

CLIVE SAWYER

The Foreign Ministry will ask the Cabinet within the next two weeks whether South Africa should apply for a seat on the United Nations security council.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Aziz Pahad said the ministry would not put a specific recommendation to the Cabinet. "We will offer them a range of options."

Factors in the decision would include South Africa's human and financial resources, and what its objective would be in trying for a council seat.

Mr Pahad said it was widely acknowledged, including by the developed states, that there was a need to restructure the UN general assembly and security council. "It seemed certain that Japan and Germany would get permanent seats, while there were continuing discussions on the share of security council seats which should be given jointly to Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The Non-Aligned Movement had proposed two new permanent seats on the council for Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as another two non-permanent seats, while the Organisation of African Unity was considering saying that even the two permanent seats should be rotational.

Mr Pahad said the other issue of contention was about powers of veto.

Currently the five permanent members of the council each have a veto on resolutions.

The Non-Aligned Movement and OAU stance is that there cannot be two classes of membership of the council, one with a veto and the other without.

Addressing a press briefing in Cape Town, Mr Pahad said South Africa was also "deeply concerned" about the situation in Angola.

Unita had been told that if it failed to conform to the Lusaka protocols by the end of the month, it would face UN security council sanctions.

"South Africa is very concerned that if sanctions are imposed in our region we must ensure those sanctions are realistically applied."

Mr Pahad said this country hoped that Unita would understand the realities of the current situation in Angola.

Mr Pahad announced the retirement of Rusty Evans, director-general of foreign affairs. He said Mr Evans would assist in the selection of his successor, who is to take office at the end of the year.
Central Africa on the brink

The United Nations finds it difficult getting a foothold

By Farhan Haq

T he United Nations must build trust among the new leadership in Central Africa and also insist on investigating reports of atrocities in the region, UN secretary-general Kofi Annan said a few days ago.

"We are dealing with new regimes that are to some extent fragile and not well-established," Annan said of the governments of the Great Lakes region, which include Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire).

The UN chief said, however, that regardless of the fragility of governments in the region "the record is disturbing," particularly reports of human rights violations.

Annan urged greater action to investigate human rights abuses and support the decision of the UN high commissioner on Human Rights, Mary soonas Kodjo, to refer to the Security Council requests to investigate in these countries.

In a speech, he has been limited in what he could say, and was criticized by human rights groups for bowing to severa people's demands, including replacing the former UN high commissioner for human rights, José Guy Uwemakan, by Roberto Carmona.

But Annan insisted on Thursday last week that he would continue pushing for an investigation into reports that the Congolese government - once the rebel force that ousted Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, who died 10 days ago, continued atrocities in the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu.

"We are determined to get to the facts," he said. "If patterns continue and [the Congolese government] is not willing to do their work, then the facts will be clear for the world to judge."

At the same time, Annan noted that the history of the region could have convinced many new leaders not to trust the United Nations or Western powers, which have been blamed for propping up the Mobutu regime.

Some of the leaders in Central Africa, he noted, were supporters of Congo's first prime minister, Patrice Lumumba.

"For some of them, they believe the international community deprived them of the chance to rule Congo," Annan argued.

As a result, he said, many regional leaders are wary of UN involvement because they believe they could also be overthrown.

Several regional leaders - notably President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda - have mentioned American and French support for Mobutu as a reason to maintain their distance from some Western countries.

Museveni, Kagame and Aristide forged close ties with the Congolese government when they were exiled leaders based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and remain in close contact.

US ambassador to the UN Bill Richardson met recently with Annan's diminutive and well-received in the region, the RNM report.

Since Mobutu assumed power in 1965, Annan said, the United Nations has received mixed signals from the government, especially in delaying its investigations into the mass arrests in the eastern provinces.

The UN inspector general's report of the investigations of the United Nations in the region, including the Rwandan army, has committed abuses which must be investigated, said Richard Rich,

"We will work very closely with the UN to prevent this from happening ever again in Rwanda."

But Annan has also conceded that the record shows that some of the leaders in the region, including the Rwandan army, have committed abuses which must be investigated, said Annan.

Richardson, who has met with Annan several times in recent months, has also openly urged stronger steps to deal with Kinshasa's right record.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan... building trust among the new leadership in Central Africa is of utmost importance.

But Annan has also conceded that the record shows that some of the leaders in the region, including the Rwandan army, have committed abuses which must be investigated, said Annan.

"We will work very closely with the UN to prevent this from happening ever again in Rwanda."

After months of suggesting that Kinshasa needs time and support to establish its government, the US ambassador to the UN this week affirmed that the mission of the new president, Kibaki, allowing the UN rights monitoring mission to continue.

"Unless the UN mission takes effective steps to protect the Kibaki government," Annan said, "the importance of lasting the investigations is going to be lost.

"We are not concerned that the region is going to do something," Annan said.

"We do not want to see the region move back to the state of unrest."

But Annan, however, will hope to be able to complete the UN investigation and to help in mediating the conflict in neighboring Congo-Brazzaville.

Although plans to dispatch UN troops there have been set aside while fighting rages in the capital, Annan said troop could be sent once a peace agreement between President Pascal Lissouba and former president Denis Sassou-Nguesso is in place.

He added that there had been hopeful signs that the fighting in that conflict was coming to a halt with their troops in Brazzaville.

Perhaps the United Nations should appeal to soldiers directly in such conflicts, Annan said, saying "they will not have to wait for the UN to get involved."

SAPA-AP
UN ethos kept in view as world body steers a reformist course

Potentially lifesaving reform is topping the United Nations’ agenda as the general assembly starts a new session, write Michael Littlejohns and Laura Silber.

UN ethos kept in view as world body steers a reformist course

for reform of the UN, crafted in another era, haunted by recent failures in Somalia and former Yugoslavia, and facing financial woes.

There is wide support for Annan’s moves to overhaul the UN bureaucracy, slash budgets, merge overlapping programmes and deliver the savings to the poorest states as development aid.

Annan has introduced a cabinet-style administration, a radical departure from the intensely personal style of governance of predecessor Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

He has abolished 1,000 secretariat posts, reducing the staff to about 9,000, although critics in the US Congress are clamouring for more cuts.

Annan, who was educated in the US and has spent much of his career at the UN in New York, has tried to pacify conservatives in the US, even scoring modest success with the hawkish Sen Jesse Helms, chairman of the US Senate’s foreign relations committee.

The US wants the new general assembly to agree to a reduction in its contribution to the UN budget (known as its assessment) during the next three years from 25% to 20% and has imposed several conditions for a partial payment of its arrears, including a requirement that Congress be consulted before the UN mounts any new peacekeeping mission and even proposing that congressional auditors routinely examine the UN books.

Bill Richardson, US, ambassador to the UN, recently travelled the world to lobby for support for the US proposal. Last week he said he was encouraged because China did not reject it outright. The new scale of assessments is supposed to be approved before the end of the year.

Some UN experts say that despite apparently deep divisions, this deadline may be met, especially if China’s current low rate of less than 1% is raised to 4% — in part because increased national income after acquisition of Hong Kong; and if Japan, already the second biggest contributor, agrees to pay about 19%.

The European Union would have to hand over about 31%, an increase of five percentage points, which many delegates say would be unacceptable.

Last week Richardson said he expected Congress to approve $930m, to pay the “lion’s share” of its debt to the world body.

However UN observers say this promise will not necessarily refill depleted UN coffers. The bottom line is that there is not going to be more than $100m in fiscal year 1998 (from the US), and that money can only be paid subject to a number of conditions,” said Steve Dimoff, Washington vice-president of the UN Association.

Malaysia’s UN ambassador, Rezaali Ismail, says he will refuse to allow Washington to pay anything less than its full dues. “We must call the Americans’ bluff. We must be ready to play poker with them,” said Ismail, outgoing general assembly president.

It is not clear how pressure could be brought to bear on the US, and while the UN will try to win approval for a new budget, senior officials are acutely aware they must not get bogged down solely with reform issues.

“The mindset of reform should become an essential part of the way we do business. But no matter how vital reform is for our future, we should not allow the process to obscure the broader picture: our work for peace, development and human rights,” Annan has told UN staff.

Yet reforms are crucial for the UN, believes Ismail. Otherwise a marginalised organisation would, he says, limp ineffectually from crisis to crisis. “The greatest danger for the UN is creeping irrelevance.” — Financial Times.
Third World will agree to a more representative Council only if they are admitted to the elite world body.
Bloated UN seeks to reinvent itself

Annisa Powlussen

Sitting in the United Nations General Assembly, the representatives of member countries representing the world body are debating the need for reform. The United Nations is facing criticism for its inefficiency and bloated bureaucracy, with demands for a more streamlined and efficient organization.

UN reforms are among the chief topics to be discussed by this year's session, which is scheduled to last until the end of the month.

In an effort to placate critics that the UN has become too expensive and unwieldy, Secretary-General Annan has tabled proposals which would streamline the institution's overlapping bureaucracy.

While the reforms have won a generous dose of goodwill among UN supporters, including many of the states that are the largest contributors, they have not satisfied the harshest critics, including influential members of the US Congress.

The members of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which has a major role in the funding for foreign bodies, said that they were not impressed by Annan's proposals introduced in July.

"In the US, there are people in Washington who want to see a much quicker and much deeper cut, but one that is less in some ways and in certain conditions or in some instances, even too little," said Senator Rod Gramm, a member of the committee.

"Not one programme was cut. It looks like the bureaucracy won the day and reform is a distant second," he added.

Annan, who has been the target of much criticism from member states, has sought to address the issue of reform by proposing a number of measures to reduce the size and cost of the UN's operations. These include:

- Merging the roles of the Secretary-General and the General Assembly, with the Secretary-General now serving as the single chief administrator.
- Reducing the number of UN staff by 1,000, or a 10 percent cut, from the current 14,000.
- Streamlining the UN's budget by cutting administrative costs by at least 20 percent.
- Implementing reforms to improve the efficiency of UN agencies.
- Establishing a new UN Development Fund to focus on poverty eradication.

Despite these proposals, the reforms have met with resistance from some member states, particularly from the US and Russia, who have expressed concerns over the impact of the reforms on their influence within the UN.

"I am underwhelmed," said Senator Richard Lugar, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "I was not impressed by the proposals introduced in July.美丽的人要先明白自己

It looks like bureaucracy won the day."
Nzo hails Annan plans to reform world body

WASHINGTON - Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo has praised United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan's proposals to transform the world body from an overburdened and financially drained institution into an efficient organisation ready to grapple with the challenges of the post-Cold War era.

Addressing the General Assembly, Mr Nzo called on member states to pay their dues and thus help Mr Annan, the first secretary-general of the world body from sub-Saharan Africa, rescue the organisation from near-bankruptcy.

"The zeal which the secretary-general has displayed in addressing, through his reform, the difficulties confronting this organisation is impressive," Mr Nzo told the 186-member assembly.

Reforms of the UN are among the chief topics to be discussed during this year's General Assembly debates.
SA launches
Africa's bid for Security Council role

New York – South Africa has announced its intention to push for an overhaul of the UN Security Council that will expand membership to include at least two permanent members from Africa, and curb the veto power of the five original members.

Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said at the opening of the UN's 52nd General Assembly here yesterday that the restructuring of the Security Council was “central to the process of modernisation of the United Nations”.

It was necessary to “redress existing imbalances and transform it into a transparent organisation accountable to its broader membership”.

“South Africa fully supports the Non-Aligned Movement’s position that there should be no partial or selective expansion in the membership of the Security Council to the detriment of developing countries.”

“The re-affirmation by the Harare summit of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) of Africa’s claim for two permanent and five non-permanent seats, with the same powers and prerogatives enjoyed by the current permanent members, is consistent with the (UN) Charter principle of equitable geographical representation,” he said.

Broaching a subject likely to be the biggest stumbling block to reform talks, Mr Nzo said: “The democratisation of the Council hinges on the veto being either eliminated or extended to the new permanent members. Permanent membership without the veto represents merely a symbolic gesture to new permanent members that would serve to perpetuate an unjust and discriminatory practice.”

In an interview later, Mr Nzo said South Africa would accept a permanent seat on the Council, even if it did not come with a veto right.
UN chief cautions in reform crossfire
It's time for UN to act on Africa - Nzo

But 'positive focus' praised

MARCO GRAMELLI
FOREIGN SERVICE

New York - The United Nations Security Council's concern about Africa is a positive start but concrete action is needed to solve the continent's problems, South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said here.

Commenting at the end of the formal ministerial meeting of the council, which he attended as an observer, Mr Nzo urged the council to take action and not just talk.

"One can only hope that the focus of this meeting will indeed be a programme of action by those countries that think they can help us in solving our problems in Africa.

"But as long as it becomes merely talk, then the situation stays where it was before and no change will come about. So we hope this discussion will be translated into a programme of action - a programme that will bring about concrete change to the situation."

However, he said it was encouraging that the council had for the first time discussed the continent with a positive focus rather than concentrate on individual crises.

The council asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to submit a report by February on the causes of conflict in Africa as well as concrete proposals to prevent and address conflicts and how to "lay the foundation for durable peace and economic growth".

The report will be presented to the Security Council, the General Assembly and other UN organs early next year and will form the basis for a UN plan of action on Africa. It is likely the report will focus on economic development issues.
SA is key to future of region, UN says

Hayati Can South Africa and its 13 Southern African Development Community (SADC) partners create a platform for sub-Saharan Africa's economic renaissance?

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) tackles this question in its 1997 World Investment Report, published this week. The report concludes that national efforts, rather than regional restructuring, are more likely to help southern Africa's economic development in the immediate future.

All analysts agree that the effect of economic spillovers in southeast Asia was crucial to the region's success. For South Africa to perform a similar role in sub-Saharan Africa, Pretoria would have to lead the region through trade and foreign direct investment, says Unctad.

On the trade side, rapid regional export growth by South Africa is reflected in the growing trade deficits of its neighbours, Unctad says.

More importantly, South Africa could help kickstart the region by increased direct investment in other SADC states, technology transfer and export growth by South African companies relocating or investing in SADC countries.

But Unctad says two preconditions must first be satisfied. First there must be free access to the South African market for exports from its SADC partners. This access is currently available only to Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland.

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The second condition is faster growth in South Africa itself. The signs are this will not happen before 1999, especially if agriculture is hard hit by the El Niño factor over the next few months.

Unctad says developments in South Africa's manufacturing industry will be crucial, suggesting a situation whereby South Africa moves upmarket into more capital- and skills-intensive activities, vacating low-skill, labour-intensive industries that could be taken up by its SADC regional partners.

It is an attractive prospect, but one unlikely to materialise any time soon. South Africa's own massive unemployment problem will make it think twice before "passing on" job-intensive investment projects to its partners.

A further difference between the Asian and African models is that US demand was crucial in driving the industrialisation of southeast Asia. In Africa, such foreign export demand is confined largely to primary goods. South Africa cannot realistically expect its small and poor African neighbours to stimulate its export sector; and vice-versa.

But this is not to say South Africa will not play a key role in boosting the region's economic performance, provided Pretoria can raise growth rates to a respectable 4 or 5 percent, rather than the 2.3 percent currently forecast for 1997. — Reuter
SA ‘spurns’ seat at centre of real power

No inclination to push for non-permanent place on Security Council despite having full credentials

Marcia Ghanelli
New York

This week the United Nations General Assembly will elect five countries to take up non-permanent seats on the Security Council for a period of two years. Two of these will be from Africa, bringing to three the number of African countries represented on the most powerful body in the world. And once again Africa’s most powerful nation will not be among them.

In spite of its continental influence, its military and economic clout, its stature as a founder member of the United Nations and the fact its contributions exceed all those by other African countries – South Africa remains out in the cold in the one arena of true world power.

There is only one reason the powerhouse of Africa has yet to take its place among the world’s elite: its government’s reluctance to challenge an outdated “gentlemen’s agreement” between southern African countries to rotate the non-permanent seats granted to the region.

The UN Charter divides the ten non-permanent Security Council seats between Africa and Asia (five), Western Europe (two), Latin America and the Caribbean (two) and Eastern Europe (one).

Non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms and may not be immediately re-elected. Take away any agreements or understandings and South Africa could theoretically serve on the Security Council every four years. But in reality, southern and eastern Africa share one seat, which means southern Africa only gets a seat every two years. The region then has an agreement to further rotate this seat between its 10 members.

The bottom line is that by following the letter of the unwritten agreement, South Africa may serve only every 40 years on the most sought-after panel in the world.

The region’s quandary is further exacerbated by a history of regional conflict and apartheid which has seen very few take up their position in the rotation until now. South Africa (because of its suspended participation in the UN) Namibia (because it only recently gained independence from South Africa, Angola and Mozambique (both because of civil wars) all have never served.

Now that the region enjoys relative stability all are eagerly anticipating an international role so long denied them or out of their reach. First up is Namibia – it has announced its candidature for the seat vacated by Kenya this year. Then the seat returns to east Africa and only when it returns to the South in 2003 will South Africa stand for election.

The system, while undeniably democratic, is not without its critics and growing pressure is being placed on South Africa to at least re-invent a roster which would see it serving more frequently.

Observers at the UN said eyebrows were raised back in 1994 when South Africa made way for Botswana to be elected unchallenged to the Security Council. Those eyebrows have climbed even higher since Namibia announced it was standing for the next seat in 1999 – again without argument from its powerful neighbours.

“The Security Council is not about democracy,” explained one delegate. “It’s about power and South Africa’s reticence to stand is puzzling to say the least.”

Critics of the system argue that consideration should be given to factors such as the realities of a country’s economic and military influence and its UN contribution. While the charter does not limit participation in the Security Council, it does insist that when electing new members, “due regard be specially paid to the first inhabitants of the territories of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security”.

It is here South Africa stands head and shoulders above other challengers. South Africa pays the highest membership fee in Africa – last year it contributed 0.33% of the UN budget (R18-million), nearly three times more than Nigeria which contributed only 0.11% and four times as much as Egypt with 0.08%.

All other southern African countries contributed the bare minimum of 0.01% (about R470 000).

South Africa is in the top quarter of member states when it comes to contributions, even out-ranking countries such as India and New Zealand. When it comes to peacemaking operations, South Africa is the only African country classified a “developed country” which means its contributions dwarf its continental neighbours.

But there is another way out: a revised regional roster which would recognize South Africa’s power and influence and would ensure the country was elected to the Security Council more frequently. Such a system is the norm elsewhere in the world. In Asia, the more powerful countries dominate the seats. Japan serves every five years, on average, and has served three times since 1970. India too takes up a seat fairly regularly and Pakistan also manages a term every eight years or so.

But South Africa’s permanent representative to the UN, Khighestuzele, defended the rotation system and said South Africa was not interested in altering it.

“This system runs very smoothly. There are no hiccups or friction – unlike in other parts of the world where seats are contested. A seat on the Security Council is highly prestigious and along with it comes national pride and a lot of responsibility.

Contesting for the same seat would not be very nice.”

He said it was an adopted rotation model that the equality principle was derived from and that wanted to jump the queue and have economic influence, respect and its presence. This system is simple to understand. It allows the use force and economic and political power to be binding on all.

In Africa, the only body in which the currency is used is the Security Council. The country is expected to pay its dues and its share is expected to be collected.

But it allows for security. The council needs for a council meeting to be held in order to have its decisions imposed. The secretary-general of the council is responsible for the...
countries such as
1. When it comes to
2. South Africa is
3. classified as
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23. unlike other
24. seats are con-
25. sultant. The Council is
26. with it comes of
27. responsibility
28. Contending for the seats can lead to friction
29. and diplomatic tension with neighbours.
30. That can be very divisive.”
31. He said it was for this reason Africa had
32. adopted a rotation system which recog-
33. nised the equality of nations. “We do not
34. want to jump the queue. We respect all
35. countries - regardless of their size or eco-
36. nomic influence. That is the African
37. approach, and it is also Africa’s ap-
38. proach. This system has given Africa the
39. respect and admiration of the world and we
40. are happy to wait our turn.”
41. The reason such national pride and im-
42. portance is attached to a seat is not hard to
43. understand. As the only body empowered
44. to use force and other measures (including
45. economic and diplomatic sanctions), and
46. the only body in the UN whose decisions
47. are binding on all UN member states - un-
48. like General Assembly resolutions which
49. are merely “recommendations” - the coun-
50. cil holds mighty sway.
51. But it also operates beyond peace and se-
52. curity. The Council’s endorsement is
53. needed for a number of other matters in-
54. cluding membership to the UN and the post
55. of secretary general (as was evidenced last
56. year when the council effectively fired
57. Boutros Boutros Ghali).
58. “The Security Council is the only place
59. with any real clout,” explained one dele-
60. gate. “It is the one international organ
61. which no state can disregard - it’s got teeth.
62. That’s why it’s so important for the five per-
63. manent members to hold on to their seats
64. and veto power - because they realise the
65. influence it gives them.”
66. While non-permanent members have no
67. “veto power” enjoyed by the permanent
68. five members, they still play a vital role in
69. the council. Decisions of the council require at least nine votes and
70. it operates largely on consensus.
71. The veto, while overarching, is not fre-
72. quently exercised - particularly since the
73. end of the Cold War. In the past eight years,
74. the veto has been exercised only twice;
75. five times by the United States,
76. twice by Russia and once by China. Recent
77. decisions regarding sanctions against
78. UN and Sierra Leone were unanimous.
79. “For the Security Council to be effective
80. it requires consensus,” explained a
81. spokesman. “It would quickly lose its effec-
82. tiveness were each decision governed by
83. the five permanent members. The fact non-
84. permanent seats are so highly prized is
85. proof of their importance. All 15 members
86. have equal opportunity to raise issues,
87. away opinion and vote.”
88. Jele said the fact that South Africa
89. would only serve every 40 years under the
90. system did not mean the country would
91. take a back seat in international affairs.
92. “We serve on almost all the committees at
93. the UN. There are other ways of assuming
94. responsibility other than a Security Coun-
95. cil seat.”
96. But this holds little water with some dele-
97. gates - including some from its own re-
98. gion. “If a country wants something done,
99. it doesn’t approach its regional leaders - it
100. goes to its closest friend on the Security
102. “South Africa must decide whether it
103. wants to play a more meaningful role in
104. international affairs or not. The choice is
105. clear. It’s chairmanship of SADC is impor-
106. tant but it is a unifying rather than leader-
107. ship role. The real influence is in the Secu-
108. rity Council. If the present system is
109. retained SA will never be more than a re-
110. gional power on the tip of Africa.”
Embezzlement in head faces ingesting act

UN boss Kofi Annan tellsEdward Mortimer and Helen lammeter with the world

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Nanogr"
Embattled UN needs a fresh focus, broader mandate and fatter budget to do the work

UN boss Keori Amun, UN chief, world leader and global financier
UN assembly close to adopting Annan's reform package

NEW YORK — The United Nations (UN) General Assembly could adopt the first phase of a UN reform package next week after making progress yesterday at closed-door talks, UN diplomats said.

A participant at the negotiating session of about 25 key states, including the main holdout, Pakistan, said delegates were “very close” to agreement on endorsing reforms that UN chief Kofi Annan could implement under his own authority.

Diplomats said the “final touches” to a draft resolution were expected yesterday, and that the 185-nation general assembly could meet at the beginning of next week to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

The measures include Annan’s proposal for a deputy secretary-general and various streamlining actions. But it was uncertain how Pakistan’s objections, notably to a disarmament department to be set up at UN headquarters, would be accommodated. Diplomats said the likeliest possibility would be for the resolution to welcome Annan’s plans… and encourage him to implement them while bearing in mind views expressed by delegations.

The assembly then embarks on discussing other parts of Annan’s reform, which include recommendations to governments. A diplomat said this week that those discussions “could take 10 years.” — Sape AFP.
West dominates UN body

GENEVA — No representatives of sub-Saharan Africa are taking part in the discussions within the United Nations’ committee on the elimination of racial discrimination this year.

The committee started its first period of meetings on Monday, with a representation of nations biased toward western countries.

Of the 18 members of the body, 10 come from Europe, four from Latin America, three from Asia and only one, Egypt’s Mahmoud Aboul-Nasr, from Africa.

The absence of representatives from southern Africa was judged by other members as a delicate problem, compounded by the low number of women, with only three in the entity.

Outgoing committee president, Britain’s Michael Parker Bantock, said the distribution of seats “creates a very serious panorama”.

Indian expert Shamil Sadiq Ali described the situation as “tragic” because it was stated in the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination that “all civilizations must be represented geographically in our committee”.

The last two committee representatives from sub-Saharan Africa, Niger’s Hamzat Ahmadu and Zimbabwe’s Andrew Chigogora, withdrew last year.

The absence of delegates from sub-Saharan Africa is due to internal problems, sources say.

UN deputy high commissioner for human rights Enrique ter Horst said that governmental delegates from sub-Saharan Africa could not reach the agreement necessary to designate representatives during the meeting of member states in New York last January.

— Sapa-IPS.
Charting roads not yet travelled

JACOB SELEBI,
South Africa's ambassador to the United Nations, was this week unanimously elected to chair the UN Human Rights Commission. We record Selebi's opening address to the 54th session of the commission in Geneva.

It is a great privilege and honour for my country, and me personally, to have been elected chairman of the 54th session of the Commission on Human Rights. I should like to thank the African Group for nominating me and the members of the commission for the support and confidence expressed in electing me chairman.

Ambassador Somoli, my immediate predecessor, deserves our special thanks for his enthusiasm and indefatigable spirit, not only during the past session but also over the intervening period.

By electing a South African to this most important of international human rights bodies, the commission is sending a very important and symbolic message. No country or situation before or since has captured the attention of the commission in the way that apartheid South Africa did.

Over several decades, the commission adopted scores of resolutions condemning apartheid. It created several mechanisms to investigate the massive and systematic violations perpetrated in South Africa under the pernicious system of racial discrimination and the flagrant abuses of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In 1995, the commission was finally able to remove the question of apartheid from its agenda, in recognition of the developments that had taken place in South Africa since the previous year. Today, it is a very different South Africa that is able to participate in the UN. We are a country and people that cherish our hard-won liberties and we are rightly proud of our new constitution, our national institutions, designed to strengthen, promote and protect human rights, and our vibrant civil society.

In saying these things, I am not trying to suggest that we have a perfect human rights record: we do not. The stresses and strains placed upon our society by decades of humiliation and human rights abuses cannot be expunged overnight. Like other societies, we are coming to terms with our past and struggling to create our future.

This year our deliberations coincide with the 50th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the coming weeks we shall have many occasions to speak to the importance of this instrument. At this stage I should like to share with you my vision of how the commission should honour this event.

I can think of no better way for the commission to commemorate the adoption of the universal declaration than for us to express our support for those who devote themselves to defending the ideals enshrined in this document. This brings to me the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which was adopted by the working group, by consensus, earlier this month. The importance of this instrument has been recorded over many previous sessions of the commission. I am very grateful to the excellent work done by the chairman of the working group, Professor Jan Helgen, and his two predecessors.

The fruits of the working group underline the importance of dialogue and the need for co-operation, both between states and between states and NGOs.

In the 51 years of its existence, the commission has built an impressive history of achievements in the field of standard-setting and monitoring human rights. From the ashes of the Second World War, the commission has been able to articulate a set of shared values dealing with human rights and fundamental freedoms. While these noble standards and principles are aspirational, they have contributed to the fact that at another time in history there have been people who lived under democracy and freedom.

This is a small achievement.

And yet, who amongst us can be content when untold horrors are being committed throughout the world: wars, conflicts, ethnic strife, abuses and poverty, women and women of their dignity and worth, whether they are a refugee fleeing conflict or an unemployed labourer whose children work when they should be at school, or a migrant who is arbitrarily detained, or a person who on account of his or her colour is marginalised, or a child who dies of malnutrition. There is much work still ahead of us.

The commission has played, and should continue to play, an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights. But to continue to do so, it must, at all times, be relevant and credible and it must take an integrated and cooperative approach. I am therefore proposing to you, members of the commission, that we bring our agenda into line with the world in which we live.

In the past few years, several attempts have been made towards reforming the agenda, including an important proposal two years ago by my predecessor, Gilberto Sibolta of Brazil. I believe that we should use the occasion of this important year to consider how best to implement the proposals.

Secondly, important developments in the past few years suggest that the mechanisms of the commission are not working as they should. The Secretary-General himself recognised this when, in his far-ranging proposals of July 16, 1997 he requested the High Commissioner to undertake a review of the mechanisms. Some states are clearly not respecting the mechanisms of the commission but, at the same time, certain of the mechanisms are not earning respect.

We have an opportunity to do something about this. Not to make the mandates weaker, as some fear, nor make meddling, as others want, but to make them more effective and enhance their relevance. Whatever proposals are made, I propose to review all of the mechanisms, from the sub-committees to the working groups to the special procedures, to be undertaken by two members of the bureau, working in concert with the High Commissioner, who would report to the 55th session. I suggest that these two vice-chairs would make recommendations or proposals to the next session based upon their consultations with states, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and NGOs.

My last plea to you is this: we, collectively, can make the commission a more relevant and effective body for the promotion and protection of human rights so that dignity can be enhanced and all freedom fostered. I sincerely believe that we can best do so in a climate of seriousness and calm. I therefore appeal to all delegates, members states and observers not to use this forum to advance political agendas and engender confrontation, which belong elsewhere, but to promote a genuine spirit of co-operation towards the realisation of all human rights.

In closing, I should like to set a challenge to all of us: when our work concludes in six weeks' time, we should be able to ask ourselves: "Did we make a difference? Has anyone's life been improved because of what we did in the past six weeks in Geneva?"

That should be our yardstick.

The veto used to determine SA.