Namibia - Genera - Economy

Plans for mixed school in SWA

By ANDRE VILJOEN
Südwest-Afrika Bureau

WINDBERG. — Plans for a proposed 90-million Rand tri-ethnic state school in Windhoek were being discussed at top level, a Windhoek daily newspaper, the Republikin, reported yesterday.

It says the school — the first of its kind in South West Africa — was conceived by Consolidated Diamond Mines (CDM), which planned to build and give it to the SWA central government.

The Windhoek resident director of CDM, Mr. Ben Hoffe, yesterday confirmed the proposals for the open school were being discussed, but declined to comment further.

The school will accommodate 360 pupils and includes a hostel for 360. Both an academic and technical matrix syllabus will be offered, the report said.

A big open state school could make a significant impact on education in Windhoek. Government schools in SWA are administered by second-tier ethnic authorities, but provision is made for the establishment of central government-run open schools if there is a demand.

Despite SWA's smoothly functioning open hotels and residential areas, school apartheid is still a sensitive issue. In the November ethnic elections, most whites voted to keep their schools for whites only. Multi-racial marriages are acceptable, but there is still resistance to school sports across the colour line.

However, many blacks and some whites see open schools as the logical start towards normalising race relations. There are a few open private schools, but they are far too expensive for the masses. Only open state schools could change the face of education in SWA.
6 months jail for a 'mocking' remark

'Mail' Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK. A "mocking" remark to a white woman has landed a young unemployed Windhoek coloured man in jail for six months.

William Vaalyn, 26, was convicted of crimen injuria after a Windhoek magistrate found he took a white woman by the arm and said: "Hallo, my people." (Hello my dolly).

Vaalyn was fined R200 or six months jail. Windhoek's chief public prosecutor, Mr Tienie Steyn, confirmed yesterday that Vaalyn had been jailed, because he could not pay his fine.

In evidence Mrs Louise Aletta Botha said in the Windhoek magistrate's court this week that Vaalyn walked up to her on Friday afternoon in a shopping arcade, took her arm and said: "Hallo, my poppin.' He then rejoined a group of friends and they all laughed.

Mrs Botha said she felt humiliated.

The magistrate, Mr J-A Greyling, warned that people convicted of insulting others to the amusement of their friends, could be sent to prison without the option of a fine.
MOST people of South West Africa do not consider English to be the most important language in the country, a member of the Human Sciences Research Council said yesterday.

Dr K P Prinsloo, speaking at the congress of the SA Linguistic Association, told delegates that the majority of whites, coloured people and Rehoboth-Basters regarded Afrikaans as the most important language in South West Africa.

Certain groups, including the Nama Damara, Bushmen, Kavango and Tswana, saw Afrikaans as the most important language after their mother tongues, according to the preliminary results of a language survey carried out by the research council.

Only 30 percent of the whites, coloured people and Rehoboths supported English as the most important language.

"The Hereros, Kaokolanders, Caprivians, and Namae saw English as the second most important language after their mother tongues. German, as a former colonial language, was listed by only nine percent of the whites as the major language. Generally, most of the people who said Afrikaans was the foremost language were conversant in the tongue," said Dr Prinsloo.

However, many of the people who placed English first could not speak it at all. They thought it was important because it is an international language.

A total of 31 languages and dialects are spoken by the one million people living in South West Africa.
WEALTH: NAMIBIA vs S AFRICA

The wealth of Namibia

Special Correspondent

NAMIBIA cannot compare with South Africa’s huge reserves of minerals, many of them of considerable strategic importance to the West.

The US Bureau of Mines calculates that South Africa has 73% of world reserves of platinum group metals, 69% chrome ore reserves, 44% gold, 32% manganese and 19% of vanadium.

Nonetheless, Namibia is already the fourth-largest annual mineral producer in Africa in spite of a lack of infrastructure in the huge and sparsely populated territory.

Diamonds have traditionally been Namibia’s biggest money spinner: De Beers Consolidated Diamond Mines is the biggest producer of gem diamonds in the world, and contributed 18% of the South African company’s profits in 1979.

The major field of prospecting is for uranium. Already, Britain’s Rio Tinto-Zinc has the world’s largest uranium mine at Rossing, producing 1 000 tons of uranium oxide a year, with contracts from both Britain and France.

General Mining and Gold Fields, the South African mining giant, have identified ore bodies at Langer Heinrich and Trekkopje respectively. Anglo American and France’s Aquitaine group are both believed to have promising prospects.

None is prepared to commit itself to production before it knows the political future of the territory.

US mining companies also have interests in the territory. Tsuneib, which produces cadmium, copper, lead, silver and zinc, is controlled by Newmont Mining and Anaconda.

Nord Resources and EBCO Mining jointly own a tungsten mine at Krantsberg. Canada’s Falconbridge controls the Osiris copper mine and West Germany’s Metallgesellschaft owns SWA Lithium Mines, producing saltlite.

Iscor mines lead and zinc at Rosh Pinah and tin at Uis.

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25/11/82

Zimba

MINERAL RESOURCES... how South Africa and Namibia compare

S. TUMA

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FINA ART & ARCHITECTURE
‘Hospital apartheid in SWA has caused a shortage of beds’

By ANDRE VIJORN / ‘Mali’ Afrika Bureau

WINDHOEK. — Hospital apartheid and chaotic administration are the reasons for the shortage of beds in the white State hospital complex in Windhoek, according to dissatisfied doctors.

Wards are being closed down and only 18.4% of beds in the well-equipped complex were available because of a critical shortage of white nurses. Black nurses could not be used because it was against administration policy.

One doctor said attempts were being made to convince authorities that the answer to the South African hospital crisis was to unify the territory’s 11 ethnic authorities into one efficient body.

Another doctor said only a full-scale inquiry into health services could sort out the models.

“We don’t even know who to turn to because it is not clear who really runs the show. Is it the National Party administration for whites or is it the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance central government?”

Ethnic health services in SWA are a second tier function while the central government’s Department of Health is responsible for the provision and co-ordination of health services on a national level.

He said doctors were rations an inadequate number of beds in the Windhoek white hospital complex. Channel of communication, like hospital committees run by senior consultants, had disappeared and doctors were caught in a maze of political in-fighting.

It seemed one level of authority wanted the other to botch up the white hospital administration while the other level was happy to make a mess and blame it on changes like the use of black nurses in the white maternity ward.

Maintenance of exclusive white schools and hospitals, in the face of open hotels, residential areas and mixed marriages, were key election promises of the National Party which won the Second TIER white election in November.

Whatever the cause of the Windhoek hospital crisis, it is the patients who suffer. A year ago 300 beds were in use. Now only 123 are available and there is no prospect of utilizing the city’s modern new 400-bed hospital which was built at a cost of R30-million.

A new 160-bed white hospital in Keetmanshoop is also empty because of a lack of white nurses.

The president of the Nurses’ Association of SWA, Mrs Ellisebe-Bertha Ngobura, said the two new empty hospitals were “political white elephants promised to voters without consideration of the people’s needs”.

She said use of black student and pupil nurses in white hospitals would help, but the real problem was a shortage of both black and white senior registered nurses.

Senior nurses should be recruited from South Africa on a non-racial basis, she said. She said post-basic training in SWA would have to be stepped up.

A Windhoek doctor said an efficient re-allocation of senior posts, with a simultaneous improvement in nurses’ pay and conditions of service, would go a long way to keeping wards open.

He said there were about 26 matrons at the combined black and white State hospital complex in Windhoek. Most of them were burdened without essential administrative work.

One of SWA’s top nurses, a former chief matron of the Windhoek hospital complex, Mrs Achen Parkhouse, was removed from her post, apparently for being “too liberal”.

Health authorities have remained tight-lipped about the fostering situation. The secretary for the SWA administration, Mr Andre Mouton, said: “We will issue a press statement when the time is ripe.”

Frustrated doctors continue to voice their complaints to the press, blaming the health authorities for a “total breakdown of health services”. 
Game to
be caught
in Namib
rescue bid

WINDHOEK. — South West Afri-
can nature conservation au-
thorities plan to capture 2,000
animals in the Namib Desert
Game Park to prevent them
from dying because of the
drought in the territory.

Late last year, a rescue oper-
ation was launched to capture
and relocate the hundreds of
mountain zebra and oryx,
whose numbers were dwindling
because of lack of grazing.

Mr Polla Sward, assistant di-
rector of Nature Conservation,
said yesterday that although
945 mountain zebra and 500
oryx had been captured, the
operation had not been as suc-
cessful as expected.

“We started too late in the
year,” he said. “It was too hot
and the animals were
dispersed.

“Our main task this year is
to move 1,000 mountain zebra,
500 oryx and 500 springbok
from the Namib National
Park.”

Captured animals were
moved to other reserves where
water and grazing were more
plentiful or sold. — Sapa.
Swabank goes foreign

24/1/81

WINDHOEK — A 51% shareholding of Swabank has been transferred to an overseas financial consortium, the Bankers for Overseas Investment Company, according to reports here.

Swabank was previously the only truly domestically owned bank in Namibia.

The chairman of Swabank's new majority shareholders, Dr Gunther Schmitz-Linnartz, arrived in Windhoek on Thursday to settle the deal.

Dr Schmitz-Linnartz said that Dresdner Bank, a major West German institution and a member of the consortium (le Societe Financiere pour les Pays d'Outremer) had initiated the takeover.

Critics of the deal said that Swabank had been "given away", but other financial commentators said that the deal had placed Swabank in the "orbit of one of the world's strongest banking consortia".

The amount involved in the transfer of the shares has not been disclosed.— Sapa.
Pupils may be forced into nursing

By ANDRE WILJOEN
Mail Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK. — Compulsory nursing for matriculated white girls in South West Africa may be introduced to offset a serious shortage of white nursing staff in the territory.

This was said in Windhoek yesterday by Mr Hen van Zijl, acting MEC in charge of health services for the SWA administration for whites.

He said a feasibility study into compulsory nursing was under way. It would be introduced as a last resort.

Mr Van Zijl was replying to recent mounting Press criticism of the administration’s handling of a beds’ crisis in the White State hospital complex in Windhoek. Despite the removal of apartheid from certain areas of SWA life, its hospitals are still run by separate ethnic authorities.

Private doctors in Windhoek have said hospital apartheid and chaotic administration were behind the hospital problems.

A year ago, 250 beds were in use at the Windhoek State hospital. Since then wards have been closed and only 128 beds are available. Doctors say there is no prospect of utilizing the new, empty 150-million white hospital in the city. A new 168-bed white hospital in Rehoboth is also empty because of a lack of nurses.

One of SWA’s top nursing authorities said it would help if the white administration employed available black nurses. However, the president of the Nurses’ Association of SWA, Mrs Elisabeth Ngavvuna, said the real need was for more black and white senior registered nurses.

Mr Van Zijl denied allegations by Windhoek doctors that they were allocated an inadequate number of hospital beds. He said no patients had been turned away because of a shortage of beds and there were always beds available for emergencies.

He said the administration was advertising nursing vacancies on a running basis.
Seven die of food poisoning

WINNIEK. — Two women and five children died of food poisoning in north-eastern South West Africa after eating porridge garnished with wild food (wild plants), Colonel J C Greyling, chief of the CID, said in Windhoek yesterday.

He said a Defence Force doctor was called to a Kavango village at the weekend, where he found the seven people in a comatose condition.

They were Mrs Shihama Karohna, 25, Magdalena Mayanga, 12, Peter Nambutuva, 5, Mandahai Munday, 16, Cecelia Munday, 15, and Katrina Shikeno, 3.

The second woman has not been identified. — Sapa.
Seven die of food poisoning

WINDHOEK. — Two women and five children died of food poisoning in north-eastern South West Africa after eating porridge garnished with veld food (wild plants), Colonel J C Greylings, chief of the CID, said in Windhoek yesterday.

He said a Defence Force doctor was called to a Ravango village at the weekend, where he found the seven people in a comatose condition.

They were Mrs Shitama Kama, 35, Magdalena Mayungua, 12, Petrus Namutungu, 5, Mandaha Mmbando, 14, Cecilia Muamba, 18, and Katrina Shikemo, 3.

The second woman has not been identified. — Sapa.
Meat export revision

WINDHOEK, — A committee of experts has recommended that Namibia’s controversial meat export permit system be revised so that all meat producers can benefit from it.

A commission of inquiry into alleged malpractice in the Namibian meat industry last year found that the system was irregular, indiscriminate and that it only benefited a section of the country’s farmers.

In a 31-page report released in Windhoek, the committee recommends the establishment of a central marketing body and a freer marketing system.

The report will be submitted to a special congress of the SWA Meat Producers’ Association in March. — Sapa.
REH 10/2/81

'Revise meat exports for the benefit of all'

WINDHOEK. - A select committee of experts has recommended that South West Africa's controversial meat export permit system be revised so all the territory's meat producers could benefit from it.

A commission of inquiry into alleged malpractice in the SWA meat industry last year found that the system was irregular, indiscriminate and that it only benefited a section of the territory's farmers.

In a 35-page report released in Windhoek yesterday, the select committee also recommended the establishment of a central marketing body and a freer marketing system for the territory.

The report will be submitted to a special congress of the SWA Meat Producers' Association in March for its consideration. - Sapa.
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Corporation Medals
For the best student in each of the 2nd, 3rd and final years.
Second Year (Bronze Medal)
Miss N Davidson
Third Year (Silver Medal)
Miss G C Littlewort
Fourth Year (Gold Medal)
P M Salmon
T J Cumming
D P Weeks
J H Rens
B F McCleland

Professor George Menzies Prize
Awarded on results of final examinations to the best male student in Land Surveying or Civil Engineering.
J H Rens

Sammy Sacks Memorial Prize
Awarded to the student with the best coursework in Engineering Drawing.

CHEMICAL
Fears of a new SA meat crisis

A R12.5 MILLION investment by a State-owned organisation has unleashed fears of a new meat crisis in South Africa.

The First National Development Corporation in South Africa has put up most of the capital for the building of a meat factory in Gobabis in South West Africa.

The expected opening of the factory in 1985 will require an additional 200 to 400 slaughter stock a day, which will increase the annual required number of cattle by all factories in South West Africa.

Mr Horst Kieft, the new head of the South West Africa Meat Control Board, said in Windhoek yesterday.

At present 90 percent of the beef animals slaughtered at the Cape Town abattoir is imported from South West Africa.

A drastic reduction in the number of slaughter animals available at the Cape Town abattoir is likely to send beef prices soaring for years to come.

The SWA Meat Control Board has decided to export only carcases and not animals to South Africa, and to discontinue the supply of livestock to the Republic over the next two to three years.

South West Africa is the largest supplier of livestock to the country and 68 percent of its production is exported to South Africa.

The shortage of slaughter animals in the country must cause a substantial increase in the price of beef.

Angry meat officials have said the only alternative is the slow development of our own beef industry.

It will be a difficult transition, but we cannot depend on South West Africa for the next 30 years. What happens if they decide to stop supplying us altogether? the director of the Cape Town abattoir, Dr A J Lower, asked.
Farmers fined for illegal hunting

WINDHOEK.—Two South African farmers were fined by the Windhoek Regional Court a total of R320, or 150 days in jail, on charges of illegal hunting.

Appearing before Mr A. Brunner, Stephanus Haasebroek, of the farm Groenepoort, Thabazimbi, and Henry Teige, of Brentwood Park, Benoni, originally pleaded not guilty to all charges, but then pleaded guilty to two of the 10 charges.

Haasebroek and Teige were fined R300, or 150 days, for shooting an antelope in the Okahandja Game Reserve in March-April 1978. Haasebroek was also fined R150, or 75 days, for shooting an elephant near Kamanjab in June-July 1978.

Haasebroek was fined R750, or 150 days, on this charge, of which R500 or 100 days was suspended for five years.

Teige admitted shooting an elephant in Damaraoland in March-April 1978, and was fined R100 or 20 days for hunting protected game.

Both men were fined R750, or 150 days, on another charge of hunting protected game. Of this, R500 or 100 days, was suspended for five years.

Mr Hermanus Janse van Riebeeck, of Rostberg, was acquitted on all charges. — Saga.

6 L Ciruga
work
obtaining the highest average
for the first year students
A & C I prize

L. Menagaldo

Ringing best classwork in engineering
awarded to the student with the
Sammy Sacks Memorial Prize

J. H. Reins

CVII engineering student in the Surveying or
examinations best student at the final
awarded on results of final
Professor George Menzies Prize

B. F. Mclnleland
J. H. Henes
D. P. Weeks
T. J. Cunningham
F. S. Paton

Fourth year (gold medal)

Miss N. Davidson

Third year (silver medal)

Miss O. Littlewort

Second year (bronze medal)

of the 2nd, 3rd and final years

for the best student in each

Corporation Medals

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
KARAKUL PELT
PRICES PLUNGE

LONDON.—The South African and South West African pelts industry has been stunned by a sharp fall in prices paid by international buyers for its products.

Prices fell by an average of 20 percent at the most recent auction of karakul held in London compared with prices at the previous auction in November.

The price of white pelts, which fortunately for producers account for only one percent of total production, plunged by 51 percent.

Part of the fall is due to exchange rate fluctuations, particularly the strength of the rand. But there has been

a sharp drop in West German demand for karakul.

Although demand in Italy, France and Spain remains firm, the market in these countries for karakul pelts is

small.

Karakul furs are slowly coming back into fashion in America, but the industry does not have the resources to

mount a sustained or effective marketing campaign there.

Exports last year amounted to 4.5 million pelts. — Financial Times News Service.
The Star Africa News

Introduce tax for all

The Zimbabwean government has introduced a new tax for all non-resident Indians who own property in Zimbabwe.

Under the new tax, non-resident Indians will be required to pay tax on any property they own in Zimbabwe, regardless of their status as a resident or non-resident.

The tax rate is based on the value of the property and will be collected retrospectively from any transactions that took place in the past.

The government hopes that this new tax will generate much-needed revenue for the country and help to fund important projects and initiatives.

The tax is expected to come into effect on January 1, 2023.
WINDHOEK. — Taxation of all races in South West Africa is expected to be introduced by the territory's national assembly in its first sitting this year, starting today.

A motion calling on the Administrator-General, Mr. Danie Hoopa, to start an independent SWA police force by proclamation on April 1 could also be put forward in the coming session.

The concept of an independent police force follows the creation last year of the SWA territory force.

It is understood that income tax — currently applicable only to whites, coloureds, Basutos and Kamas-speaking people — will be extended to other inhabitants of the territory through an amendment to the ordinance.

The national assembly will also consider the Part Appropriation Act or "main budget" and will debate an amendment to the exchequer and audit proclamation which makes provision for an Auditor-General in SWA.

Other legislation the National Assembly is expected to discuss includes a change to the mining, works and minerals law to protect those prospectors who apply for exclusive rights to a claim.

This will prevent "claim jumpers" from pegging-off claims while the applications for exclusive rights are still pending.

The highest award for the first-year student is the Memorial Prize given to the student with the best performance in the Faculty of Engineering.

Second-year (bronze medal) — Miss C. Littlewort

Third-year (silver medal) — Miss N. Davidson

Fourth-year (gold medal) — Miss C. Davidson

Prize to the student in each faculty in the final years.
Shipping by Bill Goddard

R1,5-m facelift for Walvis Bay

WALVIS BAY harbour is to be given a R1.5 million facelift — a project which includes replacing the 25-year-old wooden jetty.

This was confirmed today by national harbour officials who said tenders were to be called shortly for the construction of a new 200 m long concrete jetty at Walvis Bay. The jetty, which will replace the west coast port’s dilapidated old wooden one, is designed to accommodate all harbour craft at the same time.

Walvis Bay, which is served by two big tugs, two smaller pilot tugs and a general purpose launch, at present experiences a fair amount of difficulty when it comes to finding berthing points for its harbour craft. The harbour’s old wooden jetty is only about 76 m long and cannot accommodate all tugs at the same time.

Port staff say the two big tugs — John X Merriman and AM Campbell have to be tied up wherever a berth can be found.

National port officials said it is also planned to spend about R150 000 on improving the fire fighting facilities at the tanker berth at Walvis Bay and also on building a workshop adjacent to the harbour’s synchrolift.

General shipping improvements on the South African coast also includes replacing the radio beacons at the lighthouses at Cape Agulhas, Cape St. Francis, Cape Recife and on Dassen Island.

These improvements will cost about R130 000.

Fourth Launch on Way

The last of four general purpose launches built in Durban for use in Cape Town harbour — the 12 m steel-hulled craft Troupant — is due to be delivered early next month.

The other three vessels, which cost about R220 000 each, were commissioned last year.

A spokesman for the harbour engineer’s office said the Troupant will make the trip from Durban as deck cargo on a Unicorn coaster and will undergo certain trials before being put into use.

The launch will be used as a diving tender, as well as for the inspection of quay tenders and towing of the grab dredger’s hopper barge.

The Troupant is being brought into service as a replacement for the old wooden-hulled launch Iris which logged up 40 years of service in Cape Town harbour before being pensioned off several months ago.

The naming of the launch was in keeping with the port authorities’ practice of naming their small boats after birds.

The three already in service are called Kite, Houkikapp and Koel.
All groups will pay tax

WINDHOEK — All population groups in South West Africa will in future be subject to income tax in terms of a Bill passed in the National Assembly in Windhoek yesterday. The new Act becomes effective on Sunday.

In the past, only four of the territory's 11 population groups — the whites, Basters, coloureds and Namas — paid tax.

The chairman of the SWA Council of Ministers, Mr Dirk Mudge, who tabled the Bill — to be known as the Income Tax Amendment Act, 1981 — said revised income tax scales would be introduced at a later stage.

During the second reading debate on the Bill, Mr Mudge said the old tax system had caused a lot of discontent because not all population groups had been liable to taxation.

A member of the ruling Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mr Max Haraseb, said the blacks, who were particularly affected by the new legislation, wished to help contribute towards the territory's economy and thus welcomed the Act.

The Bill was also welcomed by Opposition members.

Sapa.
Namibian mines fight costs

WINDHOEK.—The mining industry of SWA/Namibia had suffered from the effects of a world recession and political uncertainty, said the president of the SWA/Namibia Chamber of Mines, Mr G. R. Parker, in Windhoek yesterday.

Delivering the chamber's second annual report, Mr Parker said 1980 had been marked by crises and disappointments both in SWA/Namibia and abroad.

"The mining industry of SWA/Namibia is export-oriented and is the first to feel the impact of world recession. The industry is struggling to contain costs which are escalating at 25% to 35% a year."

World markets weakened considerably last year. Prices of copper, lead, silver, zinc, tin and uranium oxide fell, some from record levels reached in 1979 and early 1980.

There was little reason to expect a recovery in prices in the short term and 1981 was likely to be a difficult year, particularly for producers of base metals.

Mr Parker said: "The political future of SWA/Namibia remains unclear and as such is an inhibiting factor in SWA/Namibia's development."

Uncertainty had contributed to a contraction in prospecting. He appealed to "those working towards a constitutional settlement" to include the principles necessary for a free market.

Mr Parker said the number of fatal accidents in the mining industry had risen by 16% from the record low rate of 0.45 in 1979 to 0.60 in 1980.

He called for increased action in the maintenance of safety standards, but said it was pleasing that the number of reportable accidents had declined from 198 in 1979 to 193 in 1980.

Mr Parker warned of the possibility of industrial unrest because of worker reaction to the SWA/Namibian Government plan to introduce a personal tax for all races from March 1.

"The time set for the introduction and the planned method of operation have the chamber deeply concerned that industrial unrest could result, primarily because of the limited time allowed for communication of the changes to future taxpayers," he said. — Sasa.
Clampdown on pilchards expected

SOUTH WEST AFRICAN canned pilchards, once hailed as the world's cheapest protein and a staple found in most households, are unlikely to appear on anybody's menu this year.

The directors of the fishing company Lambert Bay Holdings report in an interim statement to shareholders that they expect no production of canned fish at Walvis Bay this season.

They expect the authorities to clamp down on the pilchard catch.

They say the quotas for the 1981 South West African pelagic season have not been determined. But they expect no material changes, except for pilchards, which will probably be permitted only as a by-catch.

As a result, the industry will have to depend entirely on imported canned fish to meet the needs of the local market and to supply some of its traditional export markets.

SATISFACTORY

The South African pelagic fish quota this year is 380,000 tons. The season opened on January 1 and landings so far have been satisfactory, with catches above those of last year.

The demand for and prices of fish meal and oil on world markets remain firm. However, the industry's entire production of fish meal is being absorbed on local markets at prices below those overseas.

Local users are also taking all the fish body oil produced.

The 1980-81 quotas for rock lobster catches in South African waters were reduced by 15 percent. Catches to date have been down on last year.

Catches at Luderitz, where the quotas are unchanged, are marginally above last year's.

The United States market for rock lobster has remained steady while demand for frozen whole cooked rock lobster has improved.
A new tax structure, apparently influenced by the supply side theory of economics, has been introduced in SWA/Namibia.

In terms of a draft bill tabled in the National Assembly in Windhoek last week, due to become law in June, top marginal rates of personal tax are reduced from 50% to 39%, the tax threshold raised and most tax rates reduced 28% below those of SA. And where in the past only whites, coloureds, Basters and Namas were taxable, the base has been widened to include all south-westeners.

At the heart of the supply side theory of economics now prevalent in Washington is the belief that lower tax rates can generate as much or more revenue than higher rates which discourage economic activity. Supply-siders generally believe that economic stagnation is caused not by inadequate demand, but by inefficiencies and disincentives in supply.

But unlike the latest US tax cuts, which were designed to transfer more productive resources to the government to the private sector, the Windhoek package is aimed at alleviating an acute shortage of skilled labour. It is hoped that the new rates will attract skilled workers and managers from SA and check intense wage competition, one of the biggest contributors of the soaring consumer price index.

What is not clear at this stage, however, is whether the local Department of Finance intends to follow cuts in personal tax rates with a sweetener for corporate and farming taxpayers later on in the year. Sources on the territory's Tax Advisory Committee will neither confirm nor deny that the committee is studying such a move. The current rate of company tax is 40%, but diamond producers pay up to 56%.

Corporate and mining taxes make up nearly 90% of government tax revenue of about R250m, so unless government's spending requirement can be cut heavily from last year's R500m (46% of gdp in 1989) prospects of a company tax cut are remote at this stage.

Because of this, it seems unlikely that the personal tax cuts will reduce the tax burden on gdp to any extent beyond the temporary elimination of fiscal drag on personal incomes. But with inflation running at close to 17% this is nonetheless a real advance. The trouble is, however, that skilled labour shortages are likely to persist until the Windhoek administration rearranges its spending priorities.

Last year, nearly 60% of government spending was devoted to political and administrative development and a mere 9% went on education and training. The official explanation for this was that education and training is a long term investment, whereas, at this stage, political priorities (enhancing the local standing of ethnic leaders in the Council of Ministers) are far more important — should it be necessary to fight an election against Swapo in the next year or two.

Another reason why it seems improbable that corporate and mining tax rates will be cut is that, by the very nature of the SWA economy, with its almost total reliance on primary extractive activity and farming, there are clear limits to which fiscal stimulus can generate new economic activity. In this case, political constraints and international uncertainty are holding up the development of new mining prospects, while poor international commodity prices are inhibiting expansion of existing mines. Farmers, moreover, are suffering the worst drought in 50 years.

It has been estimated that the lower personal tax rates will cost the SWA/Namibian Treasury R8m in a full year, hardly sufficient to generate a wave of new demand (and local fixed investment to meet it). The view has been expressed that higher levels of disposable income will probably result in higher capital outflows to attractive — and safer — investment opportunities in the Republic. Windhoek officials say this will be a small price to pay if they achieve the objective of attracting more skilled labour to the territory.

The main elements of the new tax regime are that:

- Whereas previously the tables catered for married persons with no children and with children from one to nine, the new tables deal only with married persons and married persons with children.
- No tax is deductible from persons with less than the following annual incomes:
  - Single person: R3 000 (R2 250 pm)
  - Married persons: R4 400 (R3 650 pm)
  - Married person with children: R6 800 (R5 650 pm)

- Up to February 28 1981 the tax rebates exempted the following persons from tax:
  - Single person: R2 250 per annum
  - Married person: R6 857 per annum
  - Married person with one child: R4 125 per annum
  - Two children: R5 375 per annum
  - Three children: R6 026 per annum

- Top marginal rates applicable are as follows (1981 brackets):
  - Single person over R3 200 — 35% (R29 000 — 50%)
  - Married person over R3 400 — 35% (R37 000 — 50%)

- Married persons with children over R8 800 — 35% (R7 000 — 50%)

- Married women and certain single persons will pay more.

At the same time, the draft Bill proposes to exempt from tax the interest that is received by non-residents on local registered stock and other securities (including Treasury bills), the current yield on some of which is 13.1%.

With the political risk of investing in SWA now clearly having receded for the medium term, this should be an attractive proposition for SA investors.

Unfortunately, the Bill does strike one sour note. It provides that tax paid by members of a “particular population group” be paid over to the revenue account of the ethnic authority concerned. This seems to ignore the principle that revenue collections should be indivisible and implies that the poor ethnic regions will get poorer and the rich ones richer. The SWA economy is too small and vulnerable to afford the luxury of ethnic fragmentation of funds collected, particularly now that the tax system has been deracialised.

In defence, the territory’s Tax Advisory committee points out that institutionalised ethnicity is a fact of life in SWA/Namibia and that the amounts of “ethnic” tax paid to the regional authorities will be small. They say central government revenue collections, including corporation and mining tax (which account for more than 80% of total tax revenue of about R250m), will be applied in the territory as a whole and not on a selective, ethnic basis.
SWA may have its own TV service by June

WINDHOEK. — South West Africa's own television service will probably begin on June 1, it was announced yesterday.

In a joint statement issued in Windhoek and Johannesburg, the SABC and SWABC (South West African Broadcasting Corporation), Mr Piet Venter, chairman of the board of SWABC, said the territory's TV service would be instituted in terms of a decision by the SWA Ministers' Council.

The service's initial targets will be Windhoek and the Oshakati area in Ovamboland.

The SABC will be given a licence to broadcast programmes in SWA until the territory's independence changes the situation.

The SWABC is convinced this is the only acceptable way in which a television service of high quality can be initiated in SWA.

Capital and running costs of the service will be carried by the SWABC — but with the understanding that the SABC will contribute to the cost of expanding the service to Walvis Bay, which is South African territory.

Direct programme link-ups between South Africa and SWA in future are not excluded, the statement said. The SWABC would broadcast the programmes on an agency basis.

The SABC programme format will be retained, but SWABC will be entitled, within reasonable limits, to revamp programmes to cater for the tastes of SWA viewers.

In this respect, the heterogeneous composition of the potential viewer public in SWA would be taken into consideration.

The SWABC also has a licence to inaugurate a television service, and as soon as possible will start its own input of programmes televised in the territory.

These would include programmes bought from SABC archives, others produced in co-operation with the SABC, foreign programmes bought by SWABC, its own programmes, and others produced on behalf of SWABC.

The SWABC will, as soon as possible, start its own news and actuality input. Input by the SWABC will be identified clearly during telecasting.

SATV advertising material will not be seen in SWA — the SWABC will obtain its own advertising, the statement said.

TV licence fees in SWA will be established by the Administrator-General in consultation with the SWABC.

Pending delivery of technical equipment from abroad, the first transmissions will start on June 1, or as soon after that as possible. — Sapa.
Total ban on pilchard fishing

'Mall' Africa Bureau
WINDHOEK.- A total ban on the catching of pilchards off the coast of South West Africa will be enforced during the 1981 fishing season.

This was announced yesterday by the Secretary for Economic Affairs in SWA, Mr. Piet Kruger.

This is the first time a total ban on pilchard fishing has been enforced.

Since the boom fishing days of 1975, the pilchard quota has dropped from 568,000 tons. Last year the quota sank to a mere 18,000 tons of which only 4,000 tons could be canned.

But while there was bad news as far as pilchards were concerned, no restrictions were placed on the catching of maashanker and mackerel.

The total ban on pilchards is to try to allow the endangered species to replenish.

After an almost rockbottom fishing season last year fishermen this year were not expecting much better, and the pilchard ban does not come as a major surprise.

Fishermen expect to be able to make up for their losses on pilchards in the ability to catch maashanker and mackerel freely.

A further concession granted to fishermen is that there will be no area restrictions during the 1981 season.
A TOTAL ban on direct pilchard harvesting off the South West African coast has been announced.

The ban was one of several drastic quota cuts approved by the Administrator General, Mr Danie Louw, in an attempt to return the ailing fishing industry.

The ban, announced on the eve of the opening of the season on Monday, will mean the closure of the last canning factory in Walvis Bay.

**Accepted**

But it was expected and has been generally well accepted by the industry.

The Assistant Director of Sea Fisheries in charge of South West Africa, Dr Louis Botta, said in Cape Town today that the industry had recognized its plight and had been forced to cut back last year.

Of the 50 boats on the Walvis Bay register only 45 had fished last year.

He said the fish stocks, given favourable conditions, would revive sufficiently to allow small-scale harvesting within three years.

Pilchards had shown signs of revival last year when large numbers of small fish had been seen.

**Because of this, Dr Botta said, the season had been closed early. This, in addition to the ban, would hopefully allow them to reach maturity and spawn.**

A limited quantity of pilchard 'by-catches' however, will be allowed. This means that small numbers of pilchards may be caught in the normal course of netting other fish.

Strict monitoring would be applied according to the Secretary for Economic Affairs in SWA, Mr Del Kruger. The closure of the last Walvis Bay canning factory would prevent any direct pilchard catching.

**Agreed**

The chairman of the SWA Fishermen's Association, Mr Ben van Vuuren, agreed with the ban, saying that only 263 tons of the 3,500 tons quota had been caught last year.

The quota for anchovies has been fixed at 65,000 tons.

No limit has been set on mackerel and hake catches. Lantern-fish and pilchard 'by-catches' will be restricted to 6,000 tons.
Pilchard fishing banned

WINDHOEK: A total ban on the catching of pilchards off the coast of South West Africa will be enforced during the 1981 fishing season.

This was announced by the Secretary for Economic Affairs in SWA, Mr Piet Kruger.

Since the boom fishing days of 1963, the pilchard quota has dropped from 568,000 tons. Last year the quota sank to a mere 15,000 tons, of which only 4,000 tons could be caught.

The ban is to try to allow the species to replenish.

After an almost rock-bottom season last year, fishermen this year were not expecting much better, and the pilchard ban does not come as a major surprise.

Fishermen expect to be able to make up for their losses on pilchards in the ability to catch maasbunker and mackerel freely.

A further concession granted to fishermen is that there will be no area restrictions during the 1981 season.
Background

THE final act of the SWA/Namibia fisheries disaster is being played out in Walvis Bay. It was a disaster a lot of people saw coming — but nobody did anything about.

In 1970 there were eight busy canning factories processing hundreds of thousands of tons of fish. Then it was down to one and that was closed last week.

The skippers of the idle trawlers are bitter. So are 8 000 canny workers who have been sent home, not to return.

Scientists warned as early as 1968 that the region's fisheries were doomed unless the quotas were reduced drastically. But commercial interests, backed by politicians, insisted they knew what they were doing.

They were warned by Dr Jan Lochner, a Port Elizabeth fish population dynamics expert, that although their catches were the biggest in the territory's history its mainstay, the pilchard, was on the verge of drying out.

He was laughed at; but Mr John Wiley, (then Unit ed Party for Simonstown and now Nationalist) understood the scientist's calculations and tried in vain to halt the disaster through Parliament.

Here is how the countdown went:

1968: The biggest fish catch in S.W.A/Namibia's history — 1.5 million tons. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr Jan Hash, accused the fishermen of running up to two weeks. The eight fish canning companies were working flat out.

Dr Jan Lochner warned of an overkill. If quotas were reduced, he said, the annual catch could one day be maintained at 2.5 million tons, if quotas could be so high the resources would collapse.

1968: The Government raised the quotas to 1.75 million tons. Only 1.2 million tons were caught.

1970: Quotas reduced again, but there were no
effective catches.

1971: Quotas were halved. The catch fell to just over 500 000.

1973: The catch was 70 000 — well up on the year before. The anchovy catch was almost doubled and saved the canneries.

What was happening was that the less nutritious anchovy was filling the gap left by the overfished pilchard.


1975: Over the next three years the quotas fluctuated but touched nearly 1 million tons. Nothing like that had happened since 1972.

1976: Headline: "SWA fish resource in great danger." The blame was placed firmly on local operators; although foreign trawlers were also engaged in overkill further out to sea.

The quota was now down to 475 000 but was not achieved.

1977: "Operation Eureka!" to find new pilchard shoals, failed.

Only 400 000 tons of 940 000 ton quota was caught.

1978: Six months fishing season halted after only 3 months.

Only six fish factories now operating. The catch down to 414 000 — nearly all anchovies.

The territory's income from fishing, once nearly R100 million, was now down two-thirds.

1979: Headline: "Blank fishing season ahead." The quota of 337 500 tons was not achieved. The pilchard resource was not all but exhausted.

Only two factories now survived.

1980: Headline: "Walvis Bay stagnates as nets come in empty!" Pilchard quota down by 99.2 percent on 10 years before. The pilchard quota was set at 12 000 tons but the catch was less than half that.

Even the anchovy quota was brought down to 120 000 and now the anchovy was in steep decline.

Dr Lochner told of the bitter feuding among scientists, technical advisers and commercial fisheries that had led to his being ostracised and his advice ignored. He published his formula for recovery.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Vosmaer: People have mutilated and raped the sea.

1981: This year's quotas, set last week, are the lowest yet, and a total ban has been put on pilchards.

Last week, headline: "Walvis "Doomed" as fish crisis worsens.

The canneries had emerged into one plant (which is now closed) and a lot of equipment has been sold to Chile.

South Africa recently imported 1 million cans of pilchards — from Chile and Peru.

And the fishing industry is now studying Dr Lochner's theories.

JAMES CLARKE tells how the bottom fell out of the SWA fishing industry — and 8 000 canny workers lost their jobs.
The deficit facing the Zimbabwean economy is of a new dimension. The current economic situation in the country is characterized by a severe shortage of basic necessities, a high rate of inflation, and a lack of foreign exchange. This has led to a decline in living standards and a deterioration of the social fabric.

The government has implemented a number of measures to address this crisis, including the introduction of fuel rationing and the imposition of price controls. However, these measures have not been enough to reverse the trend.

The main challenges facing the economy are:

1. High inflation, which is currently around 80% per month.
2. Severe shortages of basic commodities such as fuel, electricity, and food.
3. A lack of foreign exchange, which has led to a decline in imports.
4. A decline in production due to the destruction of infrastructure and equipment.
5. High levels of unemployment.

The government is relying on international aid to finance its operations, but this has not been enough to meet the country's needs.

The economy is expected to remain in a state of crisis for the foreseeable future, with no quick fixes in sight. The government needs to implement more radical reforms and adopt a more pragmatic approach to address the root causes of the current crisis.
13. FACTORS INFLUENCING MEMBERS, COMMITTED TO PROJECTS

While small-scale production groups seem by their nature more likely to inspire participation and committed involvement, than their bigger counterparts, they too, face many problems. Small-scale producers are often not well organized, or lack the necessary capital to invest in their activities. This can lead to a lack of cooperation among members, which in turn can have a negative impact on the overall success of the project. The following diagram illustrates the various factors that may affect the willingness of small-scale producers to contribute to a project:

But even these estimates, reflected in the report of the Administrator General's economic advisory committee released this week, appear heavily inflated in view of the international difficulties of the uranium industry. However, Rossing will contribute to government revenue this year in various forms, but the extent of the contribution remains a closely guarded secret (consumption expenditure by the mine in SWA/Namibia last year was R74m).

Incomc tax collections from individuals will probably decline as a result of the reduction in the top marginal rates from 50% to 30%, and the raising of the tax threshold. (PM March 13)

It is a fair bet that rates of company tax will remain at 40%. What the business community fears, however, is that they may be increased because so few alternative sources of revenue exist. But the Windhoek Central Directorate of Finance does seem to have a few options which would reduce the deficit.

The first would be to try to mobilise a larger share of private savings by creating loan instruments.

It is learnt that the SWA treasury plans to create local tax-free paper to be known as National Development Certificates, on roughly the same lines as SA's Post Office Savings Bank and National Savings Certificates. Defence Bonus Bonds may not be contemplated at this stage because much of the Republic's defence expenditure is incurred for and on behalf of SWA — whether they like it or not, of course.

Another pristice source of finance that will doubtless be tapped in the next budget, would be to divert a large portion of the cash stream that flows to the Pretoria Exchequer in the form of prescribed investments of financial institutions operating in the territory.

The remaining deficit, after introducing these new instruments, would be eliminated by loans guaranteed by the SA Reserve Bank and by transfers from the Pretoria State Revenue Fund, although it is known that the Windhoek National Assembly is anxious to keep the last-mentioned source to a minimum. This is to strengthen the image of independence it is trying to foster among the rank and file. It seems certain that borrowings will be made abroad. Last year Dirk Mudge mentioned a loan offer of $50m from sources in the US.
Solar power for phones

OWN CORRESPONDENT (221A)

WINDHOEK. — Sunshine is being tapped to power SWA/Namibia’s telephone transmission.

So far, two solar-power installations have been erected at microwave repeater stations south of Windhoek. Eventually, 69 units will save the territory more than R1 million in a decade.

With bright sun throughout the year SWA/Namibia is ideally suited for solar-energy transmission, the senior deputy director of the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate of Engineering, Mr Gerhard Ruck, said at the weekend.

He said the territory was pioneering solar-powered telephone communications in Southern Africa. South Africa was not far behind, with pilot installations in Namqualand.

Mr Ruck said his department had been considering solar energy for five years. “At last it has become economically feasible, with a drop in installation price due to mass production of units.”

Solar installations were being set up where electricity was not available and the cost of powering repeater stations with diesel engines was too great, he said.

A number of installations were destined for remote areas of the restricted Sperrgebiet diamond-mining area in the Namib Desert.

Eventually, there would be six large installations, each with 60 to 70 solar panels and 54 smaller units with up to eight panels each.

The large installations, like the two already in operation, were about four by five metres in size and cost about R30 000 to erect. After installation there would be no added fuel costs and little maintenance cost.

He said it would cost R75 000 to power diesel engines. The 54 solar installations would help save more than R1,06 million by 1990.
Lamberts Bay chief denies over-fishing

ALLEGATIONS that the local pelagic fishing industry had been guilty of indiscriminate, explosive fishing off the West Coast have been hotly denied by Mr Abe Shapiro, managing director of Lamberts Bay Holdings and chairman of Sea Products (SWA).

He told the annual meeting of the Shareholders' Association in Cape Town that Walvis Bay had not become a ghost town, as the media had claimed, and that fishing had been going well since it was resumed on March 22.

The industry had obtained the same quotas of anchovies and maashankers as last year and was not restricted on where it could fish.

Referring to the recent ban on pilchard fishing, he said: 'We are prepared to leave the pilchards alone if the foreigners are.'

The local industry was controlled by quotas, and there were no geographical restrictions, whereas more than 100 foreign vessels were fishing off the West Coast with no restrictions to control them.

They are the ones to blame for over-fishing the area—not us.

Mr Shapiro was questioned about the sale by Lamberts Bay of 251,000 shares in Tiger Oats and was asked why this was necessary in the light of the large cash balances already on loan to Tiger Oats.

He refused to answer the question, saying an explanation would be given in the company's annual report to be published soon.

Vincent L'Ecuyer

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**TABLE 17**

Distribution of workers according to total payment in kind, weekly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value of payment (R per week)</th>
<th>Number of workers, cumulative</th>
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<tr>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
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<td>4,465.14</td>
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<td>0.50</td>
<td>4,416.13</td>
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</table>

To workers on which they grow their own vegetables and vegetables grown by the farmer and the value of land lent (family income are e.g., room, house, etc., p.a. below) (total and therefore also from estimates of total payment and total commissions from those estimates of total payment in kind.)

Values have been imputed where values are unknown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total of skim milk, a week, varied at about 300. No figures as incorrect.</th>
<th>Erratic, milk rations have been ordered as average—1.51.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Erratic, milk rations have been ordered as average—1.51.</td>
<td>Terms. In making these calculations, unattributed, and</td>
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<td>Terms. In making these calculations, unattributed, and</td>
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<td>meet, milk, clothing, rations, feeding maize, Christmas</td>
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<td>meet, milk, clothing, rations, feeding maize, Christmas</td>
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Temporary ban on fishing off SWA coast

Own Correspondent

WINDHOEK. — All commercial fishing off the SWA/Namibia coast has been temporarily banned, SWA's Secretary for Economic Affairs, Mr Piet Kruger, said yesterday.

The ban follows confusion among fishermen and scientists after a huge and unexplained intrusion of pilchard shoals along the coastline between Walvis Bay and Rocky Point this week.

Last month a total ban on pilchard fishing was placed but fishermen were allowed free rein in catching maasbanker and mackerel.

Fishermen were, however, confused this week with huge shoals of pilchards swimming into their nets.

The earlier ban on pilchard fishing only was enforced to allow the dwindling pelagic fish to replenish.

Until 1974 the pelagic fishing industry, consisting mainly of pilchards, made a major contribution to SWA's economy. But income from fisheries dwindled from hundreds of millions of rand to about R10-million last year.

In 1969 a mammoth 838,000 metric tons of pilchards were caught off the SWA coast. In 1975 there was a pilchard quota of 568,000 metric tons. Last year's quota was a mere 15,000 metric tons of which only 4,000 could be canned.

With this year's earlier total ban on pilchard fishing off Walvis Bay's canning industry remained at a standstill.

But with the find of the huge shoals of pilchards — estimated at between three and five years of age — fishermen were ecstatic, hoping the pilchard ban would be lifted.

Fishermen reported some intermixed shoals containing pilchards, anchovies and maasbanker. They also reported some pure pilchard shoals.

The secretary of the SWA Fishermen's Union, Mr Ben van Vuuren, said it was almost impossible for fishermen to avoid catching pilchards.

But Mr Kruger said yesterday a decision on the lifting of the total ban and on whether fishermen would be allowed to catch limited quantities of pilchards would only be announced next week.

Anxious fishermen, however, said they wanted an immediate decision and they felt the shoals might swim southwards into the nets of foreign trawlers south of SWA.

Mr Kruger said it would take some time for Walvis Bay to gear itself for canning pilchards. At the moment it was only prepared for crushing maasbanker and mackerel and making it into feed.

"I am not prepared to stick my neck out to destroy the efforts of the past two years," Mr Kruger said, in reply to fishermen's demands for an immediate lifting of the pilchard ban.

He said it was not worth sacrificing SWA's fishing industry for short-term profit merely because the first rays of hope for the diminished fishing industry had been seen.
Race-bias out in SWAP

By PETER KENNY
Mail Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK.—South West Africa's new police force will have no racial discrimination, the Divisional Commissioner of the new force, Major-General Dolf Goewe, said yesterday.

A man's colour would not stand in the way of his promotion in the SWAP.

SWA's new police force was introduced yesterday to take the place of South African Police in South West Africa.

"This latest development is part of the territory's independence process, and is in accordance with the wishes of the people," General Goewe said.

Until Tuesday the general was Divisional Commissioner of the SAP in SWA, and is one of its first members to accept a permanent position with the new SWA police.

The new force will be controlled directly by the Administrator-General of SWA, Mr Danie Haigh, instead of by the South African Minister of Police, as in the past.

In time the new force will also receive its own uniform. The names of certain ranks have been changed already.

The head of the force will be known as the Commissioner, with a rank of major-general. Immediately below him are the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, with equivalent ranks of brigadier and colonel.

General Goewe said members of SWAP would receive better salaries than their South African counterparts.

"We are not completely independent of the SAP in that a large number of policemen currently serving here still belong to that force," General Goewe said.

The SWAP would continue to seek co-operation and support from South Africa, but policemen would eventually be trained in SWA.

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<td>%</td>
<td>1,351</td>
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TABLE 2

It seems a little rash to assume that the other woman (those whose people may be drunk on vodka,)

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49
SWA trawler fishing to be suspended

WINDHOEK. — Trawler fishing along the SWA-Namibian coast has been temporarily banned because of the "alarming" number of sardines being caught, the territory's Secretary of Economic Affairs, Mr Piet Kruger, confirmed in Windhoek.

Mr Kruger said he had requested fishing boats not to put to sea again until a scientific report on the numbers of sardines off the coast had been completed.

The catching of sardines was forbidden this year to conserve depleted resources and allow shoals to build up again. — Sapa.
The actual 10 auxiliaries recruited came from people associated with two community projects in the area. Five were connected with the Early Learning Centre and five with BABS (Build a Better Society). The background to these 2 organisations is as follows:

The Early Learning Centre was established as a research project to formulate a nursery school curriculum for the socially disadvantaged or deprived child. As part of its parent education program, it gave birth to the HELP (Home Early Learning Programme) scheme. As part of its social programme, it gave rise to BABS, which matured rapidly and soon left the roost to fend for itself, due mainly to physical accommodation problems as well as to move itself into the heat of the community.

WINDHEUK — Parents of children at Windheuk Primary School were shocked by the announcement that tuition fees will be introduced in the school next term. The announcement was made at a meeting held last night at the school. The parents, who were represented by their chairman, Mr. A. J. van der Walt, were told that the school was facing financial difficulties and that tuition fees would be introduced to cover the shortfall. The meeting was attended by about 50 parents, who expressed their concern and asked for clarification.

Another primary school in the area, Koeberg Primary School, also announced the introduction of tuition fees. The fees will be introduced in the new academic year and will cover the cost of materials and maintenance.

An auxiliary is defined as a technical worker in a certain field with less than full professional qualifications. Single purpose auxiliaries have minimal education and are taught single or limited range of skills. General purpose auxiliaries are trained in a variety of skills. It is hoped that having covered some sort of curriculum that these auxiliaries may progress from single to general purpose auxiliaries.
DIAMOND ghost towns are crumbling in the Namib Desert dunes where European opera stars once dazzled millionaires.

Now diamond giant CDM has undertaken to stop the decay at Kolmanskop, the biggest of the German diamond towns which mushroomed near Luderitz after the discovery of diamonds in the desert in 1908.

And the promise of prospecting in the vast, deserted Skeleton Coast sperrgebiet (restricted area) could also breathe new life in the form of renewed diamond mining at the important ghost towns of Elizabeth Bay and Bogenfeld.

In its heyday, Kolmanskop, 12km from Luderitz, was the grandest and most riotous of the desert diamond towns. Reputedly it was livelier than Picadilly, with champagne and imported soda water baths being the order of the day during water shortages.

Some of the finest homes of Southern Africa raced on its track, and opera stars and orchestras from Europe entertained its high-living residents in a magnificent two-story complex known as the casino.

The town's success story started soon after a coloured labourer handed a shiny stone to German railway worker August Stauch. Stauch confirmed it was a diamond, resigned his job and staked claims in the desert. Soon the dunes were alive with fortune-hunters, some of whom strayed too far south and died of thirst amidst the enormous wealth.

By 1909 magnificent mansions had been built on the desert sand. Soon there were schools, hospitals — the hospital at Kolmanskop boasted the best X-ray equipment in Southern Africa — shops, theatres and hotels.

Between 1908 and 1914 about five million carats of diamonds worth more than R7-million were mined in the desert. On moonlit nights lucky prospectors gathered cupfuls of glittering gems off the sand dunes near a discovery of richer diamond deposits at the mouth of the Orange River all contributed to the collapse of the desert towns. Mining at Kolmanskop stopped in the early 1930s. The town survived another two decades as a supply and transport depot. The last resident left in 1951.

The ghost towns, some of which have disappeared completely, were left to the mercy of the sand-blasting gales and the corrosive, moist Atlantic air. The Skeleton Coast in the Luderitz area is one of the windiest coasts in the world. Fierce south-westers rage for seven months of the year.

Kolmanskop, which is the only one of the ghost towns open to tourists, is relatively well preserved. Others, like Elizabeth Bay in the sperrgebiet, are honeycombed shells which threaten to collapse at any moment.

CDM plans to complete its restoration of Kolmanskop in 1983, 75 years after the discovery of diamonds in the Namib and a century after the founding of Luderitz.

A unique feature of the project is its aim to preserve the town in a state of "arrested decay". The idea is to preserve the town's vital ghost town atmosphere, says CDM's Windhoek public relations director, Mr Clive Cowley.

Sixteen of the original 79 buildings in the town have been earmarked for selective restoration. Windows, doors and roof tiles are being replaced to afford some protection from the marauding elements and walls will be made "decay proof".

In one case an invading sand dune will be removed from within a house only to be replaced after the walls have been treated.

Sand breaks will be erected to prevent more destructive dune build-up in the town. Period furniture is being collected for display in the restored buildings and authentic machinery and equipment is being sought to supplement the historical display.
Within a year of the discovery of diamonds in the desert this director's mansion was built in the sand. All building materials were imported from Germany.

Commercial row at Kolmanesqopo where a butcher baker.

General dealer and others once plied their trades.
Walvis Bay: The way ahead

THE revitalisation of the line-fishing industry appears to be under way at Walvis Bay. A subsidiary of the Windhoek-based Ohthieve & List group of companies, Niedwand Boatyard, is building a fleet of five line-fishing vessels. These craft, built from timber imported from the Ivory Coast, are designed to the new classic MFV lines.

The MFV (Motor Fishing Vessel) was a type developed by both England and Germany during World War Two as armed patrol boats, with a secondary fishing role. They are broad in the beam, fairly deep on draught and have flat transom sterns. They are powered by slow-revving high-torque diesel engines and are excellent sea-boats. Amid the uncertainty over Walvis Bay, the boatyard production line, where all five vessels are being built, is an encouraging sight.

Walvis Bay, however, is still very much a fishing port in terms of its usage by the foreign trawler fleets. Russian, Polish, Spanish, Korean, Rumanian, Greek, Israeli, Iraqi and Iranian flags are among those to be seen at the berths. Many vessels under foreign flags put in for repairs and overhaul. Seen in these terms, the port is a growing concern in harbour dues and passing trade.

Another project on the boards at present is the setting up of a large cold store complex at Walvis, which will enable not only exports stern-tube reboaring and alignment, the overhaul of diesel and steam turbines and marine auxiliary units, complicated "hull" surgery, seacooling, rustproofing and repairing of complete ships, radar and radio repairs, and the many other supportive services necessary for shipping.

Companies like Gearlings, under its overall-club-technical director Johan van Kuyk, are versatile and dynamic entities in the Walvis Bay scheme of things, and its well-equipped workshop is able to perform tasks like the rebuilding of rudder pintles by welding and machining, can produce reduction gear-rings and can carry out all types of milling, routing and turning. It can also prepare non-ferrous casings.

Kraetz Welding and Niedwand Engineering are two other companies kept busy on the repair side, and speaking as a former marine engineer, and having checked out the repair facilities offered by these private concerns at relevant authorities at the international level to award the port the "Repair Port" grading, after due investigation.

Gearlings (Pvt) are already carrying out Lloyds-approved repair operations, and are also, incidentally, certificated for the inspection and repair of the post-carried Beaufort inflatable life-rafts.

Whilst the fishing situation is being sorted out, there is nothing to stop an all-out effort to obtain the "Repair Port" rating for Walvis Bay.

Here, I would say, would be the real starting point for a revival programme. But the Government and the private sector must at the same time go all out to make the port attractive to foreign visitors, both administratively and socially.

I'd recommend that some of our Reef-bound companies with possible marine or related interests set a course westwards to take a look at Walvis Bay — and speak with people like Lange, Donnewill

Hull-lengthening by Gearling's: A 6-metre section being built in. The company also undertakes beam widening and performs the necessary buoyancy and stability tests.

Hattingh warned in the Bulletin of the Africa in the late 1960s the increase in the urban African has been greater than the total white population also concerned at the fact that the time which it increased in the black population to equal the total.
foreign fisheries for transit storage of fish, with accompanying packaging facilities.

The complex will be to EEC specifications, similar to the complex of Blue Continent in Cape Town, which company is believed to be involved in the Walvis Bay project.

But perhaps the most attractive of all proposals is that the port will be officially designated a "Repair Port" by international shipping. It fully deserves this rating since it is able to offer a most comprehensive range of shipping repair and maintenance services with a competency and speed unmatched by many other ports, including some in Europe.

Repair costs here are said to be highly competitive.

Included in the range of repairs possible are underwater hull patching, underwater hull inspections and the removal and refitting of rudders by submerged teams, propeller refit and repairs,

A subsidiary of the Ohlthaver and Rist group, Nleswand, is currently building a fleet of wooden long-liners at Walvis.
IN-FIGHTING among the bureaucrats, feeding among top scientists, ostracism, mislead- ing information, and scuttling articles in a leading scientific journal all helped in the de- struction of the fishing industry, says Dr Jan Lochner.

His claim of a major breakthrough in the study of the popu- lation dynamics of fish were dismissed by a coterie of government scientists and academ- ics, in spite of the fact that his predictions proved true.

“ar my background is that of an electrical engineer, with experience on guided missile systems, I used an electrical analogy to model the rise and fall of fish popula- tions. It was so revolu- tionary and contradicted so many theories held by the marine biologists and fish experts that they refused to accept it, even when the proof was staring them in the face,” Dr Lochner said in an interview.

Using calculations based on his theory he was able to pre- dict each year’s catch in advance, to within one percent of accuracy.

“The only time I went wrong was when I was given the wrong figures by the Department of Sea Fisheries. In an inquiry, fishermen gave evidence that they had been forced to dump fish at sea because they had gone over the quota. Others claimed that the fishing com- panies underpaid them by manipu- lating the weigh-in scales to show a lower figure. Whatever the reasons, I took more care with my sources after that.”

His model also showed the critical limits for fishing and predicted that if these were ex- ceded the fish population would decline below a level where it would be impossible to harvest them scientifically. Eel gave 90 percent as the critical level in the case of pilchards and 100 percent (of the adult fish) for anchovies.

On this basis he forecast ahead of time the amount of fish available, the likely catch and the quota advisable to maintain the resource.

As a member of an early commission of inquiry into the fishing industry, he won first tolerated, then ignored and fi- nally extracted. He was forced to oppose the full vote of the commission and turn in a mi- nority report which “got derailed a bit on the way” but finally caused a furor in Parliament.

In January last year he published his theory of fish population dynamics in the South African Journal of Science. It included a simple solution to the fish collapse—a shift of fishing activity from winter to summer in order to allow the young fish time to breed before harvesting.

In October, in the same journal, four government scientists and three University of Cape Town academics published their views in a 12-page rejection of Dr Lochner’s theories.

“I stand by my work,” Dr Lochner said.

“The important thing is that we now have a model which will enable the fishing fleets of the world to harvest the sea scientifically, so that the resource can give a predictable annual yield. This has never been the case before. Given proper manage- ment, I feel confident that the South African fishing resource can be restored and could yield up to 2.5 million tonnes a year,” Dr Lochner said.
tion dynamics, Dr Loecher adapted electrical theory to show how fish populations behaved and to predict annual catches.

**Collapse**

His work was so accurate that he was able to predict fish catches to within one percent. He also showed that a fish population reduced below a critical level would collapse. Based on these findings, he recommended severe cutbacks in fishing quotas.

But his theories were bad news to fishing concessionaires who had invested heavily in factory ships, canned factories and other plant. Their representatives carried most weight in the Fisheries Advisory Board and blocked his recommendations.

"Up until then I was pretty innocent, I didn't know what was going on," he told me in an interview this week. Then a friend warned him that attempts were being made to discredit his theories.

"There are profits of more than R1m a year being made, do you think you can talk louder than that?" he was asked.

Appointed as a member of a commission of inquiry into the fishing industry in the late sixties he found himself a lone voice calling for caution. Driven to desperation by non-co-operation, he flew to Pretoria to talk to the Minister, Mr Jan Hasel. That was the year after the biggest fish catch in the country's history — 1.9m tons — was recorded. The Minister had on factory ships and other equipment and could not be expected to agree that the fish were threatened.

Dr Loecher went back to work, carried out in his own time and at his own expense. He put it: "There were no all-expenses paid trips around the world, not even a train ticket to the harbour. I was on my own and I was made to understand that."

Then came a setback, his predictions for the catch for the following year were off the mark by about 30 percent. It seemed as if his theories were flawed. Officials congratulated each other on ignoring such an obviously untrustworthy source.

A check showed that the error could only be in the figures supplied — and these came from the Department of Sea Fisheries.

Strong pressure "and a bit of help from friends" soon obtained the correct catch figures. They matched his calculations, again to within one percent. An official apologized for the "oversight!"

"I took good care to organize my own sources after that," he told me.

The factory ships continued to haul out an incredible 600,000 tons annually in addition to what the entire fishing fleet was harvesting. Dr Loecher decided to bypass the Cabinet and go straight to the top. A letter to the Prime Minister, then Mr Vorster, resulted in withdrawal of the ships, a new Minister of Industries and a promise to reduce catches.

Shipping Journal found an offshore expert who contradicted my theories. Suddenly the quotas went up again, one of the factory ships returned to the fishing area and we were back to square one," said Dr Loecher.

Mr Wiley accused the Minister of giving incorrect figures on the industry. Mr Vorster called for a Select Committee of Inquiry. Dr Loecher and Mr Du Pisani gave evidence on the disparity of figures.

**Confusion**

"In the end it seemed there was some confusion about the interpretation of the Africans term for territorial waters and waters of the territory (SWA/Namibia) and that's why the figures differed," said Dr Loecher. Everybody agreed to accept there had been a "mistake!"

Quotas were drastically reduced — and the Department of Sea Fisheries suddenly found itself unable to come up with the statistics required by Dr Loecher. Everybody agreed to accept there had been a "mistake!"

Dr Loecher, recalling the incident with a smile.

"My unofficial sources were still dependable and in 1976 I noticed that catches had risen above the critical level. I approached the new minister (Mr Chris Heunis) and warned him, pointing out that I had no official statistics to go on."

Mr Heunis called in the secretary and the head of the division. The minister had no choice but to accept the advice of his officials.

**Full report**

Back in his Port Elizabeth laboratory, Dr Loecher hammered out a full report, stripped of all the niceties, which warned in blunt terms that the department had cut the quota or lost the whole industry. The report, and an implication that it might circulate elsewhere, had some effect. Quotas fell to 220,000 but this was still too high.

Events were now happening quickly. Mr Heunis and the director of Sea Fisheries flew to Walvis Bay for an on-the-spot check. The quotas were slashed to 200,000 tons.

"Unfortunately, it was already too late," said Dr Loecher. Unbelievably, the fishing interests refused to give up. They sent a deputation to Pretoria and confronted the minister in his office.

"He sent them packing," said Dr Loecher, recalling the incident with a smile.

But his predictions of catastrophe were already reality: The pilchards disappeared.

"After writing out the pilchards they started on the anchovies. The situation is repeating itself. If the same greedy methods are used it will be the end of the fishing industry in any real commercial sense," Dr Loecher said.
The heyday of the pilchard fleet in Walvis Bay — dozens of boats ride at anchor after discharging full holds.
Where all the fish have gone

Bob Moloy

The sea along the SWA/Namibian coast, now a desert.

SOUTH AFRICA
NAMIBIA
ANGOLA
ZAMBIA
BOTSWANA
AFRICA
NAMIBIA

18/4/1989
CT 11/5
Warnings not heeded as quotas change

The Cape Times, Wednesday, April 15, 1981

Vital source of cheap protein lost

Loss of fishing resources off the SWA/Namibian coast means more than simply a fall in profits for the shareholders, it also represents loss of a vital source of cheap protein for the lower socio-economic groups throughout the territory and the Republic.

The latest figures released in the CSIR journal “Scientific” by Mr J P H Wessels, director of the Fishing Industry Research Institute, indicate that at its height the industry supplied about 30 percent of the animal protein needs and 10 percent of the total protein needs of the country.

Popularity

Ironically, the work of the institute also contributed greatly not only to the pilchard’s local popularity but also to its international reputation in the form of South African canned pilchards. Today, imported pilchards are cheaper than the local product by some 25 to 30 percent.

A further irony is that sardines, once imported as a luxury, now sell at prices which are beginning to look competitive. According to a spokesperson for a major supermarket chain, sales of imported sardines have risen sharply since the loss of the pilchard resources.

THE countdown to the fishing disaster began in the mid-sixties. This is how it went:

- 1968: A million-and-a-half tonnes caught in the greatest catch of the industry’s history. Dr Jan Lochner warns that overkill is imminent and calls for a reduction in quotas.

- 1969: Quotas raised to 1.75-million tonnes. Only 1.22-million tonnes are caught.

- 1970: Quotas reduced to 565 000 tonnes but barely enough fish caught to fill even the reduced quotas. Catch figures contradictory. Dr Lochner calls for immediate and drastic cuts.

- 1971: Fish catch falls to 255 000 tonnes — the lowest in years. The Department of Sea Fisheries launches a research programme.

Uproar

- 1972: Quota set at 230 000 tonnes. Catches fall to match. First news headlines of danger for the fishing industry. Uproar in Parliament as government is accused of allowing overfishing.

- 1973: Catches still poor.

- 1974: Smiles all round as catch rises to 795 000 tonnes. Anchovy catch doubles. Dr Lochner warns that the figures are misleading, the fish populations are fluctuating just before collapse and the less nutritious anchovy is filling the gap left by the over-fished pilchard. Rs-million spent by the government on improving the Walvis Bay fishing harbour. Quotas raised again.

- 1975: Industry fails to fill quotas.

- 1976: Quota drops to 475 000 tonnes but not met by catchers. Headlines warn that fishing resources are in “great danger.”


Season shortened

- 1978: The six-month fishing season cut to three-and-a-half months. Only six fish factories now operating in Walvis Bay. Catch down to 414 000 tonnes, almost all anchovies. SWA/Namibia’s income from fishing, once R100-million a year, now less than R64-million.


- 1980: Pilchard quota set at 12 500 tonnes but catch less than half that. Anchovy quota down to 180 000 tonnes. Headlines scream: “Walvis Bay staggers as nets come in empty.” Dr Lochner publishes his formula for recovery. Four government scientists and three academics from the University of Cape Town jump into print to contradict his findings.

- 1981: South African fishing interests announce Rs8-million joint investment in Chilean fishing. Two-million cans of pilchards imported from Chile. Fishing zone off SWA/Namibia extended to 300km because of “serious depletion of fish resources”. All 16 member states of the International commission for South-East Atlantic fisheries allowed to fish the zone.

Instant foods

The white fish or trawler industry, with an annual turnover of R150 m to R191 m, markets fresh and frozen, salted and dried fish as well as instant foods such as fish sticks, ready-to-serve products and white fish meal.

The pelagic fishing industry, in which the pilchard and anchovy sources figured largely, provided canned fish for human and animal consumption, fish oil for margarine, and fish meal.
Gone are the days of fat cheques
but they live in hope that Bay

Hendrik Constable — waiting to go out
The shoals will be back in three years.
"There have also been a lot of current changes this season and I think it indicates a return to the old fishing patterns along this coast. The catches have been huge, and the local companies have been forced to turn the hard by-catches into fish meal. A tragic waste of profit and safety," Mr. Max said.

Big catches have been recorded in recent years. Fisherman Hendrik Constand said the dilemma of many waiting to sail from Walvis Bay when he said: "I live here with my wife and children, and the old principles of saving and being careful are not enough."

But perhaps the most dangerous depletion and could be wiped out. It appears the Government placed more blame on their Advisory Board in Namibia, and the next year quotas were raised to a total 1.75 million tons. Only 1.2 million tons were

"After wiping out the pilchards, they started on the anchovies. The fish caught are killed themselves and if the same greedy methods are used, they will ruin the fishery," Dr. Lochner said.

Others in the area blame the lack of research and effort in environment protection. However, the President of the Walvis Bay Fishermen's Union, Mr. Jacobs, said: "We have been living on the sea for many years, and I believe the fish are too important for our livelihood."

Photograph: Chris Whitfield, Pictures: John Woodroffe
"There have also been a lot of current changes this season," Mr. Mays said, "but I think it indicates a return to the old fishing patterns along this coast. The catches have been recorded in limited quantities — into fish meat. "A tragic waste of profit and quality catches," Mr. Mays said, pointing to scenes of fishmeal waiting to be taken by rail from the fishing company he manages.

Others in the area are planning their hopes on diversification; at least one, of the larger fishing boats has been re-equipped to handle trawling for fish deeper than the pelagic variety that previously kept fishermen busy.

Some have shifted the emphasis of their operations geographically. Most of the now-closed factories have moved their machinery to Chile, where big catches have been recorded in recent years. Fisherman Hendrik Constable explained the dilemma of many waiting to sail from Walvis Bay when he was asked, "I live here with my family and this is the only work I know. The boat is too small to convert to deep sea trawling so we just have to hope.

The fishermen are optimistic though, several reporting sightings of large schools of pilchards and eager to get out to sea.

Mr. Constable said during the boom years every member of an average-sized fishing boat could get R2,000 for a month's work. Now they often go home with less than R200.

With no canneries equipped to package the

fish, local companies have been forced to turn pilchard by-catches — allowed in limited quantities — into fish meal. "A tragic waste of profit and quality catches," Mr. Mays said, pointing to scenes of fishmeal waiting to be taken by rail from the fishing company he manages.

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Dr. Lochner told the Government of impending disaster at Walvis Bay. He was ignored.

In 1968, 1.5 million tons of pelagic fish were caught off South West Africa in the greatest catch of the industry's history. Dr. Lochner warned that the fish reserves were being dangerously depleted and could be wiped out.

It appears the Government placed more faith in their advisers than in their own research. In Namibia, and the next year's quota was raised to a total 1,760 million tons. Only 10,000 tons were achieved.

By 1970 the quotas had been cut to 563,000 tons, and fishermen were struggling to reach even these reduced figures.

Over the next few years the catch fluctuated..."
Fish meal
output falls short

The fishing industry's production of fish meal would not meet full domestic requirements this year and supplementary quantities may have to be imported, Mr. Robert Silverman, chairman of SWA Fishing Industries, says.

He says in the company's annual report the maximum selling price of fish meal on the local market is still controlled.

Notwithstanding an application for a realistic increase in the permissible price, approval was given for a figure not even in keeping with the rate of inflation, let alone taking into consideration the high cost of production prevailing in South West Africa?

A disquieting feature off the SWA coast is the continued presence of a large number of foreign vessels which do not fully support the conservation measures adopted by the industry and the authorities.
Fishing quotas

WINDHOEK.—A new fishing quota has been announced for Namibia by the Administrator-General.

The quota determines that catches of pelagic fish will begin on Monday and the quota for the rest of the season will be 150,000 tons, bringing the total for the season to 165,000 tons.

Sardines will be treated as an incidental catch and considered part of the total quota. The quota will be subject to changes as the fishing pattern changes.

The authorities have appealed to the industry to keep catches of sardines to a minimum and to concentrate on anchovies.

As a large percentage of the sardine catch will consist of immature fish, no canning will be allowed. The area north of Palgrave Point will be closed to all fishing. — Regler.
Karakul report likely to suggest new techniques

WINDHOEK — The report of an international study of all aspects of the karakul industry would be released in July, the chairman of the SWA Karakul Producers’ Association, Mr G J C (Johnny) Kirsten, told a Press conference in Windhoek yesterday.

The study will deal with production in South Africa and SWA, and distribution and retailing in world markets.

Two representatives of the American group of management and marketing consultants doing the study are in Windhoek at present.

They will visit Upington on Tuesday to investigate karakul production in the Northern Cape.

Mr Kirsten said the report would be submitted to the International Karakul Secretariat, the South African Karakul Board, and the SWA Karakul Board.

Speaking in his private capacity, Mr Kirsten anticipated that "as a result of the investigation, doubt could be cast on established practices and views in the industry"

He outlined three critical areas in the karakul industry that would be the central issues of the investigation and subsequent negotiations among producers, agents, and the industry’s governing bodies.

"We have wearability (hair retention) problems, problems with pattern-retention ... and the goddess of fashion has turned against us."

Because of these problems, he said, the market prices of karakul pelts had dropped drastically in the past year. At a recent auction farmers received up to 50% less for their furs than last year.

Mr Kirsten suggested the introduction of a floor price for karakul skins.

He suggested that a possible solution to the present oversupply of pelts would be to use a stricter quality standard in supplying them to the market.

He indicated that a newly constituted karakul board should introduce sorting standards classifying total production into "fur quality" and a so-far unnamed "sub-standard" (leather quality).

A new karakul board should have full control to determine the standard of skin before it was classified as fur.

"The sorting system should be adapted to changing conditions in the market," said Mr Kirsten.

Skins not classified as fur should be bought and processed by the board in such a way that they would be clearly distinguishable from fur.

At the same time, a marketing campaign would have to be instituted to promote the new "quality image" of karakul pelts. — Sapa.
The mine produced 55,000 tons of uranium in 1977 and then fell to 47,000 tons in 1978 and 43,000 tons in 1979. The chairman of Rossing, Mr. Anthony Thiele, says in the annual report that the mining group's production is smaller than that of its competitors in Namibia and South Africa. The problem is that the price of uranium has fallen sharply in recent years, but Rossing has not been able to adjust its production costs quickly enough.

The chairman also warns that the high price of uranium may not last for long. "If the price of uranium drops further, we may have to make some difficult decisions," he says.

The company's profits have also been affected by the high price of uranium. In 1977, Rossing made a profit of $21 million, but in 1978 it lost $10 million. The company's share price has also fallen, from $35 in 1976 to $25 in 1977.
For publications obtainable from the Centre for Intergroup Studies, c/o University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Republic of South Africa, 7700

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PLEASE CIRCLE ITEMS REQUIRED
The number of people off work grows steadily, disrupting business.

The government is stepping up efforts to contain the spread of the flu.

The flu season, which is expected to peak in early March, is also expected to be more severe than last year.

The flu vaccination campaign is underway, with over 100,000 people receiving the vaccine so far.

The flu season is expected to last until May.

The flu has caused over 1,000 deaths so far this year.

In the meantime, the government is working to improve the flu hospitals.

The flu is spreading rapidly, and the government is urging people to take precautions.

The flu is spread through coughing and sneezing, and can be prevented by washing hands frequently.

The government is also working to improve the flu hospitals, and is investing in new equipment.

The flu season is expected to last until May.

The flu is spreading rapidly, and the government is urging people to take precautions.
The table below illustrates the findings of a study that compared the steps taken by a sample of Indian households in rural areas. The study was conducted to understand the factors affecting the adoption of modern medical practices and the traditional practices that are still prevalent.

![Table Image]

### Table 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step Taken</th>
<th>No. of Times Taken</th>
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WINDHOEK - About 9000 people in Kaokoland, in north-western SWA/Namibia, were facing starvation, the chairman of the Herero Executive Committee told the South West African Broadcasting Corporation yesterday.

The SWABC reported that Mr Plamuna estimated that about 30,000 cattle in the area had died.

An extensive feeding scheme had been started by the Herero administration, and food worth R13,000 had been made available to people in Kaokoland.

Most of SWA/Namibia is in the grip of the worst drought for decades and nearly R50-million in State aid had been provided for farmers.

A Windhoek morning newspaper has launched an appeal to feed starving people in DamaraLand, one of the worst hit areas, where many children have died of malnutrition. - Sapa.

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SWA meat probe: land fraud alleged

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Summons are soon to be served on four SWA/Namibian part-time farmers after a police investigation into irregularities in the territory's meat industry.

It is alleged the farmers exaggerated the size of their cattle to boost their beef marketing quotas.

The same police probe, conducted by Captain Johan Krüer of the Commercial Branch, Johannesburg, led recently to the summoning of four top livestock brokers in SWA/Namibia.

The brokers were offered admission of guilt fines of £30 on each of a total of 3,089 allegations. If they elect not to pay these fines, they must appear before a Windhoek magistrate on July 23.

The allegations against them concerned the marketing of cattle in South Africa without valid permits.

Windhoek's senior public prosecutor, Mr M. T. Steyn, has not yet been informed by the brokers of what they intend to do. It is understood some are seeking legal advice.

Mr Steyn said today the four summons to be served on the part-time farmers rounded off the findings of the police investigation. No further proceedings were expected at this stage.

He said they had been given the option of paying £735 admission of guilt fines on each count. The meat control regulations, in terms of which they were summoned, stipulated a maximum fine of £100 (or six months). A commission of inquiry into SWA/Namibia's meat industry said in its report, which prompted the police probe, that the registration of some farms with the local meat board had been duplicated.
CDM budgets R27m this year for SWA prospecting

Own Correspondent—De Beers Consolidated Mines, through its wholly-owned subsidiary CDM (Pty), is spending R27-million on prospecting throughout South West Africa this year compared with a total of R55-million spent over the past three years.

CDM’s resident director in Windhoek, Mr Douglas Hoffe, in a recent address to the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said the tempo and scope of CDM’s prospecting activities reached record levels.

The London Mining Journal notes that CDM is the world’s largest individual producer of gem diamonds, with output of 160,000 carats in 1980, of which 95% were gem-quality.

While CDM’s current mining lease expires only in 2021, present reserves of alluvial stones along the coastal strip north of Oranjemund have an expected life of ten to fifteen years.

Mr Hoffe said exploration activities included a major search for further diamond reserves in the area south of the present workings and along the Orange River, as well as northwards along the Atlantic coast in Diamond Areas Nos 1 and 2.

Outside the diamond areas, CDM Prospectting (Pty) is conducting a diamond survey of the whole country north of the Tropic of Capricorn, which bisects SWA about 100 km south of Windhoek.

In the coastal waters, CDM’s marine division has three vessels operating at an annual cost of R2,000,000, engaged in reconnaissance prospecting.

Elsewhere in SWA, says the Journal, CDM, together with Anglo American Corporation, is searching for base metals and other minerals, over an area of about 28,000 km², including the eastern part of Diamond Area No 1.

CDM is also conducting a five-year geological and economic mineral survey, which was initiated in 1977, at a total cost of R5-million. The survey covers 100,000 km² in lesser-known parts of the country, including the remote Kaokoveld in the northwest, which is thought to contain significant iron ore deposits.

These areas have been considered prime prospecting regions because of the nature of the surface geology and the expense involved—so results come to hand they are being placed on open file by CDM at the regional office of the Geological Survey Department in Windhoek.

A major discovery already made as a result of the CDM survey is the location of a coal deposit near Aranos in the south-east, between the Kessab River and the border with Botswana. CDM has acquired a concession area covering 9,600 km².

Although the drilling work remains to be done to ascertain whether the deposit is economically viable, it is already known that the coal, present in two metre-wide seams at an average depth of 300 m, is of power station quality.

It is believed that exploitation of the deposit could transform SWA’s prospects for industrial development.

At the moment no coal is mined in SWA, and all its power needs are provided by coal and oil imported from South Africa, and the limited amount of power available from the Kwara Falls station on the Kunene River.

To meet the demand for power, particularly from the mining industry, a link to the SA grid at Aggiesfontein is now under construction.

The journal says CDM is the biggest taxpayer in SWA, accounting for about 40% of the direct taxation in 1980, although the Rio Tinto’s Rooinlaire mine will soon become another top taxpayer, as a large proportion of its development costs have been paid off.

CDM is the biggest source of income for De Beers, accounting for 17% of taxed profit last year, while contributing about 15% of group output.

In spite of political uncertainties, existing mining operations are generally expanding investment in plant and equipment. Gross domestic fixed investment in the mining sector rose by 14% to R118-million in 1980, reversing the previous year’s declining trend.

However, growth in mining’s GDP contribution was sluggish, reflecting weak prices for most of the base metals exported from SWA.

Mining’s contribution to GDP increased by 8% to R627-million last year, about 32% of the total GDP of R200-million.

O De Beers chairman Mr Harry Oppenheimer told shareholders at the annual meeting in Kimberley last month that the company had decided to put into effect plans to reduce diamond production in view of the depressed state of the diamond industry.

Mr Oppenheimer said the weakness in demand for diamonds at the cutting centres had intensified, with sales at a low level, and De Beers was recalculating stock.

In his annual report in April the chairman confirmed that the Central Selling Organisation was substantially reducing its rough diamond offerings to the market.
Economy reviving

Mudge

WINDHOEK High levels of investment in mining, manufacturing, and electricity were preparing SWA/Namibia for an economic revival. Mr Dirk Mudge, Chairman of the Ministers' Council, said yesterday:

In his budget speech in the National Assembly, Mr Mudge said investment levels had increased by nearly 30 percent in 1980, which meant production capacity was being created for the future.

Activities in the construction sector represented investments in the future and were a reflection of confidence. The sector's contribution to the gross domestic product had increased by 10.4 percent to R382 million.

CONTRIBUTION

The contribution of manufacturing to the GDP had increased by 9.2 percent during 1980, despite low fish catches.

"But for the 1982 financial year... the outlook is not as rosy," Mr Mudge warned.

"For the present it seems that low prices for exports will continue and a modest recovery cannot be expected before the end of the year." — Sapa.
Huge foreign fleets netting R250m fish harvest off SWA

By PAUL BOLD
Financial Editor

INTENSIVE fishing by foreign fleets is being observed off the SWA/Namibian coast, an Ovestone director, Mr John Newman, told the annual meeting in Cape Town yesterday.

Mr Newman, who is one of the country’s leading fishing industry authorities, said that fleets from more than eight countries are active in the area.

“In January alone there were some 114 foreign vessels operating off South West Africa.”

South West African fishing groups are most concerned with the current situation. An industry source told me this week that the foreign fleets were probably netting an annual catch worth R250m – R300m a year.

The fleets are, on the whole, operating beyond the 25km fishing zone ruled out of bounds to foreigners by the 14-nation International Convention for South East Atlantic Fisheries.

However, some fleets are said to be slipping into the 25km area under cover of darkness. Estimates on the degree of poaching seems to vary from group to group with the chairman of one large company taking the view that the new IceSea agreement is working well with most countries co-operating while others say there is tremendous poaching.

Fishing groups are worried about the activities of midwater foreign trawlers. If these trawlers enter shallow waters they catch everything with their 65mm mesh hake nets and their speed further decreases the mesh size. The area is being actively patrolled by representatives of IceSea.

Industry sources say Eastern European vessels — not the Russians — are the worst offenders. Some of the vessels are large, ranging up to 5,000 tons, and have combined freezing and other processing operations.

Mr Andrew Ovestone

A settlement of the SWA issue would allow for a far wider limit of around 200km. This area would then have to be actively policed.

The poaching is taking place at a time when the local fishing industry has agreed to limit pilchard catches to protect the resource.

In addition, the industry has closed more than half of the traditional fishing grounds. There has also been excellent co-operation between government, scientists and the industry.

This has already had a beneficial effect and Ovestone chairman, Mr Andrew Ovestone, told the group that limited canning may be resumed next year, or the following year.

His statement backed up those of Kaap Kunene chairman, Mr A P Du Preez, who said recently he believed the resource was recovering and a resumption of canning was likely. Large shoals of mature pilchards have been sighted in South West African waters.

The previous decline in the stock was due to a combination of over fishing, climatic conditions and poor spawning. This led to the vast canning industry at Walvis Bay closing down and several plants were shipped to Chile where joint fishing and canning operations have been launched with Chilean interests.

At its peak the SWA industry canned output was worth around R100m a year.
WINDHOEK — Foreign interest in investing in SWA/Namibia was showing signs of lining up, the Secretary of Finance, Dr Johan Jones, said in Windhoek yesterday.

Nevertheless, investors were still cautious because of political uncertainty.

Foreigners were primarily interested in mining which offered the most lucrative opportunities but some were also attracted to agriculture by the relatively low land prices.

Dr Jones said economic conditions in the territory in the final analysis would be determined by the nature of the ultimate political solution.

INVESTED

There could either be a government that would adopt a nationalisation programme, or one that encouraged free enterprise.

South Africa had invested about ZS 90 million in South West Africa since 1920, Dr Jones said.

If South Africa had not put so much money into the territory, the standard of living and growth potential would have been considerably lower today.

On South Africa had concentrated especially on developing a road-network.
Zebra have been the main victims of drought, but other game such as elephant, giraffe, oryx and kudu have died in valleys such as this. Unable to migrate from their mountain haven, they soon exhaust the meagre grazing and starve to death beside desert springs.

Trapped between the parallel barriers — they were too weak to escape.

From December to March this year, Carlo and his staff of 80 Damara labourers burned the carcasses of nearly 700 wild animals — 372 zebra, 157 kudu, 127 oryx, 22 springbok, six elephants, three giraffe, a rhinoceros and a baboon — all of which had starved to death in a gorge less than a kilometre from the fence.

We drove to the spot about 50 kilometres north-east of Makelani. Heaps of ash and seared bone dotted the gorge.

Giant palms grew in profusion, and clear, spring water ran from between some rocks. It made the river bed lush with shrub-high green grass.

Apart from a few giraffe and a small herd of oryx, the only animals we could see were dead.

"It looks lush now," he said, "but in January and February, the grass had been eaten down to beyond the reach of the zebra's teeth, so they died."

The game had collected there because their passage had been blocked by the veterinary fence.

"Yes, the drought is a big factor in the game dying, but it is definitely not the only one."

For him the greatest threat is the expansion of farmland. It has squeezed out the animals from their natural habitat and prevented them from migrating to less-devastated pastures, he says.

"That, the fence, and the drought are the three factors. And, if the rain does not fall in December we will have a catastrophe, he adds.
The worst in memory:
people, animals starve

KHORIXAS — Famine stalks the north-western reaches of SWA/Namibia where at least four children have died and thousands of cattle have perished.

In Damaraland alone the cattle count has dropped from nearly 80,000 to an estimated 10,000. Most have been sold, but nearly as many have starved to death.

And the situation is worse in Kaokoland to the north. Here the Herero and Himba people are abandoning their kraals for a handful of settlements unable to cope with the influx.

Hospitals

The pressure is also beginning to tell in central Damaraland where several homesteaders have already moved to the town of Khomas, capital of the region.

The town boasts the only full-scale hospital in Damaraland.

At least four children have died here of malnutrition, and several others are receiving treatment. But the medical superintendent, Dr Gert Burger, says the situation is still far from critical.

"At this stage the greatest threat comes from children's diseases. An under-nourished child is more susceptible to measles or other more common ailments, and could die if not treated in time," he says.

Nearly all the victims so far have come from neglected homes. One of these is little Priscilla Hendricks, who, at 10 months, weighs only 4.6 kilograms — little more than a new-born baby.

Priscilla has been saved in time, but Dr Burger believes there will be more like her, or in worse condition, if rain fails to fall in the coming rain season from December to February.

"I think nearly all the people will leave their farms if we don't get rain before February next year. And then we will face other problems associated with social overcrowding," he says.

Crisis

If the human predicament has not yet reached crisis proportions, the livestock position has.

I found one Damara farmer, Mr Peter Freeman, supervising the transfer of his entire cattle herd to one of the feedlots. He has only 25 of his original herd of 200 left.

"The others have all died — every one of them — just bones on the ground," he said.

Mr Freeman believes he is one of the luckier ones, though: "at least I still have the nucleus for breeding when the drought breaks. It is not as bad as Kaokoland."

Aggravated

The Kaokoland situation has been aggravated by the Herero people's unwillingness to sell their cattle. Cattle are traditionally for them a sign of wealth, but drought has wiped out at least 90 percent of the total estimated at more than 110,000.

Reports have been received that in some of the more remote regions of Kaokoland, up to 80 cattle carcasses have been removed from the banks of waterholes. Some decomposing carcasses were immersed in the water which people were using.

In Damaraland the Department of Agriculture is engaged in clearing up operations — burning the carcasses of dead animals so as to prevent the spread of stock diseases. One official estimates that more than 600 carcasses have been destroyed.

Sister Engelhardine Gomes with 17-month-old Priscilla Hendricks, who weighs little more than the average new-born baby. Priscilla is one of several children being treated for severe malnutrition at the Khorixas Hospital in central Damaraland, where at least four children have died this year as a result of the drought in the region.

North-east of the Damaraland border is the district of Oshana, farmed by whites. Here the drought is not as devastating as in Damaraland itself.

A farmer from the Ka-manjab district, Jan du Plessis (28), has transported about 300 cattle from the Grootfontein dairy where he has hired them.

No comparison

"We have never had a drought like this," Plessis says, "not even great drought of 1953 to compare with it: this is what the old people mean.

"But if it is as bad as this now, what will we do if we don't get rain in the coming season? Many of us will have to leave for the Kalahari — or subsidies not."

(c) Argus Co. 1981.
The Committee of the Western
Surveys Society is now in charge of the survey activities in the Western Province.

The best student in each of the four specialties was selected as the best student in the Category of Building Economics, Building Engineering, Building Information Systems, and Building Construction, respectively.

R. Low Keen

WINDHOEK:—Leading medical authorities in the Territory of South West Africa have called attention to the deficiency of doctors and medical staff in the Territory. The situation has been described as critical and urgent.

The shortage of doctors and medical staff is particularly severe in rural areas, where there is a high demand for health services and facilities. The current ratio of doctors to population is far below the recommended standard.

The authorities are seeking to address the shortage by increasing the number of medical students in the Territory and by recruiting foreign doctors.

In addition, a number of schemes are being implemented to improve the living conditions and working environment of medical staff, including providing better housing and facilities, and increasing salaries.

Medical authorities are also appealing to the public to help in any way possible to alleviate the situation.
Johannesburg man accused of fraud

By ALAN DUNN
Tribune Africa News Service

WINDHOEK: An alleged R12-m swindle involving a Namibian diamond mining company and a prominent Johannesburg businessman is to be investigated by a Supreme Court-appointed commission of inquiry here.

The Court this week empowered the commission to summon several South African and foreign businessmen, lawyers, accountants, and a bank representative, to give evidence in an attempt to unravel the "highly complex trade dealings" of the Namibia Diamond Mining Company (Pty) Limited.

The Attorney-General of Namibia, Mr. Donald Brunette, and his Transvaal counterpart, Mr. J. E. Meiring, have arranged to have a policeman, an officer of the Commercial Branch in Johannesburg, present at the inquiry.

In papers before the Supreme Court, Windhoek, this week, it is alleged that Johannesburg businessman, Mr. George Christodoulou, cheated overseas investors in the diamond company by siphoning millions of rand into his own account.

These claims, made to Mr. Justice Jan Strydom, were included in an urgent application brought by Windhoek liquidator, Dr. Otto Horrigal, who sought to have the commission of inquiry appointed urgently.

Dr. Horrigal was appointed to wind up the company's affairs following a successful Supreme Court application here last week for the liquidation of Namibia Diamond Mining Company. A provisional order was issued.

According to papers before the court, the people due to be called before the commission of inquiry held by a well-known Johannesburg advocate, Mr. Charles Rosenthal SC, include:

- Mr. Christodoulou and his wife, Shirley;
- Former Johannesburg lawyer, Martin Shaban, who was "intimately connected with the affairs of the company" and was later employed full-time by Mr. Christodoulou;
- Mrs. Carole Shaban, former wife of Mr. Shaban, "who has full knowledge of the affairs of Shaban";
- Mr. Christo Wiese, a businessman;
- Mr. Barry Alleson — "he is an auditor of De Beers, but he was the first auditor to the company and who prepared what appears to be a patently false balance sheet of the company dated September 27, 1977, purporting to say that some R3-m had been spent by Mr. Christodoulou and Mr. Nicolas Synklareski. The account was referred to, in regard to costs of
exploitation." This affidavit noted that Mr Szyknarski, a former major shareholder in the company, had denied this.

- The relevant partner of the firm Hersowitz, Poplack and Jos Set, which took over from Mr Alleson as auditors;
- Mr Otto Redinger — he was an initial founder of KwaZulu Mines and similarly will be able to advise to a large extent of the affairs of the company.

- Mr Pat Thompson, a former De Beers employee with a particular knowledge of diamonds, who is Mr Christodoulou's "right-hand man."

Dr Herrigel noted that Mr Christodoulou's "prime accusers" in the affair, Mr George Osserman and Mr Paul Garfinkel, described in documents as two American tax lawyers, also faced serious allegations in the United States.

He drew the Court's attention to a grand jury indictment of the two men and others, concerning their "alleged criminal tax shelter activities."

Johannesburg attorney Mr Allan Levin, confirmed and corroborated Dr Herrigel's allegations.

Mr Nicolas Szyknarski, a businessman of Marseillees, France, said in an affidavit he started Namibia Diamond Mining Company in 1977, but had disposed of his 50 percent share of the company in June, 1978.

"I investigated the matter in January, 1981, and found out that the company had been milked, that there was a probability of misappropriation, and that there was a warrant for my questioning concerning fraudulent documents concerning this company at the Durban Commercial Branch."

Mr Szyknarski, who at one stage lived in Durban, said Namibia Diamond Mining Company had acquired all shares of KwaZulu Mines (Pty) Ltd, which then held 13 prospecting grants in Namibia.
ROSSING—SWA’s most controversial mine

Rossing Uranium Limited, a vast, man-made crater in the Namib desert is the largest uranium mine in the world, employing more than 3,000 people in a regimented system of near-military discipline.

The question is whether this mine, which produces about one-sixth of the world’s uranium, is also a radioactive time-bomb with a 20-year fuse.

Internationally, Rossing is perhaps the most controversial organisation in SWA/Namibia after South Africa’s presence in the territory.

According to the United Nations, Rossing’s existence is illegal because its British parent company, Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation Limited, is dealing with an administration stripped of its mandate.

Anti-apartheid groups and Swaps accuse the multinational company of maintaining a human working condition; of making no attempt to protect the worker from radioactive dust; of exploiting the territory’s mineral reserves with negligible benefit to the population, and of enforcing the apartheid system.

Rossing, of course, rejects these allegations. General manager Mr Gordon Freeman condemns his company as “a child of apartheid” but

ROSSING, SWA’s most controversial mine

Rossing is perhaps the most controversial organisation in SWA/Namibia. The question is: Is it perhaps a radioactive time bomb with a 20-year fuse?

PETE HONEY of The Star’s Africa News Service reports.

...states that labour policy revisions in the last three years have converted the system into “a non-racial company committed to building bridges across racial barriers.”

After an intensive two-day tour of the mine, I am convinced that the accusations by pressure groups are largely exaggerated, or at least outdated. There are, however, several questions which the company’s executives could not or would not satisfactorily.

The most crucial of these is how Rossing is going to make the radioactive pit and a huge waste dam of toxic and radioactive “tailings” (which is already seeping into the nearby Okahandja river) when the operation closes down about 20 years from now.

Assistant general manager Mr Mike Brett says research is in progress to decide what to do about the tailings dam. Mr Brett maintains the sewage at present is of better quality than the river water itself, and that some drink from it regularly.

Why the sewage should be safe to drink is not explained. It is known, however, that an oxyg hours to warn against radiation exposure.

In addition, urine tests and lung X-rays are carried out regularly, and each employee undergoes a medical test annually to check against radioactive

AERIAL VIEW OF THE METALLURGICAL PLANT.
which penetrated the
game-proof fence around
the dam and swam
through the water, died
soon afterwards, in spite
of efforts to save it by
Roebling staff.
A further point of con-
cern is that there is no
clause in the Roebling con-
tract which commits it to
a post-operational safety
programme.
The company, in turn,
points to its current safe-
ty programme as a guar-
ance of its commitment
to solving the problem.
Mr. Brett says that
because the radio-active
elements are generally
contained in dense rock,
the effects of strong gam-
ma rays in the pit are
negligible. It is only once
the uranium has been ex-
tracted that it becomes a
serious health hazard —
and then only if swal-
lowed or breathed in.
Stringent safety
measures are maintained
at all levels of production:
In the pit truck and scoop
drivers sit in aircondi-
tioned cabins to protect
them from heat, noise and
dust, with its accompanying
threat of radium con-
tamination. Water is
sprayed continuously on
roads and areas of opera-
tion to keep down dust.
Workers wear ear
muffs, gloves and respira-
tors in certain areas to
protect them from noise
and the ingestion of
radio-active dust.
In the final production
plant — where the ura-
nium oxide is machine-fed
into steel drums —
workers are required to
change and shower before
clockin off. Radiation
badges are worn at all
contamination.
Staff have often been
found with radio-active
particles in their lungs or
urine. They are imme-
diately given a full medici-
al test and transferred to
a less hazardous division
of the mine.
These cases have inev-
itably resulted from
negligence, says the
mine’s medical super-
intendent, Dr. Wotan
Swiegers. No one, he says,
has yet been found to
have a radiation count
anywhere near the thresh-
old for concern.
“I can emphatically say
that this is a clean and safe
programme — why else
would I be here if it were
not true,” he says.

Because of the highly
mechanised nature of the
operation, the method of
extracting the uranium
from the ore and the
nearby location of the
“labor town” of Arandis,
Roebling uses vast quanti-
ties of water.

More than 28,000 cubic
metres of water are piped
daily from the Kuiseb
river to the south and the
Omaruru Delta in the
north by the Department
of Water Affairs, and
research on the water
table of the subterranean
Kuiseb indicates the level
has dropped noticeably in recent years.
Mr Freeman says his
company is “very
interested” in the system of
desalination. With the
mine situated only about
70 kilometres from the
coastal town of Swakop-
mund, the desalination of
seawater might seem more
feasible than pumping
fresh water 160 kilometres

● Continued on Page 15.
problems if we maintained it."

And they got it: in December 1978 the black workers struck over the discriminatory wage structure, living conditions, health hazards and the management's refusal to allow the establishment of a representative trade union.

The action came at a particularly critical time in Roslyn's development — the highly abrasive ore body and the fact that uranium had never before been mined from granite — meant that the processing plant had to be redesigned, and the company could not meet its overseas supply contracts on schedule. Labour dissatisfaction brought a complete revision of the structure of employment.

In the last three years Roslyn claims to have wiped out its old discriminatory system and replaced it with a system of personnel grading based entirely on aptitude and training.

There are now 13 grades ranging from unskilled workers, earning a minimum of R30 a month, to divisional foremen earning about five times that or more.

Grades one to five live in Arandis, grades six and seven live in Tsumeb, and grades eight and above live in Windhoek.

The effect, however, is basically the same.

Is the grading system not perhaps discrimination in disguise?

Mr Trethewey says: "One should remember that we have been growing out of a historical situation for the past three years and the degree to which we are no longer a racially based company is dependent on the rate at which things change around us.

About 4 500 black people live in Arandis, a..."
TIME BOMB?

Early morning housekeeping on the rosette section.

Nick Losier giving a lecture to supervisors.

Housing sets are £5 a month for the older houses and £7.25 a month for the later units.

Housing for its black employees. It has 250 houses and more are being built - the aim being to eventually accommodate between 6,500 and 9,000 people there.

Because of the company's original policy of retaining family units, Arandis is nothing like the mine compounds found on the Reef.

Three and four-bedroomed houses line sandy streets. Electricity is supplied for cooking and lighting only - bath water is heated through a solar panel on every roof.

There are extensive sports facilities, two schools built by Rossing for administration by the Damara Administration Department as well as a hospital.

In effect Arandis has become the largest town in Damaland.

**Continued from Page 14.

from the Kunene.

According to Mr Freeman, however, the cost would be prohibitive at this stage - between $25 and $30 a cubic metre.

It is unlikely that Rossing would be prepared to involve itself in vast capital expenditure purely for the sake of conservation, if it was not forced to do so out of necessity.

Rossing's labour policy has perhaps been the area of most concern for the company's critics, who accuse it of underpaying black and coloured workers and of keeping them apart from the white staff in separate townships - Arandis, about 12 kilometres from the mine, and Tamariskia near Swakopmund.

Rossing began to take shape in 1974 and started production in 1975. At this time all black staff were housed in Arandis and the contractors' "locations" which had all been built for the mine.

Coloured workers were accommodated in Tamariskia, and white staff in the Swakopmund suburb of Vlakte.

In addition, whites were paid monthly and the others weekly; whites got a month's leave, blacks and coloureds three weeks; whites had permanent health and accident benefits, other races had no protection; blacks had to wait a year for admission to the pension fund while whites were immediately admitted.

The only apparent advantage which blacks had was that their medical aid was free while whites had to contribute monthly.

"There was no way we could try to justify that system," says Mr Norman Trethewey, industrial relations superintendent.

"There was discrimination in the system. We were asking for labour town created by Rossing for its black employees. It has 250 houses and more are being built - the aim being to eventually accommodate between 6,500 and 9,000 people there.

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There are extensive sports facilities, two schools built by Rossing for administration by the Damara Administration Department as well as a hospital.

In effect Arandis has become the largest town in Damaland.

Housing sets are £5 a month for the older houses and £7.25 a month for the later units.

Rossing has its own system of labour representation, which stops short of trade unionism.

Two unions have tried to make inroads into Rossing - the SWA Mineworkers' Union and the National Union of Namibian Workers in 1979.

Neither was successful, and Rossing has been accused of using the security police to deter labour agitators, thereby depressing the formation of a union.

Mr Trethewey denies this, claiming that the present system of "workers committees" representing the five divisions of the mining operation, and a sixth, representing the residents, is working satisfactorily.

Representatives of the unions from these committees meet with management four times a year as the "Rossing council."

"The workers seem satisfied with the arrangement," Mr Trethewey says. "It is there to coexist with the trade union system, not to prevent it. And if they want a union they are quite entitled to go ahead and establish one. But it must be a strong union and representative, otherwise we are not prepared to have it."

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Part 2 of this article appears on Page 19 tomorrow.
The new industrial giant

The second in a two-part series on the

.Business and its place to the

[inset text]

The Sunday Mirror
SWA war will 'hit plans for more jobs'

BY PETER KENNY

WINDHOEK. — As long as the simmering bushwar in South West Africa lasts it is doubtful whether any concerted steps to create employment could succeed.

This was said by Professor Wolfgang Thomas, Professor of Economics at the University of Transkei, who was speaking at a symposium on community problems in Windhoek's black townships of Katutura and Khomasdal.

Prof Thomas was deported from South Africa five years ago after publishing a controversial economic report on South West Africa saying the territory could be economically independent.

Uncertainty

Since taking up his post two years ago at the University of Transkei he has been allowed to travel through South Africa to South West Africa.

Uncertainty about the country's political future meant investment in the mining sector would probably remain stagnant for some time.

Mining was the only sector of the SWA economy with a potential for 'large-scale capital intensive projects.'

Impediment

"For the stimulation of rural development in the relatively more fertile northern areas — in Ovamboland, Kawanda and Kaiprivi — the simmering war along the border is a decisive impediment."

"In fact as long as the war lasts it is doubtful that any concerted employment-creating steps can succeed."

"The spread of hostilities from the Ovambo region to Kawanda and Kaokoveld, seems to have further aggravated the situation," Prof Thomas said.

He said there was an estimated unemployment rate of 16% of the potential workforce which was "at a critical level."
Ethnic division is a major factor in SWA's health crisis

By Brian Jones

In Windhoek

Surveys in the Kavango and among the Bushmen indicated that the incidence of TB was as high as 25%, while among whites in SWA/Namibia it was virtually non-existent.

About 10% of the population in the Kavango had venereal disease, about 4% of the blacks in Swakopmund, and 5% in Windhoek, Dr Abrahams said.

Infant mortality among coloureds and blacks was startling.

Among coloured babies, 145 of every 1,000 died before the age of one year, and 163 black babies in 1,000 died. The figure for whites was 21.6 in 1,000.

Under the division of functions in the territory between central government and the second tier (ethnic) authorities, each population group may operate its own health services.

In practice only the whites, Damara, Owambo, Kavango, and Caprivians have the infrastructure to run their own services.

The Department of National Health and Welfare is responsible for Coloured, Nama, Herero, Bushman, Baster, and Tswana health care, but as it also lacks the necessary infrastructure, these services are run on an agency basis by the white administration.

This situation has led to allegations that resources are needlessly duplicated, and that a better service could be provided by a single health structure open to all.

Mrs Annchen Parkhouse, a former matron at Windhoek's white state hospital, believes the health services are "hopelessly fragmented."

"With such a system this means fragmentation of money resources, and expertise."

"There should be a national policy for all preventive and promotional health services," she said.

This is also the view of Dr Ben Africa, the member of the territory's Ministers' Council responsible for health affairs.

He has called for the ethnic authorities to leave the health services to central government.

"I believe a patient should not be referred to a hospital on the basis of skin colour, despite the division of functions."

"The medical profession should not be drawn into racial issues," he said.

Dr Birkenstock said duplication of resources would be inevitable if each health service of the 11 ethnic groups wanted to operate at the highest standard.

"If each one tried to develop anything sophisticated, this would require duplication. In my opinion the separate services are quite temporary, and no one will be able to carry on for long in the present situation," he said.

Dr Abrahams believes the ethnic division of the health services has brought "confusion" and leads to nothing being achieved.

"It is impracticable in a centre such as Windhoek where most ethnic groups are represented, to have 11 hospitals. At present all the blacks are lumped together in one very overcrowded hospital, while the white hospital is only 50% occupied.

Doctors claim that patients have been refused treatment because of staff shortages, and that standards have deteriorated alarmingly.

Dr Kenneth Abrahams, a medical doctor and political analyst, said there were 152 practising doctors in the territory.

This was a ratio of 1.3 doctors for 10,000 patients, while in Israel and Sweden, which had the best ratios, the figure was one doctor for 700 patients.

There are 15 dentists in the entire territory, 10 of whom are based in Windhoek.

The president of the SWA-Namibian branch of the South African Medical Association, Mr W E Birkenstock, said that without Defence Force doctors the situation would be serious.

There was a particular shortage of specialists, and SWA/Namibia had to rely on visiting physicians, neurologists, and other specialist staff.

Earlier this year Dr Birkenstock pointed to the conflict between doctors, and officials and politicians who administer the health services.

In his presidential address at the annual general meeting of the Medical Association, he said: "We have had problems with the administrative body over the years, but this thing has slowly become more noticeable, until we find ourselves this year at crisis point."

"The gap is widening between our standards and the standards of higher institutions and the world at large. We have visiting doctors who gasp when they see the conditions, standards, and facilities with which we work."

The administration for whites, which is responsible for white health services, is short of 170 nurses for its hospitals throughout the territory.

Half the eight wards in the existing 220-bed hospital for whites in Windhoek have been closed, and the hospital is short of 92 nurses.

To run the hospital at full capacity 249 nurses are required but at present there are 157.

The administration has been criticised for building a new R22.6 million clinical wing with 600 beds while it does not have the staff to run the existing hospital.

A new R22-million hospital with 160 beds has also been built in Keetmanshoop to replace the existing 32-bed hospital, which is short of five nurses.

Mr Eben van Zijl, MEC in charge of health services for the white administration, issued a statement in Windhoek answering criticism of the administration's handling of health affairs.

He said that "at no stage have patients had to be turned away as a result of a shortage of beds."

In 1980 the occupation of beds had been "only 69.89%, which is reasonable."

Answering allegations that there were only enough nurses to serve 125 of the 220 beds in the existing Windhoek Hospital, Mr Van Zijl said this number was "not unrealistic" in terms of a "full economic use of beds."

It was recently announced that 17 black and coloured nurses were being employed at the state hospital for whites to help alleviate the staff shortages.

Dr J A Oosthuizen, secretary of the Department of Health and Welfare, said a large degree of decentralisation was necessary because of the size of the country and distance between major centres.

Decisions could be made far quicker by the regional health services than if problems had to be referred to Windhoek. Letters between Windhoek and Oshakati in the north took about 11 days, he said.

Dr Oosthuizen said he doubted whether the "so-called fragmentation" was costing more money than would a centralised system.

Quoting from his own statistics, Dr Abrahams said that although official figures suggested that six of every 1,000 blacks suffered from tuberculosis, a more realistic figure would be 18-24 in 1,000.
Faction fight ends in work stayaway

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Faction fighting in the black township of Otjiwarongo in northern SWA/Namibia ended yesterday with a mass stayaway from work by many of the Ovambo workers.

Today, however, they were back at work and police reported that conditions had returned to normal in the township.

Police yesterday used teargas to disperse a large crowd of Ovambos who had gathered to retaliate against attacks at the weekend by Damara residents. After scattering, the men refused to go to work for fear of further reprisals.

"It was not really a strike on their part, but more a stayaway out of fear," a senior police spokesman said.

"I think many of them stayed at home also because they were encouraged to do so by the relatively large number of unemployed people in the township."

The fighting erupted on Friday after a Damara woman had been stabbed to death.
Workers go back after stay-away

BY PETER KENNY

WINDHOEK — About 500 Gwambo workers who stayed away from work in the northern farming town of Ongwediva on Monday, after violent clashes with Damara residents in Okakarara township on the weekend, returned to work yesterday.

Riot police had on Monday dispersed them with teargas and a rubber bullet charge after the men stood outside the municipal compound refusing to go to work.

After the teargas attack and the baton charge, a spokesman for the Roman Catholic mission at Okakarara said, about 80 Gwambo workers sought refuge in the mission.

Bloody clashes

The spokesman said the Gwambos had told him they were not striking but were afraid to go to work after the weekend’s bloody clashes which left at least four people dead and an unknown number wounded.

Police were unable to say exactly how many people had died in the inter-tribal clashes but one Windhoek newspaper reported yesterday that nine people had died so far.

The fighting is believed to have been sparked off following the stabbing of a Damara woman, Mrs Barcela Hassen, on Friday night.

Three bloody clashes followed as crowds ran amok with clubs, knives and bows and arrows.

The district commissioner of the SWA police at Ongwediva, Chief Superintendent W P Meuwen, said the reason for the stay-away by the workers was unknown.
The largest uranium mine in the world answers its critics

By Brian Jones

In Windhoek

"There is a certain mystique attached to uranium and after the atom bomb, people became scared of it," the mine's general manager, Mr. Gordon Freeman, said.

Regular tests detected no radio-active fallout or acidic pollution of uranium oxide.

The danger of radiation affecting the desert ecology was negligible, the assistant general manager of the mine, Mr. Mike Brett, said.

The mineral ore dug from the earth goes through several processes before it is finally turned into a black powder, uranium oxide, ready for export.

Water from the final product area, where the greatest potential danger arises for workers, is pumped into the "tailings" waste dam.

The water contains nuclear material and radio-active material and acid used in the washing process.

Stringent precautionary measures and regular checks showed that no dangerous material was leaving the dam, said Mr. Brett.

Water that seeped into the soil below the dam was of a better quality than the underground water in a nearby river bed.

SWA/Namibia is currently plagued by one of the worst droughts in decades and authorities are appealing daily to the territory's inhabitants to save water.

Rössing mine, surrounded by one of the world's most arid deserts, uses about 20 000m³ of water daily to produce raw material for the world's nuclear power plants.

"We are a large user of water in the territory and accept that we have a responsibility to conserve water," Mr. Brett said.

The mine was conducting research to recover speepage and stepping up the use of recycled water.

It was difficult to assess whether drops in the underground water tables farther inland were owing to Rössing's water consumption or to the drought, Mr. Brett said.

"Rössing is an easy scapegoat," he added.

Questioned about health hazards to workers, Mr. Freeman said radiation levels at the mine were low and workers were given regular medical check-ups.

In the final, potentially most dangerous, processing area additional measures were applied to prevent the build-up of radiation.

Filter badges were worn on outer clothing to warn against over-exposure. — Sapa
WINDHOEK. — South West Africa's population was expected to have grown to one million from the 990,000 counted during the last census in 1910, the chief supervisor of this year's national census, Mr. Hans Kolff, said in Windhoek yesterday.

He said there were problems with collecting population figures in remote areas for the new census, which begins on Monday.

It was hoped, however, that collecting the data in the 29 census districts would take two weeks. — Sapa.
R40m
for
Namibia

By HAROLD FRIDJON

UNION Acceptances and Volks-
kas Merchant Bank have placed
a R6-million loan on behalf of
the South West Africa/Namibia
Administration.

The terms: loan No 10, at an
interest rate of 13.5% for 10
years.

This is the first single-issue
long-term loan for some time.
Most other issues have tried to
tempt investors with a short
and a long.

The rate is reasonable to
both borrower and lenders,
bearing in mind that it is SA
Government guaranteed and
that it ranks as a prescribed
investment which makes the
rate even more acceptable.

A point which is a compli-
ment to the underwriters is
that the day that the documents
were issued was the day when
the Angolan incursion hit the
headlines and both banks man-
aged in spite of this to achieve
the favourable outcome.
Police in SWA now under new command

WHIRLWIND — The Commissioner for the South West Africa Police Force, Col. F. D. Botha, has reversed the decision taken at a meeting of all police officials in the territory, and announced the appointment of a new force commander. This is in response to the recent unrest in the territory.

The new force commander, Col. J. M. Fourie, replaces Col. G. J. Prinsloo, who was removed due to alleged misconduct.

The decision was met with mixed reactions from police officials, with some expressing concern over the implications of the change. However, the Commissioner has assured all that the decision was made in the best interests of the force and the territory.

The new force commander is expected to take office immediately and begin implementing the necessary changes to restore order and ensure the safety and security of the territory.
Swapo gets OK for Paris office

Mail Correspondent

PARIS. A snap decision by the French government permitting the African National Congress (ANC) and Swapo to open offices in Paris next month is undoubtedly linked with the official visit tomorrow of President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

It is his first visit to Paris since 1969, when he had talks with former President Charles de Gaulle.

The French move favouring Swapo was not unexpected, but Swapo sources in Paris said the announcement on Saturday by the French Foreign Ministry took them by surprise.

The French have stressed that the ANC and Swapo offices did not mean France's recognition of the two movements.

There is also a report that France's next move will be to ask South Africa to prune its diplomatic staff, and several French diplomats in South Africa will be withdrawn.

President Francois Mitterrand will meet five African presidents later this month.
US drilling for oil in Etosha?

Argus Africa News Service.

WINDHOEK — A major American oil prospecting company is negotiating with South West African authorities for oil drilling rights in the northern Ovamboland and Etosha regions.

The company, Superior Oil, said to be the largest independent oil company in America with the most drilling concessions in the world, plans to drill a series of test borings along the northern perimeter of the Etosha Game Park.

If the tests prove promising the drilling could shift into the reserve itself, according to reliable sources.

Superior is believed to have clinched a contract with the current concession-holder, Etosha Petroleum Limited, already and now needs to finalise negotiations with the Administrator-General of SWA.

Should the plan be approved, the drilling project could cost about $30 million, say sources.

Mineral prospecting in the Etosha Park is prohibited except for strategic resources such as oil and uranium. It has been pointed out that the relatively small scale of oil boring operations pose far less of a threat to the ecology than full-scale coal mining, as proposed in the Kruger National Park.

The search for oil in the Etosha region is by no means new. Etosha Petroleum, controlled by a Dr. Rosenblatt in New York, drilled several test wells near the Ojivabunda Pan a few kilometres north of the park in the late 1960s.

The results did not appear promising at the time — the boreholes apparently descended only about 2,500 metres. A geological source says Superior intends drilling to about 6,500 metres.

Etosha Petroleum's concession expires in 1983. Asked why, if earlier results had not been promising, a major oil company should consider re-drilling the area, the geologist said: 'Put it this way, we would like to take a closer look.'

The secretary for economic affairs, Mr. Piet Kruuger, this week confirmed negotiations were underway, but said the matter was at a delicate stage.

‘LOOKING AT THE PLOTTED POINTS AS A WHOLE’

Looking at the 10 averages as a whole, it is quite clear that the average level of the process has changed.

10.7.4 PROCESS CAPABILITY

The average range provides a means of estimating the process capability. In the above example the average range of samples of size 4 was \( \bar{R} = 2.39 \). Now, in the long run for samples of size 4, \( \bar{R} = 2.06 \) (Table B). So, the standard deviation of the process is estimated as:

\[
\sigma = \frac{2.39}{2.06} = 1.15
\]

Consequently, since almost all items lie within 3 standard deviations from the average, the process should be able to meet a tolerance of \( \pm 3.45 \) — provided it could be set perfectly in the middle of the specification.
By Peter Honey
The Star's Africa
News Service

WINDHOEK — Unwieldy legislation had until late last year turned SWA/Namibia into the international clearing house for contraband ivory and rhinoceros horn, says the SWA Agricultural Union in its annual report.

This had led to international repercussions, says the report, and the territory was accused by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature of destroying its elephant and rhinoceros populations.

Until the introduction of new legislation in August last year controls on ivory possession and marketing had been inadequate and law enforcement ineffective.

The report carries a statement by the Department of Agriculture and Nature Conservation, which says:

"The result was that hundreds of tons of ivory and rhinoceros horns from countries outside the South West borders streamed into the territory."

The new legislation placed more effective control on the possession, marketing and transporting of elephant and rhinoceros products.

The report also notes an escalation in the elephant population in the white farming area of Toumb, causing greater problems for farmers.

This is attributed to the expansion of the Ovambo population into the southeastern sectors of Ovamboland where elephants have traditionally roamed and an increase in military activity.

A natural increase in the elephant population, combined with the threat to its habitat had forced it further south in search of grazing in the Toumb farming area.
Now the housing crisis spreads to Windhoek too

HOME-SEEKERS breaking down and crying in the offices of Windhoek Housing Authority, are finding it difficult to meet the rental demands of the housing market. The crisis has led to an increase in rents, with landlords and agents raising prices to meet demands.

"We cannot keep or attract employees unless we offer them housing bonds or subsidies," a senior Government official said. Building contractors, real estate agents and economists generally agree on the causes for Windhoek's plight.

Political uncertainty over the territory's future since 1977 has caused a steady decline in housing and apartment block construction. The situation has been exacerbated by multi-national and mining companies, the defence establishment and a growing Government apparatus which entered the property market to buy up existing housing for employees.

At the same time, the removal of laws restricting the different population groups to exclusive residential areas has caused a move from crowded coloured townships into central Windhoek.

A monthly rental of R610 for a two-bedroomed duplex flat, while considered high even for Windhoek, raises fewer eyebrows today than it would have a year ago.

"I'm moving out - I refuse to pay so much for what is basically a fancy flat," said an irate tenant a month ago when he received notice that his rent was going to increase by 50%.

Still without alternate accommodation, the tenant is beginning to wonder whether there is a way out of his dilemma.

"I might have to accept the fact that more than 50% of my salary will go into rent," he said bitterly.

Examples of extended ranges are:

Control back to the DO range.

The set of executable statements contains a control statement that could return a DO range of executable statements, that can pass control out of the range to another set.

The range contains a DO TO 90 of arithmetic IF, or a logical IF containing other IFs.

A DO range can have an extended range it is not a nominated DO or the immediate

Page 19
3. Ms. S. S. VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Industries, Commerce and Tourism:

(1) Whether any benefits in respect of the establishment of industries have been granted to Walvis Bay; if so, what is the nature thereof;

(2) Whether he has received any objections to the granting of such benefits to Walvis Bay; if so, (a) what was the nature of the objections and (b) what bodies or persons raised objections.

(The MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE AND TOURISM:

(1) Yes. Normal decentralization assistance to industries as well as non-manufacturing concerns on basis of the schedule for Atlants for projects up to R3 million, in respect of employment of both Coloureds and Blacks, namely:

(i) Financial assistance through the Industrial Development Corporation at subsidized rates of interest.

(ii) Income tax concessions.

(iii) Railage rebate on merit (30 per cent in some instances and 10 per cent on a temporary basis in one particular instance).

(iv) Tender price preferences.

(2) No. On the contrary, strong representations for assistance to stimulate the economy in the area have been received.)
20 won’t stand and be counted

Mail Correspondent
WINDHOEK. — At least 20 people in the Mariental district have been prosecuted, and at least 14 jailed, for refusing to fill in 1981 South West Africa census forms.

The people, all of whom belong to the Nama ethnic group, live in the bone dry Hoachanas area.

Because at least 10 of them were unable to pay R500 fines for refusing to fill in the forms, they have gone to jail for six months.

SWA’s last census was made in 1970 when the territory was found to have a population of 815,542.

The new count began last month.

All of the convicted to date live in the remote rural area of Hoachanas, which some National Party of South West Africa supporters say is a Swapo nest.

‘Going well’

But the chief census enumerator, Mr Hans Koll, said the census was going “pretty well”.

“So far our only problem area has been Hoachanas,” Mr Koll said.

“Every time the census enumerators went to the Hoachanas area and asked the people to fill in their forms they were shouted down with political slogans,” Mr Koll said.

“When we asked one of the reasons, for example, was that people who might want to manufacture or sell shoes would have to know how many people there were in an area before they did so, the next time my enumerators visited them they were told ‘the community asked where their shoes were,'” Mr Koll said.

This year’s census forms reveal that the territory of 823,146km² has 12 population groups and at least 70 tribes in it.

Although whites — be they Afrikaans, German, English or Portuguese-speaking — are classified as white and by their language each black ethnic group has its own tribal group listed, the Nama ethnic group has tribes with such colourful names as the Africaners, the Whites Boys, the Black Boys, the Great Dead (Groot Doden) and the Black Slaves.

Swapo claims that there are 1,5-million people in Namibia and that the authorities under-count in Ovamboland.

The following example shows how the compiled GO statement can be used:

(3)
Swapo aims to own big mine

By PETER KENNY

WINDBORR, - If Swapo comes to power in an independent South West Africa, it will nationalise the giant Rossing uranium mine in the Namib desert.

This was reported in the mouthpiece of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Die Republikein, after a telephone interview with Swapo's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab.

Swapo was in possession of a list of companies, businessmen and institutions which they said were operating "illegally" in SWA, the report said. These would be dealt with when Swapo came to power.

Rio Tinto

This came after a warning to New York from Nigeria that the West was responsible for South Africa's becoming a part of the "nuclear race" because of its involvement with Rossing.

The report also coincided with speculation from South Africa on new hopes for enriched fuel for South Africa's first nuclear power plant at Koeberg.

Rossing mine is the biggest uranium mine in the world and the largest producer. Lying 70km east of the SWA holiday resort town of Swakopmund, Rossing is controlled by the multinational mining giant, Rio Tinto Corporation.

On a number of occasions in the past, Swapo leaders have said their aim is to have government control of natural resources, including mining. But they said they would allow other private enterprise to operate.
Tax law a boost for South West

WINDHOEK — New income tax legislation aimed at stimulating growth and investment in South West Africa has been tabled in the territory's National Assembly.

Key tax deductions and exemptions contained in the Bill are seen as an effort to encourage both political and economic confidence in South West Africa.

The Council of Ministers' chairman, Mr. Dirk Mudge, told the Assembly that all income of married couples in the territory would be assessed separately. Married women would, in terms of the Bill, to receive further benefits in addition to separate taxation introduced earlier this year. The separate taxation will be extended from the woman's salary to her whole income.

The new tax scales for both married and single people are considerably lower with a maximum of 35c in the rand replacing the present 50c maximum.

The system of tax rebates has been entirely replaced in the new legislation by a scale of income abatements thus eliminating the previous disadvantage where the portion of non-taxable income became smaller as income increased.

The new system of abatements involves the introduction of fixed maximum non-taxable sums — they are R4.000 for a married person, R2.000 for single people, R200 for children and a further R1.000 for the new owner of a house or sectional title flat.

The Bill also envisages the writing off of the full costs of machinery, equipment and other articles purchased for businesses, in the year in which they were bought, rather than writing amounts off in the lifetime of the article.

Businesses can also write off 20 percent of the erection costs of buildings they occupy in the years in which those buildings are taken into use. The rest can be written off at a rate of four percent over 20 years.

"This should give the building trade an injection and encourage potential investors to act immediately," Mr. Mudge said, noting that it would also increase employment.

"Mr. Mudge said South West Africa was a more attractive proposition for investors, from the tax point of view, than any of the territory's neighboring states."

He introduced the Bill to consolidate the company and private income tax systems, which have so far been governed by separate legislation.

He said the legislation, incorporating recent amendments to the present tax laws, had become a necessity, especially since all non-white groups had become liable to tax earlier this year.
New deal for SWA

An Income Tax Bill has been introduced into the South West African National Assembly which, according to Dirk Mudge (Chairman of the Minister’s Council) will provide attractive incentives for foreign investors.

The main implications of the new legislation are tax rates for individuals about 25% lower across the board than for their SA counterparts, separate tax for married women and a more generous system of writing off the cost of assets purchased for business purposes.

At a recent interview, given in Windhoek, Leon Lombard and Larry Kribinger, members of the Standing Committee for Taxation Policy, explained the important features of the new tax system. They cited Mudge as saying, in the course of his Budget speech (in June 1981), that his government “has committed itself to a system of free enterprise, private ownership, a free choice of career and remuneration according to merit.”

The SWA government “will not be induced by temporary problems into taking measures of a socialistic nature,” although it will, as far as possible, give assistance wherever people are in need as a result of circumstances beyond their control. The government sees its main function “the creation of the right climate in which a free economic system can thrive, instead of accepting direct responsibility for the creation of employment opportunities and growth.”

The objectives to be achieved by a sound fiscal policy are the following:
- The stimulation of economic growth;
- The establishment of new undertakings;
- The creation of employment opportunities;
- The encouragement of private home ownership;
- The promotion of education and training;
- Attracting additional skilled manpower to SWA, as well as retaining the existing pool.

A maximum marginal rate of tax of 30% will apply to individuals; compared with the 50% previously in force. The effect of change in the progressive income tax scale is that taxpayers will pay around 25% less tax than their SA counterparts at most income levels. At some income levels, though, the tax reduction will be a little higher.

Combined return

And married women’s income (provided it is independently derived and not obtained through their husbands) will be taxed separately. But married couples will still have to submit a combined return and receive one assessment.

There will be an abatement (in addition to those already in force) of R1 000/year in respect of housing. It will be available to any taxpayer who, during the year of assessment, was the owner-occupier of a residential apartment (under the Sectional Titles Act, 1971) or of a house within the area of control of a local authority. The concession does not apply to persons occupying company-owned houses or flats.

A married couple with children in a position to benefit from the concession will only pay tax if their combined taxable income exceeds R7 000.

There has also been a radical-concession for business assets. Expenditure incurred during the year of assessment in respect of machinery, implements, utensils and articles used by the taxpayer for the purposes of his trade will be allowed in full as a deduction from gross income.

Ships, aircraft, trucks, taxis and cars used in the hire business are included. But cars not used primarily as taxis or for hire are excluded, although the previous depreciation provisions will remain in force.

And the income tax value of any of these classes of assets already on the books of a taxpayer will also be allowed as a deduction as though incurred in the current year of assessment.

The new system of writing off business assets in the year of purchase will replace the existing system of initial investment and other allowances, including those applicable to geographic areas, types of business activity and training expenditures.

“...a system of free enterprise...

SWA’s Mudge ... committed...

...to free enterprise

In future the free enterprise system will determine without tax preference which areas of business are the most beneficial.”

There will be a new system of deprecating buildings used by the taxpayer for the purpose of his trade — 20% of the cost of erection in the year in which they are brought into use and 4% a year thereafter.

Buildings already in existence at the date of coming into force of this provision will qualify for 4% annual allowance until they are 20 years old. So there will be a graduated scale of depreciation allowance for existing buildings, extinguishing entirely for those 20 years old or more.

Previously only hotels and buildings used for purposes of manufacture qualified for any allowances. Under the new system, factory buildings, office buildings and residential buildings will all qualify provided they are used for purposes of trade. So the concession should meet the need for flats for rental and thereby help to alleviate the “acute housing shortage” in the territory.

Assessment years

The concessions to individuals will be applicable for the year of assessment ending February 28 1982. In the case of companies, the provisions will take effect for any year of assessment ending after February 28 1982.

There is also a concession affecting assessment procedures. A return will no longer be required from persons who do not earn more than R200/year from dividends and interest and whose aggregate income (including dividends and interest) does not exceed R5 000/year.

The deduction in respect of dividends has been fixed at 33 1/3% for all amounts and the sliding scale has been abolished. Although this simplification could mean that individuals of modest means living on dividends might pay more tax than previously, the effect will be very small.

In the PM’s opinion, these are highly commendable changes. If a tax system alone could entice investment to the territory, then future economic trends should be very favourably influenced. There are the examples of major tax concessions in countries like the Republic of Ireland to go by.

But the success of the Irelords of the world in attracting foreign investment was not based only on a favourable tax regime. There were also factors like political stability and the availability of a large pool of technically skilled labour to consider.

Common sense dictates to all prospective investors in SWA/Namibia a prudent policy of awaiting a security-based political future. In hoping for such an eventuality before they do anything, many others will, after all, only join a large group of parties around the world already impatient for a settlement.
Namibia - General - Economy

1982

Jan. - Dec.
Mines help SWA in crisis

Tribune Africa News Service

WINDHOEK. Mining and other private companies in SWA/Namibia have been called in to help the authorities cope with a power crisis following a freak accident that blacked out the territory's main power station.

The Van Eck Power Station outside Windhoek was put out of action on Friday when a mechanical shovel crashed into a structure carrying the conveyor belts that feed coal into the station's furnaces.

Technicians of the SWA Water and Electricity Corporation (SWAWECO) have been joined in an around-the-clock repair job on the conveyor belts by riggers from the copper mine at Tsauke and technicians from the uranium mine at Rossing.

Mr. Poils Brand, managing director of SWAWECO said parts of the territory would be affected by power cuts for the next seven or eight days.

Meanwhile, power is being fed into the territory-wide grid from generators at the Rossing mine and other private enterprises, augmenting supplies from the Rusca na hydro-electric station.
Now SWA faces water crisis

Mail Reporter

WINDHOEK. — South West Africa's power supply crisis, which started on New Year's day, could lead to an urban water supply shortage in the already drought-stricken territory.

Southwesterns were greeted with the bad news for the beginning of 1982 that the territory faces a national power crisis for the next two weeks, or maybe even longer.

The general manager of the SWA Water and Electricity Corporation, Mr. Poli Brand, said the problem was caused by damage to a coal conveyor belt at the Van Eck power station outside Windhoek.

He said riggers from the Tsumeb copper mine in northern SWA and two huge cranes from the giant Rossing Uranium Mine in the Namib Desert had been sent to Windhoek to assist in repairs at the power station.

Crash

According to informed sources, a fire started in an area where old coal had been allowed to lie for too long and in the rush to get the coal out a front-end loader crashed into one of the vital supporting struts on the coal conveyor belt.

Power has been cut off in the whole of the territory for at least half of each day since the beginning of this year and the situation could deteriorate.

The latest crisis facing SWA is a water shortage because of the difficulty of pumping water from dams to urban centres with no electrical power.

For some time the territory has been subjected to water restrictions and is in the grips of its worst drought this century.

Thousands of head of game and livestock have died and unless rain comes soon SWA could face a national catastrophe this year.

Critical

A large meat factory at Ohangwa, 78 km north of Windhoek, is flying in two generators from Johannesburg to keep its factory going during the critical power shortage.

The meat factory has big customers such as the Defence Force and the giant CDM diamond mine at Oranjemund, near the border with the Cape Province.

Many supermarkets which rely upon refrigeration of their stocks during the boiling summer months could lose hundreds of thousands of rand.

The last time SWA faced intermittent power cuts was in November when saboteurs blew up an electrical pylon south of Rundau near the Angolan border.

The power station at Walvis Bay and the old Windhoek power station are being used to supplement the power supply in the territory.
SWA crisis ends as full power is restored

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — SWA/Namibia's four-day power crisis ended today when full power was restored to rural areas and mines.

By late last night one of the two coal conveyor belts at Windhoek's Van Eck power station was back in operation and three of the four boiler furnaces were working.

The conveyor system collapsed on New Year's Day after a front-end loader carrying smouldering coal from a spontaneous fire in the supply bunker struck a support structure of both primary and secondary conveyor belts.

The accident plunged the territory into one of its worst power crises, cutting off about 90 percent of SWA/Namibia's electricity.

The managing director of the SWA Water and Electricity Corporation, Mr. Polla Brand, said today he believed poor construction of the conveyor support system was the root reason for the accident.

"It was a freak accident, but the structure was so weak that I am convinced it would eventually have collapsed. It was built about 10 years ago and, well, nothing gets better with age," he said.

No one was being blamed for the accident and there would be no formal investigation into its cause, he added.

"We have already strengthened the structure and we expect to spend at least another week on completing the restoration of the conveyor system," Mr. Brand said.

Power was restored to municipalities yesterday, and in Windhoek there have been no power cuts since early yesterday.

Supermarkets and businesses affected by the crisis are now back to normal.
Farmers urged to supply SWA first
Prof attacks fishing policy

Staff Reporter

The former head of the Oceanographic Research Institute at the University of Port Elizabeth, Professor Jan Lochner, yesterday attacked the government for refusing to do something about the collapse of the fishing industry off the SWA/Namibian coast.

"The reasons for the destruction of the fishing industry have been proved over and over again, yet the government still refuses to accept it. Till they do, the industry will never be brought under control and it will never be rebuilt."

Addressing local fishermen at Hermanus on the lack of control over fishing resources and the damage caused over the past 10 years, Professor Lochner said the situation was so bad that once-thriving Walvis Bay was "pretty well bankrupt."

Last year's pilchard catch was less than one percent of the haul in 1988.

Professor Lochner said one of the measures needed was a change of the fishing season. Last year 35 percent of the anchovy catch was "immature". This meant that fish were not being allowed to reproduce.

Off board

Professor Lochner, whose criticism angered the SWA/Namibian fishing industry for years, was forced off the territory's Fisheries Advisory Board late last year.

Appointed as a member of a commission of inquiry into the industry in the late sixties, he found himself a lone voice calling for caution.

Factors aiding the industry's destruction were in-fighting among the bureaucrats, funding among top scientists and misleading information, he said.
Dry SWA nears disaster

By Hannes Fergusson, Farming Correspondent

Drought conditions in South West Africa have reached disaster level.

According to the South West African Agricultural Union, most of the territory's cattle country has had little rain for four years. The veld is parched and has very little grass.

Last year farmers marketed most of their stock in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Only breeding animals were kept on the farms, fed on maize bought with State loans.

The Secretary of Otjo Regional Agricultural Union, Mr. M. T. Alberts, says about 40 percent of farmers will have to leave the territory if the 1962 rainy season does not bring relief.

Commandant C. H. Rothman, OC Otjo Commando, says security will be impossible if the farmers are not kept on their farms.

The MEC in charge of agriculture, Mr. Jannie de Wet, and the chairman of the South West African Agricultural Union, Mr. Hans van der Walt, have started a series of meetings with farmers to encourage them to stay.
SWA has rosy power prospects

WINDHOEK.—Potential power supplies in South West Africa would be more than four times the current demand once the territory’s national power grid had been connected to Escom lines from South Africa.

This was said by Mr Pella Brand, the general manager of the SWA Water and Electricity Supply Commission in Windhoek yesterday.

The link-up between SWAWE and Escom was expected to be completed by the end of the year, Mr Brand told a Press conference.

Total cost of the project was estimated at R70-million. From South Africa the high-voltage connecting line had been completed as far as Aggeneys in the north-western Cape; in SWA the power pylons had already been built southwards as far as Maitland.

Mr Brand said that once the Rucasana hydro-electric plant on the Cunene River came into full operation, the territory should at times have more electricity than it needed.

The excess power would be directed and sold to South Africa through the high-tension wires connecting the SWAWE grid with the Escom system.

"Rucasana is not generating to its fullest capacity at the moment, because we cannot control the flow of water," Mr Brand said. The hydro-electric station had a capacity of 260 megawatts but was delivering well below half the potential wattage.

The Cunene River was perennial and the flow of electricity from Rucasana was fairly constant. The turbines at the station were out of commission for a period of only 14 days last year.

Reinforced

Mr Brand said the coal conveyor belt system at the Van Eck power station outside Windhoek was being reinforced after the collapse of the structure which plunged SWA into an unprecedented power crisis at the beginning of the new year.

The blackout was caused by an accident when workers at the power station removed smouldering coal which had ignited spontaneously in containers supplying the conveyor or belt system that in turn fed the furnaces.

A front-end loader hit one of the steel struts, which collapsed and brought down the conveyor system.

Mr Brand said the steel pillars provided inadequate support.

Additional columns were now being built. — Sapa.
By PETER HONEY

DROUGHT-STRICKEN Nambia will become “just an empty shell” if good rains do not fall within the next two months, the head of the territory’s agricultural union has warned.

Hundreds of farmers — many too old for other work — will have to quit their farms and the small towns will become ghost towns, says Mr Hans van der Walt.

His grim warning came after he had made a four-day tour of stock-farming regions with the white executive committee’s member for agriculture, Mr Jannie de Wet.

The farmers will have to slaughter nearly one million cattle and sheep this year if the drought is not broken, Mr van der Walt said.

The move is part of a drastic new drought relief scheme proposed by Namibia’s white administration and the Namibian Agricultural Union, as the territory simmers midway through its rainy season without any significant downpour.

“The drought has gone beyond crisis proportions — it is already a catastrophe,” says the president of the union, Mr Hans van der Walt.

“I am not exaggerating. If we do not get rain — and I mean good rain — within the next two months we will become just an empty shell.

“It will lead to the end of a country. And neither politics, the United Nations, nor any other organization will have the cause — only the drought,” he says.

Mr van der Walt was speaking on his return from a four-day tour of Namibia’s major stock farming regions, with the white executive committee member for agriculture, Mr Jannie de Wet.

In terms of the new scheme, some 400,000 cattle and 20,000 sheep will have to be slaughtered after March if no significant rain has fallen by then.

A similar number of karakul sheep will be slaughtered after April if the drought remains critical.

The vast majority of these animals will come from the traditionally white farming areas of Ovamboland, Omaheke and Erongo. This north and west cattle regions. The sheep will come from the southern regions of Karasburg, Keetmanshoop, and Matahobo.

These areas are not as badly hit by drought as the north western territories of Kaokoland and Damara Land, and the central regions of Rehoboth and Nampula, where few animals remain.

For the last 10 months, white farmers in the central and northern regions of Namibia have been spending between R20 and R50 a month on feed for each of their cattle.

Sheep farmers have spent R100 for feed for each animal annually since 1978 in some regions.

The conclusion is that if they get no rain by the end of March, the entire western area of the cattle farming region will have to stop feeding their animals because they will not be able to afford it,” Mr van der Walt says.

The comparatively drought-free region near Gobabis in the east of the territory is already overstocked with animals receiving emergency feeding.

“We have no option but to slaughter. It is the only way the farmers will be able to get back some money. The problem is that there is no one to buy the meat. South Africa is well supplied, and we cannot compete on the overseas market.

“Hundreds, and maybe thousands, of farmers will have to quit. And because most of them are about 50 years old and have no other working experience, where will they get jobs in the towns?” Mr van der Walt asks.

Namibia’s largest employment sector is agriculture, and already the effects of increased unemployment are being experienced as farmers lay off workers.

While no official figures are available, Mr van de Walt estimates that about 1,000 of the territory’s 6,000 economically-active farming population has already quite farming.

“Many of those left because of the political uncertainties, leaving mainly those determined to make a go of it.

“But I am afraid that if the drought situation remains unchanged we will see many hundreds more giving up their farms,” he says.

Because most farmers are past middle age it is difficult for them to find work in towns where they have little or no experience in the urban labour market.

Mr van der Walt says the “finality of the drought effects” in some of the regions struck him forcibly during his tour.

Farmers are moving out daily. If it continues many of the small towns which are entirely dependent on the farming communities will become ghost towns,” he says.

Without relief from the drought, the existence of the territory’s unique karakul sheep breed is threatened.

“Cattle we can buy
from South Africa once the drought has broken but there is nowhere you can get karakul. They were bred for this climate and other breeds such as dorper or merino would not survive.

"We used to have 4.4 million karakul. This is now down to a nucleus of 1.4 million. It would cost about R50 million to feed this many sheep this year, alone," he says.

In addition, income from karakul pelts has dropped 47 percent between 1989 and the current market. Conversely, feed costs have risen 500 percent according to Mr. van der Walt.
Long drought could wipe out a country

By Peter House
The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Drought-stricken SWA/Namibia will become "just an empty shell" if good rains do not fall within the next two months, the head of the territory's agricultural union has warned.

"Hundreds of farmers are in very bad shape and many too old for further work — will have to quit their farms and the small towns will become ghost towns," Mr. Hans van der Walt, the Agricultural Union president, warned.

WARNING

Mr. van der Walt gave his grim warning after he had made a four-day tour of the territory's stock-farming regions with the white executive committee member for agriculture, Mr. Jannie de Wet.

Mr. van der Walt said farmers will have to slaughter one million cattle and sheep this year if the drought is not broken, Mr. van der Walt said in an interview.

The move is part of a new drought relief scheme proposed by SWA/Namibia's white administration and the SWA Agricultural Union, as the territory is heading towards a catastrophe "neither by politics, the UN, war or communism — but by the lack of rain" warns the territory's agricultural union.

SWA/Namibia is economically active farming population has already quit farming.

"Many of those left because of the political uncertainty, leaving mainly those determined to make a go of it."

"But I am afraid that if the drought situation remains unchanged we will see many hundreds more giving up their farms."

Mr. van der Walt says the "finality" of the drought effects in some of the regions will "frighten" him during his tour.

"Farmers are moving out daily, and if it continues many of the small towns which are entirely dependent on the farming communities will become ghost towns."

CONCLUSION

Mr. van der Walt says that he has been hearing from farmers that they have lost one million cattle and sheep in the last 10 months, and that the situation is becoming critical.

In terms of the new scheme, about 400,000 cattle will be slaughtered after March if no significant rain falls by then.

A similar number of karakul sheep will be slaughtered after April if the drought remains critical.

The vast majority of these animals come from the traditionally white farming areas of Outjo, Otjiwarongo, Omaruru and Karibib in the north and west cattle regions. The sheep will come from the southern white regions of Karasburg, Rehoboth and Marienthal.

These areas are not as badly hit by drought as the north western territories of Rehoboth and Damara and the central regions of Rehoboth and Namaland, where few animals remain.

The comparatively drought free region near Gobabis in the east of the territory is already overstocked with animals receiving emergency grazing.

"We have no option but to slaughter. It is the only way the farmers will be able to get back some money," the Mr. van der Walt says that there is no one to buy the meat.

"South African is well supplied and we cannot compete on the overseas market."

"Hundreds, and maybe thousands of farmers will have to quit, and because most of them are about 50 years old and have no other working experience, where will they get jobs in the towns?"

Mr. van der Walt points out that SWA/Namibia's largest employment sector is agriculture, and already the effects of increased unemployment are being experienced, as farmers lay off workers.

"We used to have 44,000 karakul and 32,000 sheep in South-West. This is now down to a nucleus of 1,400 million, and it would cost about R200 million to feed them this year alone," he says.

"In addition, income from karakul pelts has dropped 47 percent between 1980 and the current market. Conversely feed costs have risen 50 percent, according to Mr. van der Walt."

DISCUSSIONS

According to the proposed new drought relief scheme, SWA/Namibia's farmers would be required to reduce the size of their farms, number of animals and carryover of land, and they will be given cash at the beginning of February to see them through until the end of March.

"We are also about to start discussions with the other (black) administrations in the territory, to advise them of what new measures to undertake, because the area region has its own particular needs."

"We have been most impressed by the spirit of optimism among all the farmers we met. I only hope their enthusiasm is rewarded with good rains," Mr. van der Walt added.
People need any food, says chief

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Drought had killed three people and about 75 percent of the cattle in Kaokoland, the Herero leader, Chief Kunima Riruako, revealed today.

He said the hospital at Opuwo, administrative centre of the northwestern region, was filled with malnutrition victims in a drought which was "out of hand."

The Ministers' Council is to hold an emergency meeting in Windhoek to discuss aid for Kaokoland's 20,000 inhabitants. The local Red Cross has also launched an appeal for food and money to assist them.

"Any form of help will be welcome," Chief Riruako said. "My people need food, any kind of food. There is in any case no livestock left there," he added.

The second-tier Herero administration had done all it could to help, but worsening conditions had necessitated direct central government intervention. In some parts of Kaokoland it had not rained for eight years, he said.

Opuwo was overcrowded by people looking for food and supplies at the town's shops did not last a day.
WINDHOEK. — South West Africa's killer drought is reaching catastrophic proportions in Kaokoland where at least three people are reported to have died of starvation and three quarters of the livestock population has been decimated.

The situation is so desperate the Herero Legislative Assembly is to ask the central government, under the control of the Minister's Council, for help in feeding the 20,000 people in the north-western area.

Chief Kueima Riruako, a member of the Minister's Council and vice-chairman of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, said yesterday: "Visitors to Kaokoland are met with a ghastly sight of carcases of goats and other livestock littering the sides of roads."

Chief Riruako said the hospital at the capital of Kaokoland, Opuwo, was packed with malnutrition cases. He described the situation in the area as "out of hand".

Some parts of the area have received no rain for eight years. Commercial and subsistence agriculture have virtually collapsed and there is serious overcrowding in Opuwo.

Donations

Mr Riruako said three quarters of Kaokoland's cattle had died, well water was scarce and there were no goats in the western parts of the area.

The head of the Red Cross in SWA, Mrs Ruth Kiwi, has urged the public to send money or food donations to help alleviate the plight of the people in Kaokoland.

SWA is facing what many consider the worst drought this century.

Unless there are rains by March, political and agricultural leaders have forecast, there will be a national catastrophe and the country will become a wasteland.

The head of the SWA Agricultural Union, Mr Hansie van der Walt, has warned that SWA's drought has gone beyond crisis proportion and is already a catastrophe.

Slaughtered

Other areas badly hit by the drought are Damaraaland and most of the western half of the country.

If no rain has fallen by March, 400,000 cattle will have to be slaughtered according to Mr Van Der Walt.

And if the drought continues a similar number of karakul sheep will have to be slaughtered after April.

Karakul and cattle are the most important contributors to SWA's agricultural industry.

Areas relatively untouched by the drought such as Gobabis, near the Botswana border, are being overstocked with animals seeking emergency grazing.

A major problem — if the mass slaughter has to take place — will be finding a market. South Africa is well supplied with beef and it would be difficult for SWA to compete on the overseas market.

"Hundreds, or maybe thousands of farmers will have to quit their land if it does not rain," said Mr Van Der Walt, disconsolately, after a tour of the country recently.
Thousands starve in SWA drought

From Peter Kenny

The Cape Times, Wednesday, 28/12/2011
SWA set to fight farmers' exodus

The Star's Africa
News Service

WINDHOEK — SWA/Namibia's Council of Ministers has launched a national strategy to prevent many of the territory's farmers leaving their lands in the worst drought in 50 years.

The council will also examine a report by the Department of Water Affairs on the legal and scientific aspects of the controversial practice of "cloud milking."

This was announced yesterday by council member Mr. Hans von Hase who revealed that Windhoek had only enough water for another year if it cut its usual consumption by half.

He said the council would meet representatives of the territory's second-tier authorities, which are responsible for agriculture, at a conference on next week.

The aim was to market as many animals as soon as possible to retain and save the nucleus herds and to plan finances for these measures.

"We are in danger of a great exodus of farmers," Mr. von Hase said.

Farms in the western parts of SWA/Namibia were carrying about 20 percent of their normal livestock, but the position was not yet "absolutely desperate" because nucleus herds still existed.

Mr. von Hase said the territory had only 40 percent of its customary rainfall last summer. Groothoek had so far had 85 mm this summer, Otjoo 15 mm, Windhoek 0.3 mm and Keetmanshoop 4 mm.

Noting the "disastrous" conditions in Damaraland and Keetoskland, he said the territory's farmers marketed 500,000 cattle last year, half of them to South Africa's open market. "The financial position of farmers is not as bad because of good prices and cash income."

"But the future is not rosy for beef farmers when one considers rebuilding their herds," Mr. von Hase said.

Karakul farmers had been hit hard as production had dropped by 35 percent and prices by 26 percent last year.
Namibia turns on Angola's tap

NAMIBIAN authorities are pumping millions of cubic metres of water from the Caloque scheme in Angola to relieve drought-stricken Ovambo.

The territory's Department of Water Affairs is drawing water from the Cunene under an agreement made with the Angolan Government before the MPLA came to power. This emerged at a press conference this week addressed by the member of the SWA/Namibian Council of Ministers in charge of water affairs, Hans Jurgen von Hase.

Officials revived the Caloque water source, which is now supplying half the Ovambo population into last year by using installations and a water route that have been dormant for years.

Mr von Hase refused to say whether or not the scheme was being tapped with Angolan permission.

"But it is an old agreement between Angola and us that we can take water at that point," he said.

In spite of the international Cunene project deal, however, water from the Caloque scheme did not run to Ovambo after Angola's civil war. An alternative scheme supplying only 10 percent of Cunene's potential, was built in the late seventies from the "hippo pool" in the Cunene River below Ranceba Falls.

Mr von Hase said the water from Caloque had solved "big problems" in Ovambo. "We supply half the population through that state scheme and the flow is so strong that we can fill all pans, dams and..."

A security forces spokesman said a drop in the number of guerrilla incidents in the last nine months was partly attributable to the drought.

"We are also beginning to see the effects of Swapo's losses; roughly 1400 have died each year for the last two years."

The dry conditions in Ovambo favoured security forces engaged in counter-insurgency operations for several reasons:

- Food and water were not readily available to insurgents, who either had to carry their supplies or were restricted to areas where people supported them.
- Swapo's infiltration routes were limited to riverbeds or waterpoints, reducing the cover areas.
- Insurgents no longer had the cover of dense foliage in which to operate and the dry ground made it easier for security forces to track.
- The intense heat cut the guerrilla's daily radius and caused fatigue. They had to discard equipment and weapons to escape the fresh trackers pursuing them who were deployed in helicopters in a "leap-frog" system.

About 15 Swapo insurgents had committed suicide in the last three months. Medical officers said the violent and irrational behavior displayed by these men indicated symptoms of extreme heat fatigue.

The drought also had disadvantages for security forces:

- Troops on operations continued to be supplied with water regularly and, where there was no water points..."
By PETER HONEY, Tribune Africa News Servio

FA Mine and war have driven thousands of people from rural Okahandja to shelter in the only notal town in the 50 000 square kilometre region — Opuwo, meaning, literally, “the end of the road”.

They live in patchwork hovels of cardboard, sacking and sticks — often as many as six in a hovel but little larger than a doghouse.

They are the Ovahimba and Herero people of Namibia’s most northwestern region which has been affected by drought. Some parts have not seen rain in six years.

Opuwo, the capital of Kaokoland, has a population of 400 three years ago. Now 5000 are crammed into the rambling, dusty collection of littered streets, houses and shacks.

The influx of war and drought refugees has meant that there are about eight squatters to every resident towingman.

Opuwo is little more than a military, police and administrative centre with a population of about 50 whites. There are about 100 brick houses. Butted among these buildings are the squatter shanties and wooden huts built by Angolan refugees who have moved in since the civil war there.

But Opuwo also has a hospital with 122 beds and four military doctors serving a population of about 15 000 in an area nearly twice the size of Lesotho.

In spite of the drought, which killed 40 000 cattle last year, few people have been admitted to the hospital for malnutrition.

“We have 80 patients and only one, a child of 18 months, is being treated for gastro-enteritis brought on by malnutrition,” a military doctor said this week.

“Is it perhaps surprising that the incidence of malnutrition is so low,” he asked.

“I can ascribe this to one factor — that nearly all babies are breast-fed until the age of two,” he said.

Opuwo hospital has not had any deaths directly attributable to starvation, although some adults have died from diseases contracted because their resistance was low.

However, Kaokoland is undoubtedly the region in Namibia least penetrated by Western civilisation, one of the doctors conceded that many rural Ovahimbas probably would not seek help in Opuwo if they were starving.

The head of the Herero administration said 75 percent of the population was dependant on Government feeding schemes.

“The administration distributes 15 tons of mealie-corn to the rural population each month. Then there are supplies of fat, sugar and the like,” Mr Timus Smit said.

If the situation regarding the human population is good, it is certain that the cattle population is steadily dying out.

Flying over the thorn scrub and mopane bush between Opuwo and the southernmost region of Ovijokovares, one cannot see so much as a tuft of grass in the baking red soil.

The unique Kaokoland elephants are there, with apparently nothing to eat, but there is no sign of cattle — the mainstay of the Herero and Ovahimba societies.

Kraals stand deserted, the bleached grey stick huts barren as skeletons. Then you are in the district of the Ovijokovares.

More than 4000 people live here, in settlements seething in the heat and stench of rotting carcasses.

Most of the cattle are owned by Jonas Musuza, who began farming in the district shortly before the drought of 1962.

“This drought cannot be compared with anything before. My father and mother cannot remember a drought as bad as this,” Mr Musuza said.

The only market for Kaokoland cattle is the meat processing factory at Oshakati. Because of veterinary regulations preventing the spread of foot-and-mouth disease and lung sickness, no cattle may be exported south of a fence running across southern Kaokoland.

The zebra used to live here and our traditional water and grazing lands were south of the fence. Now we are where the zebra used to be and they are where the water is,” Mr Musuza complains.

But the wild animals are suffering in the drought as well. Each side of the “great white road” running northwards into the Angolan border lie the carcasses of zebra, hartebeest and oryx — trapped behind a low stock fence which, in their weakness, they are unable to jump.

A senior member of Ovijokovares’ community, Lunguama Musuza, says the feeding must stop.

“What does it help to keep feeding the cattle if they are going to die?” The Government should rather slaughter all the cattle, or let them die so that we can prepare for the war which is going to come,” Mr Musuza says.
Opuwo: End of road for Kaokoland's victims

The Star's Africa News Service

Opuwo — Famine and war have driven thousands of people from rural Kaokoland to the only notable town in the 50,000 sq km region Opuwo, meaning literally "the end of the road".

They live in patchy huts of cardboard, sacking and sticks, often as many as six in a shebeehut little larger than a dog kennel.

They are the Ovahimba and Herero people of SWA/Namibia's north-western region which has been devastated by drought. Some parts have not had rain in six years.

Opuwo, capital of Kaokoland, had a population of about 400 people three years ago. Now 4,000 are crammed into the rambling, dusty collection of littered streets, hoonie and shacks.

"More people are moving in each month," Opuwo is now more than a military, police and administrative centre with a population of about 50,000, and about 100 brick houses. Dotted among these buildings are the squatter shanties and wooden huts built by Angolan refugees from the civil war in that country.

FEEDING

"But Opuwo also has a hospital — 182 beds and four military doctors serving a population of about 15,000 in an area nearly twice the size of Lesotho."

In spite of the drought, which official sources say killed 40,000 cattle last year alone, few people have been admitted to the hospital suffering from malnutrition.

The hospital has had no deaths directly attributable to starvation, although some adults have died from diseases contracted because their resistance was low.

According to the head of the Herero administration, Mr Thinn Smit, 75 per cent of the population in Kaokoland is dependent on government feeding schemes.

"The administration distributes 10 tons of mealies to the rural population each month, and there are also supplies of fat, sugar and the like," Mr Smit said.

Mr Jonas Musaro is the co-owner of these cattle in a feed lot. Without good rains he will all go the way of the dead calf beside him.

Reports had been received of people dying of starvation, "but these reports are always at least two weeks old, by which time it is too late to investigate them."

The cattle population is steadily dying out.

CARCASSES

"Flying over the thorn scrub and mopane bush between Opuwo and the southernmost region of Otjokovares, one cannot see so much as a stub of grass."

Kraals stand deserted. "The unique, Kaokoland elephants are there with apparently nothing to eat. But there is no sign of cattle, the mainstay of the Herero and Ovahimba societies."

At the Otjokovares community school are 70 children between the ages of five and 18. Some of them have never seen rain. They are not yet in danger of starvation, thanks to Government rations.

But less than 50m away the carcasses of cattle lie strewn like discarded sacks around a feed lot.

Farmer Mr Jonas Musaro said through an interpreter: "This drought cannot be compared with anything which occurred before. Even my father cannot remember a drought as bad as this."

Wild animals are suffering in the drought as well. On each side of the "Great White Road" which runs north to the Angolan border lie the carcasses of zebra, kudu and oryx — trapped behind a low stock fence which, in their weakness, they are unable to jump.
Wasteland threat in SWA's long drought

From PETER KENNY
WINDEBOER, South West Africa/Namibia’s harsh desert is fast becoming a place where memory is threatening to turn the turbulent territory into a wasteland.

Thousands of head of stock have been killed and many others diseased as a result of the killers. If the drought continues, many will starve. The livestock has already been affected by the drought and the people are in desperate need of assistance.

The head of the SWA/ Namibia Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Hansie van der Wall, has warned that the drought has gone beyond the control of the authorities. "We have been expecting heavy rains for the past several months, but they have not materialized," he said. "The livestock is dying at an alarming rate, and the situation is critical."}

The authorities have been providing food relief to the affected areas, but it is not enough to meet the needs of the people.

The situation is particularly severe in the central region of the country, where the rainfall has been very low. The government has declared a state of emergency in the affected areas.

The drought has also affected crops, and the food situation in the country is deteriorating rapidly. The government is working on a plan to import food to alleviate the situation, but it is not clear how much will be available.

The international community has been urged to provide aid to the affected areas, but the situation is still critical. The government is calling for the support of the global community to help alleviate the crisis.

The government has also been working on a plan to improve water supplies in the affected areas, but it is not clear how effective the plan will be in the long term.

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Anti-SA propaganda circulated by UN agency as facts

Weekend Post Reporter

BLATANT anti-South African propaganda, in which SWAPO spokesmen make outrageous claims about conditions in SWA/Namibia, are being circulated worldwide by the United Nations as factual information.

The latest "bulletin for the news media" produced by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) is a special issue on Namibia. It is sent to newspapers all over the world, and reproduction of its articles and pictures is free.

While some of the reports on the history and economy of the territory are basically accurate, others are, heavily biased in favour of SWAPO and paint the South African authorities as brutal racists.

The major item in the hospital's column is a struggle against racism and for a nation, and is based entirely on interviews with two leading SWAPO officials. Among the claims they make are:

- South Africa has ignored the most fundamental needs of the population — at least, those of the black majority. The white part of the population is well provided for.
- There is not a school or hospital in Namibia built by the South Africans. What was built was built by the churches.
- If you are black, a white doctor will not bring himself to touch you. He will just ask you what is wrong and then prescribe some tablets.
- Because there are so few cars in rural areas, a sick person may have to be put on a bicycle and taken in this way by somebody to some other place from which he can be transported to a hospital hundreds of kilometres from his home.
- When he gets to the hospital, he will join the others who have no place to sleep except outside the hospital. During the day, these sick people have to stand about in the heat.
- (Late last year a heart operation was successfully performed on a civilian by army doctors in the 700-bed hospital at the Oshambo border town of Oshakati.)
- South Africa has failed to dislodge the SWAPO forces in the Hoepa area, and subject some 40 South African military bases to attacks by day and by night.
- Although there are transit bases for supplies and reinforcements, the main SWAPO forces are in Namibia.

In a Portrait of a SWAPO militant, about the national secretary of SWAPO, Axel Johannes, chilling accounts are given of the torture he is said to have undergone in detention under the Terrorism Act.

Physical torture, according to the writer, Dirk Kimnane, is calculated to step just short of death. He says that Mr Johannes's body "bears visible traces of repeated maltreatment, but his spirit seems to have emerged unscathed from the ordeal".

The report goes into great detail about the treatment Mr Johannes is said to have suffered, including electric shocks, gugging, strangulation, being stabbed with a large metal blade and having his own blood off the floor.

It is also claimed that women prisoners are regularly raped — sometimes as many as 10 men at a time.

The reports — unchallenged in any way — are illustrated by pictures of SWAPO officials, poor-looking blacks (including a group next to a burnt-out hut said to be in a village destroyed by South African forces) and SWAPO troops and personnel.

In marked contrast to the Unesco document is an article in the latest issue of South African Digest, a weekly Government publication sent overseas, reflecting local newspaper reports and comment.

It is headed, SWAPO: cold-blooded murderers by their own admission, and is reprinted from the Defence Force publication, Paratus.

The article says that any pretence by SWAPO that it is fighting a "war of liberation" on behalf of the people of SWA/Namibia has been shattered by documents captured during Operation Protea.

"For the documents, notebooks kept by terrorists, prove that SWAPO is not fighting for the people but is, in fact, waging war against them — to force the local population into submission through acts of sheer terrorism, selective murdering or wanton killing, depending on the effect desired."

The article refers to the "cold-blooded plans of the Kremlin-backed terrorists" who are "totally unconcerned about whom they kill and maim!".

As evidence to support these claims, it quotes extracts from the notebooks of SWAPO leaders, disclosing plans for murdering "puppets", "collaborators" and other marked men in Ovamboland.

In one case, says the report, desperate efforts were made to stop the authorities from providing water by road tanker to local families suffering the effects of drought. In another incident reported in the notebooks, a store was attacked, a woman killed, a bystander shot and booty "captured for the cause".

The Paratus editor comments: "One cannot help feeling, reading the account, that the incident would be branded murder and looting in a normal society."

WINDHOEK.—A poet has snapped up the prospecting rights to one of the world’s richest uranium fields from under the nose of a major South African mining house and says he would not sell for ‘one or two million.’

The new owner of the prospecting rights to 70,000 ha of uranium-rich desert surrounding the Rossmuir uranium mine, near Swakopmund, is 34-year-old Mr. Charles Zandberg, a swarthy, bearded man, whose Bohemian lifestyle makes him one of Windhoek’s more colourful characters.

Mr. Zandberg’s windfall came when he chanced on a renewal notice of Rio Tinto South Africa’s prospecting rights in the SWA/Namibia mining commission’s office eight months ago.

He applied for the rights and was granted them on the grounds that Rio Tinto had not carried out the required development of the area.

Immediately the full weight of Rio Tinto’s parent company, the giant Rio Tinto Corporation in England, was thrown into an appeal for the return of the rights. This was rejected.

Now Mr. Zandberg holds the rights to the land on which Rossmuir’s airfield, and even its security gate, are situated.

‘This has brought new hope for the small man involved in mining in this country,’ Mr. Zandberg said.

Finance

‘If there were doubts that the Ministers’ Council could stand up to pressure from the big mining companies, this has shown otherwise. They acted strictly according to the law.

But owning an extensive uranium field is not without its financial commitment and Mr. Zandberg is expected by law to spend R48,000 a year working the property or he too could lose his right to the ground.’

Argus Africa
News Service

‘The money is no problem. I own a drill and plan to get to work right away,’ he said.

And to support his claim he produced a lawyer’s letter guaranteeing him: ‘liens of up to P:60,000.

If someone came to me now and offered me one or two million for the rights, I wouldn’t sell.’

‘But if he offered me that money for exploration of the property, I would be in like a shot,’ he said.

‘I love South West Africa. I want to stay here. So I will not sell so that it can one day fall into the hands of people who feel nothing for the land.’

Although only an amateur mineralogist, Mr. Zandberg has been involved in mining in SWA/Namibia for more than 10 years.

He is directly and indirectly involved in eight mining ventures in the territory.
SOLDIERING ON AGAINST RED TAPE

TRIBUNE REPORTER

AN OLD soldier, badly injured in the leg in the last war, takes his four-year battle against red tape to Cape Town this week. He claims he is owed by the South African and Transkei governments.

What amounts to almost his last-ditch stand is designed to coincide with the new session of Parliament.

Major Arnold Brinton, 65, who has spent the past few years in Zimbabwe but has just left there to settle in Durban, wants compensation from the two governments who, he claims, independently gave him the go-ahead for agri-industrial projects in Namibia and Transkei.

He is an agricultural engineer.

Major Brinton's armoury is a formidable wad of meticulously kept documents and correspondence collected over the years. These are backed by various political and legal opinions he has received that his claims are well-founded.

The South African-born major, who began his war career as an artillery instructor with the South African forces but was seconded to the royal Artillery, became involved in the planning of a sugar planting project in the Tsumeb area of Namibia between 1975 and 1977.

At the time this came under the Ministry of Water Affairs.

But, Major Brinton, told the Tribune this week, the plan turned sour.

"There was a cover-up to protect officials. There was lack of efficiency, of liaison, and gross negligence."

Meanwhile, he sank a lot of his own cash into the project.

"The Government gave me the green light to go ahead with the whole thing but there were official irregularities all along the line."

The outcome is that Major Brinton is seeking a settlement of R240 000 from the Government for his professional advice, consultancy fees and otherwork.

If tried to get an out-court settlement and even approached ministers, MPs and wrote a letter to the Prime Minister.

He will present a letter to Mr. Pallo Jordan, Minister of Manpower Utilisation and Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Brinton's other task in Cape Town will be to renew his bid to get 65 000 from the Transkei Government after being involved with them - with the booking of an Australian concern to start a major orange-growing scheme.

This scheme also fell through, he said, and in 1979, when he said he had a substantial claim against Transkei.

Major Brinton said he was realistic and would temper the amount of his claims to the access of his necessities - but he still has a R149 000 twinkle in his eye.
A SHAGGY prospector-speculator from Windhoek, Charles Zandberg, has left multinational mining giants in Namibia red-faced by snatching up one of the biggest uranium claims in the land.

The granting to Mr Zandberg of prospecting rights on 69 000ha of land surrounding the world's biggest uranium mine, Rössing, in the Namib Desert, was confirmed this week by the SWA Ministers' Council.

The ballyhoo prospect was also a poet, who recently published a book of Afrikaans verse.

The 25-year-old Windhoek man has been dabbling in mine prospecting claims for 15 years, coming close to poverty on occasions by staking the wrong claims.

He obtained rights to his latest claim from a giant multinational mining concern, whose local holding company was unable to meet the legal provisions to renew the grant.

An elated Mr Zandberg said: 'I've got plans, but I'll talk about them later. I can't say how much money would be needed to exploit the claim, which is near Swakopmund, but according to the mining commissioner's office in Windhoek, it could be anything between R50 000 and R200 000.

The commissioner's office confirmed that the claim had previously been in the name of G P Louw Ltd, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto South Africa.

This was confirmed by a director of Rio Tinto, Mr Fred Stiglich, yesterday.

Rössing has mining rights on 200ha and G P Louw has maintained some mining rights in the area.

But the mining companies never commented on exploration, nor did they speak to the Press about it.

Speculation about what Mr Zandberg would do with his find was rife in Windhoek yesterday.

The divorced prospector is on a small holding he has near Okahandja with a friend this weekend.

By PETER KENNY

Windhoek

Shaggy prospector is in line to make big SWA killing
South West Africa: Drought

Drought has been declared in South West Africa (Namibia). The situation is dire, with water reserves running low and crops failing due to a lack of rainfall. The government has appealed for international aid to help alleviate the crisis.

The drought is expected to last for several months, and the impact on the local population could be severe. Many farmers have already lost their livelihoods, and the situation is particularly bleak for the San and other indigenous communities who rely on agriculture for their survival.

The Namibian government has urged people to conserve water and reduce their water consumption. Aid organizations are providing emergency water supplies and food aid to affected communities.

In the meantime, the United Nations has called for urgent action to prevent a humanitarian crisis. The UN is working closely with the Namibian government to coordinate international relief efforts.

Source: Namibian Government

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Ever Wondered About the Effects of Drought on Agriculture?

Drought is one of the most significant threats to global food security. When crops fail due to lack of water, it can lead to food shortages and increased prices, especially in vulnerable communities.

In addition to affecting crops, drought can also impact livestock, which are crucial for many people's livelihoods. Drought can also cause water scarcity, which can lead to conflicts over resources.

Efforts to mitigate the effects of drought include conservation agriculture, where farmers use practices like crop rotation, reduced tillage, and cover cropping to conserve water and build soil fertility.

Agriculture is often the first to feel the effects of climate change, and it is crucial that we invest in sustainable farming practices to help communities cope with the challenges of climate change.

Source: FAO

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From a height of 900, all is calm but a.scary fear is ever present in the fleet.

The sound of engines fills the air, a low rumble that echoes off the mountainsides. The pilots scan their instruments, their eyes fixed ahead. They know the risks, the danger, the very real threat of the unknown.

The fleet is a powerful force, ready to strike at a moment's notice. But the pilots know that they are fighting for more than just a victory. They are fighting for survival, for their loved ones back home.

As they soar through the sky, they can feel the fear in their bones, the panic creeping in at the edges of their minds. But they push it aside, focusing on the task at hand.

The scene is tense, the{}
Politics has ended Namibia oil search

South Africa and international exploration companies are no longer searching for oil and gas in the promising area along the Namibian coast because of the territory’s present political uncertainty.

Dr Frans Quasi, former managing director of Socaor, the State oil and gas exploration corporation, said this last night in a talk to the Pretoria branch of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science.

The current political climate in Namibia before an expected settlement “discouraged exploration activities,” he said.

About a decade ago the Chevron exploration company drilled into what was later reported a “massive” gas field off the Orange River mouth.

Dr Quasi also called for the building of a new Sasol every five or 10 years until 2000, because in the not too distant future South Africa might be unable, for political reasons, to import oil.

He felt confident that South Africa could become self-sufficient in fuel.
Rain at last for thirsty SWA

By PETER KENNY

WINDHOEK — Widespread rain in the past few days has brought some relief from the worst drought in living memory in South West Africa.

Windhoek has had three showers on consecutive days. And in bone-dry Khomas, capital of Damaraland, where thousands of cattle and game have perished, 50mm of rain fell by the weekend.

Weather experts say a lot more rain will have to fall throughout the territory before the land can begin recovering from the pounding it has taken.

Showers have been reported in some parts of Kakoland, the other worst hit area, but some places have had no rain for eight years.

In the drought such hardy game as gemsbok, springbok and zebra have perished and even desert-hardened ostriches have died.

Goats and sheep, which have the reputation of being almost able to survive on rocks, can be seen lying limply on the dry earth of Damaraland and Kakoland.

The head of the SWA Agricultural Union, Mr Hansie van der Walt, warned last month that the drought had gone beyond crisis proportions and was already a catastrophe.

But the country-wide rain has brought relief and leaves on trees which had been glazed to an eerie silver-white by the dust have been washed green.

SWA: Parties support idea of world fund

From PETER KENNY

WINDBORIK, — Parties in SWA/Namibia were yesterday asked their opinions on a possible international development fund for SWA/Namibia.

This emerged from the high-level talks taking place between the Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Botha, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Pik Botha, the head of the Defence Force, General Constant Viljoen, the head of the Army, Lieutenant-General Jannie Geldenhuys, the Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Brand Fourie, and SWA/Namibian parties.

Yesterday’s talks dealt mainly with phase two of the present Western initiative for an internationally-acceptable solution for SWA/Namibia.

Phase two concerns the deployment of United Nations forces during an election and the finer points of supervision of such an election leading to independence.

Pleased

All the groups except for the Namibia National Front — consisting of the South West Africa National Union, the Namibia Independence Party, the Khomas Council and the Damara Council — appeared pleased with the talks.

The Prime Minister said during a brief interlude that the talks were “friendly and positive.”
Mr. S. S. VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

(1) What body is responsible for the supply of electric power to Walvis Bay;

(2) whether the electric power supply to Walvis Bay has been interrupted since 1 January 1982; if so, (a) how many times and (b)(i) for how long and (ii) why, in each case?

The MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE AND TOURISM (for the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs):

(1) The South-West Africa Water and Electricity Corporation (Pty.) Ltd. (SWAWER).

(2) Yes.

(a) Sixteen times.

(b) (i) The times are reflected in the following list which is tabled herewith:

From 23h00 on 2 January to 04h00 on 3 January.
From 06h00 to 09h00 on 3 January.
From 12h00 to 15h00 on 3 January.
From 18h00 to 21h00 on 3 January.
From 23h00 on 3 January to 04h00 on 4 January.
From 06h00 to 09h00 on 4 January.
From 20h25 on 1 February to 00h25 on 2 February.
From 14h38 to 16h20 on 5 February.
From 08h41 to 17h03 on 10 February.
From 19h26 to 20h32 on 10 February.
From 08h03 to 08h31 on 11 February.
From 10h45 to 10h56 on 15 February 1982.

(ii) The power interruptions during January were the result of load shedding by SWAWEK because the coal conveyor system at the Van Eck Power Station in Windhoek broke down. The power failure on 1 February was caused by the explosion, presumably as a result of lighting, of an auxiliary transformer at Omaruru.

The power breakdown on 5 February was caused by lighting. The two power failures on 10 February occurred when the main coupling transformer at Omaruru broke down. The short power failures on 11 and 15 February were caused by a temporary shortage of power.
Bank Windhoek

WINDHOEK. — Bank Windhoek will be the name of Volkskas in Namibia from April 1.

A total of 51% of Volkskas SWA is to be taken by Namibian businessmen.

The names of the 10 directors for Bank Windhoek have been announced.

Six were appointed by the majority shareholder, a Namibian controlling company with a total equity of R2 300 000 equally distributed among 23 shareholders.

The Namibian directors are Mr Johnny Hamman, chairman, Mr York von Schultz, Mr Andries Pretorius, Mr J C Brand, Mr K W R List and Mr V J Verster.

Directors representing Volkskas SA are Mr P J F Venter, Mr P McLaughlin, Mr D P S van Ruyven and Mr H D de Villiers.
7. Mr. S. S. Van der Merwe asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

(1) What progress has been made in considering the request that the Walvis Bay Municipality should have a greater say in the operation of the Rootbank water supply scheme;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The Minister of Environment Affairs:

(1) The Department of Environment Affairs is presently drafting an agreement which makes provision for a greater say by the Walvis Bay Municipality in the operation of the Rootbank water supply scheme.

(2) No.
What was the average percentage of seats taken on the passenger train service between Walvis Bay and Windhoek during the period 1 July to 31 December 1981?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

23%.
449. Mr. S. S. VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Industries, Commerce and Tourism:

Whether any industrialists have applied to the Industrial Development Corporation for financial assistance at subsidized rates of interest in respect of the establishment of industries in Walvis Bay since this benefit was introduced last year; if so, how many?

The MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE AND TOURISM:

Yes. Five.
Next month’s Namibia budget is going to be unpalatably tough. Its political consequences could place heavy additional strain on Dirk Mudge’s frayed DTA administration.

It is by now clear that the final out-turn of the 1981/82 revenue estimates is not going to look anything like the projections made 12 months ago. Government spending seems to have get out of hand, especially that of the second-tier bantustan authorities.

The plain truth is that the “interim” administration’s revenue base seems to have fallen away altogether.

The 1981/82 revenue estimates provide for tax collections of R125m from mining companies, all but R6m of it from Consolidated Diamond Mines (CDM). A senior CDM executive told the FM this week that figure is clearly “way out.”

Mining industry sources reckon actual payments to the Windhoek Exchequer could be 20%–30% less. While CDM’s prospects for 1982/83 remain cheerful, it seems likely that mining revenue will be boosted moderately with Rossing uranium finally coming into the tax net. At the same time, copper mining companies could weigh in with marginally bigger tax contributions.

Fishing and agriculture, the two remaining pillars of the economy, remain in the doldrums. While a fair amount of rain has fallen in the northern ranchlands, beef exports are unlikely to pick up because farmers will need to rebuild breeding stocks and because the SA Meat Board has cut back sharply on provisions. To keep export meat processing plants going beef is being imported from Ireland.

In the south, Karakul ranchers are going to the wall. The drought persists and an emergency relief grant of R50,5m has been announced to supplement last year’s hand-out of R54m.

Tax revenue from individuals and non-mining companies will barely exceed R250m in the year just ended. Scope for finance the huge anticipated deficit from higher taxes is limited. Nevertheless Mudge will probably hoist company tax from 40% to 46.5/-60% and perhaps do likewise with top marginal rates for individual taxpayers. The latter was reduced to 35% last year in a kind of “supply-side” aimed at attracting skilled workers to the territory—and hanging onto those living in Namibia.

Raising taxes at a time of high inflation and anticipated zero growth will probably add momentum to the white “chicken run.” Figures released in Windhoek this week show that the white population has dropped 28% to 71,550 from 99,694 in 1970. For the first time the Ovambo people now make up more than 50% of the population. They number 565,000 out of 1m people.

With his revenue base in tatters, Mudge is going to have to do a Horwood and slash government spending to the bone. The obvious step will be to cut back on transfers to the 10 second-tier regional authorities. There were reports in Windhoek this week that the Namibian bantustan authority at Xhorixas had already spent its 1983 allocation, and in a recent session of the national assembly bitter criticism was made of the opulent lifestyles of bantustan leaders and their top bureaucrats.

Possibly as a result of this, financial transfers to regional authorities are now made on a monthly basis (instead of a lump sum) and all second-tier borrowing (from the commercial banks) has to be approved by the Department of Finance in Windhoek.

In 1981/82 government spending constituted more than 60% of 1981 GDP of R1 300m. Spending cuts will obviously exacerbate the appalling unemployment situation. Reduced transfers to the bantustans will annoy DTA ethnic leaders and generate terrific tensions in the hapless alliance.
Namibia building industry reels

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Consternation exists in Namibia's building industry following the Central Government's decision to halt all future building plans until further notice.

At least one major Windhoek-based construction company is known to have laid off about 300 workers in anticipation of a building slump.

QUALIFIED

Senior members of building consultancy firms are already preparing to lay off qualified draughtsmen and quantity surveyors should the work stoppage continue for a few months.

"The picture does not look good," said a consulting engineer.

PERSISTED

Rumours have persisted for weeks that Central Government funds were rapidly drying up. The first notification of how serious the situation was came recently when contractors had gathered for a site inspection at Windhoek's JG Strijdom Airport, where a potential R1-million tender for extension work was on offer.

A government official arrived and told the contractors that the tender had been withdrawn as there was no money available.

A spokesman for the Department of Civic Affairs and Manpower said that the building bust-back had not yet been officially sanctioned by the ministers' council, but all private building consultants — architects, engineers and quantity surveyors — had been notified.

BUDGET DUE

He declined to elaborate other than to say the situation would be more clear after the ministers' council chairman, Mr. Dirk Ndhole, had delivered the territory's budget next month.

"It's the uncertainty which is causing the most concern in the industry," said one architect.

"The bigger operators don't know how long the stoppage will last, so they don't know whether or not to start laying off staff." Observers point to the slump in Namibia's revenue earnings, and the low gold price as major factors in the building bust-back.

ROCKBOTTOM

In past years the territory could usually count on annual tax revenue from diamonds of about R200-million. On current exchange rates, however, they are likely to be less than R75-million.

At the same time uranium, copper, karakul and beef prices are near rockbottom. South Africa's annual cash injection is also expected to be radically reduced.

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

WAARSKUWING

1. Eksemensantwoorde mag net aan én kaart van die papier gekry word. Kladwerk mag op die agterkaart van 'n bladsy gedoen word, maar die eksemnitor sal vir eksemensboeie nie almal in aanmerking neem wat op die voorblad gekry is.

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University.
Rossing cash for Namibia

By PETER KENNY
Mail Africa Bureau

Windhoek.—Rossing Uranium, Mr Craig Gibson, who warned that the uranium industry was being squeezed between a weak market and rising operating costs.

"We shall have to look very carefully at productivity and economy during the present year if we are to continue to be a successful company," Mr Gibson said.

Rossing was an integral part of life in Namibia and had a responsibility to develop its human and other resources.

"In 1992 we paid out significant sums in wages and salaries and on supplies and services here, and through our activities injected over R100-million into the cash economy of SWA/Namibia," said Mr Gibson.

Transport & General Workers Union
National Union of Metal & Allied Workers
National Congress of Trade Unions
General Workers Union
Class & Allied Workers Union
Building, Construction and Allied Workers Union

Non-ferrous Metal Products

Westrawne Products & Chemicals Corporation
Industrialln Workers Union
Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers Union
South Africa Metal Workers Union (SAAWU)
S.A. Chemical Workers Union

International Union of Motor Assembly & Rubber Workers of South Africa

General Workers Union
International Retail Workers Association
International Food Retailer & Allied Workers Union
International Butcher & Allied Workers Union
International Butcher & Allied Workers Union
International Butcher & Allied Workers Union
International Butcher & Allied Workers Union
International Butcher & Allied Workers Union
International Butcher & Allied Workers Union
International Butcher & Allied Workers Union

Chemical & Plastics Products, Coal, Rubber & Plastic Products
Big Five meet in Paris on SWA

Argus Bureau

LONDON. — The five-power Western contact group on SWA/Namibia began a secret meeting in Paris today with three main topics to discuss.

They are:

- How to free the negotiations on constitutional principles from the jam created by Swapo’s reported refusal to accept the proposals;
- What steps to take now to make agreement easier on the second phase of consultations — the UN role in the territory’s transition to independence — which by all accounts presents more difficulty than the constitutional phase.
- How to use President Félix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast, the moderate bridge-builder between white and black Africa, to help in this progress.

IVORY COAST

The US Assistant Secretary of State Dr Chester Crocker, flies from the two-day contact group gathering in Paris to the Ivory Coast to see President Houphouet-Boigny.

But US State Department officials have not said what Dr Crocker’s approach will be.

But it is obvious that Swapo is now the party that needs pushing. And it is likely that the US will enlist this staunchly pro-Western African leader to do so.

Exploitation by SA a calamity for SWA

Argus Africa News Service

WINDHOEK. — The South African Government and “certain other parties” were intent on keeping SWA/Namibia “in a dependent and helpless state, both economically and politically,” a prominent businessman in the territory said here last night.

Mr Eric Lang, whose disclosures of below-market malpractices led to a shake-up in South Africa’s meat industry three years ago, lashed out at political and economic exploitation of the territory.

Describing SWA/Namibia’s mounting national debt as “a calamity”, Mr Lang told about 400 people at the annual general meeting of the Interessengemeinschaft that the territory had become “a pantry of the South African economy.”

South Africa had imposed an economic and political infrastructure on this country that was primarily intended to serve South Africa and not Namibian interests,” he said to applause.

A SHAM

He described the territory’s interim constitution as “an enormously complicated, bloated, inefficient and hideously expensive government system, devoid of all sanity” and which has led to incompetence and maladministration in the second tier ethnic authorities.

The national debt had increased annually from R28-million in 1978 to an estimated R880-million in the current year.

He said the interim government edifice was a sham, because the South African Government could “through the Administrator-General — abolish the ministers’ council and national assembly “with a stroke of the pen.”

Mr Lang said foreign and South African fishing interests were netting between R250-million and R400-million worth of fish a year.

“Since most of the country’s fishing factories are on South African soil at Walvis Bay, we are losing an estimated R250-million a year in taxes to the enclave,” he said.

While the United Nations Council for Namibia complained about exploitation of the territory’s resources, several UN member countries were “ruthlessly” exploiting SWA/Namibia’s fishing, without paying taxes or royalties.

MYSTERY

The mining industry — the largest revenue earning sector of the economy — was shrouded in mystery because of a blanket ban on all information regarding mineral production, imposed by South Africa.

Turning to diamond mining, Mr Lang said SWA/Namibia was “saddled” with CDL (Pty) Ltd, “a company that has managed to shroud our potential main source of income in a cloak of mystery.”

The territory was losing millions of rand in tax revenue by taxing CDL at the first stage of production only.

Mr Lang called on citizens to exert pressure on the Government “through all possible channels” to rectify the situation in the territory.
Call to end S Africa’s ‘plunder’ of Namibia

By Peter Honey
The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — The South African Government and certain other parties were intent on keeping Namibia “a dependent and helpless state economically and politically” Mr Eric Lang, a prominent businessman, said in Windhoek last night.

Mr Lang, whose revelations of beef marketing malpractices led to a shakeup in South Africa’s meat industry three years ago, criticised political and economic exploitation of the territory.

He told about 400 people at the annual meeting of the Interessegemeinschaft that the territory had become “a plaything of the South African economy.”

It had led to incompetence and maladministration in the second-tier ethnic authorities, he claimed.

South Africa’s debt, he said, had increased from R28 million in 1979 to an estimated R600 million this year.

“What worries me even more is the way we have misspent some of the borrowed money on senseless and unproductive sectors like our ballooning bureaucracy, show projects and political vote-catchers,” Mr Lang said.

Mr Lang described the territory’s interim constitution as “an enormously complicated, bloated, inefficient and hideously expensive government system, devoid of all sanity.”

The Government’s attitude was a “sham because the South African Government could — through the Administrator-General — abolish the Ministers’ Council and National Assembly with a stroke of the pen.”

FISHING

Referring to the fishing industry, Mr Lang said foreign and South African fishing interests were netting fish worth R800 million and R400 million a year.

“A very large percentage of the country’s fishing factories are on South African soil at Walvis Bay, we are losing about R50 million a year in taxes,” he said.

“Yet, to add insult to injury, Namibia pays for sea fisheries research, central and laboratory services and even buys patrol boats to monitor South Africa’s fishing interests,” Mr Lang said.

MINING

Mr Lang then turned to Namibia’s mining industry — the largest revenue generating sector of the economy — and said it was shrouded in mystery because of a blanket ban imposed by South Africa, with all information regarding mineral production.

Quoting figures which he said he had received from the Auditor-General, Mr Lang said Namibia had collected only R21 million in taxes from sales totalling R820 million in the past six years from the mining industry, excluding diamond mining.

The Rossing uranium mine, he said, paid no taxes but it had paid more than R100 million in dividends up to 1982.

MYSTERY

Turning to diamond mining, Mr Lang said Namibia was “saddled” with CDM (Pty) Ltd, “a company that has managed to shrug off potential main source of income in mystery.”

Namibia, he said, was losing millions of rands in tax revenue by taxing CDM at the first stage of production only.

A further loss to the territory, was caused by the State paying a refund on profit tax and diamond export duty to the South West Finance Corporation Ltd — a company affiliated to CDM.

Mr Lang called on the community to exert pressure on the Government “through all possible channels” to rectify the situation in the territory.
Rossing ‘talks to Swapo’ in bid to assure customers

By ADAM PAYNE

ROSSING Uranium — the biggest uranium mine in the world — is facing the sensitive task of assuring potential customers that the volatile political situation in South West Africa will not jeopardise long-term deliveries.

Reporting this, Mr Rob Lafer, editor of Nuclear Fuel, published in New York by McCraw-Hill, says that at the same time the company is laying the groundwork with the disparate groups vying for control of the country to ensure continued commercial viability of the mine.

Mr Lafer, on a visit to South West Africa, was told by sources outside the company that Swapo is among the groups with whom dialogue has taken place.

He reports: "These contacts with Swapo have given Rossing a fair degree of confidence that Swapo’s socialist undertakings are balanced by practicality, meaning that the group recognises Rossing’s economic and social benefits to the territory and that it would not jeopardise the mine’s operation if it assumes power."

"Similarly, my sources said Rossing has been able to convince potential customers that it is a reliable supplier despite the apparently unstable political situation in South West Africa."

"One knowledgeable source said that Rossing can lean on the uranium resources of other Rio Tinto-Zinc companies to make up for any shortfall from Ros- sing. RTZ is the major shareholder in Rossing."

After discussing the difficulties of attracting skilled personnel to Rossing, partly because of the political situation and also because of the remoteness of the mine, Lafer says that on the technical and commercial side of the operation Rossing has achieved a level of production which realises the commercial potential of the mine.

Full design capacity of 5 000 tons a year of uranium concentrate has been achieved since the end of 1972.

This level was reached only after an agonising period of several years during which the difficulty of mining uranium in granite proved far greater than expected. Rossing is the only large uranium mine in the world which granites is the host rock.

ROSSING’s production scheme is based on processing 40 000 to 45 000 tons a day which represents only 25% of the total rock mined, with the rest discarded.

The open pit, eventually to be dug 800m deep and encompassing 50km², is being developed at the rate of 15m bench a year.

Lafer calculates that the grade averages about 0,66lb to the ton of ore.

Company officials said that production could be expanded by a maximum of about 10% in present circumstances.

Rossing is about to begin a comprehensive updating of the mine’s reserves, although past assessments indicate a 23-year life from 1982.

Rossing’s geologists have determined that there are another 20 000 tons of uranium associated with marble deposits in the ore body.

The problem with exploiting these reserves, however, lies in the fact that sulphuric acid, the primary leaching agent, causes an exothermic reaction when mixed with marble, and thus other separation methods are being looked at.

After blasting in the open pit, the ore is moved in 140-ton trucks which are radio- metrically surveyed as a final determination of whether the ore is worth milling.

A company executive told Lafer that Rossing would probably not have been developed today — that the market and political situa-

1974 affiliated to TUCSA and had disaffiliated by 1977/78 and with other unions formed FOSATU in 1979
SILENCE greets THAT speech on SWA

By PETER KENNY

WINDHOEK. A controversial speech by South West Africa's millionaire, Mr Eric Lang, accusing South Africa of conspiring to deprive SWA of a healthy economy has set tongues wagging in the capital - but has met with little reaction.

He hit hard at the monopolistic diamond mining industry, but the public relations manager of the De Beers-controlled CDM, Mr Clive Cowley, said his group had no comment at present.

Mr Lang made his speech as guest speaker at the annual meeting of the powerful Deutsch-Interessen-gemeinschaft.

Mr Lang, a prominent farmer and business man, and major instigator of the investigation into the SWA meat scandal in 1979, had his audience spellbound as he told them how their economy was being manipulated.

Amidst repeated applause he lashed out at the role of the South African Government and some of the major mining houses in their handling of the SWA economy.

In trying to find out many facts on the situation in the territory Mr Lang said he had found many statistics "officially" inaccessible.

He asked how the SWA interim government could be expected to plan the economy properly if it was starved of facts.

The South African Government and other organisations were intent on keeping SWA "in a dependent and helpless state, economically and politically," Mr Lang said.

He blamed the "South African Government, certain multi-national interests, the United Nations, as well as local impotence, inefficiency and/or corruption" for "either knowingly or unknowingly" conspiring to deprive us of a healthy economy and political stability."

South Africa had saddled SWA with an interim constitution - AGS - which made an "enormously complicated, bloated, inefficient and hideously expensive" system of government.

Also, the present government "edifice" was "totally ... illusionary" and a "sham" because the SA Government could still abolish the Ministers' council and the National Assembly with a pen stroke.

Turning to the economy he described SWA as a "slave economy, an economic buffett, a pantry of the South African economy."

Examples he cited were the SWA fishing industry, the preferential tax treatment for the giant Rossing uranium mine, and the lack of support the country received for its crop and beef industry.

The controversial millionaire concluded by suggesting SWA should become a neutral country after independence to escape East-West conflict.

"How else will we ever cease to be a pawn in other countries' political machinations?" he asked.
The Star’s Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Allegations by a Namibian businessman, Mr Eric Lang, that the diamond industry and the South African Government were fleecing the territory’s resources were “seriously misleading,” the resident director of Consolidated Diamond Mines, Mr Douglas Hoffe, said in Windhoek yesterday.

Mr Lang had told a visiting German cultural group that Namibia was losing millions of rand in revenue by taxing CDM, a wholly owned De Beers subsidiary, at the first stage of production only.

Replying to Mr Lang’s allegations, Mr Hoffe said those disparaging remarks were based on incorrect facts.

Contrary to Mr Lang’s allegation that Namibia only derived revenue on about R180 a carat for its diamonds, while they were sold for substantially more to the cutters, Mr Hoffe said the diamond price remained constant.

“The price for diamonds produced in Namibia is not increased to the benefit of a third party at any stage between valuation and sale to the CSO,” he said.

“In other words it is quite incorrect for Mr Lang to allege that CDM sells its stones ‘cheaply’ and that the CSO later sells them ‘expensively’ to the ultimate detriment of CDM and the State,” Mr Hoffe added.

Mr Lang’s allegations about CDM’s tax payments, Mr Hoffe said: “As a diamond mining company CDM pays tax at a higher rate than any other taxpayer.”

“Taxes paid to the state by CDM have always exceeded by far the dividends paid to shareholders.”

Mr Harry Schwarz, the PPP parliamentarian, pledged to campaign in South Africa for immediate financial and social assistance for Namibia in an address to the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

It was in South Africa’s interests to create a climate of friendship between South Africa and Namibia before the territory attained independence.

“I’ve got to go back to the people of South Africa and tell them what is needed in Namibia is money and action and job creation — now,” he said.
The document describes the existence of three separate units. The first, Rossing Security Department, of 15 men; the second, Security Department, of 15 men: the men; and the third, Swakopmund Commando, of 24 men.

The weapons held at the mine include automatic rifles, 9 mm pistols, semi-automatic shotguns and teargas.

In reply to the Namibia Support Committee, Sir Anthony confirmed the validity of an internal Rossing memorandum which describes the arms held at the mine and the details for deployment of the mine's military personnel in case of attack.

In his letter, Sir Anthony wrote: "One must accept that there has for some time been civil strife in Namibia and in these circumstances it is the duty of the management of the Rossing Mine to make because of civil unrest plans for the protection and a private army in of its employees and their country, as the territory is "illegally occupied by South Africa true if there were unrest in defiance of UN resolutions."

"You also ask whether the armed units are members of the staff at Rossing. The answer is 'Yes' in the case of the first two — the third one is what we would refer to as a local citizens' vigilante unit."

Hand stronger

The GLC's pension fund currently owns RTZ shares worth R1.8-million, out of a total investment portfolio of more than R100-million. but the Labour group has already decided to sell the stake.
Namibia unable to go it alone

The Star’s Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Namibia could not become economically independent in the short term or function without foreign investment, the head of Consolidated Diamond Mines, Mr. Doug Hoff, said last night.

He said it would not be surprising to find that companies in Namibia with major shareholders outside the territory, contributed 70 percent or more to the gross domestic product.

Those wanting foreign investment out of Namibia or state interference in foreign companies, were advocating a “fundamental weakening” of the territory’s economy, he said.

Addressing a function, Mr. Hoff said, there was a body of opinion in Namibia which was hostile to local companies with shareholders resident outside the territory.

Nationalising companies and industry was not the way to meet the aspirations of the have-nots without diminishing the surplus of wealth capable of being generated.

“We must question whether the so-called ‘SWA-based, SWA-owned’ companies could muster the extraordinary resources that will be needed to tackle development projects on the scale we are talking about,” Mr. Hoff said.

The days of big international hand-outs were over. The West, particularly the US, was likely to follow a policy of foreign aid linked to self-interest.

“They will assist only if it suits their ideas of trade and diplomatic objectives,” he said.
"Namibia needs foreign firms"

Malcolm Africa Bureau
WINDHOEK — The fact that foreign and international companies contributed about 70% of the gross domestic product of SWA reinforced the contention that in the short run the country’s economy had no hope of resting solely on indigenous efforts.

This was said last night by Mr. Douglas Hoffe, president of the Chamber of Mines of SWA and resident director of the De Beers-owned CDM. He was speaking at a Rotary Club meeting.

Asking what future there was for foreign investors in SWA, Mr. Hoffe said there was a body of opinion in the country that was hostile to local companies with shareholders resident outside SWA.

If independence came and if a socialist or Marxist government was elected there would be talk of nationalizing the mines, the banks and perhaps some other important companies in which the major shareholders were resident outside SWA.

If they were not nationalized then the attitude might be that at least the state should have control of them through share ownership and board membership.

Mr. Hoffe said SWA had a society of have and have-nots — a sophisticated First World economy superimposed on an unsophisticated Third World economy.

By redistributing wealth SWA would follow the traditional pattern of Africa, and a way should be found to meet the aspirations of the have-nots without diminishing the surplus of wealth generated by mines and industries.

"And it is not by nationalising anything... around the world profitable companies have gone to pieces before they became involved with them."

SWA had no stock exchange and no domestic money market, and with a fast-growing population "where is the money coming from to create new jobs?"

Mr. Hoffe said it was questionable whether SWA-based companies could muster the extraordinary resources needed to tackle large-scale development projects.

The days of the big international foreign handouts were over, and Western countries would assist only if it suited their ideas of trade and diplomatic objectives.

The contribution of foreign companies could not simply be measured by the tax they paid. CDM and Rosling together "pumped" R180 million in cash last year into the economy by way of wages and salaries, and supplies and services bought in SWA.

The country had a budget of R670 million, and it was a pipe dream to think that the economy could function on indigenous companies only, without foreign interests, Mr. Hoffe said.
Mr. S. S. VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) Whether he has received any representations for the introduction of amended tariffs for the handling of salt at the Walvis Bay harbour; if so, (a) from what persons or bodies and (b) what was the nature of the representations;

(2) whether he has given consideration thereto; if so, what was his decision in this regard?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.
   (a) The Director, Walvis Bay, on behalf of the Walvis Bay Chamber of Commerce and Walvisboon-Sakekamer.
   (b) Application for relief of the harbour costs involved in the export of salt through Walvis Bay.

(2) Yes. It has been decided to grant exporters, who do their own shipping, a rebate of 10 per cent on shipping charges only.

Mr. B. W. B. PAGE: Mr. Speaker, arising out of the reply given by the hon. the Minister, would he please tell this House precisely how many years old he is today?

[Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Fifty-five years, Sir.

[Interjections.]
WINDHOEK—Rössing Uranium—the South West African mining giant—injects R180m into the territory’s cash economy for the year beginning 1982.

This was said by the managing director of Rössing Uranium, Mr Craig Gibson, who warned that the uranium industry was being squeezed between a weak uranium market and rising operating costs.

"We shall have to look very carefully at productivity and economy during the present year if we are to continue to be a successful company," Mr Gibson said.

He said Rössing was an integral part of life in the territory and the company had a responsibility to develop its human and other resources.

"In 1982 we paid out very significant sums in wages and salaries and on supplies and services here, and through our activities, injected over R100 million into the cash economy of SWA/Namibia," said Mr Gibson.

Rössing’s successful 1981 year of operation in SWA once again contributed significantly to the profit of the Rio Tinto Zinc Group (RTZ).

The chief executive of RTZ, Sir Alistair Frame, announced in London that Rössing’s contribution to the net profit of the group—£21.4m—was broadly unchanged from 1980 after a higher deferred tax provision.

"Efficiency at Rössing continued to improve during 1981. Recovery also showed a further improvement and production of uranium oxide was maintained at a similar level to 1980 and costs were well contained.

"The mine maintained its high standards of safety and emphasis was placed on environmental protection and reduction in the usage of fresh water," Sir Alistair said.

In the RTZ report its was shown that Rössing’s 1981 profit before providing for deferred tax amounted to £63m compared to £54.4m in 1980.

A spokesman for Rössing said RTZ consolidates in its accounts the portion of Rössing’s profit which is attributable to RTZ shareholders.

"The bulk of the profit is, however, retained by the company for further development, and RTZ shareholders receive only their share of any dividends paid," the spokesman said. (Peter Kenny)
THE KAAP KUNENE and Ovenstone groups have rationalized their fishing operations at Walvis Bay under an agreement whereby the catches of both groups are processed at the Kaap Kunene factory.

Kaap Kunene directors note in the group’s annual report that the move has been satisfactorily completed, and the joint venture now has an efficient fish meal, oil plant and cannery which can handle the fish intake of both partners.

The fishing fleets will remain under separate control.

The benefits from the rationalization as well as the allocation of a separate pilchard quota for canning for Walvis Bay factories gives reason for a more optimistic outlook for 1982, the directors say.

On a turnover of R26,646,000 (R21,936,000) in the year to December the group’s pre-tax income rose from R4,374,000 to R5,314,000, while net attributable income rose from R2,831,000 to R4,943,000, while earnings a share rose to 29.3c (20.7c).

Chile setback

The group’s investment in fishing in Chile has clearly suffered a considerable setback, and provision has been made for R1 million for losses which may be suffered.

The directors say that certain unforeseen circumstances, have had a detrimental effect on our operations and drastic changes and adjustments have and will still have to be made to protect our interests to the best of our ability.

On the home front inshore fishing pushed up its contribution to the group’s after-tax income from 34% to 51%, and in both the Walvis Bay and St Helena factories high oil yields were achieved from fish meal processing.

Income from investments marginally dropped its share of the larger total from 45% to 37%, but cash resources made “a substantial contribution... and will make a greater contribution during 1982”.

On the farming front the group has sold its farms in the Western areas of South West Africa, concentrating its cattle operations in the Gobabis area. Satisfactory income is also anticipated from fruit farming developments in the Western Cape.
Milk 71c, butter R3.65, cheese R3.40 in SWA

Imports

Because about 60 percent of SWA/Namibia's butter supplies are imported from South Africa, the product already sells at more than R3.50 a kg.

Gouda cheese is the only kind produced locally. All other kinds of cheese come from South Africa or abroad. Rail costs and indiscriminate profit creaming make these cheeses a luxury.

The general manager of the Dairy Co-operative, Mr Frank Corbett, said that although there is no price control on dairy products in SWA/Namibia, the Department of Agriculture and his organisation exercise their own method of price control.

"The retailer buys his milk from us at the set price, and we allow him to add his profit of up to 5c a litre.

"But there have been cases in the past where retailers have added a greater profit and in these cases we have simply refused to supply them with milk," he said.

SA Pattern

Mr Corbett said the co-operative would tolerate retail milk prices of up to 70c a litre from Thursday.

The price increases are in response to impending rises in South Africa.

The fact that they are substantially higher in SWA/Namibia is ascribed to rail costs of cattle feed and of butter and cheese.

Mr Corbett acknowledged that the cost of dairy products in SWA/Namibia are the highest in the rand monetary area.
Experts clash on claimed SWA oil find

NEW YORK. — South West Africa may be sitting on enough oil to meet all its needs and "a significant part" of South Africa's, says Mr James Momper, a consultant expert who spent 18 months analysing test records.

But, on the eve of further negotiations on the future of SWA, he warned that serious exploration was unlikely until the political issues were resolved, including relations with Angola.

Mr Momper, a veteran oilman from Tulsa, Oklahoma, who presented his findings to the American oil industry three months ago, scoffed at published claims that SWA was awash with oil and could prove to be another Saudi Arabia.

"It's not a Middle East; it doesn't even approach the Middle East," he said. "But we are talking about possible reserves of several billion barrels. We're talking about something maybe two orders of magnitude under the Middle East stage. It's not going to revolutionise the economy of the world, but it could be of significant importance to the region."

Angola included. For what Mr Momper has painstakingly traced out is an ancient and very large geological basin under much of Ovamboland and probably extending into Angola under some of the hottest areas of current guerrilla activity.

It could be a giant — "a complete disappointment" — he further cautioned. But he cited "very considerable evidence" from geological, geophysical and geochemical tests that had convinced him that "a sizeable area north of the Etosha Pan" was worth prospecting.

Mr Momper, who spent 30 years exploring and researching for Amoco Oil, said that a dry hole drilled by a Texan company in 1964 had put people off.

"I think the basin's been badly misinter-
Blocked arteries unplugged

Water engineers meeting in Johannesburg this week heard with surprise of a new method to pump more water out of the ground by doping old boreholes.

A scientist of the Department of Water Affairs in Windhoek, Mr. J. Kirchner, described how he taught dead boreholes back to life by making them gargle magic potions. The method can also be used to give old boreholes, which produce no more than a trickle, a rejuvenation course by making them swallow the right tonic.

Mr. Kirchner was called to boreholes on the farms Colorado and Weihnachtsbrunn in the Twobok district. Both had become clogged and re-drilling would have been expensive.

At Colorado he mixed sodium hexametaphosphate and hydrochloric acid and poured it down the hole. Using water pressure, he made the borehole gargle.

After treatments over several weeks using almost 900 kg of detergents and other chemicals, sift and clay at the bottom of the hole had been removed and new passages opened. The borehole produced 60 percent more water than when it was first drilled.

At Weihnachtsbrunn a hole suffering from blocked arteries was given 90 kg of similar medicines. After some coughing and gurgling its yield rose to 14.5 cu m/h from 3 cu m/h — a vast improvement on the original 9 cu m/h.

Kirchner, speaking at the International Water Symposium organised by the Geological Society at Witwatersrand University, said re-energising boreholes was cheap.

Family crime—a way of death in modern Japan


The headlines tell the story. About 11 percent of the 1754 homicides, reported in Japan last year were within families — parents killing children, children killing parents, spouses killing each other. Of the 123 family murders, last year, 133 were cases of infanticide.

National Police Agency statistics show the number of family murders has declined from the recent yearly high of 275 in 1972. But...
The Cuban link

Any Namibian settlement is conditional on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, says SA. But Washington this week reiterated that "there could be no preconditions."

These seemingly irreconcilable positions may seem to doom the present round of Namibia negotiations. But in fact, the conflict is more apparent than real. As the State Department puts it: "These two issues are linked as a matter of logic and geography, but they are being handled as separate matters in separate channels."

In other words, the Western contact group, and particularly the US, are well aware that the departure of Cuban troops from Angola is SA's bottom line for a Namibian settlement. They are equally aware that if SA manoeuvres itself into making an ultimatum of the Cuban withdrawal, both Havana and Luanda will not be able to afford the appearance of knuckling under to SA demands.

To quote a US diplomatic source, continuing public demands by SA are "unhelpful," and will further fuel suspicions among European members of the contact group that SA is trying to block progress towards a Namibian election. The contact group want to handle the issue. And they're right.

It's time for SA to cool it with public demands for Cuban withdrawal. P W Botha should be wary of making political capital at home out of a fragile diplomatic process. The FM supports the PM's view on Cuban linkage — we just feel he should avoid the risk of overkill.

Getting Cuban troops out of Angola before a Namibian election is as much in US and contact group interests as it is in SA's. Current estimates of the six-year-old Cuban presence in Angola vary between 15 000 to 20 000 troops, plus some 1 500 to 2 000 East Germans, whom SA would presumably, and rightly, also want out because of their role in Angolan security services.

In these negotiations it is obvious that neither Swapo and the frontline states on the one hand, nor SA on the other, trusts the other's intentions. Each fears intimidation during the election run-up, to say nothing of potential military coups either before or after. P W Botha wants total withdrawal of Cuban forces prior to the six-month run-up to the election, to be followed by a staged withdrawal of SA's military presence.

Naturally the Namibian settlement and Cuban withdrawals are linked. One suspects Cuban forces are in Angola to prop up Jorge Dos Santos' MPLA government, increasingly destabilised by Unita's insurgency in the South. Potentially, with the Cuban removal, a changeover to a more Western-orientated government may be possible. This is in the interests of the southern African region as a whole. To quote Anton Rupert, we in SA can't sleep unless our neighbours eat. Economic prosperity is basic to stability in this region. It is axiomatic that Marxism cannot bring prosperity — and hence stability.

US Ambassador Herman Nickel told the FM that normalisation of relations between the US and Luanda would become feasible with a Cuban withdrawal — and he emphasised that such normalisation would include "an economic aspect" with the enhancing of private investment, hopefully leading in the long run towards more sensible economic policies in Angola.

Indeed, some US companies, led by Gulf Oil, have been clamouring for the US to recognise Luanda. Reports of oil in the Ovamboland-Southern Angola region, if true, show favourable economic potential for the region — given peace and capital to allow for its exploitation. The potential for prosperity is there.

Nickel refused to comment on contact between the US and Unita, but Unita's Jonas Savimbi has visited Washington and the FM understands from very good sources that wide-ranging contacts have taken place.

However, Nickel came close to a warning to SA when he said: "Like any policy, the policy of constructive engagement with SA needs tangible results if it is to be sustained over the long run."

Transafrica, an American anti-apartheid pressure group, has alleged that Namibian negotiations have not in fact progressed since the time Reagan came to office. However, even Castro seems to be hedging his bets. In an interview with Transafrica's magazine Forum, he said predictably, that Cuba does not accept the linkage of the Cuban presence to the Namibian issue. But he added: "If the independence of Namibia is obtained and the SA troops withdraw to the south of Namibia and when no danger is posed to the security of Angola, then we will start again with the progressive withdrawal of our troops — for the third time."

As the West's negotiating team begins a fresh round of talks in New York with Swapo and the frontline states, the UN Secretary General was meeting Swapo's Sam Nujoma in Geneva. US envoy Robert Cabelly also met Swapo officials in Luanda. Reagan administration officials have not had such intensive talks with Swapo before.

A US foreign policy success is needed, and it would be worth SA's while to remember it.
Costs of peace

The economic consequences of peace in Namibia would be far more favourable for SA than they would be for the disputed territory, assuming a negotiated settlement means a complete end to SA involvement in Namibia.

The current cost of SA's military and administrative engagement in Namibia is estimated to be about R1.35 billion. This figure includes direct and indirect subsidies, budgetary aid, estimated military expenditures and the foregone labour earnings of the soldiers fighting in northern Namibia.

Direct and indirect subsidy figures, according to the Ministry of Finance's Estimate of Expenditures for the Financial Year ending 31 March 1983, total R410m. Namibia's exchequer, the Central Revenue Fund (CRF), has a total budget this year of R680m. CRF earns about R300m in Namibian taxes, and collects R180m from Southern Africa's Customs Union Agreement. The balance of CRF funding comes from SA and totals 45% of its budget.

SA contributes R60m as a direct subsidy to Namibia's allotment from the Customs Union Agreement. Its direct budgetary aid totals R210m and is used by the CRF to finance Namibia's Post and Telecommunications Local Loan Fund. SA also offers CRF an indirect subsidy in the form of loan guarantees. A Treasury official says that CRF is expected to borrow R130m in SA capital markets this year.

Pure speculation

Military expenditures are more difficult to assess because the Ministry of Defence prohibits access to them. But estimates from economists and military sources put the figure this year at about R730m.

"It's pure speculation," says one high-level Defence officer, "but the estimate that the northern Namibian campaign costs Rtm a day doesn't sound at all high to me. It's very expensive to maintain our forces with all the support they require."

Sources close to the military suggest, however, that Rtm/day was the figure more appropriate for costs in 1973. Since then, inflation has averaged 15%, and military operations have escalated. Adjusting the 1973 figure for inflation, and adding 10% to total estimated expenditures to account for the increased scope of military operations, the border war could be costing as much as R2m/day. This figure does not include the hospital and rehabilitation costs of caring for malmed veterans.

The foregone civilian labour earnings of National Servicemen in combat is conservatively estimated to be R210m. This figure roughly measures the economic opportunity cost of the manpower used in military operations. Assuming that SADF privates earn, on average, R200/month, and that as members of the civilian labour force their earnings would average R300/month, the total loss to each soldier is R600/month. Assuming further that there are 50,000 soldiers involved in the border war, the total opportunity cost to the soldiers and to the economy is probably about R216m.

However, these military cost assessments should be treated with some caution. SADF soldiers would presumably be retained in National Service. But their energies could be directed toward relieving the manpower shortages facing SA. And, although military expenditures might be reduced given diminished need, the history of military spending abroad suggests that it is unlikely that the Ministry of Defence would reduce its spending in peacetime.

For Namibia political settlement could mean the sudden removal of the substantial SA military and financial resources that now form a vital part of its economy. As attractive as the psychic capital accompanying independence may be, Namibia stands to gain little economically. It would have to find funds to replace direct SA subsidies, and it would have to find an alternative capital market in which to borrow.

Much more serious, however, it would need to replace both the skills and income currently supplied, directly or indirectly, by Pretoria. Most of the teachers, doctors and veterinarians in Caprivi and Ovamboland, for example, are members of the SA military forces. And economists report that the local economies in the three northern homelands are largely dependent on SADF spending.

Onset of peace

With the onset of peace, the Namibians will be forced to finance their own civil administration. They will need to establish their own police and defence forces, institutionalize their own system of justice and maintain their own postal and telecommunications services. The economy also needs infrastructural development. It will not require the reconstruction that Zimbabwe needed following its independence, but most observers suggest that the combination of transition costs and regional development programmes will make international aid necessary.

At this point, however, these projections about the consequences of peace are little more than speculative. Pretoria is budgeting next year's expenditures on the assumption that SA administration of Namibia will continue. As Gerhard Grose, Chief Executive of Public Finance, puts it: "Peace in Namibia is not a part of our normal budget planning process."
The existing crane and rail lines at Walvis Bay Harbour are being replaced by a new rail network to service the quay wall, which is being expanded.

The main contractors, Underwater Construction, have started work on the concrete reconstruction of three berths in the seven-berth quay wall.

The project involves restructuring the quay wall berth-by-berth. The project is due to be completed by the end of next year.

Change at Walvis Bay
SA policies blow to Namibia, says Windhoek speaker

WINDHOEK — South Africa’s policies of tariff protection and import control adversely affected secondary industrial development in Namibia, the Socio-Economic Conference heard in Windhoek yesterday.

The general manager of the First National Development Corporation (Enok), Mr Johan Lerm, appealed to the authorities to negotiate with the South African Government to secure the involvement of Namibia in the formulation of industrial growth policies. He said that although the manufacturing industry in the territory contributed a mere five percent to the gross national product, the sector employed ten percent of the labour force.

"Development of this sector will thus proportionately increase its contribution to the creation of job opportunities," Mr Lerm said.

Fiscal instruments employed by the state to establish and stimulate industrial growth included tariff protection and import control.

"But as part of the Southern African Customs Union, Namibia does not have these instruments of policy at its disposal," Mr Lerm said.

South Africa’s policies on customs and excise did not necessarily coincide with the best economic interests of Namibia.

"I request the government to negotiate with the Republic of South Africa to ensure that Namibia is involved in the formulation of customs and import control policy to ensure that industrial development is not retarded artificially," he said.

Cost incentives provided by South Africa to encourage the establishment and growth of industry in the Republic had placed Namibia at a disadvantage.

"The extension of these incentives to industrialists in Walvis Bay has created further problems for industrialists in Namibia," Mr Lerm said.

He suggested that industry in Namibia should be put on at least the same footing as the black national states (homelands) in South Africa to compete in the international markets. — Sapa.
Windhoek 'Carlton'

On Wednesday this week, as the FM went to press, a one-day government-private sector conference on "basic principles of social and economic policy in SWA/Namibia" was held in Windhoek. Originally announced as a Namibian version of the SA's Carlton conference, its timing fits well with the DTA's election programme, now well under way.

For some time now, the private sector in Namibia has been feeling economically anxious and politically restive under a combination of tight budgets and national uncertainty.

According to the secretary of the territory's Finance Department, Dr Johan Jones, the object of the conference was to "establish lines of communication between public and private sectors, and to serve as a basis for future debate on economic development."

Jones told the FM: "We've reason to believe the private sector feel they haven't had adequate access to government, that they want a way for their inputs to determine the nature of development in the country." Some 300 representatives, mainly from commerce, industry, mining and agriculture, were registered for the conference.

"Government" was represented by the Ministers' Council of the DTA-dominated National Assembly, of which DTA leader Dirk Mudge is chairman. Indeed, Mudge opened the conference. Dr Simon Brand, economic adviser to SA's prime minister, spoke on the monetary and fiscal role of government.

First on the agenda was discussion of "national objectives and basic premises - employment provision and income creation as national priorities," led by Jones himself.

The primary, secondary and tertiary sectors each put their case for discussion. Mining was represented by CDM's Dough Hoffe, who is also chairman of the local Chamber of Mines.

Johan Larm of the First National Development Corporation - successor to the Economic Development Corporation, and the various homeland corporations - opened discussion of the secondary sector; and Abraham Witbooi of the black Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industries spoke on the tertiary sector.

Other topics included education and training for development, necessary infrastructure services, housing, and foreign participation in the economy, all with an eye to development.

Jones expects that a number of the issues raised at the conference will be referred to the recently formed Development Advisory Council (DAC), which is designed to play a role exactly analogous to that of SA's Economic Advisory Council as a continuous liaison body between business and government.

Which government, though? The current status of the settlement process is shrouded in diplomatic fog, but it appears strange for the Ministers' Council to set up consultative structures when its own dissolution is scheduled as soon as the UN forces arrive and the election countdown begins.

One explanation is that the Ministers' Council does not expect UN elections for some time at least; or that it feels that whether the settlement succeeds this time around or not, some political confidence and sense of economic direction will have been generated even if the DTA does not directly benefit.
The text on the page is not fully legible due to the quality of the image. It appears to discuss economic and mining-related topics. However, without clearer visibility, it's challenging to extract coherent information. The text seems to be about the share of mining profits and SWA plans to get a fair deal.
Namibia's farmers face disaster

By Alan Dunn
The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK - Namibia's choking economy has lost a quarter of its white farmers and more are leaving their lands daily as conditions worsen.

The territory's farmers now owe banks and co-operatives R138 million, about a third more than their total debt two years ago, says a report by the SWA Agricultural Union.

The report describes the situation as catastrophic and urges drastic changes in farming policies to prevent higher unemployment and a general deterioration in the farming position.

The organisation proposes: a stop to communal farming in "traditional" (tribal) areas; clearing millions of hectares of bush by hand; slaughtering all livestock locally; and the creation of an independent meat price structure.

Unless such measures are taken, the union warns, the situation will cause large-scale unemployment among Namibia's 45,000 farm workers, 150,000 family members and 100,000 subsistence farmers in the traditional areas.

The drought, rising interest rates and an ailing economy have driven a quarter of the territory's white farmers into towns in search of work in the past five years, leaving about 4,000 still economically active.

Livestock herds have dropped sharply since January 1980 and income from cattle, sheep and pelt sales has slumped this year to R92 million, almost half what it was in 1980.

"Drastic measures are needed to stop this downward trend," the survey says. It blames, among other things, communal farming, bush encroachment, the collapse of the (karakul) pelt market, problems with meat marketing and the territory's uncertain constitutional future.

Namibia needs consolidation of farms too small to be economic, coupled with a new approach to grazing potential, the report concludes.

About 8 million hectares of high-potential ground in northern Namibia have been taken over by bush, cutting production there by four-fifths.

Bush encroachment is increasing annually but can be combated by hand in the light of the present unemployment problem in the territory.

It is difficult to determine how much political uncertainty has affected agriculture in Namibia, but it has done so to a large extent, the union says.
Cloud milking in dry SWA gets tentative go-ahead

WINDHOEK. - Clouds scudding above the parched South West Africa land may soon be "milked" on a regular basis.

The SWA Ministers' Council has accepted recommendations that a weather specialist be appointed to examine the feasibility of instituting a permanent cloud-seeding programme.

A test project carried out in March and April this year showed that the milking of clouds seemed possible in the territory, the council was told.

Large areas of the territory, regularly plagued by drought, are experiencing one of the worst drought cycles in history.

The report before the council said the chances of successful rainfall modification were small during drought periods, but would reach maximum effectiveness in years of normal and high rainfall.

"Cloud-seeding is not an answer to a drought situation during the drought, but should rather be undertaken on a continuous basis if undertaken at all," the report said.

The technology should not be viewed as a water supply scheme in itself.

"At best it can be regarded as a supplement to existing sources of supply."

The annual cost of a rainfall modification programme was estimated at R300,000 at current values.

An initial capital outlay of R225,000 would be required.

Legislation concerning cloud-seeding should be drafted, it said. — Sapa.
All is not what it seems

Pariah or not, SA remains very much a member of the Western family of nations. While we violate some of the basic principles of democracy, we remain authoritarian and not totalitarian in our nature.

What gives our friends in the West hope is that, while totalitarian states — nowadays usually those of Marxist leanings — seldom revert to democratic ways, authoritarian states have a greater propensity for this direction of change.

Examples include the bloody and ruthless suppression of dissent in Soviet satellites such as Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland compared with the relative tolerance seen in the Republic of China or Chile. Or one can compare conditions in South Korea with North Korea: while neither is a civil rights paradise, the south clearly offers far greater freedoms, particularly in the economic realm, than does the Marxist north.

Now, as a member of the West, SA is part of the struggle to resist the spread of the godless, repressive system of Marxist communism. This leads us to wonder about the wisdom of SA’s pressure to link Cuban troop withdrawal to elections in Namibia and the exit of SA forces from the arena.

Firstly, it is difficult, if not impossible, to define “withdrawal” of Cuban forces. Does this include engineers and medics? How many troops are we talking about? And so on.

Further, assuming a permanent withdrawal of Cuban troops, the principal beneficiary would be Jonas Savimbi and his Unita forces. He is pro-Western and Angola is a sovereign Marxist state. Moscow won’t easily surrender Angola to Savimbi. Ineluctably, we are drawn to the conclusion that the Cubans, or some other Moscow surrogate, will arrive to prop up Luanda’s Marxists.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Namibian elections will have put a Swapo Marxist administration in place in Namibia. Savimbi will be isolated from whatever support SA might have been giving him. As the sole method of maintaining a communist government in place is through force, force will be provided and it will be used, not only against the civilian population now under Luanda’s rule, but also against Savimbi.

Thus will Moscow have executed a brilliant flanking movement, its influence penetrating down the western coast of southern Africa.

Like everyone else, we indulge here in mere speculation. But the game plan of the forces of collectivism, and make no mistake, they are the forces of evil, could well embrace some of what we suggest. And that can’t be in the interests of SA or of the West. Both Pretoria and Washington need to tread carefully here if they are to avoid walking into a sucker punch designed, in all probability, in the Kremlin.
WINDHOEK — The South African Treasury had made available an additional R8.322.400 to the state finance of SWA-Namibia, the Secretary of Finance, Dr Johan Jones, said in Windhoek.

In addition, the South African Broadcasting Corporation had allocated R7.5 million to the SWA Broadcasting Corporation for the improvement and extension of broadcasting services in the territory.

Dr Jones said in a statement that R5.546 million of the R8.3 million would be allotted to a number of second-tier ethnic authorities and the Rehoboth Government.

The money would be used mainly for water supplies and education.

A total of R1 876 400 would be used in projects controlled by the central authority. The balance would go into subsidies on loans by the ethnic authorities. — Supa
Triple threat to the future of Namibia

But above all, uncertainty is stifling the territory, writes Wilf Nussey.

So depressive is this inertia that a small but growing number of people say: Let's get on with it and have an election and even if Swapo wins, that's better than this uncertainty.

Hardly any new investment seems to be coming in except for fast turnover, quick profit operations like supermarkets requiring relatively small capital investment.

The big multinationals have no qualms, however, knowing the future government, whatever it is, will need them more than they need it. Consolidated Diamond Mines has built an impressive office block in Windhoek, the only major construction for years.

South Africa, forced by the economic slide to cut financing to the Bone, has put tight curbs on money for Namibia. Public works have been drastically reduced.

Some construction companies have shut up shop; others are on care and maintenance, having dismissed most workers. Architects and quantity surveyors are leaving the country. Even investment by locals has plumbed.

The combination of over 40 years of mixed and political inactivity has depleted the population of whites - the reservoir of administrative, managerial and technical skills which keeps the country going.

From a peak of a little over 100,000 (about one tenth of the total population) they have dropped to about 70,000, roughly half of whom are born "South Westers." Those who have gone to greener fields like Somercent West include several formerly prominent politicians, ironically.

Windhoek's white population has halved from 32,112 in 1975 and 33,000 this year. But the dropping of old apartheid restrictions has brought many other people in: the coloured population has grown from 20,000 in 1975 to 200,000 today and the blacks from 33,179 then to 100,000 now. The city's total population has risen from 74,249 then to 103,000 now.

Much of this influx, however, is of people seeking jobs because of drought and other hardship elsewhere.

The kind of uncertainty which does every thought is: will Swapo win? If it does, will my business be nationalised? Will they take away my farm? Will they send me to prison and confiscate all my money? Will I still be allowed to send my children to school or university in South Africa? Will property prices drop? Will my school/mural/wall be swamped with black? Will the fighting stop after independence?

As one man put it: Okay, so we have a peaceful election and the Interim Agreement, then what happens to all the Swapo guerrillas in camps in Angola? Then we have to be brought back home, with their guns. Will we have the same problems as they're having in Zimbabwe?

Diamond, once the economic mainstay, has plunged. Uranium prices are also well down. The recently morphed pancha fishing industry is showing
cal weapons

mony provides extremely valuable evidence in the alleged use of chemical warfare by Moscow.

Other Soviet troops captured by the guerrillas have referred to the presence of chemical and biological agents in the Afghan capital, Kabul. He said Soviet helicopter pilots were ordered him to on a gas mask during an attack on a guerrilla camp.

At least one other Russian soldier said several Afghan army defectors interviewed by Western journalists have maintained they were deployed in areas where chemicals were sprayed.

Earlier this year, the State Department maintained that more than 2,000 Afghans had suffered from chemical warfare attacks. The Kremlin has repeatedly rejected the claims as "absurd."
Namibia stricken by a slump, doubt, drought

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Namibia, the tough desert country which has always managed to bounce back from one natural calamity after another, is today in the grip of three paralyzing pressures which threaten to cripple it permanently.

They are drought, economic depression and uncertainty.

The drought is said to be the worst in over a generation. Much of the country is littered with the carcasses of livestock and wild animals.

FOOD FOR STOCK, PEOPLE

Some rural children five years old have never seen rain. In the worst areas food has to be provided not only for cattle or sheep but for people.

The economy is staggering under international inflation and bad prices for Namibian exports.

Changes in Europe’s fashion whims have almost knocked the bottom out of the once booming karakul industry.

Drought has dealt a shattering blow to beef production. Diamond prices, once the economic mainstay, have plunged. Uranium prices are also down. The recently moribund pilchard fishing industry is showing twitches of life but is still far from full recovery.

The big multinationals have no qualms, however, knowing the future government, whoever it is, will need them more than they need it.

Consolidated Diamond Mines has built an impressive office block in Windhoek, the only major construction for years.

South Africa, forced by the economic slide to cut financing to the bone, has put tight curbs on money for Namibia.

Some construction companies have shut up shop, others are on care and maintenance.

KEEP A NEST EGG

Even investment by locals has plunged. “I cannot in all honesty advise people to plough back all their money here,” says one consultant. “Not knowing what the future holds, I have to tell them to keep a nest egg in the Republic.”

The combination of pressures over several years has caused a marked decline in the white population — the reservoir of administrative, financial and technological skills which keeps the country going.

But above all it is the uncertainty which is stifling Namibia — the seemingly endless independence negotiations, the years of political promise and disappointment, the futile bickering between the internal parties, and Namibians’ own ignorance about what fate is being decided for them by outsiders.

“There’s a sense of futility here,” says a politician. “There’s no point in holding public meetings because there’s nothing to say, nothing new to go on. We have political inertia.”

So depressing is this inertia that a small but growing number of people say: “Let’s get on with it and have an election and even if Swapo wins, that’s better than this uncertainty.”

NATIONALISATION FEARS

The kind of uncertainty which dogs every thought is: Will Swapo win? If it does will my business be nationalized? Will they compensate me and let me take my money out? Will I be able to send my children to school and university in South Africa? Will my suburbs/schools/hospitals be swamped by blacks? Will the fighting stop?
Unravelling the mesh of Namibia's millions

The Namibian border war costs South Africa a million rands a day. But little of this is an outright loss — most possibly 70 to 80 percent, is ploughed back into the economy through the arms industry, soldiers' pay and ordinary commerce and industry.

This is the assessment of Windhoek businessmen and politicians trying to unravel the tangled financial involvement between the two countries now that Namibia is largely in control of its own revenues.

The Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, this week told the Transvaal National Party congress that South African taxpayers were contributing R365 million a year to the running of Namibia.

If the war takes R365 million, R335 million remains. About half of this is a direct grant-in-aid to the Namibian annual budget, but no one is certain how the rest is distributed. It is believed the money is spent on services like rail and air transport, the operation of Walvis Bay harbour and the provision of civil servants, police and various skills.

Recent changes in the territory's financial structuring now give its central government, the National Assembly and Council of Ministers, a big slice to use as it deems fit.

This year's budget, in millions, comprises:

R200 — a direct contribution by South Africa.
R180 — loans Namibia can raise, guaranteed by South Africa.
R35 — taxes from the diamond industry.
R30 — taxes from other mines.
R25 — company taxes.
R25 — general sales tax.
R5 — other sources.
R70 — Total.

Namibia's 11 second-tier ethnic governments collect income taxes as their own revenue, to use as they see fit, so there is no co-ordinated expenditure.

The whites' ethnic government receives R41 million, for example, compared with the Ovambo's R2 million — but there are about 70,000 whites and almost 500,000 Ovambos.

However, some compensation is made for the disparity when the National Assembly disburses funds to the various groups. The white share of the national budget is R2 million against the Ovambo's R4 million.

A set formula is used to fund certain social services controlled by the ethnic governments. Each gets R25 a year for each pupil at school, plus R35 for health services for each person in the group, plus R60 for each pensioner.

Namibia is struggling financially this year because of the general economic squeeze and the depression. The drop in the diamond market has cut diamond tax revenue to R55 million in this year's budget from an estimated R108 million in the 1978-79 financial year.

Revenue from other mining is low because uranium, the biggest mining operation is still paying little 'tax while capital costs are recovered. From next year uranium taxes should rise steadily.

There is widespread dissatisfaction and criticism within Namibia about the way many of the ethnic governments, with virtually no previous experience in self-administration, are handling their budgets.

Their revenue is virtually non-accountable because under the present interim constitution they are not obliged to submit to examination by the Auditor-General and can choose whichever auditors they wish.

Several have been
SWA commission to probe ‘many accusations’ of corruption

Argus Africa
News Service

WINDHOEK. — The Administrator-General, Mr Danie Hough, is to order a commission of inquiry into alleged corruption and financial irregularities in SWA/Namibia’s governing bodies.

He intends appointing a South African Supreme Court judge and senior officials from the Treasury to make findings on “numerous accusations” aired recently.

This follows urgent calls for an investigation, and a formal request from the Council of Ministers.

Mr Hough said last night that both the territory’s representative authorities and the central government would be investigated for mis-spending and irregular use of property.

He would ask the commission to issue interim reports, because he viewed the matter as “extremely urgent”.

Officials from the Department of Finance could also, on his instructions, make financial inspections while the commission was sitting.

He made it clear that the commission would not interfere with his bid to create a “more acceptable and more effective” interim government in SWA/Namibia.

“One would really not get far if one must always wait for results of commissions,” he said.

He expected the commission would take a “considerable time”.

The terms of reference would be to investigate and make recommendations to the Administrator-General on the possible misuse of money or goods belonging to the State or representative authorities, with specific reference to possible unlawful personal gain by anyone; and the adequacy of existing laws and control structure to prevent and bring to light, in the public interest, such misuse.

Mr Hough said he had already made preparations to appoint the commission. He would announce names later.
SWA has pay hitch

WINDHOEK—Coloured old-age pensioners in SWA/Namibia, who usually receive R161 a month, are facing financial difficulty because it became unlawful on September 1 for the coloured ethnic authority to issue cheques, reports said in Windhoek yesterday.

An official of the Department of Finance, Mr G J Claassen, confirmed to Sapa that the coloured representative authority could no longer issue cheques.

The reason was that the Coloured Legislative Assembly had failed to obtain approval from the Administrator-General of the territory for its appropriation.

The budget for coloureds was referred back for further consideration to the Administration for Coloureds by the Administrator-General after the legislative assembly had voted more for expenditure than its potential income.

Unless alternative arrangements were made, coloured officials and teachers employed by the administration could not get paid this month, a news report said.

In terms of financial legislation, Government institutions may carry on with their activities for five months after the beginning of the financial year without an approved appropriation, after which their right to issue cheques lapses until they receive approval for a budget.
SWA's 'black gold' is losing its glitter

By Peter Kenny in Windhoek.

KARAKUL — once known as the black gold of SWA/Namibia — is losing its glitter with plunging prices on the world market and the industry in a critical condition in the territory.

Farmers are hoping the last auction of the year in London on November 22 will bring higher prices, but recent trends do not indicate this. Last week, the price of pelts dropped a further 15% in the British capital.

According to the member of the Minister's Council in charge of agriculture, Mr Hans von Hase, the karakul industry is in a crisis, "but it is not on its knees yet and collapse of the industry is not in sight," he said.

The pelts that produce the chic coats that are marketed under the trade name of Swakara are produced mainly in the arid areas of SWA/Namibia.

Practically the entire Swakara production is marketed overseas; mainly in Germany.

The drop in prices presents a loss of important revenue to a land suffering from the double blow of the world-wide recession and the worst drought this century.

The number of karakul stock, which takes generations to breed quality pelts, dwindled from 3 120 000 in 1980 to 1 075 000 sheep in February, 1992, according to the annual report of the SWA Agricultural Union.

In 1978 4 660 000 pelts were produced, in 1980 three million pelts were sold for R2 800 000, but the business began to give way in 1981.

Mr von Hase said the price of pelts had dropped in two years from R18 to R9 and the estimated number of pelts to be sold this year would be a mere 1 400 000 with an expected revenue of only R14 million. — Sapa.
SWA mining houses deny deal with Swapo

Windhoek Bureau

The three largest mining companies in South West Africa — Tsumeb Corporation, Rossing Uranium and CDM — yesterday all denied claims made by business sources in New York that the big mining houses had negotiated an agreement with Swapo president Sam Nujoma to ensure their future in case of a Swapo takeover.

But reliable Windhoek sources with close Swapo contacts expressed no surprise at the alleged agreement.

Sources said Rio Tinto Zinc, a share-holder of Rossing and the company alleged to have made the deal on behalf of the other companies, had had close contacts with Mr Nujoma since the late 1960s.

Sources also said that Mr Nujoma had close contacts with a company which had an interest in Tsumeb Corporation, but which sold its shares in the 1970s.

A spokesman for CDM said yesterday the company knew "absolutely nothing" about the alleged deal.

A director of Tsumeb Corporation, Mr Wayne Bird, responded from New York as follows: "We have absolutely no knowledge about anything in the report. It is totally foreign to us. We have absolutely no knowledge about anything of that kind."

A Rossing spokesman said the company "most strongly denied" allegations of a deal. He had been in contact with Rio Tinto Zinc in London, and the company described the reports as "untrue", he said.

He also denied allegations that a new 100 million dollar uranium investment was expected to be announced shortly as evidence of confidence born of the deal.

He said Rossing was not "indulging" in prospecting and did not intend to open any new mine.

See also Page 13
Namibia has three deserts — the Namib, the Kalahari, and the economy. And with no settlement in sight, businessmen in Windhoek are wringing their hands over prospects. Recently published gross domestic product figures make sobering reading (see Table).

Sector after sector is down. Indeed, according to Namibia’s Director of Finance, Johan Jones: “The only growth sector is government. And this increase mainly reflects police and defence expenditure that hasn’t appeared before in our accounts.”

Jones told the PM last week that while fishing — with stocks depleted for many years — was beginning to recover, “mining and agriculture keep the crucial primary sector’s contribution depressed. We have negative growth.”

At R689.5mln, Namibia’s 1982-83 budget is smaller than any other for the last seven years. This is equal to a mere 3% of SA’s own budget. Its GDP adds up to R1 419.4m at current prices. Put another way, it is a small-scale, commodity-based economy not untypical of many others in Africa. The difference, of course, is politics. That is really what has particularly among smaller farmers, bankruptcies are becoming alarmingly routine. Many have given up the land and returned to SA’s job market. Drought damage to soil and grazing needs several years’ adequate rainfall to be reversed.

The country’s tiny manufacturing sector — less than 5% of GDP but employing 10% of the workforce — has hit not only by the downturn and financing problems, but by SA’s industrial decentralisation programme. “SA’s enclave of Walvis Bay is our Trojan Horse,” charged Doug Hoef, president of the local Chamber of Mines, MD of CDM, and chairman of Barclays in Namibia.

“Both Walvis Bay and Upington on our southern border are defined as falling within the western Caps development region. Enterprises there get 40% rail rebates, employment incentives, up to 80% of their wage bill and relocation allowances from government,” he said.

“Obviously they’re able to undercut local producers. The Namibian salt industry is an example. It used to compete for industrial salt contracts with producers in Walvis Bay. Now it’s endangered by the rail rebates. We’ve protested to SA, with no results.”

“This country gets a raw deal,” complained one businessman. “We’re linked into SA’s financial, transport, communication and retail networks, but the effect is to drain us, not to stimulate.”

Harald Pupkevit, past president of the Chamber of Commerce, agreed. “We import SA’s inflation with its goods and money. Between 80% and 90% of our consumer goods are from SA. Our exports mostly go overseas, so we have a very skewed balance of trade with SA.”

Hoef pointed out, though, that Namibia would be able — given a settlement — to export power to SA. The local power corporation, Swakop, will link into Escom’s grid early next year. When the Ruscana hydroelectric scheme in the north can be fully used, it will supply far more than the country’s needs and, as originally planned, the balance will spill over into the Escom grid.

Power from Ruscana is feeding into the Swakop grid, but is said to be unreliable.

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**Namibia GDP**

At constant 1975 prices (Rm)

### GDP at Basic 1975 Prices (Rm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agriculture and Fishing</th>
<th>Mining and quarrying</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
<th>Electricity and water</th>
<th>Construction and other services</th>
<th>Agriculture and related services</th>
<th>Total GDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>623.5</td>
<td>115.2</td>
<td>161.3</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>1012.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>642.2</td>
<td>114.9</td>
<td>166.3</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>1100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>655.8</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>203.4</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>936.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>695.4</td>
<td>83.9</td>
<td>202.8</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>908.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>712.2</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>249.8</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>919.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>690.2</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>241.9</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>22.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>702.8</td>
<td>76.4</td>
<td>212.1</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>1023.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Department of Finance, Namibia

### Namibian Salt Industry... endangered by rail rebates

The major Western powers buzzing around looking for a way out of this peculiar colonial problem, though economic troubles show even less likelihood of abating.

Namibia’s export-oriented economy is so dependent on the primary sector (mining, agriculture and fishing make up 48% of the latest GDP figures, as opposed to 45% over the previous decade) that a drought or world market price drops are not just setbacks, but disasters which will affect whoever manages the country in the future. The possible completion of that future government is the key to the political limbo in which Namibians languished at present.

Jones was frank about the consequences: “For five years now, investors — seafarers — have been playing wait-and-see. But the business community is still surprisingly optimistic — or at least stolid.”

Stoilism is definitely called for. Diamonds, as is well known, are a disaster area. CDM’s anticipated tax bill for next year is put at a quarter of its R124m in 1982. Karakul prices — the economic staple of the arid south — have fallen. The giant Rossing uranium mine begins paying tax this financial year, but optimistic estimates of R160m-odd in tax revenue are hopelessly out, said George Stobart, Rossing’s finance director.

“Rossing is still tugging up its tax losses,” Stobart told the FM, “so the amount we pay next year will be minimal. We’ll be paying normal tax next year. All our sales are on long-term contracts, so the present low spot prices don’t hit us directly. But it does have an influence in the long term.”

Base metal prices remain low, which is bleak for Tsumeb Copper, the third of the Namibian mining giants.

“Agriculture — both commercial and subsistence — has been hard hit by the drought, which is worsening. It is now midway through the rainy season and, if substantial rains don’t fall before February, thousands more than the estimated 69 000 livestock already lost this year may have to be slaughtered.”

Last year, brief rains blunted but did not break the drought. Farmers are struggling to preserve their breeding stock.

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Despite the challenges, Namibia is striving to strengthen its economy. The government is investing in infrastructure, and the private sector is focusing on diversification to reduce its reliance on primary industries. The country is also working towards improving its trade relations with neighboring countries, particularly South Africa, to increase its economic growth and development.
Stoffel Botha all in for development of Tugela Basin

Mercury Reporter

NATAL'S Administrator, Mr Stoffel Botha, is prepared to throw official support behind a revitalised scheme — which would take years to prepare and billions of rand to fully implement — for the industrialisation of the Tugela Basin.

"I'm all for it," he said yesterday. 

The region's unique strategic location — with both rail and road links between the Reef and two major ports, abundant water and coal reserves on hand and availability of vast manpower resources nearby — made it a natural development zone that had been neglected for too long.

Decentralisation in industry had long been part and parcel of Government policy and, with the necessary professional and economic assistance and co-operation of the various authorities concerned, development of the area would benefit "not only KwaZulu and Natal, but the whole of South Africa."

Any planning or research expertise which the Province was able to supply would be supplied, Mr Botha said. He was certain members of the Executive Committee would support the scheme.
Beer row comes to a head in SWA

WALVIS BAY residents are drier than normal—and according to some that's pretty dry.

The South African Breweries (SAB) has refused to supply its beer to liquor outlets in the South African enclave.

And some of the hoteliers and bottle-store owners in Walvis Bay are now spelling for a fight if the SAB persists in its refusal to ship South African beer up to their edge of the Namib Desert.

Demand

The row has been brewing ever since Walvis Bay was proclaimed a part of South Africa a few years ago.

Now, although the enclave is administered from the Cape and forms part of the Republic, its South African licensed liquor dealers are still denied supplies of the South African beer.

Though there is a plentiful supply of South West African beer in Walvis Bay, some local liquor dealers believe that their customers won't be entirely satisfied until they get South African beer too.

"There is a terrific demand for South African beer in Walvis Bay, particularly among the troops," said Mr C S Courtenay-Clarke, a Walvis Bay hotel owner.

"Why shouldn't we be able to draw South African beer?" he asked, adding that a large quantity of beer was being transported almost daily from the Republic to the operational area on South West Africa's northern border.

There are strong suspicions in Walvis Bay that the SAB has an agreement with the SWA Breweries not to supply local liquor outlets in competition with them.

However, Mr Gary May, public affairs manager of the SAB (Beer Division), denied that there was any "bare legal contract" preventing the SAB from entering the SWA market.

Responsibility

Mr May said the SAB was serving a rapidly growing South African market and was not in a position to launch into the vast territory of SWA.

"If we supplied that market officially we would take full responsibility for the quality of our product. But if we can't control some important aspects of distribution, we would not feel we could take that responsibility."
The desert may still bloom

Agriculture in Namibia is today in the throes of its deepest crisis this century. In the five years to the end of last year, the value of commercial production dropped a staggering 40 percent in real terms, and this year is likely to show a further sharp fall. Over a fifth of the 10,000 white ranchers have abandoned their farms, many for good, throwing thousands of black farm labourers out of work.

The crisis has two immediate causes: drought and war. Five years of severe drought have reduced livestock on the ranches to a third of normal levels, and in the western borderlands (Damaraland) probably 80 percent have perished, leaving most of the peasant stockfarmers destitute.

In the densely populated areas of peasant settlement along the Angolan border, which have escaped the worst of the drought, the 17-year-old colonial war has quickened the decline of an agricultural economy already undermined by these generations of migrant labour.

Thousands have escaped to urban slums, tens of thousands to
Colonial farmers hear the drums of independence.

When the SADF leaves, what will happen to this land?
NAMIBIA—GENERAL ECONOMICS
1983—1984
JANUARY—DEC.
‘Bleeding’

of SWA

Staff Reporter
WAR, corruption, short-term high-profit ventures and a mass exodus of capital and skills were “bleeding” the economy of SWA/Namibia, Professor Wolfgang Thomas, head of the department of economics at the University of the Western Cape, said last night.

Professor Thomas, regarded as one of the leading experts on the territory’s economy, was delivering the opening address at the University of Cape Town’s Summer School course, “Namibia Today”.

‘An instrument’
He said: “It seems that those in power have decided that the price of SWA/Namibia’s economic decline is still less than if the ‘wrong’ government gets into power.

“It seems to me that Namibian independence and development is not the goal (of the South African Government). Namibia has become an instrument in the power political set-up in Southern Africa.”

Factors crippling the territory’s economic development included:
• The war in the north, where 50 to 60 percent of the people live and which has the highest agricultural potential, has paralyzed development and means South Africa “cannot win any political battle”.

• There has been a steady exodus of mainly white capital and skills in anticipation of independence, with no control over the outflow of capital.

• Comparisons of the most recent census figures show that the number of whites in the country has dropped from 110 000 to 77 000 — a decline of about 30 percent even before independence has been attained.

• Local government has almost collapsed in some areas as white bureaucrats leave the country, and some local authorities are operating on skeleton staffs.

• There is widespread “opportunism” among entrepreneurs who set up new projects aimed at making money as fast as possible and getting it out of the territory with no regard for SWA/Namibia’s long-term development.

• The territory is burdened with so many different levels of administration that “the range for all sorts of deals is almost unlimited” and rampant corruption abounds at all levels of society.

• 75 000 people out of a population of 420 000 are unemployed in the current recession — almost 20 percent.

Resources
• The territory has a “precarious resource balance” based on three main commodities — diamonds, cattle and uranium. However, if these and other assets were “properly controlled”, the territory would be a “well-endowed country with good economic prospects”.

Professor Thomas was detained and then deported from South Africa to Germany in 1977 on the orders of the then Minister of the Interior, Dr Connie Mulder. He then took up a post at the University of Transkei in 1980 and resumed teaching at UWC this month.
Secret talks

Well-placed sources say the Sal talks were preceded by at least two secret meetings, at a lower diplomatic level, in Paris last year.

One of South Africa’s interests is known to be the completion and efficient management of the Ruacana hydro-electric scheme which, at present, is entirely dependent on the seasonal rise and fall of the Cunene River.

This month, as Angola’s rainy season swells the river, South Africa is receiving hydro-electric power from Ruacana for the first time.

Next month Ruacana is expected to be sending more than 200 megawatts of electricity to the south. At night and on Sundays most of this power is exported, at a nominal cost, to South Africa.

Power line

The link to South Africa is the recently-completed power line which joins the South West African Water and Electricity Corporation (Swaawa) to Escom’s Northern Cape grid at Aggeneys. Angola is understood to have insisted that South Africa should cease its military operations in southern Angola in exchange.

It is not known how far the negotiations have progressed but, after nearly eight years of civil war in the south and east — where Unita guerrillas conduct sabotage and harassing raids against Cuban and MPLA troops and security forces raid Swapo bases with impunity — the Angolan Government is anxious to begin economic and social reconstruction.

One project is the resumption of iron mining at Cassinga — a Swaro base area well within reach of the South African military salient.

The Cassinga mine is believed to depend on hydro-electric power from another station on the Cunene, near Matala. Matala is not operating to capacity because the large Gove Dam upstream is not being operated efficiently.

Abandoned

Professional sources say it would cost about R12 million to complete the Calaque Dam, 65 km upstream of Ruacana, which was abandoned when only 70 percent complete in 1975.

If Calaque and Gove were then operated in harmony, Ruacana would receive a constant water flow and provide relatively cheap electricity to Namibia and South Africa for most of the year.
WINDHOEK: The man who beat big business to a 70,000 hectare uranium concession in the Namib Desert, 35-year-old Charles Zandberg, says he has a few million dollars in American backing to keep him in the exploration business.

But he's been given only five years to turn the arid expanse of desert into a uranium mine, or he will have to return the full amount to the bank which lent him the money.

Just which bank is providing the money, and exactly how much it is, the bearded prospector-poet is not saying. But in the next year he intends spending R200,000 on drilling the two richest parts of his claim which adjoins the Rossing uranium mine near Swakopmund.

It took three trips to America by himself and a contact in Johannesburg during the last six months to find the funds.

Mr Zandberg, the amateur mineralogist and barefoot waterskier who whisked the rights from under the nose of Rossing's sister company, Rio Tinto South Africa, 18 months ago, says business is not all that good anymore.

In mid-1961 he was granted the rights when Rio Tinto had not carried out the required development in the area. His take-over meant he had to pay nearly R48,000 for the rights and on exploration work each year.

"Now with the low uranium price and all the latest ball going on in South West's politics, foreign investors aren't all that keen anymore.

"With the Administrator-General taking over again, and the dumping of Mudge (former DTA leader Dirk Mudge) they are worried. It confuses them because things don't look peaceful all of a sudden," he says.

Nonetheless, an American bank has agreed to lend him the money in exchange for a 49 percent interest if he successfully mines his concession.

But he will have to pay back the full amount if, after five years, nothing has been accomplished.

Why should the small man receive foreign backing when some people might consider him a mere claim-jumper?

"People who know mining in this country know me from way back," replies Mr Zandberg.

"I've done business with some very big companies in the mining and exploration business, and they know I'm on the level."

ZANDBERG GETS UP PROSPECTING POET'S NAMIBIAN MINING VENTURE

AMERICAN MONEY SETS UP PROSPECTING POET'S NAMIBIAN MINING VENTURE

millions
Oil company pitching for licence to mine sea diamonds

LONDON: The dream that turned into a nightmare for colourful, gun-toting Texas millionaire Sammy Collins, could soon be causing more restless nights for one of the world's biggest oil giants.

British Petroleum, through its BP Minerals International Exploration Company, has made a pitch to tender for a diamond prospecting licence off the Skeleton Coast of SWA/Namibia.

'It is in the same area where Sammy Collins, a one-time digger, engineer and underwater pipeline expert, sailed out his giant vacuum cleaner on large barges, to suck diamonds from the seabed early in the swinging 60s.

Harsh seas, unhappy crews and diabolical weather combined to kill the project. So, too, did only a limited recovery of mostly industrial diamonds.

Even the involvement of De Beers could not prevent it sinking into oblivion.

Now the project is seen as viable again. Modern equipment and techniques, plus past experience give it a chance and the South African Government is ready to consider tenders.

It is too good an opportunity for BP Minerals to turn down. The company became a major contender in the field with the acquisition of Selection Trust.

Their expertise, plus BP's oil rich funds, means that this is a powerful new force wanting an involvement in every area of exploration.

Heading BP Minerals is Johannesburg-born 46-year-old Bernard Smith.

Formerly consulting engineer with Johannesburg Consolidated Investment and managing director of Randfontein Estates, he later became chairman of Government Coal Mining Areas and chairman of Shaft Sinkers.

Smith joined BP Coal in February 1981 taking over BP Minerals International a year ago.

The world is his oyster and his budget pure champagne.

This year he will have more than R68 million at his disposal to sink boreshfts from Australia through North and South America, Singapore, New Zealand and Europe and anywhere in North and South Africa that offers commercial operations.

During the next three years he expects to spend more than R160 million in his quest.

Already he has identified several areas as being of great interest but he is naturally reticent to give clues.

However, Brazil is one project that he does not mind talking about. There, BP Minerals has a 50 percent stake in a major tin operation and exploration gives hopes of larger deposits.

Within 10 years, Brazil could rival Malaysia as a tin producer,' he predicts.

He is also excited about something right on BP's own doorstep in the north of England, around Cumbria.

'If it turns out to be as big as we hope, then we could perhaps rival North Sea oil in the 1990s as a money earner for Britain,' he says.

Not all of BP minerals exploration is taking place geologically. There is still plenty of cash around for acquiring existing companies in the mineral field.

Further down the line, when some of the explorations are proved, then there might be a chance for outside investors to pick up a slice of the action with individual mining operations being floated. Perhaps another chance for sea diamonds?
Skills shortage is Namibia’s main stumbling block, says Doug Hoffe

WINDHOEK — The skills shortage facing Namibia is the country’s most serious handicap and it is being aggravated by the gradual outflow of whites, says Doug Hoffe, the Executive Director of De Beer’s Consolidated Diamond Mines and President of the Namibia Chamber of Mines.

“If I were to put myself in the shoes of a benevolent Administrator-General, my first priority would be crash courses in education and training,” Mr Hoffe said in Windhoek this week.

“Self-sufficiency in food production would come next.”

His views are in direct contrast to those of new Administrator-General Dr Willie van Nierkerk, who said earlier this month that his development priorities would be the expansion of the Government service, the “upgrading of educational standards” and tourism.

Mr Hoffe is pessimistic about the South African-Angolan talks on Cape Verde and other settlement initiatives.

“We do not have the impression in Windhoek that any real progress is being made. An election under Security Council Resolution 455 still looks to us to be a long way off,” he said.

What are his views about the economic repercussions of continuing delays in the march towards independence?

“There is a school of thought that the present stagnation of the Namibian economy may be a great deal more satisfactory than the economic convulsions that could follow an election which brings to power a regime with strong socialist or Marxist objectives.

UNWELCOME

“In other words, better the uncertainty we know than the certainty that would follow unwelcome economic policies.”

Looking to Namibia after independence, he sees a number of factors that will force the new government to maintain ties with South Africa, and others that will drive the new state away from Pretoria.

“We could not survive economically without South Africa,” he told a recent Windhoek management conference.

“Namibia will depend on South Africa for rail, air and telecommunications services and for Walvis Bay as its main port.”

More than 70 percent of Namibia’s national budget in 1981 came from South Africa in the form of grants, loans and Customs Union revenues (29 percent).

DEPENDANT

The country will also depend on South Africa for its major imports, especially capital goods, and even fruit from the EEC gives aid and preferential trade to Third World States;

• Join the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference;

• Join the Commonwealth.

Foreign experts say Namibia could join the Commonwealth as membership is theoretically not confined to former parts of the British Empire and there is some historical basis for its joining as it was conquered and ruled by South Africa while a Commonwealth member.

SOLIDARITY

If it were to join, the intention would probably be to show independence from Pretoria and express solidarity with its Commonwealth neighbours - Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Namibia’s ability to reduce its South African ties will depend on its capacity to attract foreign capital (to replace Pretoria’s subsidies) and cultivate new trade partners.

The inflow of capital will depend on the economic policies of the new government. Mr Hoffe suggests a tax structure that will allow “proper returns on risk capital, especially high-risk capital as in mining.”

“In the right circumstances there is no reason why South African companies should not be Namibia’s major source of investment.”
dependence, the new Namibian Government will have to tread very carefully before disturbing these trading relationships.

"But even so, changes will begin to take place. "Political factors will drive Namibia into the arms of trading partners other than South Africa,"

Also, South African taxpayers will expect a reduction in the heavy subsidies Pretoria has been providing the territory. Sources other than Mr Hoffe reckon South Africa's non-military contribution to be about R258-million a year.

In its relations with South Africa, Namibia could either follow the Botswana-Lesotho-Swaziland example of accepting the heavy economic dependence, and curbing hostility towards Pretoria, or it could pursue the Zimbabwean-Mozambican course of "straining every muscle" to reduce the existing ties.

Either way, Mr Hoffe predicts that Namibia will:
- Stay in the Customs Union;
- Stay in the Rand Monetary Area;
- Join the Lome Convention whereby little trade to offer each other, observes Mr Hoffe. It already produces the diamonds and meat that Botswana sells, the copper that Zambia offers, and though it could buy manufactured goods and food from Zimbabwe, "Transport costs will still favour South Africa."

Yet he sees considerable potential in Namibia joining its neighbours in development projects.

"There is a big potential for more hydro-electric power plants on the Cunene. Namibia could become a major exporter of power."

He believes Namibia's biggest economic dynamo "by far" is mining. The mines provide 34 percent of the Gross Domestic Product whereas the next biggest sector, agriculture and fisheries, provide only 11 percent.

But he warns of a "long hard road" before new economic deposits are found and stresses that "only quantities found and resources "that this is a mineral-rich country with untold treasures waiting for easy pickings."
The Namibian Chamber of Mines is helping government set up a "legal framework" for a free enterprise system and is pressing for repeal of surviving discriminatory legislation.

Bob Meiring, chief executive of Tsumeb Corporation and new president of the chamber, tells the FM these are among his priorities.

"We are concerned at the racial implication of some SA laws still in existence here," Meiring says, "and are pushing to have race laws removed. We also want an extended version of the Wiehahn framework introduced, to make multiracial trade unions viable. We want free enterprise and a multiracial society in an African, and potentially independent, context."

"And a political settlement is imperative. We must have certainty. The chamber is committed to training local people, from literacy and numeracy through to university level. Ultimately we'd like to see Namibia independent as far as possible of outside assistance in the technical field. Experiences in countries like Zambia and Zaire have shown that technical dependence makes an industry highly vulnerable."

On the state of the industry, Meiring says: "The diamond industry seems to be recovering. Uranium we expect to be depressed for some time because of environmentalist pressure overseas. Base metals are awaiting the Western economic recovery, though zinc and tin are holding up. Overall we haven't cut back on employment — in fact the copper industry's production figures increased during 1982 because of the reopening of the Ojihase mine."

On investment: "Tsumeb, CDM and Rossing maintain large exploration groups. While we don't necessarily tell each other everything we find, I'm not aware of any find that's currently viable for exploitation. If a good investment is found, local groups will participate."

Outgoing president Doug Rolfe disclosed during his year-end address that the chamber had won an important victory for its salt producer members. A rail rebate favouring Walvis Bay producers was withdrawn in October last year following "a series of urgent representations made to the appropriate quarters in SA."

Salt producers outside the Walvis Bay enclave were losing heavily as a result of government's application of industrial decentralisation incentives to Walvis Bay. The rebate on railage of salt amounted to a R343/t advantage for Walvis producers over their Namibian competitors.

While some rebates still apply, Meiring says the Chamber is satisfied with the present state of affairs.
imm. Although a number of economic advisory committees have been appointed, any programmes they come up with will have limited resources.

According to an official source, drought relief is one of the Administrator General's main problems — and as SA has its own worries in that area, not much can be expected in the way of support from the south.

Finance Director John Jones told the FM: "Our expenditure level will have to remain more or less like last year's. It's safe to say that expansions of last year's State services are pretty well out of the question."

Asked whether economic stagnation in the territory was resulting in substantial capital outflows to SA's financial institutions, Jones said that the leakage of capital to SA was nothing new: "It's a long-term phenomenon. We bring the capital back by means of loans to cover our budget shortfall. In the financial year that's about to end, for example, we borrowed R120m from private sector institutions in SA, and an additional R60m from overseas. This year's shortfall will be about the same. The outflow does come back to us — though we have to pay interest on it."

Tax income from CDM and Roosig corporations, which provide the lion's share of revenue, are both down this year, though next year's returns are expected to be better.

Some form of economic recovery for Namibia is dependent on SA's own rise out of the recession — but unlike SA, the disputed colony's uncertain political fate is still its greatest obstacle to getting underway again.
WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY 1983

[Text is partially legible and requires transcription]

The Prime Minister (Reply, laid upon the Table with leave of absence): The following additional amounts should be added:

(a) R25.3 million
(b) R70.8 million
(c) R97.5 million plus rolling-stock of R110.0 million = R207.5 million

TOTAL = R293.1 million

For the said period the grand total adds up to R2214.7 million.

[Further text is legible but requires transcription]

Revenue of the smaller is equal to area GZD.

[Further text is legible but requires transcription]
The economic abuse of SWA

From TONY WEAVER in Windhoek

The major "developments" which had taken place under South African rule were used to "realize the full potential of the territory." Separate development, it was spent on a political infrastructure... not on an economically sound and productive projects.

While all this so-called "development" took place, we must add all not forget that our fishing and lobster industries were ruined, that our agriculture was swelled, and that the black population was largely ignored.

In other words, this country is paying the price of nearly 60 years of political, economic management and exploitation, the bumbling and inept exploitation of the National Party and the more efficient and sometimes more subtle exploitation of large corporations," he told a hustled audience, which later gave him a massive ovation and unanimous vote of confidence.

And these were sober German businessmen, by and large, who supported him all the way.

Nambila had become a "locally-owned buffer state" of South Africa, and what development had taken place under its "colonial" rule had been either largely disastrous, or totally inappropriate, or else aimed at facilitating the web of military control over the entire area, especially the more remote, more vulnerable rural sectors.

He took a mighty swipe at the massive corporations which dominate the local economy — CDJ (an Anglo-American subsidiary) and Rossing Uranium in particular — although Rossing escaped with a bit of kudos.

You see, he explained, in 1982 the mining industry paid a paltry R200,000 in taxes on a massive R34-million in sales.

Eccentric that Rossing, who have not until recently been liable for taxes, suddenly, out of the blue, coughed up R2-million for the state treasury.

The reason, Eric Lang explained, was that the state treasury was now in hand to Rossing and rather embarrassedly said they could not afford to pay monthly salaries of the top-heavy and helplessly inefficient civil service.

He later told me how he had gleaned this priceless bit of information from the then Receiver of Revenue himself (currently facing fraud charges for an alleged massive whisky swindle).

Backed up by impressive figures, Lang showed how, since the South African master-plan for Namibia had been introduced — the plan which ushered in what must surely be the most cumbersome and inefficient system of government in the world — the country's debt had spiralled and had become almost uncontrollable.

"We paved our economic future during an orgy of politically-motivated spending which has created a government monster that swallows nearly 70% of our Gross Domestic Product."

"What is more, this year's budget of around R900 million we are only generating about 30% ourselves, and this reckless waste of borrowed money has led to us having built up a government debt of approximately R500 million in a few years, whereas we used to have a small debt in the form of investments to South Africa in the past."

He continued: "Most of the second-tier (the 12 ethnic authorities governing their 'own affairs') are run by expatriate chiefs, and, in the worst case, corrupt officials.

"Once those funds arrive at the second tier, control is lost. The different administrations, most of which lack the required expertise, then sort out their economic priorities... which range from buying farms to hotels to bottle stores to private power stations to helicopters to luxury cars. You name it."

His statements on this score have received frightening backing from the Thirteenth Commission investigating the alleged corruption, which has come up with horrifying evidence of abuse, misuse and downright theft of funds by corrupt officials — although the joke in Windhoek is that, if the Commission had to scratch more than the tip of the iceberg, as it has apparently only done, there would be more State officials in jail than manning their posts in the corridors of power.

He described the three-tier administration of government as "the living corpse" in which the Commission should bury as soon as possible, and also stated that he had evidence that in one department alone — that of Health Services — there had been misappropriation of funds to the tune of more than R300-million.

This figure, Mr Lang told me later, had been arrived at by subtracting from a very senior official who had then divulged the findings, or some of them, of the suppressed Bekrampa Report into the health services.

He said that he had evidence that a rumoured audience of sober German businessmen would take too long... probably take up half this newspaper.

To sum up.

"When I look at all this, I can only say: ladies and gentlemen, the party is over. The only music playing is the drumbeat of party politics. That sums it up."
ERIC LANG: "We pawned our economic future during an orgy of politically-motivated spending."
SWA budget focus on debt

By TONY WEAVER
Mail Area Bureau

WOODHOLE - South East Area was ready to give its annual debt focus when it was announced that a major budget will be released to the population. The area was expected to call on the area of orthodox "soft" systems talk about the "hard" systems of orthodox policy-making.

In Administration, the White House, said "We are committed to the future of this area, and we will work to see that it is successful."

The budget focused on the area's "soft" systems talk about the "hard" systems of orthodox policy-making.

"We are committed to the future of this area, and we will work to see that it is successful."

The total amount budgeted was $500 million. Van Niekerk said, "The total amount budgeted was $500 million, with $500 million for the "soft" systems talk about the "hard" systems of orthodox policy-making.

Other terms included the budget for the "soft" systems talk about the "hard" systems of orthodox policy-making.

The budget was $500 million.
R233m shortfall for SWA

WINDHOEK. — South West Africa's budget deficit for fiscal 1983 would be R233-
million, the territory's Administrator-General Mr Willie van Niekerk said.
Expenditure would increase to R1.040-million from R956-million last year,
while revenue before loans was expected to total R813-million.

He said the territory's economy had shrunk 1.6% last year after growing 2.5% in
1981.

"South West Africa has now been suffering for more than two years under the
double burden of an almost countrywide drought and a
world-wide recession."

The real value of mining sector production fell 9.4% in 1982 after falling 7.5% in
the previous year.

On the revenue side, R1572-
million rand would come from own sources while the South African Government
would contribute R241-million, Mr Van Nie-
erk said.

To help cover the deficit, R180-million would be raised through long-term loans on the South African
and foreign capital mar-
tkets. — Reuters.
The ‘rape’ of the SWA economy

THIS TOWN is full of strange characters with strange stories and no one pays them much attention.

But when Eric Lang — maverick businessman, reputed millionaire, self-appointed roving financial ombudsman and the original Don Quixote of the South West African financial world — tilts at the corrupt and highly inefficient windmills of local finance this town sits up and takes notice.

Especially when he does it in front of one of the most influential financial pressure groups in town, the powerful German interest group Interessen-Gemeinschaft Deutschsprachiger Sudwesten (IG).

Not that what Eric Lang had to say recently was anything new to South Wester.

They’d all suspected it all along — but Eric Lang had the facts and figures to back it all up.

Simply put, South Africa is busy raping this country in order to ensure its own political and economic survival, or, more directly and more brutally, the survival of the National Party.

Eric Lang is no radical. He’s a capitalist through and through, and like most really good capitalists he’s also a realist. When he smells, sees and quantifies a rip-off, he acts.

What he had to say will no doubt provide good fuel for Swapo’s Information Service, and with good cause.

**Messed up**

Because, as those who know what is really happening around this neck of the woods often say, Swapo will inherit none of the typical problems and weaknesses of emerging African countries.

They’ve all been made before and there simply won’t be any financial and administrative infrastructure left for them to mess up. It’s all been messed up already.

The essence of what Eric Lang had to say was that since the implementation of AG 8, the deliberately named administration device by the then Administrator-General, Mr Justice Tienie Sieben, which ushered in the so-called three-tier ethnic-government system, the country has changed from being an economically viable country of political integrity which is even now being turned into a ‘wholly-owned buffer state’ of South Africa, and what development it has had in place under its ‘colonial’ rule had been either largely disastrous and totally inappropriate or those aimed at facilitating the web of military control over the entire area, especially the Namibian, more vigorously used even to lend money (in the form of investments) to South Africa in the past.

He continued: ‘Most of the second tier (the twelve ethnic authorities governing their “own affairs”) are run by inexperienced and, in worst cases, corrupt officials.

‘One of these funds serves to scratch more than the tip of the iceberg, as it apparently only done, there would be more State officials in jail than managing their posts in the corridors of power.

He described the three-tier system of government as a ‘stinking corpse’ which the commission should bury as soon as possible after the various groups in the SWA are involved in the process of removing the state officials in jail than managing their posts in the corridors of power.'
He took a mighty swipe at the massive corporations that dominate the local economy — CDM (an Anglo-American subsidiary) and Rossing Uranium in particular — although Rossing escaped with a bit of kudos.

You see, he explained, in 1982 the mining industry paid a paltry R500 000 in taxes on a massive R34-million in sales.

Except that Rossing, who have not until recently been liable for taxes, suddenly, out of the blue, coughed up R2 million for the State treasury.

The reason, Eric Lang explained, was that the State treasury went cap in hand to Rossing and rather embarrassedly said they could not afford to pay month-end salaries of the top-heavy and inefficient civil service.

Backed up by impressive lists of figures, Lang showed how since the South African master-plan for South West Africa had been introduced the country’s debt had spiralled and had become almost uncontrollable.

“We pawning our economic future during an at the second tier, control is lost. The different administrations, most of which lack the required expertise, then sort out their economic priorities — which range from that he had evidence that in one department alone, that of Health Services, there had been misappropriation of funds to the tune of more than R30 million.”

wasteland.

And he produced detailed figures to support his case, figures that make the mind boggle, even in a territory where very little can boggle the mind.

Ruined

The major `development` which had taken place under South African rule were used to realise the Verwoerdian dream of separate development — it was spent on a political infrastructure — not on economically sound and productive projects.

While all this so-called development took place, we must all all not forget that our fishing and lobster industries were ruined, that our agriculture was swallowed and that the black population was largely ignored.

In other words, this country is paying the price of nearly 60 years of political and economic mismanagement and exploitation, the bumbling and inept exploitation of the National Party and the more efficient and sometimes more subtle exploitation of large corporations,” he told a bushed audience which
Walvis Bay factory shuts down — 200 out of work

Shipping Editor

MORE THAN 200 fishing industry workers are out of jobs in Walvis Bay after the shutting down of a R3-million whitefish processing plant — a factory that was set up by the Table Top wing of Fedfoods only last year.

This has come as a tremendous blow to the economy of the coastal enclave, which is already suffering from the effects of the collapse of the pelagic fishing industry.

The managing director of Fedfoods, Mr Johan Louw, said today that the closing of the Walvis Bay whitefish plant was only temporary... "but we were forced to do so because of the poor quantity and quality of hake caught off the South West coast."

R3-M CONVERSION

"We have moved our fleet of trawlers to Cape Town and are shipping small tonnages of hake and other whitefish to Walvis Bay by sea just to enable a skeleton staff to keep the plant ticking over."

Table Top took over the old Marine Products pilchard canning plant at Walvis Bay, another Fedfoods subsidiary, about 18 months ago and spent nearly R3-million converting it into a whitefish processing factory.

Mr Louw said whitefish formed an important part of the Table Top basket of frozen products "and we are trying to sort things out instead of having to sell the factory and boats."

"We will probably be making an announcement within the next few weeks as to the future of the Walvis Bay factory."
WINDHOEK — The Administrator-General of SWA/Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, has said an official report critical of the territory's financial situation has been taken note of.

It would be given the "necessary weight" in the determination of future financial policy, he said in commenting on the Department of Finance report sent to him on May 16 containing recommendations about the budget tabled earlier this month.

The report was released yesterday by the territory's self-appointed economic and financial ombudsman, Mr Eric Lang. He was invited call on Dr Van Niekerk, who issued a statement afterwards.

"It has come to my attention that a departmental document directed to me and containing a long-term evaluation of SWA/Namibia's financial position has been made public before I have made a full study of it and cleared it with all parties concerned."

Claims that the budget speech did not reflect the findings of the report were not true, he said.

The May 16 document, Dr Van Niekerk said, had referred to serious problems that could arise if large-scale loan financing of the budget should continue for "too long".

This view was reflected in the budget speech, said Dr Van Niekerk, who quoted the relevant passage.

Dr Van Niekerk said because the world recession had reached a turning point, it had been decided not to implement all the cuts proposed in the departmental report.

"I have taken cognisance of this document and will give the necessary weight to this in the determination of future financial policy," he said. — Sapa
WINDHOEK — Namibia is plunging into bankruptcy — with a national debt that has leapt from R105-million in 1979 to about R450-million this year.

And it is all because of an interim government that has been “living beyond its financial means” and bowing to demands from ethnic administrations for more money to keep them out of the red.

This is the message contained in what has been described as the most explosive official document to surface in Namibia in recent years — a secret 17-page report that spells out how the territory is plunging deeper and deeper into debt.

Leaked this week by rebel local businessmen turned financial ombudsman, Mr. Eric Lang, the confidential report urges the authorities to implement immediate changes and is signed by Namibia’s Secretary of Finance, Dr. Johan Jone.

Handed to Administrator-General Dr. Willem van Niekerk on May 16 — before he announced his 1983/4 national budget at a news conference — the report reveals how Namibia has been caught in the pincers of plunging national earnings and soaring public spending.

The shock document also describes the present system of second tier ethnic authorities as one in which they “are allowed to feed like parasites on the fruit of the land, without any control or supervision and without delivering any corresponding returns, rapidly leading to the downfall of the whole country”.

It says the national debt — mainly to South Africa — shot up from R105-million in 1979, when the first A-G took office in Windhoek, to some R450-million this year.

And it goes on to warn that Namibia will join the ranks of the world’s notorious bankrupt states — Mexico, Israel and Zaïre — within two years unless the present course is changed.

By 1987, it said, the country’s external debt would be over 100% of its gross national income, making Namibia one of the world’s most debt-ridden countries per capita on the globe.

It says “serious worry and concern over the direction of state expenditure and the role of the public sector in general” motivated the writing of the report — “to encourage decision-taking to rescue the situation as speedily as possible”.

In terms of the South Africa Finance Department’s own criteria, Namibia was no longer a democratic capital state — thanks to Pretoria’s interim policies, the report says.

No, not even is Namibia a socialist democracy in those terms, but the country can “already be reckoned as a fully fledged socialist state”.

The criteria? State spending has passed the 60% mark and now stands at 62% in Gross Domestic Product terms (from 30.5% in 1979) and the private property based economy is “affected to such an extent that the political system comes under pressure”.

Recent constitutional and political developments inside the country bear the report out on the latter point.

Namibia’s interim government was living beyond its financial means, continuously conceding demands from ethnic administrations for more money to keep them out of the red.

In this year’s budget alone R240-million is provided for this very purpose — about one fifth of the total estimates for 1983/4.

And there is no way in which these administrations can ever hope to repay their debts — not even the interest charges.

Meanwhile loan capital redemption and interest payments, it is predicted by the report, will “swallow up” all the government’s current income by 1989/90 (presently R250-million has to be borrowed to meet these costs alone).

If things go on like this the government will no longer be able to pay its own staff’s salary bill within the next four years.

Already — contrary to official policy — loans are being taken up to meet running expenses and not solely for capital development projects.

On the cards, according to the document, are drastic cuts in the state’s running costs — including civil service reorganisations.

The report also suggests the appointment of a committee of experts to review all government activities for rationalisation.

Other recommendations include re-assessing all state subsidies with a view to removing these where possible, a larger role for the private sector in performing services presently provided by the state, simplifying bureaucratic procedure and legislation, tighter self-control and monitoring of spending by government watchdog committees.

If these steps are not implemented over the next five years and certain targeted goals achieved in that period, the report says, it is doubtful the crisis will ever be averted.
NAMIBIA IS GOING... THE WAR IN NAMIBIA IS GOING...

ALONG ECONOMIC FRONT...

FACES DEFEAT ALL DISASTER LOOMS AS SA

THOUGHT THE

Luc WRIGHT/REUTERS

SUNDAY TRIBUNE JULY 3 1988
Revenue shambles costs SWA ‘millions’

WINDHOEK — Severe problems in the administration of state revenue in South West Africa were costing the territory “millions of rand”, the Thirion Commission of Inquiry has been told in Windhoek.

The Department of the Receiver of Revenue this week came under the scrutiny of the commission, which is investigating alleged malpractices in the administration of the territory.

A senior South African tax inspector, Mr. Jacob Heyderreich, said no effort had been made since 1978 to trace people in SWA who had not submitted tax returns.

He said general sales tax owed to the Treasury was estimated at more than R1-million, but it could be considerably more.

Tax inspectors last visited business concerns in October last year.

Mr. Heyderreich said staff shortages were a major reason for bottlenecks in the department.

Other problems included lack of proper supervision and control of officials, laxity and failure to make best use of staff available.

“There is a question of lack of experience from the highest to the lowest ranks,” he said.

He added that the commission’s team of investigating officials had uncovered a taxpayer who had owed R10 000 in tax for a considerable time, but revenue officials had made no attempt to recover the money.

In the relatively short period that the commission’s investigators had been active in the affairs of the department, it had traced an additional R1 600 000 in tax.

Mr. Heyderreich said the Receiver of Revenue’s office was already in arrears with 40 600 tax assessments.

He commented: “I anticipate that this backlog will increase to 50 000 next year.”

Unless matters improved drastically, the Directorate of Internal Revenue would stop functioning within three years, he said.

The commissioner, Mr. Justice P. W. Thirion, of Natal, commented on the share in a liquor store which the SWA Receiver of Revenue, Mr. J. Lubbe, had held.

Mr. Lubbe, it is alleged, did not have written permission to run a business concern, although such a requirement was clearly laid down in the Civil Service Act.

“It presents a beautiful image when you buy your liquor from your Receiver of Revenue,” Mr. Justice Thirion remarked.

“It is an equally nice picture when the Receiver queues in the bank with his money bag.”

The commission was also told that conditions in the second-tier administration for Hereros had deteriorated to such an extent that the Administrator-General of SWA would have to intervene without delay.

The commission’s chief investigating officer, Mr. A. G. Visser, said in evidence that since December last year financial control in the administration had ceased.

He said a matriculated, young Herero clerk with about two years’ experience, was in charge of the finance department of the administration, which had a budget of R18-million last year.

The budget had been exceeded by R14-million.

Mr. Visser said the clerk was doing the work of four accountants. He had to sign cheques, pay salaries and keep the books.

“I am convinced that this administration cannot continue in this way,” he said.

Another member of the commission’s investigating team, Mr. Johannes Calitz, recommended that the Herero administration contract an agency agreement with the central government for trained officials to help out.

“The situation is so critical that it requires immediate attention,” he said.

— Sapa.
WINDHOEK—Severe problems in the administration of State revenue in South West Africa were costing the territory "millions of rand," the Thirion Commission of Inquiry heard here yesterday.

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A senior South African tax inspector, Mr Jacob Heydenreich, said no effort had been made since 1979 to trace people who had not submitted tax returns.

He also said that general sales tax owed to the Treasury was estimated at more than R1,000,000, but it could be much more.

He said the shortage of personnel was one of the reasons for bottlenecks in the department, while other problems included lack of proper supervision and control of officials, laxity and failure to make optimal use of staff available.

In the relatively short period that the commission's investigating team had been active in the affairs of the department, it had traced an additional amount of R1,600,000 in tax.

The Commissioner, Mr Justice P W Thirion of Natal, commented on the share in a liquor store which the South West African Receiver of Revenue, Mr J Lubbe, had held.

It presents a beautiful image when you buy your liquor from your Receiver of Revenue," Mr Justice Thirion remarked.

"It is an equally nice picture when the Receiver queues in the bank with his money bag."

The commission was also told that conditions in the second-tier administration for Hereros had deteriorated to such an extent the Administrator General would have to intervene without delay.

A young, matriculated Herero clerk who had about two years experience was in charge of the Finance Department which had a budget of R19 million last year. The budget had been exceeded by R14 million. — (Sapa)
Namibian Economy

Gloomy outlook for

VINDICATOR - FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1990

By Charles E. Hunkele

The Namibian economy is facing a gloomy outlook, according to a recent report. The report states that the economy is facing several challenges, including a drop in export earnings and the decline in economic growth. The report also notes that the decrease in export earnings is due to a drop in the average price of commodities exported by the country.
Secret evidence at mining inquiry

WINDHOEK. — The Thirion Commission of Inquiry moved behind closed doors to hear evidence on money paid into South West Africa’s state coffers by Rosing Uranium Company, according to reports in Windhoek yesterday.

The commission, chaired by Mr Justice P W Thirion of Natal, is investigating alleged government malpractices in the territory.

The SWA Receiver of Revenue, Mr Hannes Lubbe, gave evidence on Monday on mining taxation in the territory.

Asked for details about Rosing’s payment to the government, Mr Lubbe said he had taken an oath of secrecy and could not testify in public on the subject.

Mr Justice Thirion ordered the public and media representatives to leave the Commissioner’s Court.

In later evidence, Mr Lubbe said all mining companies in the territory would pay tax in SWA from this year.

Previously they had to account to the South African Receiver of Revenue.

Tax on diamonds exported from SWA had been levied locally since 1981.

The tax was assessed on figures declared by the diamond-mining companies and the Diamond Board of SWA, but the Directorate of Inland Revenue in Windhoek had no powers to ensure that the figures were correct.
Milk price is to go up in SWA.

WINDHOEK. — The price of milk in South West Africa is to rise by 5c to 75c a litre from August 1.

The two major dairies in Windhoek — Milkor and Bosmilk — announced that the price hike was prompted by increased transport and packaging costs. — Sapa.
SWA builders ‘doomed’

WINDHOEK — The building industry in South West Africa is on the verge of collapse and the Master Builders’ Association blames the territory’s cumbersome ethnic system of government for this state of affairs.

In a statement released by the MBA executive yesterday, the association said “all hopes of a viable industry have been dashed”.

The MBA lashed out at the “unnecessary expenditure of the second-tier authorities”, and said it is “larceny in a country of one-million inhabitants to have 14 government departments”.

SWA is governed by a system of 11 ethnic governments, each responsible for the affairs of the ethnic group it represents.

On top of this is a central government, run at present by the Administrator-General’s Office, with third-tier local authorities running municipal affairs.

The MBA said “this heavy-weight administration system unproductively uses up finance which would be better utilized elsewhere”.

Budgets for new building projects in the administrations had been drastically cut, and “this situation is expected to deteriorate in the foreseeable future”.

The MBA’s membership had dwindled from 104 members in the boom years of the 70s to a figure of 71 today, and in the past two years at least nine building firms had “been forced” to cease operations.

The MBA’s major members only employed about 35% of the staff they employed in March 1981.

Builders were regularly leaving for South Africa and others had been forced to cut back on staff, leaving a gap in trained personnel whose talents could not easily be replaced.

“Qualified people with their families have either permanently left or are about to leave the territory, disillusioned,” the MBA said.

Appeals to the private sector to stimulate more local development were doomed to failure until the authorities had restored confidence in the future of SWA, the MBA said.
SWA/NAMIBIA is sliding into economic ruin as it waits interminably for independence.

A secret government report leaked here shows that if the rate of decline over the past eight years continues for another four, the country will be in debt that it will owe South Africa its entire annual output in interest payments.

South Africa, which is largely responsible for the swelling debt because of the outdated ethnic administration it has foisted on the territory, is keeping the budget balanced with big injections of capital: R605 200 000, excluding defence costs, in the current financial year.

What this means is that if the drawn-out negotiations produce independence one of these days, the incoming black government — almost certainly a Swapo government — will find itself taking over a bankrupt country that will be as much of an economic hostage to South Africa as any of the tribal "homelands".

In fairness, it must be noted that not all economic woes are attributable to South Africa and the system it has imposed here. Recession and the worst drought of the century have taken a heavy toll.

More than 35% of the administration's revenues used to come from the huge De Beers diamond concession, which occupies 54 000 square kilometres on the Atlantic coast. The recession has knocked that back to 4%.

The recession has also brought the once lucrative karakul industry to its knees. Drought has devastated the meat industry. Cattle ranchers have been forced to slaughter more than 50% of their herds.

Fishing, once another mainstay of the economy, is in ruins. Excessive quotas granted by the South African government led to a plundering of the rich offshore waters. Tough restrictions had to be introduced in 1980, by which time an annual pilchard catch of more than one million tons had dwindled to 11 000 tons. Now there are faint signs of recovery.

The economic setbacks are being compounded by the effects of a cumbersome constitutional system that is based on South Africa's obsession with ethnicity. The system is causing a degree of wastefulness, corruption and inefficiency that is currently being re-emphasized by a commission of inquiry under a Cape Town judge, Mr Justice P W Thirion.

The constitution divides government in Namibia into three "tiers". The first tier, or central government, is supposed to deal with matter of common interest to all race groups. It was controlled by Mr Dirk Mudge's Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, but Pretoria suspended it in January and now runs the first tier directly through its Administrator-General, Dr Willem van der Merwe.

The second tier consists of 11 ethnic authorities who are supposed to administer the affairs of their particular race groups. It has led to an astonishing multiplicity of government departments for one of the world's most sparsely populated countries.

There are 11 Ministries of Education, 11 of health, 11 of pensions, and so on, for a population of just one million, or roughly half of Johannesburg's black township of Soweto.

The third tier encompasses local and municipal government, again separated on a racial basis.

Cynical Namibians have coined the phrase "one man, one government" to describe the system. It is hugely wasteful, churning up 75% of the national budget and employing 44 692 people out of that tiny population. "The only growth sector is government," says Namibia's Director of Finance, Dr Johan Jones.

The unworkability of such a bureaucracy, tangled lines of authority between the maze of ministries, and the fact that a poor educational base has resulted in thousands of posts being filled by untrained people, have combined to cause large-scale inefficiency and corruption.

This is what the Thirion Commission is investigating at the second-tier level. So far it has dealt with only two ethnic administration, the Ovambo and Damaras, but already its findings are causing an outcry.

The commission has found that officials built houses for themselves with unauthorised funds.

A Portuguese refugee from Angola named "Banana Joe" Alves was unaccountably paid R800 000 for an unknown quantity of gravel supposedly delivered to unknown points in Owamboland. A firm of architects was paid R1 200 000 for work that was never undertaken.

In a random test, it was found that 18 officials had signed for the salary packets of 173 people. Another test showed that hundreds of people who did not exist were receiving social pensions.

Meanwhile, a 16-page report drawn up by the territory's finance department for the Administrator-General has been leaked in Windhoek. Johan Jones has confirmed its authenticity.

The report notes that Namibia's outstanding debt amounts to 130% of current national income, and warns that "it could amount to more than four times the expected annual income in the next four years."

By that time the sum owing to South Africa in annual interest repayments will equal Namibia's gross domestic product, the report adds.
Little cheer in SWA trading

WINDHOEK. - Drought conditions continue, inflation and interest rates show no sign of abatement and the political situation remains unresolved, the chairman of Metje and Ziegler, Mr E. G. H. B. Blom, says in his annual report.

He adds that since his last annual report on the broadly-based trading company, the economic situation has not shown any improvements but the company has achieved reasonable results.

"The rationalisation programme initiated last year has been intensified, floor space has become available for letting, the staff has been adjusted to prevailing economic conditions and a training programme has been introduced."

He adds: "With no political solution in sight in the short term, and no immediate signs of an improvement in the general economic situation, trading conditions are not expected to become better." - Sapa.
Fog halts flights at East London

By Mall Correspondent
EAST LONDON.—Fog covered most of East London and surrounding areas yesterday morning, delaying or diverting flights at the airport. Airport authorities reported visibility was less than 1km at 5am.

The 7.30am flight to Johannesburg left East London at 9.25am after being delayed at Port Elizabeth.

Flight 401 from Durban to Capetown via East London could not land and flew on to Cape Town.

Flight 401 from Port Elizabeth from Durban was delayed 33 minutes.

The fog had lifted by 11.30am and the sky was overcast.

The maximum temperature in East London yesterday was 19°C.

Thunderstorms occurred over the whole of the Border and Transkei and by last night 2mm of rain had fallen at Port Elizabeth, 4.5mm at Queenstown and 0.6mm at East London.

Umtata was hot and clear with a temperature of 27°C, but towards late afternoon and evening there was a light and continuous drizzle.

Rains in SWA bring much-needed relief

By TONY WEAVER
Mall Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK.—Widespread rain has fallen over large areas of South West Africa in the past few days, bringing relief to many farmers.

And in Windhoek itself, residents were amazed at an almost overnight transformation in the city, with trees and lawns turning green after heavy showers on Thursday.

Bougainvilleas have bloomed all over the city and municipal flower gardens have begun flowering overnight.

Old residents of the city say it is the most dramatic transformation they have ever seen, and attribute it to the sudden flower spectacle and greening of the city to the intensely hot weather which followed last week's rain.

But the rain, good news for most, also brought disaster to a young farmer near Dodabib, 60km from the capital, where 34 goats drowned and damage of more than R1 000 was done to his house when a cloud burst resulted in more than 60mm of rain.

Best news for farmers came from the drought-devastated southern areas, where farms near Mariental had up to 50mm of rain, and in the Kalkrand, Rehoboth and Schip areas, up to 30mm was measured.

Farmers in the Mattabos area, in the mountains close to the Namib Desert, saw rivers running in full flood for the first time in over three years.

And the Namib itself was transformed this weekend. The region between Swakopmund and Windhoek, previously barren plains, were full of green grass and daisies were beginning to flower.

North of Windhoek the news was not as good, although the area around Okahandja, 80km north of Windhoek, did have up to 30mm of rain.

Several Windhoek residents who set out over the weekend to do cross the Namib Desert, travelling in four-wheel-drive vehicles, described yesterday how they had to drastically alter their plans after the river beds, the main means of cross-country travel, turned into vicious torrents.
Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK. — General Sales Tax in South West Africa has been increased to 7% to help meet spiralling government debts, and it was said yesterday that a further 1% rise would be introduced in February next year.

The statement announcing the increase, which will be implemented on November 1, was released by the Administrator General, Dr. W. van Nierk's office, yesterday.

It said: "For quite a while now the public in South West Africa has been aware that the government is going through difficult times as a result of a shortage of State funds combined with rising government expenditure."

The drought and the worldwide recession in mineral prices had contributed to the financial crisis, and because South Africa was also affected SWA could no longer look to Pretoria for large loans.

Dr. Van Nierk said tough steps would be taken against tax-dodgers and to enforce government economy.
Mail Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK. - Border checkpoints between South Africa and South West Africa are to be set up to monitor the flow of imported goods into the territory liable for sales tax, the Administrator-General, Dr Willie van Niekerk, has announced.

His announcement comes hot on the heels of the announcement that sales tax in the territory goes up from 6% to 7% from November 1.

Dr Van Niekerk said sales tax would not be levied at these control points.

"But it is evident that considerable quantities of goods liable for sales tax are being imported by road into SWA from South Africa," he said.

The checkpoints were not intended to restrict the free removal of goods to SWA.

The aim was to determine the extent of "road importations" and the involvement of end users who were liable for payment of GST.

The territory's independent economic ambassador, Mr Eric Lang, who criticized the new GST increase and predicted the advent of the checkpoints, has also predicted a further increase of up to 8% GST for SWA early next year.

Meanwhile people in the territory are waiting to see if the authorities will respond to Mr Lang's challenge to reveal the closely guarded secrets of the territory's mining statistics.

Mr Lang said the percentage of revenue from GST in a country with extremely high unemployment was disproportionately high, while mining's contribution was "ridiculously low".

The 37-year-old rebel businessman, millionaire and trouble-shooter gave them until November to release the mining statistics.

"If they do not release them, I will," he said.

Mr Lang said natural resources were leaving the territory without any effective control.

"A 5% levy on natural resources would raise revenue far in excess of what the planned tax increases hope to raise," Mr Lang said.

He called the royalty — about R30 million in the past five years — paid to the diamond giant in the territory, CDM, a "disgrace".

"In South Africa the process is reversed," Mr Lang said, saying companies had to pay a royalty to mine. In the past year he said R160 million in royalties left the territory.

Taxes on diamond mining in SWA were the lowest in Southern Africa.
Angry SWA housewives protest

Mail Correspondent

WINDHOEK. — Angry housewives collected over 3,000 signatures in one day as protests mounted yesterday against the proposed increase in General Sales Tax in South West Africa.

The women's action is seen as a vote of no confidence in the way the territory's administrator-general, Dr Willie van Nierkerk, is running the economy.

The housewives, calling themselves Action GST, handed in a petition yesterday at the offices of the administrator-general, protesting about a proposed 1% increase in GST from 6%.

The increase is expected to come into effect on November 1, and has evoked strong protest in the territory.

On Monday evening more than 400 people attended a debate in Windhoek at which South West Africa's Secretary of Finance, Dr Johan Jones, and Namibia's independent economic consultant, Mr Eric Lang, were speakers.

When Mr Lang proposed his own motion of no confidence in the way the administrator-general was running the country, slightly more than half of the crowd supported him.

A number of people in the audience were Government employees who are believed to have abstained, as the strongest form of protest they thought safe.

During the debate, Dr Jones faced torrential interjections and most of the people lashed into their 'crippling' multi-ethnic governmental system.

Dr Jones said after considering all the other ways of raising tax the administrator-general's office had decided a 1% GST rise would be the fairest.

Mr Lang, who has predicted that there would be a further GST rise early next year, is well-known for exposing the inner workings of Government.

"What is wrong with the taxation policy of this Government and its predecessor, is it has allowed powerful business interests and political cliques to build loopholes into our taxation laws protecting them for the benefit of foreign shareholders," Mr Lang alleged.
Chamber attacks 'corruption'

Mail Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK. — The South West African Chamber of Commerce and Industry has launched a stinging attack on the very basis of government in the territory.

In a statement yesterday, the chamber said the territory's cumbersome system of 18 ethnic governments led to corruption and inefficiency, and all the trappings of the mini-parliaments, like buildings, vehicles and staff, were totally unnecessary.

The chamber also rejected the increase of 1% on General Sales Tax, which came into effect on Tuesday, and said the increase could not be condoned without prices of basic foodstuffs being revised.

Referring to the GST increase, the chamber called for a differentiated system of taxation which excluded basic foodstuffs from the levy.

It also called on the Administrator-General, Dr Willie van Niekerk, to cut drastically the number of civil servants, and to enforce rigid economies in Government spending.

The GST increase has met with heated opposition from a wide cross-section of the community, with a recent protest meeting, attended by almost 400 members of Windhoek's business and consumer community, passing an overwhelming motion of no confidence in Dr Van Niekerk on the issue.

In addition, more than 600 Windhoek residents have signed a petition protesting at the increase.

Local activists have described the protest meeting as one of the most exciting developments in Windhoek recently, as it united a broad spectrum of citizens, ranging from those supporting Swapo, to conservative members of the National Party.
Stiff fishing curbs for SWA

By TONY WEAVER
Mail Africa bureau

WINDHOEK. — The galjoen, known to anglers as one of the finest fighting fish off the southern African coast, will be strictly protected in South West African waters from now on.

The new measures, announced by the sea fisheries division of the Department of Economic Affairs, include a total ban on any commercial trading in the fish, regarded by gourmets as having one of the most delicate flavours of all pan fish.

Yesterday’s announcement also brought into action measures to protect dassies (blacktail), kabeljou and steenbras, and curtailed all cutting of red bait off the SWA coast.

Only red bait which has been washed ashore may be collected, and no angler may collect more than 1.8kg of the bait each day.

In addition, white mussels, another popular bait, may only be dug by hand and no angler may take out more than 25 mussels a day.

Local anglers have welcomed the measures, and see them as aimed mainly at holiday-makers from South Africa.

Friction has developed between local and South African anglers because anglers from the Republic have come to SWA with gas-run freezers.

When the December shows hit the well-known angling spots near Swakopmund and Henley Bay, and the more remote Sandwich Harbour, freezers are piled with fish for resell in South Africa.

But in terms of the new regulations, no more than 25 galjoen will be allowed to be transported by any angler, and the maximum number of galjoen per vehicle is limited to 100.

A minimum length limit of 80cm has been set on galjoen, while no kabeljou smaller than 40cm and steenbras smaller than 80cm may be kept.

To protect dwindling bait resources on the SWA coast, the department also announced that no bait other than sardines may be sold commercially.

The limit on the number of crayfish remains at five, with no diving allowed between sunset and sunrise. All crayfish must be measured in the water, with the carapace shall minimum limit remaining at 6.5cm.
Ministers in departments

Minister Mr Pik Botha give the green light to Bophuthatswana Buildings an agreement regulating broadcasting activities.

Man in bomb case set free

PRETORIA BUREAU

A MAN who allegedly told police he had planted a bomb at the Union Buildings, was acquitted in the Pretoria Regional Court yesterday.

Evidence was that Mr Themis Van der Westhuizen, 49, had telephoned the police to say he had planted a bomb at the Union Buildings. He was arrested while in the telephone booth.

Mr Van der Westhuizen told the court he had been drinking with friends and had passed out. Later he found one of the men with his girlfriend. One of the men had complained there were more job opportunities for blacks than whites and had said he would plant a bomb at the Union Buildings.

He had told the police about the man, but they had arrested him instead.

According to a telephone transcript, Mr Van der Westhuizen said he had planted the bomb. Later he said a man had planted a bomb.

Action likely on napalm report

By TONY WEAVER

WINDHOEK. — Charges are being investigated against a newspaper — thought to be a Johannesburg newspaper — for saying the South African Air Force was using napalm in support of Koevoet policemen operating in Angola.

The Windhoek Supreme Court heard yesterday that the matter was in the hands of the Attorney-General.

The possible charges arose out of evidence given in the trial of Johannes Paula, 23, and Paulus Matheus, 22, two members of Koevoet accused of murdering and attempted murder respectively, and of rape and robbery.

Starting his argument against mitigating circumstances, Mr Gert Burger, for the State, said he objected to the use of the word "napalm" by pro-droodefence counsel for Paula, Mr Pierre Roux.

When Mr Roux, leading counsel, had testified that while on Koevoet operations in Angola, and earlier as a UNITA soldier, he had seen fighter bombers dropping bombs which made "waves of fire 200 yards longs."

"The conclusion we draw from his description of the napalm was that it was used," Mr Roux said.

Mr Burger, after proceeding in his objection to the use of the word "napalm," later said charges were being investigated against a newspaper — which he did not name — because they had interpreted Paula's evidence to mean napalm.

Mr Roux said Paula's training as a "bombshell bomber" for Koevoet had lessened his ability to distinguish between right and wrong, and had also made him into a "reflexive killer."

When Paula had gone to the hut of Heartspur Robert Ammanu on the night of January 12 this year with the purpose of robbing him, Mr Ammanu had challenged him with an old .303 rifle.

Paula had instinctively shot him as he had been trained to do by both UNITA and Koevoet. Mr Roux argued.

Mr Burger contested the argument, saying Paula was not a "converted killer."
Lang refuses to give evidence

By Peter Honey,
The Star's Foreign
New Service

WINDHOEK — Namibia’s self-styled economic ombudsman, Mr Eric Lang, today refused to give evidence on his allegations about the territory’s mining industry before the Thirion commission of inquiry into alleged State maladministration.

He said there was no doubt that a commission needed to be appointed to investigate irregularities in certain sectors of Namibia’s mining industry.

But, because the Thirion commission’s terms of reference did not cover the mining industry, he would be laying himself open to litigation by certain mines if he made known information.

Mr Lang read a letter sent to him last month by the chairman of the commission, Mr Justice P W Thirion, pointing this out.

The judge told Mr Lang at today’s sitting of the commission that he was engaged in an investigation aimed at drawing up a memorandum for the Administrator-General.

The Administrator-General, he said, could not launch a commission to inquire into the mining industry unless he had certain specific allegations.

Mr Lang has, among other things, alleged there were instances of overmining in the territory.

He claims that there were also instances of transfer pricing, in which Namibian companies sold their products to sister companies in tax havens to avoid high taxes.

There was said to be a lack of control over mining exports. The diamond board, for example, effectively left the valuation of diamonds mined in Namibia to the industry itself.

Mr Lang also alleged that the chairman of the Diamond Board knew very little about the diamond industry and did not know that the board was not audited by a qualified auditor.

The board’s records were signed only by the resident director of CDM (the Namibian De Beers subsidiary) and the company’s secretary. They were never independently audited.

Mr Justice Thirion adjourned the commission until an undetermined date next year. He said the commission had completed its investigations into government bodies.
WINDHOEK. — A Windhoek businessman, Mr Eric Lang, told the Thirion Commission of Inquiry into alleged government malpractices in South West Africa that he could not give evidence on the mining industry without guarantees of exemption from court action.

Mr Lang was summoned to give evidence before the commission yesterday following his allegations that there were irregularities in the mining industry in SWA.

"I have at all stages been willing and prepared to appear before this commission, but I have problems with the commission’s terms of reference."

He said that unless the commission’s terms of reference were broadened to include an investigation into the mining industry, his evidence would not be granted privilege in terms of the Commission Act.

"I have been trying to get the terms of the reference of this commission extended for the last year," he added.

The Commissioner, Mr Justice P W Thirion of Natal, said the Administrator-General of SWA, Dr Willie van Niekerk, could not appoint a commission of inquiry into the mining industry "on bare allegations."

Dr Van Niekerk required information that convinced him of the need. — Sapa.

● See Page 15
A damning tale of SWA's chaos and corruption

IN June 1989, the then Administrator-General of South West Africa, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, issued Proclamation AG9, establishing 11 governments ... one for each South West African ethnic group.

A bare three years later, Anglo-Vickers are coming home to roost with a vengeance.

The Tahir Commission of Inquiry into malpractices in the ethnic and central government has daily heard more and more tales of financial abuse, corruption, misuse of administration and general abuses in the ethnic governments.

Already those governments are churning out 75% of the struggling territory's annual budget, and this comes as no surprise in the light of evidence heard so far.

To date, the Ovamboland, Tswana, Herero, Damara, Caprivi, coloured and Kaingano administrations have come under the gaze of Mr Justice P W Tahir, and it seems that a similar picture emerges.

And the Attorney-General of South West Africa, Mr Don Brunet, has warned that police investigations and criminal charges could follow against some of those named in the internal political sphere and in the civil service.

This arises from evidence presented to the commission on alleged corruption in the Ovamboland Administration, which, with the South African Defence Force, administers the lives of half the country's population.

In some of the recent evidence heard by the commission, it has emerged that:
- The Caprivi Administration built and furnished six houses at a cost of almost R200 000 for chiefs currently serving in the administration.
- The Chiefs, since being retired, have been pensioned off when their terms of office expire.
- All six currently occupy state housing in Katima Mulilo, capital of the Caprivi.
- R9 000 meant for paying salaries to Caprivi officials disappeared while administration pay clerks were travelling to remote areas in a helicopter.
- Mr Justice Thirion, asked Mr Christiana Blaauw, Secretary of the Administration, why he perhaps thought the money had "blown away" in the wind, dispelled while officials were sitting beneath the rotating blades of the chopper?
- The acting Secretary of the Tswana Administration, Mr F J van der Merwe - a seconded South African civil servant - had been overpaid R5 299 in salary since January 1982.
- The money was paid out to him on the orders of his wife, Zirkia, head of the personnel section in the administration. He also received R492 in housing allowances, when he was not entitled to get the money.
- The Caprivi Administration's MEQ for Works, Mr Boniface Likando, "borrowed" a luxury, R24 000 Range Rover four-wheel drive vehicle from the administration to plough his fields.
- Mr Likando also had his private home wired for electricity using administration materials, administration labour and administration working hours.
- Another Caprivi Government official removed the engine of an administration van and fitted it into his private vehicle.
- The leader of the Christian Democratic Action for Social Justice and head of the Ovamboland Legislative Assembly, Mr Peter Kalai, has to repay R39 995 for the administration after he used the administrative building materials in the construction of his house and for improvements to the cur of which he is the head.
- Mr Kalai also had three of his own private tractors repaired by the state, at a cost of almost R8 000.
- The Tahir Commission also recommended that the Ovamboland Director of Works, Mr Fredrik de Villiers, should be fired because of "corrupt dealing of duty" and for his part in fiddling tender contracts.
- He should also be forced to repay R28 000 to the administration, when he "lost" as a result of "misconduct" and "dereliction of duty".
- Mr de Villiers, who once left the administration and has returned on the Cape south coast.
- Documents in the Ovamboland Administration were forged so that R14 000 vehicles could be written off and sold to administration officials at a nominal price.
- The acting Director of Finance in the Ovamboland Administration, Mr W Ludik, irrevocably fitted out his house with carpets valued at R4 455, and three administration heads and members of the executive committee got a "free" wall-to-wall carpeting fitted, valued at R5 268.
- A senior trade foreman in the Ovamboland Administration, Mr Arnold Carstens, used his position to secure a R72 000 contract for the supply of beds to the administration on behalf of his wife, Pamela.
- The Ovamboland Administration's chief pharmacist, Mr J Herbst, accumulated R14 000 in late that three months by adding rates charges for prescriptions.

Mr Justice Thirion commented that he was satisfied that Mr Herbst had "acted with strong consideration to create a source of income for himself, apart from his regular salary".

These are just some of the more startling bits of evidence which have emerged in testimony before the commission.

The commission heard that, in virtually every administration, there was chaos, no set office procedures, nor adherence to important documents were dumped in boxes in dusty storerooms, that salaries were not paid, or paid twice, and that nepotism abounded.

The reserves describe the rampant corruption and mismanagement to the existence of 10 ethnic governments (the government, doesn't have a separate government, refusing cap when it was offered to them) for a country with a population of just one million people.

There is a drastic shortage of skilled staff and, in the Herero Administration, it emerged that the highest trained person was a filing clerk.

The only way to solve the problems of corruption and mismanagement would be to scrap the ethnic authorities but - as they are an essential part of South Africa's strategy of maintaining apartheid in disguise, and of keeping 'tamed' political parties in power - this is an unlikely prospect.

The commission has now recessed and will begin hearing more evidence in the New Year.
South West Africa/Namibia intends claiming millions of rand from South Africa for taxes it says should have come to the territory from the Walvis Bay fishing industry in the last six years.

The amount is believed to total about R200-million, and SWA/Namibia's finance secretary, Dr Johan Jones, says South Africa has indicated it is "quite willing to discuss the matter".

Dr Jones says that in addition to the question of income from the SWA/Namibian fishing industry, other "grey areas" such as taxes from insurance payments and pensions, are also likely to be discussed.

The matter will be finalised one way or the other during the course of next year.

News of the intended claim comes less than a week after the Administrator-General, Dr Willie van Niekerk, hit out at foreign fishing trawlers plundering the fishing resources of the SWA/Namibian coast.

Should the claim be acknowledged as justifiable by South Africa, it would put a new complexion on the annual "gift" of R244-million which South Africa grants to the territory.

Dr Jones's department is investigating whether this amount really amounts to a gift, or whether it is money which should have accrued to the territory anyway.

"We would in future like to have the amount in grant money specified," he says. "We are not not thinking, saying or implying that we have been robbed over these years. But it seems there could have been an oversight.

The reasoning behind the claim is that before September 1 1977 all taxes relating to the fishing industry at Walvis Bay used to come to the South West African coffers.

When South Africa took over direct control of Walvis Bay on September 1 1977, however, the money went to South Africa.

These sources of income include:

- All direct taxes from the fishing factories, which in the 1970s amounted to about R244-million a year;
- The 12.5 percent tax on foreign dividends, amounting to about R4-million a year; and
- Taxes from fishing boat owners, export agents, engineering works, and staff salaries.

Dr Jones intends taking up the matter at the next sitting of SWA/Namibia's policy advisory committee for economics and finances which he says will recommend that the Administrator-General take the matter up with South Africa's Department of Economic Affairs.

"It depends on South Africa's attitude, whether we are successful or not," he adds. "They could argue that as Walvis Bay is South African territory and the companies are by and large South African, that they should have been getting the money all along.

"Then there is the question of whether the fish were caught in South African waters or in South West African waters.

"There are many technical points to be resolved."
Tsumeb closes Windhoek mine

By BRENDAN RYAN

SOUTHERN Africa's higher-cost copper producers are battling because of the continuing weakness in the metal's price.

Tsumeb Corporation announced yesterday it had closed the unprofitable Matchless copper mine near Windhoek. Matchless is the highest-cost and smallest producer of Tsumeb's four mines.

The closure of the mine and a trimming of Tsumeb's other activities mean 920 employees from the corporation's total staff of 5,000 will be retrenched.

The general manager, Mr Bob Meiring, said the mine was being closed because of depressed world demand and prices for copper. They could have threatened the company's long-term financial position unless protective measures were taken.

Tsumeb had maintained full employment in the past three years in spite of significant losses which had been financed through a R20m contribution from shareholders and R20m from overseas bank loans.

High interest rates and a discouraging outlook on the metals market made it imprudent to borrow more money. Assistance from Government had been looked at. Although the Government was sympathetic, it was agreed that intervention at this stage would be difficult to justify, Mr Meiring said.

Gold Fields of South Africa (GFS) holds 43% of Tsumeb and controls the company with Newmont Mining of the United States.

Messina Limited recently closed its copper smelter and concentrates will be smelted at Palabora. Messina mine's future hangs in the balance and depends on continued Government subsidisation as it is a large employer in the strategic border area of the Northern Transvaal.

Also struggling is O'kiep Copper Mines of Namaqualand in which the GFS group holds 25% and Newmont 45%. O'kiep was forced to arrange loan facilities of R57m in 1981 and 1982 and this year it made a R30m rights issue.

O'kiep also had to enter into a joint venture agreement with Barclays Bank through which the bank will share in the mine's profits until 1987. The mine lost R5,075m in 1982 and R577,000 in 1981.

A spokesman for O'kiep said yesterday the mine would issue a statement about its position on Monday.

The only South African copper mine which has remained profitable is Palabora Mining, although it is not happy with its profit margins from current copper prices. Palabora has stayed in the black through excellent cost control. Working costs last year were held to an annual increase of 3.8% in the face of 14.8% inflation.

The mine is one of the lowest-cost producers in the world and the only other copper producers showing profits at present prices of about US$0.66 a lb are probably the Chileans.

The copper industry's long-term view is that the economic recovery in the world economy must eventually affect the primary metal producers through better demand and prices.

It was on this basis that GFSA took up its stakes in Tsumeb and O'kiep this year, buying mining assets cheaply and looking to benefit from a recovery by the mines.

However, the copper markets have been down since 1975 and the predicted recovery is at least a year overdue. A promising recovery in copper prices earlier this year was short-lived. The outlook for next year is uncertain with forecast supply of copper to the market greater than demand.
SWA copper mine to be closed down

WINDHOEK — Tsumeb Corporation Ltd has announced the closing of the Matchless Copper Mine near Windhoek as part of a company rationalisation programme brought about by depressed world markets for copper and lead.

The closure of Matchless, the smallest of TCL's four production units, and the reduction of other activities would result in the retrenchment of 928 employees from a TCL total of 6,500.

TCL's general manager, Mr Bob Möring, said in a statement in Windhoek that the economising campaign would enable TCL to maintain a marginally decreased rate of production.

"It will also maintain all facets of exploration, mine development and training", although at a lower level of activity, he said.

Retrenched employees were granted special consideration, including "a liberal period of notice" and relocation allowances should they wish to return to their home towns.

Others would be given ample time to stay in TCL houses while seeking alternative employment.

Mr Möring said TCL had maintained full employment in the past three years, despite significant losses financed by a R22-million shareholder contribution and an equal amount through overseas bank loans.

"Continued depressed world demand for copper and lead, and low prices, could threaten the company's long-term financial position unless protective measures are taken," he said.

Owing to high interest rates and a discouraging outlook on the metals market, it would be imprudent to borrow additional funds.

Government assistance had been examined, although the Government was sympathetic and concerned it was agreed that intervention at this stage would be difficult to justify.

The price of copper dropped from R2210 a ton in 1978 to R1790 a ton this year to October. The corresponding figures for lead are R1970 and R470.

Sapa
SWA mines probe next year

Post Correspondent

WINDHOEK - The door has been opened for an official probe into state control of Namibia's multi-national mining industry.
This will either be done by the Tuifon Commission when it resumes its work next year under widened terms of reference, or by a commission to be proclaimed by the Administrator-General, Dr. W. A. van Niekerk.
This follows the appearance last week of Mr. Eric Lang before the Tuifon Commission.
Mr. Lang is a Windhoek milk bottler and a self-appointed economist/analyst for the Administrator-General.
Mr. Lang is also the editor of the Pretoria Press, a newspaper that has published articles critical of the government's policies in the mining industry.

Mr. Lang alleged that the government had been involved in activities such as overmining, lack of control over mineral exports, transfer taxation, and failure to pay reparations to the former German Empire.

Mr. Justice Theron, the chairman of the Tuifon Commission, refused to comment on the allegations made by Mr. Lang.

Mr. Lang said he had reservations about revealing his sources of information.
Govt subsidies on bread in SWA to be abolished

WINDHOEK — The Administrator-General of SWA-Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, has announced the abolition of Government subsidies on white and wholewheat bread from January 1.

Price control on the two items would be abolished at the same time.

In a statement from Swakopmund, Dr Van Niekerk said the purpose of food subsidies was to make staples more accessible to the poor.

"The subsidy on white and whole wheat bread clearly does not serve this purpose. Maize products and mahango are the staple foods of the major part of the population."

A senior Department of Agriculture official said earlier: "By subsidising bread we do not subsidise the staple food of the average Namibian."

The average SWA/Namibian bought bread in insignificant quantities, according to a study by the Department of Agriculture.

"Bread is by no means a staple food for the population as a whole," Dr Van Niekerk said, "This is even more true for the less affluent sections of the population." — Sapa
Rossing Uranium's Star dims in RTZ constellation
UN lists 'firms star exploiting Namibia'

NEW YORK — A United Nations body is preparing a “blacklist” of multinational companies that, it says, are exploiting the resources of Namibia and bolstering South Africa’s “illegal” presence there.

A draft handbook, prepared by the United Nations Council for Namibia, lists 11 such companies based in Western Europe, 10 in North America and 24 in South Africa.

"It is this book’s object to expose the activities of those foreign corporations which exploit the Namibian resources and whose investments continue to support the illegal South African presence there," the introduction says.

"It is hoped the revelations in this study will convince the governments of states whose corporations... operate in Namibia of the illegality of such operations, and enable them to take appropriate measures to discourage the continuation of such investments and related activities.

"As long as these operations continue without regulation from an independent, internationally recognised government, Namibian resources will be depleted, its environment seriously damaged and its people denied the right of controlling their destiny and resources for their own benefit." — Sapa-Reuters.
Firm rejects SWA blacklist

WINDHOEK — Not a single multinational company operating in SWA/Namibia was acting in conflict with the interests of the people of the territory, the executive director of CDM, Mr Doug Hoffe, said here yesterday.

He was responding in a statement published yesterday to a “blacklist” of transnational companies, being compiled by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

The UN agency alleged that 45 such corporations based in Europe, North America and South Africa were exploiting SWA’s resources and bolstering South Africa’s “illegal presence” in the territory.

Anglo-American, of which CDM is an affiliate, was one of the companies listed.

“Each of the companies appearing on the list has conditions of employment which are to the advantage of the country,” Mr Hoffe said.

“Namibia will be much the poorer if any one of these companies should leave.” — SAPA
Corporate jeers for the UN’s boycott of SWA

'This blacklist will have no effect on our activities...'

WINDHOEK — The United Nations ‘blacklist’ of multinational companies which the UN says are operating illegally in Namibia was shrugged off as insignificant this week by spokesmen for most of the companies.

The UN Council for Namibia’s draft handbook says the multinationals are exploiting Namibia’s resources while propping up South Africa’s “illegal” presence in the territory.

The public relations manager of Rossing Uranium Ltd, Mr Clive Algar, said: “Following the British government, Rio Tinto Zicn does not recognise the Council for Namibia or its decrees.”

“Besides, it will have no effect on Rossing’s activities.”

RTZ, which has the majority shareholding in the world’s largest open cast uranium mine operating in the Namib Desert, is one of 18 North American multinationals listed.

Another is Hudson Bay of Canada, one of the international Swakara pel t brokers.

By DAVID PIETERS

The governor and president of the company, Mr D McGill-Verin, who is visiting the territory, declined to comment.

The company’s special representative in Namibia, Mr Rodi Winkler, said Hudson Bay had in any case scaled down its activities considerably in the past 18 months.

A spokesman for Gold Fields of SA (GFSA), owned 48% by Consolidated Gold Fields of Britain, said it was believed “the London office has said the news has not appeared in any of the London dailies, making it a bit of a non-event”.

Consolidated Gold Fields is one of 11 West European multinationals in the UN Council’s black list.

GFSA is active in mining and prospecting in Namibia.

Of the 24 South African-based multinationals corporations-blacklisted, Anglo American Corporation, which, through its affiliate De Beers, dominates the diamond industry, is named as the largest.

Mr Doug Hofe, resident director of CDM, which mines gemstones at Oranje mond and off-shore, said: “Namibia will be a lot poorer if any of the companies should pull out.”

Anyone who knew the facts would realise none of the blacklisted companies operated to the detriment of Namibia, he said. “Their operating policies and working conditions would stand comparison with the best in the world.”

And it is ironic to hear it suggested that their continued presence and investment in Namibia should be discouraged and opposed,” Mr Hofe said.

“These are the companies which are trying their level best to uplift disadvantaged people, to remove discrimination, as well as to improve job opportunities for black people in Namibia.”

Another blacklisted South African company is Foderdale. Volksbeleggings whose wide range of investments in the territory includes a stake in the fishing industry.

“There was no comment from the company.

Namibia’s director of sea fisheries, Dr Jan Jurgens, said the blacklist should include countries plundering Namibia’s fish resources.

“Eastern bloc fleets would have to feature high on the list of foreign nations pillaging dwindling south-east Atlantic marine resources,” he said.

Dr Jurgens said foreign fleets caught more than 1 million tons of fish in Namibian waters each year.

An industry source said the UN Council was a continuation in Jamaica in 1982 of the Law of the Sea which recognised a 200 nautical mile off-shore territorial limit for Namibia.
Swapo ‘hinders development plans in SWA’

WINDHOEK. - If Swapo stopped its programme of violence, money spent on military operations could be used for much-needed development projects in fields such as education and health services, the Administrator-General of South West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, has said.

"For the first time last year more than 80% of the people in South West Africa between the ages of seven and 18 attended schools, which is a remarkable achievement when seen in the African context," he said.

"But crowded classrooms, particularly at primary school level, remain a problem."

Dr Van Niekerk said the worldwide economic recession and the drought in SWA had slowed down development of essential services in the past year.

"Nevertheless, we succeeded in bringing down inflation and sustaining the administrative infrastructure."

Problems that would have to be met in the short-term included revitalising SWA’s sources of revenue, such as the mining industry — which at one stage accounted for 60% of the territory’s income — agriculture, fishing and tourism.

Dr Van Niekerk said Government and private sector representatives would meet later this year to compile guidelines for a national development strategy.

"It is part of a continuing process to prepare the country for independence."

Dr Van Niekerk said military operations such as the recent Askari should not be viewed in a SWA context alone "but in the entire Southern African regional context."

He said such operations were taxing capital and manpower resources.

"It is expensive and we all know it. If there was no Marxist movement such as Swapo we could have used the money for other purposes."

Dr Van Niekerk said South Africa was an integral part of Africa, whereas “surrogate forces” in Angola were not.

"There is no way that you can describe the Cubans as being part of Africa."

South Africa’s insistence on a Cuban pull-out from Angola as a condition for a SWA peace settlement was based on the premise that the territory, "as a newly independent state, can hardly be expected to cope with Soviet surrogate forces" on its doorstep.

The MPLA government came to power in Angola without having been voted into office.

"They (the international community) are pressuring us for elections in terms of United Nations Security Resolution 435, but nobody is saying a word about elections in Angola," he said.

The MPLA's war with Unita and other governments was entirely an Angolan affair, but peace and stability in that country would benefit all of Southern Africa.

"Let them send the Cubans home and call elections to determine which party has popular support," Dr Van Niekerk said — Sopa.
Legend became world's biggest uranium mine

NEIL LEWIS: Swakopmund

There is an ancient legend among the Damara tribespeople around Swakopmund of a cave in the nearby region of the Namib Desert in which women would spend the night in order not to have any more children.

The area encompasses what is now the site of the world's largest uranium mine owned by Rossing, a member of the Rio Tinto Zinc Group. Rossing officials acknowledge the tale with sceptical amusement, stressing that the level of radiation at their operation is extremely low.

"There could be no such place," insisted Dr. Woton Sweegers, head of health services at Rossing. "If there were, it would glow in the dark."

Dr. Sweegers' sophisticated clinic, with its advanced occupational health monitoring equipment to ensure that no one is exposed to excessive radiation, is just one aspect of the company's strenuous efforts to prevent any public controversy in SWA-Namibia beyond criticism.

"We are everybody's favourite target," said assistant general manager Mike Bates. "We mine uranium, we do it in Namibia and we are a multinational."

The Rossing uranium deposit was discovered in the 1950s by a local prospector who tried in vain to interest major mining companies in its exploitation.

Eventually, his sons persuaded RTZ, an international mining giant, to develop a huge open-pit mine to take advantage of what seemed like an inexorable turn to nuclear power by the world's industrialised nations.

Rossing began exploration work in the Namib in the early 1970s. Production was delayed by technical problems caused by the unexpected hardness of the granite-like ore called Alaskite. Full production of about five million tons of uranium ore a year was reached in 1979.

But it has lost its position as one of RTZ's star performers, largely due to the current depression in the uranium market. Rossing is one of the largest producers in the world.

Ronging's share of RTZ's group profit was about 26 per cent in 1982, but has been averaging less than half that for the past year, according to company figures.

However, the main cause of criticism of Rossing's operations is the fact that the mine is in SWA-Namibia. Rossing has the subject of an intense campaign carried on in Britain and elsewhere. When the SWA-Namibian government got upset over Rossing and its company, it decided to cancel all SWA-Namibia uranium contracts.

In response to the criticism, the company has offered to improve its facilities and operations. They have provided good wages and housing, eliminated migrant contracts and provided enviable social amenities and health facilities — as well as job training and promotion opportunities for its mostly black workers.

It funds the country's principal centre for adult education, a much-needed facility in SWA-Namibia, through the Rossing Foundation. In other words, it has tried to adapt the stance of a non-political company which is a good citizen of SWA-Namibia, no matter who controls the government.

"The fact that we are in SWA-Namibia in 1978, the residential limits become blurred."

The right of the new company to live in a town depends on a worker's income. Anytown, a "manufactured" town in the middle of the Namib, is for the lowest grades, and is almost exclusive for blacks. It boasts clean modern homes as well as tennis courts and wages and work regimes, said to be dreadful. But nowadays, Rossing pays wages that are handsome by local standards and the company housing is neat and comfortable.

The housing was originally divided into three towns, each for blacks, coloureds and whites. When the Group Areas Act was dropped in SWA-Namibia in 1978, the residential limits become blurred.

"A think it's a good idea for the miners to find a good home in the mining industry."

"In the early years of Rossing's operation, criticism focused on the housing conditions, said to be dreary. And on
Legend became world's biggest uranium mine

that no one is exposed to excessive radiation. It seemed like an inexorable trend to nuclear power by the world's industrialized nations.

Rossing began exploration work in the Namib in the early 1970s. Production was delayed by technical problems caused by the unexpected hardness of the granite-like ore called Alaskite. Full production of about five million tons of uranium ore a year was reached in 1979. But it has lost its position as one of RTZ's star performers, largely due to the current depression in the uranium market, which is managed by Minrex Ltd., a company run by Colin Macaulay, who was interviewed in an article that appeared in the December issue of The Economist.

Rossing, now Swakopmund, has provided good wages and housing for its employees and provided enviable social amenities and health facilities. It is one of the reasons we try harder. During the early years of Rossing's operation, the company suffered from the housing conditions, said to be dreary, and on wages and work regimes, said to be dreadful. But nowadays, Rossing pays wages that are handsome by local standards and the company housing is neat and comfortable.

The housing was originally divided into three townships, each for blacks, coloureds and whites. But when the Group Areas Act was dropped in SWA-Namibia in 1978, the residential limits became blurred.

The right to live in a town depends on a worker's income. Arandis, a "manufactured" town in the middle of the Namib, is for the lowest grades, and is almost exclusively black. It boasts clean and modern homes as well as tennis courts and a club which is a social centre.

A senior Swapo member said in an interview recently that he had been Arandis and was impressed with the quality of life there.

Rossing officials say that Swappo's attitude to the company is not as in public as it is in private. Mr Macaulay said in an interview at the company's Windhoek headquarters, "It's one of the reasons we try harder."

"After independence I think we will be encouraged to expand," Mr. Macaulay said. "When a new government comes in, they will be short of revenue: and as for what we have behaved, no one will be able to say we got away with something." — Sapa - RNS.
10% of SA budget for SWA, says Prof.

CAPE TOWN. — South Africa was spending nearly 10% of its annual budget on South West Africa — twice as much as it was spending on education — Professor Wolfgang Thomas of the University of the Western Cape said last night.

This, among other factors, was making it more advantageous for South Africa to withdraw from South West Africa, he said.

"It seems to me that at the moment South Africa is increasingly finding it to its advantage to move out of Namibia," Prof. Thomas said at the University of Cape Town's Summer School.
The truth is that we can’t afford SWA

By BRIAN POTTINGER

BEYOND the diplomatic explanations surrounding the latest SWA-Namibian settlement drive lies a simple reality — South Africa can no longer afford to have Namibia as a separate development, taken seriously, is fearfully expensive.

And ignoring South Africa’s Third World realities for decades has made it even more so. If the choice has to be made — as Prime Minister A. W. Botha put it succinctly three weeks ago — it is South Africa’s interests which will come first. Hence the peace initiative.

That not settlement would immediately release huge amounts of money for domestic consumption. The military machine would cost as much as it would relatively modest terms in terms of GNP, and at least some South African aid to underdeveloped Namibia would continue.

Flashpoints

But there would be a “peace dividend” serving to relieve some of the enormous pressures on the South African economy. A survey of South Africa’s domestic economic circumstances explained precisely why there is such a desperate need for that dividend.

A constellation of unforeseeable circumstances is missing. The drought, a sluggish gold price, recession, Government budget overspending, inflation, rural development disasters, urbanisation crisis, public service shortages, an unemployment figure hovering around the two-million mark, a near exponential tax hike and the costs of a new constitution are the stars.

The crunch is now and the immediate flashpoints can be reeled off like a roll of battle-grounding treads. Rural development has suffered since Verwoerd’s days because of ideological constraints. Money was used to buy up consolidation land, much of which, a former Deputy Minister of Lands development disarmingly admitted, had not contributed to the housing of the GNP of the homelands by one half of one percent.

Local reports published recently on homestead-develop- ment strategies have revealed the skeletal hiding behind the separate-development cloak.

Most recent was a Caskel report which found that only 23 percent of the economically active population of the state could make a living from farming while creation of industrial jobs sufficient to trap the unemployment would cost more than the entire annual Caskel budget.

Partly as a response to this sort of crushing odds has come the Government’s regional development policy for rural stabilisation; cross-border development areas, a massive industrial decentralisation scheme and the establishment of a Southern African Development Bank.

The scheme is enormously expensive — the long run nobody quite seems to know.

Dazzled

In 1982 there were 777 investment applications involving R2 500-million in pledged capital, many from foreign investors dazzled by the extravagant decentralisation incentives.

In the first nine months of last year there were 811 applications. Last year’s incentives budget ran R230-million. And, with the new claims rolling in, a quantum leap in the State’s debt is unavoidable.

There is the urbanisation crisis. Sombre Community Development reports in 1982 revealed that the homesteaded was more than 400 000 units.

Wiping it out would cost perhaps R1 500 million. The solution would be to take five years to accommodate whites, coloureds and Indians.

The crisis was a long time coming and sprang largely from the Government’s refusal to match Third World problems with Third World strategies. Belatedly and at infinitely higher cost it has now bowed to the self-evident.

Expensive

New Government housing strategies revolve around shifting the burden from State shoulders; half a million State housing units are on the market; self-help, site-and-service, new housing and controlled squattings upgrading, once sworn enemies, are now eagerly accepted by the State urban planner.

The informal economic sector — once described in administration board circulars as “an urban menace” — has belatedly sprung to official prominence as a way of handling part of the urban unemployment crisis.

The strategies are those of survival but still they are frighteningly expensive given the scale of the crisis. And, a third obvious target for the “peace dividend” is education and skills training. Both are the lifeblood of economic development in South Africa. Past ideologically inspired failures in the direction of brisk education and skills training now exact their expensive toll.

Money is needed to pay the huge bills back home.

The HSRC report on education estimated two years ago that the backlog in black, coloured and Indian school places was 1 563 748 at primary level and 282 831 at secondary level.

The cost to wipe out the backlogs would be R1 500 million, and that does not even include the enormous costs of calculating training and pay standards.

Recent reports indicate the enormous shortage of skilled personnel is 75 000.

In the past five years State expenditure on black education has jumped astronomically to keep pace with an equally overwhelming increase in the school-going population, but is still running at approximately one-eighth that spent on white pupils.

The results are easily seen. Between 50 and 60 percent of black pupils leave before Std 2. Last year half of the black matriculants failed and only 12 percent won university entrance.

TheGovernment’sresponsehasagainbeen to try to shift the burden. Businius, is more closely involved in training of labour and is even upgrading its training programs to provide black matriculants with the basic educational capacities for competition in the open skills market.

Stunning

Higher-income groups — predominantly white — will meanwhile be called upon to bear a heavier financial burden when it comes to educating their children.

A fourth pressing economic reality, South African agriculture — traditionally a mainstay of the economy — has been devastated by three years of drought. By the end of June 1983 the agricultural debt stood at R1 500-million. By the middle of this year the annual interest cost alone will reach a stunning R1 000-million, eating up 46 percent of farmers’ income.

Last year alone the Government paid out R71-million in drought relief. An addition of R400 million has been appropriated, and Finance Minister Owen Horwood has warned that emergency assistance to farmers will have to continue for many years to come.

A global sum needed to bail out farmers in the next two years compiled by a Johannesburg consultancy firm was a cool R3 100-million.

Indispensable

Fifthly, lies the future of third-tier Government. If SWA-Namibia taught anything it revealed the bottomless financial chasm of inefficient and unmonitored ethnic authorities can become.

Constitutional planners assure that they are learning by Namibia’s mistakes, but the R400 million is just the tip of the iceberg.

It is not the immediate visible costs — the millions for expanded State accommodation or the approximately R17-million a year for legislators salary packages — but rather the “legitimacy capital” that is needed.

Pretoria by now realises that the mere creation of institutions does not guarantee legitimacy. That must be won by a combination of enlightened leadership and hard material gains for the communities.

So coloured and Indian housing and education, social-splittment programmes, better welfare grants and rural stabilisation in the homelands become not a by-product of the new political process but its indispensable soul.

For South Africa a new and tougher front is opening up not the swaying fortunes of the Namibian politico-military war but the battle to meet unrealistic and ever rising domestic expectations at a time of economic crisis and after years of ideological misdirection.
Claims over SWA gem giant are ‘unfounded’

By TONY WEAVER
Mail Africa Bureau
ORANJEMUND. — "Wild and reckless" allegations which are "totally unfounded" have been made against South West Africa's diamond mining giant, CDM, the company's resident director, Mr Doug Hofs, said late last week.

CDM is the former Consolidated Diamond Mines. The name has now been officially abbreviated.

Mr Hofs was commenting on allegations that CDM was "plundering" the territory's diamonds, and adopting a "scorched earth" policy, stripping the desert of its diamond resources in anticipation of independence.

He was answering questions from a group of journalists who were taken on an extensive, two-day tour of the mine — the first Press tour in five years.

Commenting on allegations by millionaire and independentombudsman Mr Eric Lang, that CDM's policy was one of "raping" the diamond reserves, Mr Hofs said: "This is a typically wild and reckless statement."

Mr Lang had also alleged that the CDM was selling its diamonds below market value through its parent company De Beers to avoid paying full tax.

Asked why he did not take up Mr Lang's challenge of a public debate between the two men on the diamond industry, Mr Hofs said: "We are a private company, we owe nothing to him. He is not the Auditor-General, he is not the Administrator-General, he is nothing."

He also accused Mr Lang of using "informers" to gain his information on CDM, and of "committing industrial sabotage" in gathering information on the company.

The diamond mining operations of CDM, as of other mining houses operating in the territory, will soon be the subject of scrutiny in an inquiry into corruption by Mr Justice C Thirion, who has been investigating corruption and abuse in the ethnic authorities.

It is believed Mr Lang has supplied the commission with extensive information, particularly on CDM.

Commenting on how he saw the future of CDM after SWA independence, Mr Hofs said: "We are a company I think Swapec will have no trouble with, in that we show no discrimination. We are trying our best to lift Namibians into positions of senior management."

He also said allegations made recently that CDM was stockpiling diamonds to "destabilise" the market should the company be nationalised after independence bore "no relation to the truth".
More cases of fraud herald a shake-up

By DAVID PIETERS

WINDHOEK — A further six volumes of reports detailing "misapplication" of state funds in Namibia were released this week.

The latest by the Thirion Commission on government mispending heralds the imminent bureaucratic shake-up that the Administrator-General, Dr Willie van Niekerk, is to make soon in the maze of ethnic administrations.

Two reports, on the Ovamboland and Herero administrations, were publicly released last year.

The latest three reports — two volumes each — deal with the same ethnic authorities as well as the Tswana, Kavango, Caprivian administrations, and two central government departments, State Revenue and the Auditor-General.

Dr van Niekerk has already handed them to the Attorney-General, Mr Tielman Louw, for possible court action.

Besides the scores of deficiencies listed in the earlier reports, the latest reports threaten other officials.

Dealing with Ovamboland's administration, the latest reports find that "the chairman of the executive committee, Mr Peter Kanaapua, has been unjustly enriched to the extent of R9 495 at the expense of the Ovamboland administration and that he is liable to compensate the administration this sum".

Also liable, the report says, are the former director of works, Mr Frederick de Villiers — he was suspended soon after the commission began — and another administrative employee.

"As a result of the fraud committed by Mr de Villiers and Mr Human the Ovamboland administration has suffered a loss of R14 172."

On the Herero administration the report makes the startling disclosure that the authority's 1982/3 budget of R15 976 000 was exceeded by R15 521 788.

The reports add that outstanding claims against the administration from various other government sectors total R8.7 million.

The commission says that the executive committee and the administration secretary must take "a large part of the blame for the over-expenditure."

Firefighting was part of an inter-school youth preparedness competition at the central sports complex in Randburg yesterday. Seven high schools took part in emergency exercises, including first aid. The overall winner was Bryamston High School.

Picture: DOUG LEE

Author held

By FRED GORR

WINDHOEK — Police are seeking a writer of an article that they say is libellous.

Lawyers have been trying to reach a banned writer, Mr Rossing, and he was Proclaimed missing by the police last week.
Swafish hauls a big rise in earnings

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — South West Africa Fishing Industries (Swafish) has comfortably lived up to its forecast last September of a big rise in earnings in 1983.

But Swafish says it would be "optimistic" to expect a further improvement in 1984.

The directors also warn again of the "tremendous damage to our pelagic resource as a result of the onslaught by the large foreign fleet operating off our coast, which is reliably estimated at over 150 vessels."

The group increased net taxed profit to R4,009m last year from R3,398m in 1982.

Dividend
The final dividend has been hiked from 50c to 70c to make a total payment for the year of 100c against the previous 70c.

Earnings a share, excluding extraordinary items, were 155c against 106c in 1982.

In September last year Swafish forecast earnings for 1983 of around 150c and this prediction has obviously been more than met.

Swafish is involved in crayfishing, the catching and processing of pelagic fish into canned fish, fish meal and fish oil as well as the marketing of white fish and the recovery and distribution of salt.

Tiger Oats, part of the Barlow Rand group, has 26.3 percent of the equity and Willem Barends has 16 percent.

Profit
In 1983 pre-tax profit of Swafish rose to R9,432m from R6,944m in 1982.

Net earnings last year were helped by the fact that there was no provision for losses from the Chilean fishing venture where R200,000 was written off on that score in the previous year.

The directors say the higher profits in 1983 were due to three main factors:

- A slight increase in the pilchard quota, resulting in higher canned fish production.
- A substantial rise in catches of other species of pelagic fish, with a corresponding improvement in both meal and oil output.
- Favourable lobster landings in Luderitz.

Looking at this year's prospects the directors say: "It will be recalled that last year we had no difficulty in landing our entitlement of approximately 14,000 tons of good quality pilchards, which yielded over 770,000 cartons canned fish.

"Our fish intake was also boosted by substantial hauls of "quota free" massbankers.

"It would be foolhardy at this stage to try and prophesy as to whether we will be so favoured in the coming season.

Fleet
"We are pleased to report that our fishing fleet has been strengthened by the addition of two steel refrigerated sea-water vessels, bought on the European market."
Authority's budget was overspent by R15,5m

WINDHOEK — The Herero Ethnic Authority in SWA/Namibia has overspent by R15 531 million its total budget of R19 576 million for the 1982/83 financial year, the Thirion Commission of Inquiry says in its latest interim report released in Windhoek yesterday.

No authority was given by the Treasury to exceed the budget by 79.33%.

The commission, chaired by Mr Justice P W Thirion of Natal, said the Herero Administration had deliberately exceeded its budget in the knowledge that the Central Government would not allow the second-tier authority to become bankrupt.

"Not only is it irresponsible conduct, but a disturbing development," the judge found.

Among the irregularities uncovered in the expenditure were the purchase of a hotel at Okahandja by the Herero Administration, the building of a residence for the Herero leader, Mr Kusima Hirsuko, and an increase in salaries paid to Mr Hirsuko, headmen and members of the Legislative Assembly.

Records in the personnel section and the Social Pensions Department were in "chaos".

Among the commission's recommendations were that legislation be tightened to enable the Department of Finance in the Central Government to exercise control over expenditure of the second-tier authorities.

The commission also found there had been similar disorders in the section for social pensions in the Ethnic Authority for Kavango where monthly pensions were made on the basis of "false" and "fictitious" identities.

In the Tswana Administration, Mr Justice Thirion found unauthorised and unnecessary land had been acquired for communal purposes.

In a media statement accompanying the reports, the Administrator-General of SWA/Namibia, Dr Willie van Nickerk, said the interim reports had been handed to the Attorney-General for his consideration. — Sapa
WINDHOEK — Police in SWA/Namibia were hoping to complete investigations next week concerning a British national, Mr. Richard Alun Roberts, a police spokesman said in Windhoek yesterday.

Mr. Roberts was detained on February 25 in terms of Security Proclamation AG 9 after a visit to the Rossing uranium mine near Swakopmund, where he allegedly took certain photographs and obtained a number of confidential documents.

Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, a British Foreign Office Under-Secretary, has said South African authorities have indicated that Mr. Roberts would be either charged or deported after the investigation.

Mr. Roberts, a mineralogist, is the author of the book "Rossing File," which details British uranium purchases from Rio Tinto-Zinc, the holding company of Rossing Uranium. — Sapa
WINDHOEK — Namibia would be “condemned to Third-World penury” unless a political settlement encouraged the development of a much larger minerals industry, the outgoing president of the Namibian Chamber of Mines, Mr Bob Meiring, said last night.

In his report to the annual general meeting of the chamber in Windhoek, Mr Meiring said the level of external exploration investment in the territory was far below what the mineral potential of Namibia deserved.

“Only a political settlement based on principles which will attract the capital and skills infusion required to develop a much larger minerals industry will save the country from being condemned to Third-World penury,” he said.

Namibia’s mining industry had been forced to adopt a policy of financial restraint as the predicted recovery in the world’s major industrial nations had failed to materialise, he said.

Total employment in the mining industry had fallen by 13.6 percent to 16 993, while total salaries and wages had declined by 4.2 percent.
One group of people I met in Queensland were farmers who had been through a drought. They were living on a small farm near Townsville, one of the worst affected areas. Their crops had failed, and they were struggling to make ends meet. However, despite the hardship, they remained resilient and hopeful for the future.

The drought had a profound impact on the local community. Many families lost their livelihoods, and there were widespread food shortages. The government provided some relief in the form of food assistance, but this was not enough to sustain the population for long.

In the midst of this adversity, there was a sense of solidarity and support among the farmers. They shared what little they had with each other, and this helped to keep their spirits up. Despite the challenges, they continued to work hard, hoping that the rain would return.

One day, as I stood with the farmers and listened to their stories, a ray of hope appeared on the horizon. It was a sign of the end of the drought, and it brought a wave of relief to everyone present. The rain had returned, and with it came a sense of hope and renewal.

From this experience, I came away with a newfound appreciation for the strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity. The farmers' resilience and determination were an inspiration to all who witnessed it.
Wide use of ICL systems keeps Rossing output high

The activities of Rossing Uranium in Namibia have proved so successful since the opencast mine started 18 years ago that it now extracts a million tons of ore and waste rock weekly.

It capacity is 5,000 tons of uranium oxide a year, the final product being exported to many countries for use as a fuel in nuclear power stations.

A mining operation on this scale needs the use of information technology in most areas and, despite the remoteness of the site in the Namib Desert, competition to obtain the business was keen.

The company chose ICL because, it said, it offered the best solutions and could give quick support from the nearby capital of Windhoek.

Now installed are three ME29 mainframes, a network of 95 DRS systems, 8801 word processors and a PERQ graphic workstation.

They run applications for personnel, non-stock ordering and receiving, payroll, tender analysis, material supply, general ledger, creditors, maintenance costing, fixed assets, medical aid, short-term mine planning and metallurgical systems.

Rossing also pioneered with ICL the implementation of planned maintenance. This includes preventive maintenance on every piece of equipment used by the mine.

The planned maintenance application also deals with inventory, pre-defined maintenance and full historic details of the work done and condition of all plants.

The mine plans by the end of the year to have the PERQs on an OSLAN for plotting and planning.

Rossing’s DP superintendent, Mr Jack Brear, says the company has had excellent service from the configuration of triple ME29s.

“As our systems are now exceeding the capacity we are looking towards a transition to VME. As an interim measure we may upgrade the three computers to models ME29/64 so that we can safeguard our investment in a number of new major systems.

“The new mainframe systems will be based around on-line database technology and we anticipate using the facilities of CAFS to enable user access to extensive history files,” he says.

December this year will see the end of a three-year project in which some 75 man-years of systems work will be completed, with the installation of 10 major new systems and the on-line network expanding from 30 terminals and six printers to more than 100 DRS terminals and 35 printers.”
Think-tank ponders SWA survival strategy

By TONY WEAVER
Mail Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK. — One of the most thorough-going attempts yet to salvage SWA's ruined economy was launched on Wednesday as a wide spectrum of government bodies, academics and representatives of the private sector gathered in Windhoek for a two-day conference on social and economic development.

The conference will draw up a coordinated development strategy to move the territory away from its high dependence on imports and salvage an economy in its worst state ever, according to experts.

The territory exports roughly 75% of what it produces and imports 75% of its needs.

Opening the conference, the Administrator General, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said SWA had registered an average negative growth rate of -1.5% between 1976 and 1983. SA had an average 2.5% positive growth rate in the same period.

Insecurity and the erosion of capital and investments had caused many to leave the country, especially skilled workers who were best equipped to find jobs elsewhere.

SA was working as fast as possible to solve the SWA deadlock and resolve the problems.

"It would be understandable if people, especially in the business world, lost patience with the evident dawdling over the independence process, especially when taken in conjunction with the detrimental economic and social results.

"In this respect, it is much more important that the right solution be found, even if it does take longer. The wrong solution could lead to the present condition of uncertainty being made permanent, with detrimental consequences which could continue for an indeterminate period."

Progress in the political arena was slow because SA wanted to ensure that a new dispensation would ensure speedy economic development.

"Capitalism, or the free-enterprise system, as opposed to socialism, is the real producer of blessings. This has been proved over and over again in world history," Dr Van Niekerk said.
SWA rail link with Botswana?

From TONY WEAVER

WINDHOEK. — Work started this week on a R1.6-billion project to link Serowe, Botswana, with Walvis Bay, 1,000km to the west, the Windhoek Observer reported at the weekend.

The project could spark off an international controversy, as it is being commissioned by Botswana, a frontline state which according to the Observer has the approval of the World Bank, and will end up in Walvis Bay, which is claimed by South Africa as a South African enclave in violation of United Nations decrees.

According to the report, the leader of a British team of consulting engineers doing a feasibility study on the link, Mr Brian Green, said the only factor which could now wreck the 10-year project would be a "sudden slump in the demand for coal in the world markets".

Contract

The three-man British team was in SWA/Namibia and is now in Botswana's Kalahari Desert, on contract to the Botswana Ministry of Mining Resources.

This makes Botswana the first independent African country — and member of the frontline states — to openly invest in pre-independence SWA/Namibia, in spite of United Nations embargoes on such investment.

Mr Green was quoted by the Observer as saying the massive amount involved — estimated at R1.6-billion — required the co-operation of both territories, and they had had excellent co-operation from South African authorities in SWA/Namibia.

The planned rail system will have to carry 6,000 tons of coal a day from Serowe, and the present rail system to which it will be linked will need restructuring, with several bridges being replaced.

The Observer, which carried a photograph of the British team, reported that the project had been given the go-ahead by the World Bank and "other powerful financial institutions and a number of governments".

Deep-sea wharf

The Observer also speculated that the project would involve the construction of a deep-sea loading wharf at Walvis Bay.

A separate British team had inspected Walvis Bay's facilities, taken depth-soundings in the bay and seemed interested in that location off Walvis Bay's Pelican Point as a wharf.

The disclosures in the Observer could spark off an embarrassing situation for the British Government, who are part of the Western five "contact group", and who do not recognize South Africa's claim to Walvis Bay.

Although the rail link, which will stretch in an arc from Serowe, north of the Omurana Mountains which lie due east of Windhoek, and then east Okahandja, 70km north of Windhoek, to Walvis Bay, will pass through SWA/Namibia, most of the dock revenues will go to South Africa.
Namibian Budget raises sales tax, mine taxes

WINDHOEK. — Namibian sales tax will increase to nine percent from a current seven percent, effective July 1, and the diamond mines effective tax rate to 55 percent from 50 for fiscal 1983, the Administrator-General, Mr Willie van Niekerk, said.

He said in the Budget speech for the fiscal year ending next March 31, total spending was budgeted to rise to R1.88 billion from R1.04 billion in fiscal 1984.

Mr Van Niekerk said the sales tax increase would apply on all goods, except unsifted maize meal, standard brown bread and fresh full cream milk which were subject to subsidies and controlled prices.

He said the tax rates on diamond mines in the territory had always been higher than in South Africa but a recent increase in the surcharge on diamond taxes in South Africa had given an effective rate there of 54 percent.

Mr Van Niekerk said the Namibian economy shrank by a real seven percent last year, the sharpest fall since the 1930s, which was part of a long-term tendency begun in 1978.

He said the decline in the Namibian economy had been worsened by the world-wide recession and drought, which had been relieved by good rains of the past rainy season.

He said income on the existing income tax basis totalled R967m, which left a deficit of R210m. It was intended to borrow R180m on the South African and overseas capital markets.
Higher taxes blow for De Beers mine in SWA

By BRENDAN RYAN

JOHANNESBURG. — The tax increases slapped on Consolidated Diamond Mines (CDM) by the SWA/Namibia government could shorten the life of the De Beers-controlled beach mining operation.

CDM's resident director, Mr Doug Hoffs, said in Windhoek on Wednesday that the higher the taxes levied on CDM the greater the areas of mining ground which became unpayable.

He said this trend was compounded by continued high working costs caused by inflation.

A CDM spokesman said yesterday it was too early to say precisely how the tax increase would affect the economic viability of the mine's future operations.

The diamond mining tax imposed on CDM was increased to 55 percent from 50 percent in this week's SWA/Namibian Budget for the year to March 31.

At the same time general sales tax was raised to nine percent from seven percent.

Mr Hoffs said that without taking into account the increase in general sales tax the total tax to be paid in 1984 by CDM will rise to about 75 percent of profits which he regarded as excessive.

CDM's previous total tax rate was about 68 percent.

The company does not disclose its earnings but it is a wholly-owned subsidiary of De Beers and the group's only operation in SWA/Namibia.

Operations

The 1983 De Beers annual report showed that its SWA/Namibian operations contributed 14 percent of group taxed profits — excluding share of retained profits of associates — of R380.1m which puts CDM's earnings for the year to end-December at about R50m.

CDM is taxed in a number of ways by the SWA/Namibia government. It must pay a 15 percent diamond profits tax in advance on estimated profits.

It then pays a 55 percent diamond mining tax against which the diamond profits tax is deducted so the combined effective rate is 55 percent.

In addition CDM pays diamond export duty of 10 percent on the sales value of all diamonds exported from the country.

This tax has particularly incensed CDM's management because it is a tax on revenue and productivity, as opposed to profits.

Mr Hoffs has called for its abolition saying the tax is wrong in principle and works against motivation for greater productivity.

Export duty is also applied to South African diamond mines but at a rate of 15 percent.

De Beers provides no detailed information on the financial performances of its various mines.

However, in the last three years of diamond market depression some mines, through the export duty, could have been paying tax while actually losing money on their operations.

CDM sells its diamonds to the Central Selling Organisation (CSO) through the Diamond Producers Association in South Africa. It pays a commission to the CSO on these sales but cannot deduct this from the sales revenue on which the export duty is levied.

The CDM spokesman declined to say how much commission the CSO levied on purchases from CDM.
Namibian diamond trade: ‘No control’

Argus Africa News Service

WINDHOEK. — SWA/Namibia’s priceless diamond treasure is being traded, swapped and stockpiled on foreign shores with no effectively independent state supervision, a government investigator has told a judicial inquiry here.

The investigator, Mr. Martin Grote, yesterday spoke of diamond deals involving hundreds of millions of rand which he claimed had simply been rubber-stamped by state and semi-state officials.

Mr. Grote, an economist specially appointed to the Thirion commission of inquiry into government maladministration, called for the dissolution of the Diamond Board — a body of representatives from government and the diamond industry set up to monitor production of the precious stones.

DELEGATED

The board had no impartial control over diamond exports because it had delegated its control functions to agents of the producer, De Beers and its SWA/Namibian subsidiary, CDM (Pty) Ltd, Mr. Grote said.

The interests of De Beers and the board seemed identical, he added.

Mr. Grote recommended the establishment of a minerals bureau, responsible to the Department of Mines, in place of the board.

A series of disclosures, he claimed, had evidence suggesting:

- A R53-million package of diamonds was sent overseas duty-free for "sorting" in 1962, and that it returned with a "sorting loss" of 33 carats.
- A years-old "swopping" scheme between De Beers and CDM, in which packages of up to 300,000 carats of Namibia's high-quality stones were regularly exchanged for equal weights of diamonds from the South African company.
- The Diamond Board had no comparative records of quality, quantity or value of the stones involved.
- "Surplus Namibian diamonds, with their unsurpassed 98 percent proportion of gem-quality stones, were stockpiled in London, while the surpluses from all other diamond producers were kept in their countries of origin.

- No government official knew the extent of these stocks, which had been augmented annually by about 70,000 carats from Namibia for several years.
- Namibia’s CDM mine at Oranjemund might be worked out in eight years, in spite of official CDM and independent estimates ranging from 10 to 50 years.

Mr. Grote stressed that much of his research had been based on estimates, because of the lack of official information.

Neither the Diamond Board nor anyone in government seemed to know how much Namibia’s diamonds fetched on the end market.

The American Department of Mines’ annual report was the only official source which could throw some light on Namibian diamond exports, because official estimates suggested that 86 percent of American diamond exports came from Namibia.

A CDM spokesman said yesterday the company would have to study the allegations before deciding on comment.
No one knows how much diamonds fetch

By Peter Honey,
The Star Bureau

WINDHOEK — Namibia's diamond treasure was being traded, swapped and stockpiled in foreign countries with no effectively independent State supervision, a government investigator told a judicial enquiry in Windhoek yesterday.

The investigator, Mr Martin Grote, spoke of diamond deals involving hundreds of millions of rand which, he claimed, had simply been rubber-stamped by State and quasi-State officials.

Mr Grote, an economist appointed to the Thrton Commission of Inquiry into Government Maladministration, called for the dissolution of the Diamond Board — a body of representatives from government and the diamond industry set up to monitor production of the stones.

The board had no impartial control over diamond exports because it had delegated its control functions to agents of the producers — De Beers and its Namibian subsidiary, CDM (Pty) Ltd, Mr Grote said.

The interests of De Beers and the board seemed identical, he added.

In a series of startling disclosures, he claimed to have evidence suggesting:

- That a R55 million package of diamonds was sent overseas duty-free for "sorting" in 1982 and that it returned with a "sorting loss" of 89 carats.

- That there was a years-old "swapping" scheme between De Beers and CDM in which packages of up to 380 000 carats of Namibia's high quality stones were regularly exchanged for equal weights of diamonds from the South African company. The Diamond Board had no comparative records of quality, quantity or value of the stones involved.

- That surplus Namibian diamonds, with their unsurpassed 98.8 percent proportion of gem quality stones, were stockpiled in London while the surpluses from all other diamond producers were kept in their countries of origin. No government official knew the extent of these stocks which had been augmented annually by about 70 000 carats from Namibia for several years.

- Namibia's CDM mine at Oranjemund might have worked out in eight years despite official CDM and independent estimates ranging from 10 to 80 years.

Mr Grote stressed that much of his research had been based on estimates because of the lack of official information.

Neither the Diamond Board nor anyone in government seemed to know how much Namibia's diamonds fetched on the world market.

The US Department of Mines' annual report was the only official source which could throw some light on Namibian diamond exports because official estimates suggested that 88 percent of American diamond exports came from Namibia.

From 1955 to 1977, there were few discrepancies between CDM's production estimates and the final figures submitted to the State.

But, from 1978, there was evidence — based on American imports — that Namibian diamonds were fetching up to R241 per carat more than their locally quoted prices.

CDM paid additional taxes twice a year, based on income it received over an above its provisional production estimates.

IMPOSSIBLE

But, Mr Grote said he could not understand how this additional income was calculated because it seemed impossible to distinguish where the diamonds had come from once they had been mixed with stones from other countries on the international market.

The diamonds passed through several associations, agents and companies en route to the open market. They were also sold through companies registered in the Bermudas.

There was no proof of transfer pricing, where companies in tax havens could absorb profits which otherwise would have accrued directly to the producers resulting in higher taxes in the country of production, Mr Grote said.

The hearing continues today.
Sales of R1 billion could have been lost

By Peter Honey,
The Star Bureau

WINDHOEK — Namibia could have lost up to R1 000 million in taxable diamond sales in five years because of inadequate State supervision, according to evidence yesterday before a judicial inquiry in Windhoek.

An investigator for the Thirion Commission of Inquiry into State Maladministration, Mr Martin Grote, said he had calculated diamond prices abroad which totalled about R100 million or more higher than figures quoted locally each year between 1978 and 1981.

But these were only estimates as the only international diamond price source was the annual review of the American Department of Mines which imported about 80 percent of its stones from Namibia.

According to his calculations, the territory had a potential loss in diamond production of R549 million in 1980 and 1981.

Mr Grote was giving evidence on the second day of the commission's current sitting which, so far, has highlighted several allegations concerning the quasi-State Diamond Board's inability to exercise independent control over the territory's diamond industry.

Mr Justice P W Thirion, who heads the commission, complained of a veil of secrecy and red tape which was hindering the commission's investigations.

The commission was currently confronted with "smoke-screens", he said, and he was "sick and tired of asking people's permission all the time".

At one stage, the chairman of the Diamond Board, Professor Petrus Malherbe, said he doubted whether the commission had a legal right to access to some of the board's documents.

The judge had ordered one of his commissioners, accompanied by a policeman, to inspect the files and reports of the Diamond Board yesterday.

He described the board as a "double-headed sausage-dog" which appeared always to be serving the interests of both the State and De Beers.

Professor Malherbe told the commission that the board — which had been set up between the State and the industry — had several agents and evaluators in Southern Africa and in London but they were all employees of either De Beers or its Namibian subsidiary, CDM (Pty) Ltd.

In earlier evidence the commission was told by Mr Grote that sample consignments of diamonds sent abroad in 1981 showed that 49 percent of the Namibian diamonds had gone to Lucerne in Switzerland.

The Diamond Board had no knowledge of this because it had no agent in Switzerland and no one appeared to know where the stones, valued at R30 million, had gone.

Professor Malherbe said he believed Lucerne had only been a destination en route to London where the diamonds would have been marketed.

But Mr Grote said there was no evidence of this.

The hearing continues.
CDM letter ‘an insult to lowliest intelligence’

By Peter Honey, The Star Bureau

WINDHOEK — In a day of high drama at Namibia’s Thirion Commission yesterday, the executive director of the territory’s CDM diamond mining giant, Mr Doug Hoffer, came under fire from the commission’s chairman, Mr Justice P W Thirion.

Mr Justice Thirion described as “an insult to even the lowliest form of intelligence” a CDM letter to the commission contesting allegations that Namibia could have missed out on revenue from the sale of about R1 000 million worth of diamonds in five years.

Mr Hoffer, who was sitting in the gallery with his legal counsel, heard the commissioner describe CDM’s submission as “not very interesting”.

Earlier the commission, which was appointed about two years ago to investigate allegations of Government maladministration, accepted an urgent application by CDM to have certain documents relating to diamond sales classified as confidential.

This week, a special investigator for the commission, Mr Martin Grote, said he had calculated that about R1 billion worth of Namibian diamonds could have been sold abroad without the territory earning a cent in revenue.

CALCULATED

Mr Grote said he had calculated this on the basis of American diamond prices, as there were no public records of diamond values anywhere else.

In his letter, Mr Hoffer contested this evidence, saying it was unfounded and detrimental to both CDM and Namibia.

“I have read the submission and it was not very interesting,” was Mr Justice Thirion’s comment, as he flicked the letter aside.

“It contains the outline of the history of the industry, and extracts from the Greelf Commission (into the diamond industry in 1972).

“In his submission this gentleman (Mr Hoffer) rejects Mr Grote’s calculations as unfounded and detrimental to the company and the country.

“It seems this gentleman’s arguments are based on newspaper reports. But as far as I am concerned, Mr Grote’s evidence was an exercise based on facts. The gentleman should have attempted to dispute Mr Grote’s evidence with facts.

“A bald rejection and denial of the sort contained in this submission is an insult to even the lowliest form of intelligence,” the judge concluded.

DEFENDED

Earlier, the chairman of the diamond board, a body made up of members of Government and the industry to supervise Namibia’s diamond sales, Professor Petrus Malherbe, defended the industry.

There had been a number of negative Press reports, he said, which had done “enormous harm” to the country.

Mr Justice Thirion interrupted at this point, saying the issue was whether the country had received the correct amount of taxes due to it.

Earlier the commission had commented on a veil of secrecy surrounding several aspects of government in Namibia.

The commission was appointed to investigate allegations of corruption and maladministration in government only, and could not extend its investigation into Namibia’s mining industry as a whole.

The chief investigator for the commission, Mr Abraham Visser, said a memorandum regarding the commission’s progress would soon be submitted to the Administrator General.

The commission adjourned indefinitely.
Row brews over SA proposals to close railway lines

By Peter Hony
Foreign Service

WINDHOEK — A political and economic row is brewing in Namibia over proposals by the South African transport services to close down and demolish railway lines linking the only Namibian port, Luderitz, and two other towns with the territory's rail network.

It is reliably understood that the transport services are considering hitting most of the 300 km rail line between Keetmanshoop and the southern port of Luderitz — the line which was built by the German colonists 75 years ago.

The regional director of transport services, Mr Willie Strauss, yesterday declined to comment or confirm the information. He said the administrator-general would release a statement soon.

The decision to close the three rail links — the others are linked to the eastern farming town of Gobabis and the northern town of Outjo — is expected to be given the go-ahead because they are uneconomical to maintain.

Last year the transport services lost R90-million and had to be bailed out of trouble by the South African Government.

But the closure of the Luderitz line would be a betrayal by government of South Africa's declared policy to prepare Namibia for independence.

The foundation of businessmen, who are trying to protect the interests of the ailing port, says the rail closure would "negate South Africa's declared policy to prepare Namibia for independence".

South Africa had taken over and maintained the line in good order from the German Government after World War I.

In recent years South Africa has developed business incentives for its enclave port of Walvis Bay, to the detriment of the shallow port of Luderitz.

The foundation points out that after independence Luderitz would be Namibia's only sovereign port. Its collapse would leave the country totally dependent on Walvis Bay for its maritime trade.

In a letter to the administrator-general, the foundation calls for a programme to revitalise Luderitz, and reminds the administrator-general of his words of encouragement at the Luderitz centenary celebrations last year.
A judge takes on the mighty gem producers

THEN LEAVES TOWN ABRUPTLY

By DAVID PIETERS
Winbok

he could not obtain access to the board's documents.
It was found, however, that the board's documentation did not differ from that already gathered from the Mining Commissioner's office in Windhoek.
At one stage Mr Justice Thirion remarked that everything surrounding the Diamond Board appeared to be a secret.

"What is the point of a commission when all you get are smoke screens?" he asked.

Earlier Mr Grote had recommended in a report to the commission that the board should be disbanded because it was toothless.
The board did not and could not fulfill its functions while the interests of De Beers, which own CDM, were identical to those of the board.

Essence

The board could not exercise control over Namibia's diamond exports because its most important functions had been delegated to employees of De Beers, Mr Grote submitted.
The board had no inspection facilities, no inspection agent and no inspection staff overseas or inside the country other than CDM employees.

Because independent figures on the pricing of Namibia's diamonds were hard or virtually impossible to come by, inferential statistics had to be used to try to discover if any transfer pricing could have taken place.

Mr Grote testified that during recent years, apparent discrepancies emerged between prices declared locally by De Beers and sales values abroad.

Over five years this meant the state could have lost taxable income on more than R1-billion worth of diamond sales, a loss which could be accounted for by transfer pricing.

Mr Grote said he had always believed all Namibia's diamonds were sent to London.

But he had discovered from confidential documents that 45% of the stones went to Lucerne in Switzerland.

The investigator, Mr Vinner, told the commission after a lengthy cross-examination of Mr Malherbe, that he thought virtually every member of the Diamond Board was a member of CDM or De Beers.

From the minutes of Diamond Board meetings over the past few years, Mr Justice Thirion picked out a number of items which proved embarrassing to the chairman of the board.

It emerged, for example, that there was a growing vendetta by the board against Mr Lang for his incessant investigations into the diamond industry.

During exchanges between Mr Lang and Mr Malherbe some dramatic disclosures of Mr Lang's undercover informants on the diamond mines and in government departments emerged.

The board had done nothing to check his claims that CDM was engaging in over-mining its diamond reserves for the past few years, Mr Lang said.

Substantiate

Nothing had been found to substantiate these allegations, Mr Malherbe countered.

On Thursday the judge described a document by Mr Hoffer, rejecting Mr Grote's findings, as "an insult to even the lowliest form of intelligence".

He said he hoped some corrective action would emanate from the commission's findings reported to the Administrator-General over the past two years.

Justice Thirion acknowledged that the country had gained a lot in taxation from the diamond industry over the years.

But the question remained whether the country had received its full due.

Mr Doug Hoffer... "Inflating" document

Mr P J Malherbe, chairman of the Diamond Board in Namibia, was subjected to a three-way grilling in the witness stand this week.
Silence from De Beers on tax evasion allegations

BY BRENDAN RYAN
Mining Editor

DE BEERS is saying nothing at this stage about the allegations made against its South West African operations during last week's hearings of the Thirion Commission in Windhoek.

Mr Doug Hofte, Consolidated Diamond Mines (CDM) resident director in Windhoek, said at the weekend: "We do not believe any useful purpose would be served in commenting at this stage."

De Beers holds a near-monopoly on the world diamond trade. It is extremely secretive and reveals minimal information on its operations to its shareholders and customers.

It is worried that details of its top-secret quota buying and marketing arrangements could be made public if the commission continues digging into its SWA operation.

The group's Central Selling Organisation (CSO) buys diamonds from world producers, each of which has an annual quota.

In times of depressed markets the CSO will buy diamonds and stockpile them at its own expense up to the quota limit while the producer must stockpile them at its expense over the quota limit.

Publication of CDM’s quota would be of great value for diamond market analysts and the producers themselves in working out the quotas held by other producers.

The Thirion Commission has been looking into government corruption in South West Africa and its hearings last week got onto the Diamond Board which is set up to exercise control over SWA’s diamond exports.

Evidence given to the commission by a special investigator, Mr Martin Grote, said the board could not carry out its role because its most important functions had been delegated to De Beers employees.

As a result, he said, South West African diamonds were being traded and stockpiled in foreign countries with no effective State supervision.

Mr Grote said much of his research had been based on estimates because of the lack of official information, but neither the Diamond Board nor anyone in the government seemed to know how much South West Africa’s diamonds fetched on the end-market.

He said the only figures available locally were the provisional estimates which CDM gave to the board.

Mr Grote said the US Department of Mines’ annual report was the only official source which could throw light on SWA diamond exports because official estimates suggested that 65% of American diamond imports came from SWA.

He said that from 1976 there was evidence, based on the American imports, that SWA diamonds were fetching up to R214 a carat more than their locally quoted prices.

It was possible CDM had understated the selling price of its diamonds by more than R1bn over five years and that SWA had lost the taxes that should have been paid on this amount.

CDM is SWA’s major source of tax revenue. The mine is taxed at a rate of 75% and contributed R942,7m or 36% of SWA’s total tax receipts of R2,6bn over the 10-year period to the 1982/83 fiscal year.

On Thursday, Mr Hofte and four lawyers appeared in the Windhoek Supreme Court and submitted a memorandum to Mr Justice Thirion which rejected Mr Grote’s calculations as unfounded and detrimental to the company and the country.

Mr Justice Thirion said: “The gentleman should have attempted to disprove Mr Grote’s evidence with facts and a bald rejection and denial of the sort contained in this submission is an insult to even the lowest form of intelligence.”
Judge bitter at Namibian diamond corruption probe

By Peter Hugo

The Bittern, 11/17/94
SWA diamond probe — AG will now decide

By PETER KENNY
Mali Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK — The fate of the Thirion Commission into Government corruption in South West Africa will be decided by the Administrator-General, it was learned in Windhoek yesterday.

The commission last week came into open conflict with SWA’s diamond mining industry. Its sittings ended abruptly last Friday, and its chairman, Mr Justice P. W. Thirion, has left the territory.

The chief investigator of the commission, Mr A. G. Visser, said the commission had gone into lengthy recess until October. He said Mr Justice Thirion had completed his report on the SWA Diamond Board.

Last week’s investigation revealed that virtually every official on the Diamond Board was an employee of CDM or De Beers.

A special investigator for the commission, Mr Martin Grote, had recommended the Diamond Board in SWA be scrapped as it could not fulfill its function of controlling the industry.

At the closing of last week’s stormy session, CDM’s chief executive in SWA, Mr Doug Hoff, was rapped over the knuckles by Mr Justice Thirion.

The judge at one stage of last week’s sitting expressed his frustration at the secrecy which surrounded the Diamond Board.

The judge said unless anything unforeseen happened, this might be the last public sitting of the commission. It has washed through a welter of corruption and inefficiency in SWA’s administration.

Mr Visser said it was up to the Administrator-General, Dr Willie van Niekerk, to release Mr Grote’s report.

The Windhoek English daily, The Windhoek Advertiser, said the public had a right to know what was going on in the diamond industry.

It said the CDM had argued that the proceedings on the Diamond Board be held in camera because its competitors might learn about the diamond industry. The CMD, however, had no competitors.

“We know only our diamond producer is also part of the behemoth which, through international institutions such as the Central Selling Organisation, completely dominates the world gemstone market.

“That leaves only the man in the street who, until today, has not been privileged to share in the knowledge of his country’s fantastic gemstone wealth. . . . The public good should outweigh the corporation’s good,” the newspaper said, and called for the commission’s report to be released.
No trade secrets, says CDM

By Peter Honey, The Star Bureau

WINDHOEK — Namibia's financial authorities have on several occasions examined the affairs of Consolidated Diamond Mines and have never suggested improper conduct by the company, a CDM spokesman said today.

Nor had these authorities, which included the Secretary for Finance and the Receiver of Revenue, complained about practices speculated on in the Press, the spokesman added.

He was responding to recent reports on evidence submitted to the Thirion Commission of inquiry into alleged corruption and maladministration in the territory's governments.

According to the evidence by a special investigator for the commission, Namibia could have lost taxes on diamond sales of R1 000 million between 1978 and 1981.

The investigator, Mr Martin Grote, stressed his calculations were speculative, as he had no access to London diamond prices and based his calculations on American price.

INVITED

The CDM today invited the territory's financial inspectors to re-examine its procedures and practices.

The CDM spokesman said its diamonds were sold to the Diamond Producers' Association (DPA), of which both the Namibian Administration and the SA Government were members.

The DPA's chief valuator in Kimberley and its technical adviser in London supervised and approved CDM sales on behalf of the Diamond Board.
Nothing to hide, says CDM

BY BRENDAN RYAN
Mining Editor

CONSOLIDATED Diamond Mines (CDM) has hit back after allegations made against it during last week's hearings of the Thirion Commission in Windhoek.

A statement released yesterday says the affairs of CDM have in the past been examined by, and remain open to, investigation by all the South West African authorities charged with protecting the country's interests.

These authorities include the Secretary for Finance and the Receiver of Revenue.

"These authorities have wide statutory powers of investigation, but have not suggested any improper conduct by CDM, nor in any way have they complained about the practices speculated upon in the Press," the statement says.

"Should the authorities wish, at any time, to re-examine the procedures and practices of CDM, which have been fully explained and accepted in the past, every facility will be made available to them to do so to demonstrate that the affairs of CDM are conducted in a regular and proper manner."

CDM sells its diamonds to the Diamond Producers' Association (DPA), of which the Administration of SWA/Namibia and the South African Government are members.

"The delivery, sorting and valuation of mine production, the stocking of unsaleable goods, the delivery to London of saleable goods, and the sale of CDM diamonds are supervised and approved on behalf of the Diamond Board for South West African by the chief valuator of the DPA in Kimberley and the DPA's technical adviser in London, both of whom are employees of the DPA and duly-accredited agents of the Diamond Board for SWA," the CDM statement says.

In a series of hearings of the Thirion Commission last week, evidence from the commission investigator, Mr Martin Grote, was that the Diamond Board could not carry out its role of exercising independent control over SWA's diamond exports because its most important functions had been delegated to De Beers employees.

He said neither the Diamond Board nor anyone in the SWA government knew what SWA diamonds fetched on the end-market and he called for the immediate disbanding of the board.

He said it was possible that CDM had understated the selling price of its diamonds by more than R1bn over a five-year period, and that SWA had lost the taxes it should have been paid on these sales.

The commission's hearings have now been adjourned indefinitely. In the final hearing, Mr Justice Thirion was critical of CDM's resident director in Windhoek, Mr Doug Hoffe, and also of the chairman of the Diamond Board, Mr Petrus Malherbe.

He was not happy with what he called, "the veil of secrecy" surrounding the diamond industry and described a document submitted by Mr Hoffe in reply to allegations against CDM as "an insult to even the lowest form of intelligence."
Gem giant's pledge to aid probe

By PETER KENNY
Mail Africa Bureau
WINDHOEK — South West Africa's diamond giant, CDM, a wholly-owned subsidiary of De Beers, has pledged to make every facility available for the authorities to examine the procedures of the diamond industry.

The statement follows a probe into the activities of SWA's Diamond Board last week by the Thirlion Commission into Government corruption in SWA...

Findings by a special investigator of the commission, Mr. Martin Grote, last week showed that nearly every official on the Diamond Board was an employee of CDM or De Beers.

The resident director of CDM, Mr. Doug Hofe, said the statement had been made following press reports relating to the price received for diamonds sold by CDM and the amount of taxation paid by CDM.

"We wish to state that the affairs of CDM have in the past been examined by and remained open to investigation by all the SWA/Namibian authorities charged with the duty of protecting the interests of the territory, including the Secretary for Finance and the Receiver of Revenue.

"These authorities have wide statutory powers of investigation but have not suggested any improper conduct by CDM, nor in any way have they complained about the practices speculated upon in the Press," Mr. Hofe said.

He explained that there was an ongoing procedure whereby CDM sold its diamonds to the Diamond Producers Association (DPA), of which the administration of SWA, like the SA Government, was a member.

The delivery, sorting and valuation of mine production, the stocking of non-sellable goods, the delivery to London of sellable goods and the sale of CDM diamonds were supervised and approved on behalf of the Diamond Board by the chief valuator of the DPA in Kimberley and the DPA technical adviser in London.

Both these two were employees of the DPA and duly accredited agents of the Diamond Board for SWA.

"Should the authorities wish at any time to re-examine the procedures and practices of CDM, every facility will be made available to them to demonstrate that the affairs of CDM are conducted in a regular and proper manner," Mr. Hofe said.
Deep water

Coal Railway to Namibia
Botswana Picots Route
Influence

Charbonnages de France (CDF), the nationalised French company, also has Botswana coal prospecting rights. It is said to favour the railway project not only because France's coal reserves are running low but as a means of establishing French influence in the sub-continent. French companies are said to be keen on supplying railway track and Japanese companies are reported to be lobbying to supply locomotives.

Another plus factor for the railway line is Lome II. This convention encourages development in African, Caribbean and Pacific nations by giving them privileged access to the European Economic Community's markets. Botswana, for example, has a 20 000-ton annual beef quota.

Employment

Brian Green, HTM's Kalahari railway project director, says 6 000 people would be employed on construction and 2 000 when the system became operational. About 65 locomotives, costing $125 million at today's prices, and 2 500 trucks would be used. Each 15-ton truck would carry 65 tons of coal, and the feasibility study envisages a 1,4km-long 100-wagon train carrying 65 000 tons of coal. Shell Coal's Kgawe coalfield near Serowe, would be the railway's colliery and the Makgadigadi's Sua Pan.

Water

The railway project's main cost constraint is water. Hydrological and planning aspects of the track are being studied by consultants Kolls & Partners. Cor Jelier, John Burrows, a hydrological expert in Gaborone, says about 60 000 litres a day of water would be needed during construction. Present boreholes in the area can supply only a fraction of this. Mr Jelier envisages a "sea-frogging" solution. Water would be taken by train from Serowe to the working area as the project progressed.

A reservoir would be built every 10km, allowing a 20km stretch to be served. As each stretch was completed, the reservoir would be dismantled and moved to the next site.

Five years

Mr Green says the optimum time for the project construction would be five years. This would enable the best spread of resources of capital and labour and be the most cost-effective. Apart from coal, the line could transport copper-nickel matte from Selebi-Pikwe and soda ash from Sua Pan. Botswana also mines talc and agate in small quantities.
Namibian gas field ‘old news’

Soekor said today it was not aware of a gas field off Luderitz in southern Namibia.

Reacting to Press reports from Windhoek that the gas field had been discovered off Luderitz in Namibian territo-rial waters in the early 1970s, but had been kept secret, a Soekor spokesman said he sus-pected they were referring to the Kudu field.

He said the field was discov-ered in April 1974 by the American Chevron Group at the mouth of the Orange River near Alexander Bay.

The find received extensive publicity at the time, but be-cause the gas was at high pressure it could not be ade-quately tested at that stage.

—Sapa.
Gasfield not viable says SWA official

WINDHOEK — An offshore natural gas field was discovered off the coast near Luderitz in the 1970s, but has not been exploited for economic reasons, the SWA Secretary for Economic Affairs, Mr Piet Kruger, confirmed yesterday.

Mr Kruger was reacting to reports yesterday that the field had not been exploited because of political uncertainty over the future of the disputed territory.

"A gas find was made some years ago, but it has never been properly exploited and the extent of the field has never been determined exactly," Mr Kruger said.

"At the time of the find, it was simply not worth following up."

"This was because of the economic viability and because of the many practical problems involved before the field could be deemed exploitable, not because of political problems," he said.

The news of the field was broken by the member of the white Legislative Assembly for Luderitz, Mr Paul Minnaar, at a public meeting in Keetmanshoop.

Mr Minnaar, who was arguing against the impending closure of the Keetmanshoop-Luderitz rail link, cited the existence of the gas field as a reason for maintaining the rail link.

A spokesman for Soekor was quoted yesterday as saying the corporation did not know about the field.
Row as SA firm gets Ovambo tender

By TONY WEAVER
Mail Africa Bureau
WINDHOEK. — Workers at an Okahandja furniture factory this week voted to switch to a four-day week at lower wages rather than see some of their workmates laid off.

And the workers have asked the owners of the factory to consider suing the Ovambo Government on their behalf because the administration allegedly awarded a tender, which would have pulled the factory out of difficulty, to a South African company.

The managing director of Mku furniture manufacturers, Mr. Dieter Lehnerdt, said that Mku were the only tenderers for the supply of school furniture to the Ovambo administration.

"To our dismay, we discovered after the tenders had closed, a South African company had been awarded the tender.

"Because of this, Mku has suffered losses of up to R539,000 already this year." Mr. Lehnerdt also said a 15% preference rate on State tenders was generally given to local manufacturers to counter heavy subsidies granted to SA companies in certain areas."
WINDHOEK — The Oamites Mining Group is to take over the Tintan Mine at Uis in western SWANamibia within a month, the managing director of Oamites, Mr Deon Hugo, said.

According to a news report in Windhoek yesterday, Mr Hugo said a large number of Oamites employees would be re-employed at Tintan after the closure of Oamites mine near Rehoboth at the end of the year.

Mr Hugo said negotiations were under way to sell Oamites mining village. — Sapa
Sequel to leaked documents
De Beers hits out over mining policy

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG—De Beers has come out fighting in response to documents which have been leaked to the Press concerning mining policy at CDM in SWA/Namibia.

‘Attempts are being made through the Press to convey a misleading and inaccurate impression about CDM’s mining policy by the use of obselelete documents stolen from the company.

The motives behind these attempts are questionable and seem to be part of a deliberate plan to create uncertainty and unfounded suspicion in the public mind at a sensitive time in the political evolution of South West Africa/Namibia,’ the group said in a lengthy statement released last night.

The strength of the reaction from De Beers is unprecedented. The group holds a near-monopoly on the world diamond trade and is obsessed with the secrecy of its operations.

It has traditionally refused to comment on speculative articles or ‘inside’ stories about its operations.

Allegations made against CDM concerning possible tax evasion during hearings of the Thirion Commission in SWA went largely unanswered by De Beers because Mr Justice Thirion was not prepared hear evidence in camera.

De Beers also did not reply conclusively to Press allegations arising from the hearings but it is believed a major concern was to avoid being found in contempt of the Commission through Press statements.

De Beers’ public relations manager, Mr Neville Huxham, said in Johannesburg last night: ‘We comment only if we believe the circumstances warrant it. We are reacting now to avoid the allegations being made against us gaining credence by going unanswered.’

The documents which have been leaked to the Press date from 1977 and include life-of-mine plans based on possible alterations in the factors such as grade, taxes, production rates and costs which affect the mine’s life.

The plans looked at possible best, worst and average scenarios.

The technique is one used throughout the mining industry in forecasting life-of-mine future operations.

Documents

One of the worst case scenarios of the CDM documents showed that the mine could make losses in 1985.

Mr Huxham said last night: ‘The documents showed as a planning exercise that under certain adverse circumstances CDM could hypothetically make a loss next year.

‘However, the people leaking the documents are going around saying that it is gospel that CDM will lose money next year and we say that is nonsense.’

Other allegations being made against the group following the leak of the documents concern the remaining life of the mine and the question of over-mining.

Last night’s statement from De Beers says: ‘The stolen documents have been used out of context and in such a way as to imply that the company’s production policy has been deliberately designed to shorten the life of the mine to the detriment of the national economy and in breach of the Halbscheid Agreement.’
De Beers comes out fighting

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG.—De Beers has come out fighting in response to documents which have been leaked to the press concerning mining policy at CDM in SWA/Namibia.

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Operations

It has traditionally refused to comment on speculative articles or "inside" stories about its operations and has also generally treated with disdain requests for more information than it is prepared to release in its carefully edited annual reports.

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The statement from De Beers said: "The stolen documents have been used out of context and in such a way as to imply that the company's production policy has been deliberately designed to shorten the life of the mine to the detriment of the national economy and in breach of the Halibekha Agreement."

The statement added, "CDM's obligations under its agreement with the Administration have been honoured. In addition, the life of the mine has been maximized, consistent with the optimum use of resources, meeting the fluctuating demands of the diamond market and ensuring an acceptable cash flow to the government and the company."

"The life-of-mine plan is necessarily therefore under constant review in the light of updated information on the complex assumptions on which it is based."

"There are several life-of-mine planning exercises conducted in a year, most of which are run for purposes of calculating sensitivities and identifying alternatives."

"For these reasons any examination of the company's mining activities should be directed towards its actual results rather than the sensitivity analyses quoted in the press."

Leading indicators

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withheld $58 600 from third party claim

Paraplegic alleges attorneys have

TRADEMARK

economy

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drop up

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now

Here’s

a leading international economist paints a frightening picture of the staggering cost of holding on to

Sunday Times 1971
businesses will rise

Dr Rupert said that since the introduction of the latest restrictive measures, the SBDC had noted a marked increase in applications for crisis and replacement financing.

"These applications do not fall within the corporation's normal criteria for providing loans to the small business sector. Although there is evidence of an increase in arrears in the case of both loan debtors and tenants, the position within acceptable levels and adequate provisions have been made in the financial statements."

It was important for the SBDC to continue to offer less expensive finance, but to do so it had to be assured of the continued financial support of both the public and private sectors. To maintain its current growth rate the SBDC would require about R160 million in additional capital during the next five years.

During the year under review the SBDC had a net income before taxation of R16.7 million, compared with R12.3 million in the previous year. Retained income at March 31 was R17 million (R8.3 million). — Sapa

Today’s share prices

JOHANNESBURG — Gold shares were easier at midday on a lack of interest, as the bullion price continued little changed at around the S$350 level, dealers said.

Heavyweights President Steyn and Kloof shed 200c each at 7 225c and 7 000c respectively, while among cheaper issues, Elandsrand lost 25c at 1 500c, Loraine 20c at R55c and Simmers 10c at 500c.

The Krugerrand, however, gained R3 at R540, they added.

Other mining and financials were dull and little changed. Among the few movers, copper shares Palamin gained 25c at 1 475c and Impala Platinum 15c at 2 165c, dealers said.

Industrials were narrowly mixed with Dunlop up 25c at 1 050c and Kirsh down 10c at 300c, and at noon, 12 shares were firmer, 13 easier and 34 unchanged.

COAL

Truitt, R11 mpl 125
Wajocolate 200
W J Coll 5000
DIAMONDS
Dr Naers 650
GOLD
Rand 950
Estate Com 200
ET Com 3375
Eps 1050
Umd 1800
Evander 177
Kensville 1525
Simmers 500
Salles 800
Sh Rgpt 325
Sh Rgpt 105
Cpl 415
Wilde 122
Will Com 920
Roper 315
Evander 3400
Leone 300
Winkels 6300
Kleinspotz 9700
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Takeover of rail network by SWA possible

WINDHOEK — The central government of SWA/Namibia is considering taking over the running of the territory's railway network from SA Transport Services, according to the Administrator-General of SWA/Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk.

Addressing the Windhoek Rotary Club, he said transportation was one of the most "vexed" problems facing SWA/Namibia on the economic front.

The loss of R90 million against which the railways had had to operate during the 1983-84 financial year was expected to rise to R95 million during the current year.

Investigations by SATS had led to the decision to close three branch lines in SWA/Namibia covering a total distance of 618km and operating at an annual loss of R8.5 million.

The total loss suffered on the three branch lines amounted to almost five times that of the three branch lines closed in South Africa.

Dr Van Niekerk said a final decision on the SWA/Namibian railway branch line would be taken by the end of the year. — Sapa

Wall St rally slows

NEW YORK — Stock prices fluctuated in a narrow range on Wall Street yesterday in a drifting session.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials edged up 0.66 points to close at 1223.64.

The market's dramatic mid-summer rally has slowed lately amid some revived worries that the economy may be in for a "double-dip" recession.

Problems. The familiar box carrier European, seen here, isisation aimed at reducing the formidable losses of Italian companies.

Exporters suffer

South African container cargo exporters are suffering some of the inconvenience which attends ships whose owners go bankrupt.

When the Clancy-Fleming Line (Shipping) Ltd, service to Mauritius and South Africa.

Polar venture

THE periodic expeditions early in the century to the Far South were invariably associated with intense
Thorns could be cash crop

By Peter Honey,
The Star Bureau

WINDHOEK — Northern Namibian farmers may soon find a way out of bush encroachment, their thorniest problem, by turning bush into a cash crop.

A pilot project under way at the Tsumeb copper mine indicates that bush types which give stock farmers their greatest headaches can be used as an energy source in place of coal and oil.

Experts estimate that local intruders such as the black thorn (Acacia miliifera) and sickle bush (Dichrostachys cinerea) have infested about 8 million ha of prime pasture and threaten another 4 million ha in north-eastern Namibia.

This has halved the grazing potential of Namibia's most viable cattle-farming regions.

Periodic bush fires in these areas and the reduced farming population because of drought have aggravated the problem to the extent that it is considered the stock farmer's enemy number one.

Bush clearing is a thankless task, because it is difficult and costly and brings no immediate financial returns.

But the Tsumeb project suggests that bush clearing could be an economic boon, at the same time opening up more land for farming.

THEIR GAS

"It appears that intruder bush in SWA/Namibia's northern farming areas can be used successfully as an energy source," says Mr Bob Meiring, general manager of Tsumeb Corporation Limited.

For several months the mine has been running its main power plant off gas produced from burning milled black thorn and sickle bush.

The project is still in its infancy.

But Mr Meiring says the mine could switch over to partial or total bush energy if cheaper methods of harvesting can be found.

The mine now uses 12,000 tons of coal from the eastern transvaal annually, at a cost of R80 a ton.

The delivered cost of milled bush is R69 a ton, but the break-even cost is about R86 a ton if the project is to become viable in the long term, says the project co-ordinator, First National Development Corporation economist Mr Udo Duevel.

The undertaking is being handled by the Tsumeb Corporation, the First National Development Corporation, state agricultural agencies and the national timber research unit of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

A council wood-gas technologist, Mr Fred Hese, says intruder bush could be used as charcoal, for the manufacture of chipboard and as carrier fibre for yard cattle feeds.
WINDHOEK — The market value of pelagic fish caught by foreign trawlers off the SWA/Namibian shores amounted to R500 million annually, but the territory received nothing in return, the Administrator-General Dr Willie van Niekerk, said yesterday.

"If the rest of the world acknowledged SWA's claims to its fish resources, as they will do with internationally recognised independence, this country will receive a considerable revenue from fishing concessions and levies on catches."

Dr Van Niekerk said at the opening of the Windhoek agricultural show that current concessions for fish processing in SWA/Namibia would lapse by the end of next year after 25 years.

"We are now working on preconditions for new fishing concessions through which SWA will receive a more reasonable share from its pelagic fish."

The concessions applied only to fish factories operating in SWA/Namibia.

Dr Van Niekerk said that although manufacturing made a relatively small contribution to the GDP — 9.5 per cent in 1983 — measures were being considered to improve the competitive position of manufacturers against those of South Africa.

Competition from South Africa had intensified in the past three years because of decentralisation which had benefited factories in growth points such as Upington and Walvis Bay.

Dr Van Niekerk said measures had been introduced to increase productivity and to cut expenditure in the government service.

"In the past week, 302 vacancies have been abolished with a potential saving of R1.9 million." — SAPA
SWA loses revenue to foreign fishermen

WINDHOEK. — The market value of pelagic fish caught by foreign trawlers off the South West Africa shores amounted to R500-million annually, but the territory received nothing in return, the Administrator-General Dr. Willem van Niekerk said yesterday.

"If the rest of the world acknowledged SWA's claims to its fish resources, as they will do with internationally recognized independence, this country will receive a considerable revenue from fishing concessions and levies on catches."

Dr. Van Niekerk said at the opening of the Windhoek Agricultural Show current concessions for fish processing in SWA would lapse by the end of next year. A plan to receive a greater share from fish was being worked on.

Dr. Van Niekerk said production of diamonds and uranium had declined last year but there had been a real production increase of 2.5% in other sections of the mining industry.

Total taxation of the mining industry (excluding tax on diamond exports) amounted to R142-million for the financial year ending on March 31, 1983.

Total sales of minerals had increased by 5.4% in 1983. There had been a considerable drop in uranium sales.

Sales of diamonds and other minerals, however, rose for the same period by 7.2% and 11.7% respectively.

Mining contributions to the SWA gross domestic product, calculated at constant 1972 prices, rose from R174 100 000 in 1972 to R221 900 000 in 1977 and thereafter steadily declined to R156 100 000 in 1982.

There were 21 mines active in SWA, but in terms of world standards only three companies — Namib Copper Corporation Limited, CDM, and Ruising Uranium Limited — could be considered as operating on a large scale.

The three companies had contributed more than 96% of total minerals sales in 1983.

Legislation concerning the mining sector was being reviewed with a view to repealing or amending antiquated provisions.

Competition from South Africa had intensified in the past three years because of decentralisation, which had benefited factories in growth points such as Uplington and Walvis Bay.

Gross domestic investment by the manufacturing sector had risen from R4 200 000 in 1973 to R244 000 in 1981 at constant prices. After that the figure dropped to R18 500 000 in 1983.

Dr. Van Niekerk said measures had been introduced to increase productivity and to cut expenditure in the government service.

"In the past week, 200 vacancies have been abolished, saving at least, R1 000 000."

Sapa.
SWA talks on taking over SA rail network

From TONY WEAVER

WINDHOEK.—Final negotiations are taking place for the transfer of the South African Transport Services Network in SWA/Namibia to the government of the territory.

The Administrator General of SWA/Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said that the take-over would be done in stages. The first phase would begin on April 1, 1985.

Included in the take-over would be the entire rail network and all services attached to the network.

Dr Van Niekerk announced earlier this year that several major rail lines in SWA/Namibia would be closed in an attempt to reduce the R90-million debt the government has towards the SATS.

Businessmen in the north and south want the line to Luderitz, in particular, kept open and Dr Van Niekerk said this would be examined further.

Mr Sam Nujoma, president of Swapo, accused the South African government of wanting to close the Luderitz line in order to increase the dependence of an independent Namibia on Walvis Bay. Walvis Bay is part of South Africa and is the territory’s only in-use deep-water port.

Dr Van Niekerk hinted that plans could be afoot to transform Luderitz into a deep-sea port.

“The development of Luderitz harbour into a port able to handle larger types of ships like tankers, will, according to preliminary estimates, cost about R30 million,” Dr Van Niekerk said.

“To develop Luderitz into a full deep-sea harbour could run to between R200 and R300 million.

“Any development of Luderitz harbour in order to make the rail link viable, also means that the line between us and Luderitz will have to be rebuilt to an acceptable standard which will cost a further R12 million.”

The South African Minister of Transport, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said in a letter to the Keetmanshoop municipality that he supported the principle of developing Luderitz into a deep-sea port.
Tsumeb gold probe

Johannesburg. — Speculation that SWA copper producer Tsumeb Corporation has found a potential open-cast gold mine has been played down by the general manager, Mr Bob Metting.

"We have for a number of years carried out, and are still carrying out, an extensive prospecting programme throughout SWA looking for a range of minerals.

"This work includes a gold prospect in Damara Land which has some low-grade surface ores deposits which were worked in the 1920s and 1930s.

"We are looking at this area and prospecting it at present. However, it is not correct to say we intend opening a new gold mine there," he said.

Tsumeb is controlled jointly by Gold Fields of South Africa (GFSA) which holds 49 percent of the equity and United States group Newmont Mining Corporation which holds another 33.1 percent.

Newmont and GFSA are linked in that GFSA's controlling shareholder, Consolidated Gold Fields, also has a 26.4 percent stake in Newmont.

GFSA acquired its stake in Tsumeb when Newmont decided to sell off part of its shareholding in the mine.

GFSA chairman Mr Robin Plumbridge, who is also a director of Tsumeb, said in Johannesburg last week he was not aware of any plans by Tsumeb to set up a gold mine.

Tsumeb has taken a beating from the prolonged recession in the international copper market.

Tsumeb is running two exploration programmes. One is solely the Corporation's while the other is a joint venture with GFSA.

The gold prospect is part of Tsumeb's own programme.
Mining giant warned on ‘illegal’ SWA operation

By IAN HOBBS
London Bureau

LONDON — Protesting shareholders this week warned the Consolidated Gold Fields (CGF) annual meeting in London of dire consequences, including the danger of Swapo attacks on its "illegal" mining interests in South West Africa.

Four shareholders representing the Namibian Support Committee bombarded the CGF chairman, Mr. Randolph Agnew, with questions and points of view, but he was emphatic that their associate, Goldfields South Africa, was responsible for investment in the disputed territory.

Mr. Agnew said that while CGF had a 46% beneficial interest in Goldfields SA, the associate was an independent company in its own right.

He could not be held answerable in London for their operations or performance, or become involved in a debate at the CGF annual general meeting on the political controversies.

Asked what would happen if Swapo attacked and "blew up" the Tsumeb Corporation mines, in which Goldfields SA is a major shareholder, Mr. Agnew said that in the short term it would reduce losses because Tsumeb was losing money.

He said the destruction of the Tsumeb base metal mines, the biggest in SWA, would be seriously detrimental to the country and its people. Up to 4,000 people could lose their jobs if the mines went.

Mr. Alan Williams and Mr. Rudolph Vines, the main shareholder spokesmen for the Namibian Support Committee, said they wanted the group's shareholders to be fully aware of the consequences of the GSFA activities in SWA which were "contrary to international law".

Mr. Williams said that by acquiring the 22.5% interest previously held by the United States-based Anaconda (American Metal Climax Inc) group and increasing its shareholding in the American Newmont group to 22%, GSFA was blatantly contravening international law.

He said the "plundering" of SWA's mineral resources would result in retroactive legal action for compensation when independence was achieved.

He asked without success if CGF had taken legal advice on the situation, set aside financial provision for eventual compensation and if shareholders were aware of the possible consequences for the group.

The protesting shareholders, who were barred by many of the main body in the hall, said a key point of their protest was that the continuing exploitation of SWA's resources by CGF's South African associate was a political incentive for South Africa to maintain its illegal occupation.
Goldfields accused of plundering SWA mines

LONDON — Four shareholders representing the "Namibia Support Committee" have warned the Consolidated Goldfields annual meeting here of dire consequences, including the danger of "illegal" mining interests in South West Africa.

Mr Randolph Agnew, chairman of Consolidated Goldfields, was emphatic, however, their associate, Goldfields South Africa, was responsible for investment in the disputed territory.

Mr Agnew said that while Consolidated had a 46 per cent beneficial interest in Goldfields South Africa, the associate was an independent company in its own right.

Asked what would happen if Swapo attack ed and "blew up" the Tsumeb Corporation mines, in which Goldfields South Africa is a major shareholder, Mr Agnew said in the short term it would reduce losses because Tsumeb was losing money.

He said the destruction of the Tsumeb base metal mines, the biggest in South West Africa, would be seriously detrimental to the country and its people. Up to 4,000 people could lose their jobs if the mines went.

Mr Alun Williams and Mr Rudolph Vines, spokesman for the "Namibian Support Committee," said they wanted the group's shareholders to be fully aware of the consequences of the GFSA activities in Namibia, which were "contrary to international law."

Mr Williams said that by acquiring the 29.8 per cent interest previously held by the United States-based Amax (American Metal Climax Incorporated) group and increasing its shareholding in the American Newmont group to 22 per cent, GFSA was blatantly contravening international law. — DDC.
Legal war on Western firms in SWA planned

By RICHARD WALKER

NEW YORK. — The United Nations Council for Namibia is requesting R540 000 in funds to wage a legal war on Western business interests active in South West Africa.

This and a costly new support drive for Swapo feature prominently in a report to be presented to the General Assembly later this week.

In all, close to R3-million is sought for supplementary, extra-budget activities over the coming year.

Other than proposing punitive sanctions as the only way to force Pretoria’s hand, the report gives no consideration to the possibility of a settlement in the foreseeable future.

Defying the recent mood in the Assembly, the report singles out the United States for specific condemnation and accuses Washington of encouraging South African aggression in Angola and defiance in SWA.

As a 33-nation subsidiary of the Assembly, the Council for Namibia considers itself legal custodian of the territory until independence.

This week it will table before the Assembly a fierce 69-point draft resolution, drawn-up bloc with denunciations of the West and exhortations to extend greater military and other aid to Swapo.

It wants, and is sure to get, a continued subsidy for Swapo that covers every aspect of its UN observer mission, from salaries to postage stamps.

It wants another R540 000 to distribute among non-governmental organisations approved by Swapo and a further R1 800 000 subsidy from the UN budget.

The R540 000 legal fund would be used as a war chest with which to challenge, in their domestic courts, selected international companies with operations in SWA.

The basis of this challenge is a decree enacted by the Namibia Council 18 years ago, but never tested in court.

The decree declared foreign economic activities in the territory illegal and opened up the possibility of the territory’s exports being seized and confiscated.

The council also wants to make businesses liable to pay damages “to the future legal government”.
Namibia to get bigger slice of fish in new deal

NAMIBIA'S prized deep-sea fishing concessions will be up for renewal next year for the first time in 25 years — but this time in-built conditions will ensure Namibia gets a bigger share of the multi-million rand profits.

At present Namibia gets little, if any, income from its fishing industry which delivers about R750-million in market prices from harvests raised up by South African and foreign trawlers.

The director of the newly formed Namibian Sea Fisheries, Dr Jan Jurgen, did not outline what the new conditions would be, but said they would enable Namibia to take off "a more reasonable share" of the profits.

He confirmed that the existing concession holders, dominated by a web of South African cartels, had already applied to have their existing concessions renewed.

In the past, the granting of these concessions has been contentious and has led to clashes between the South West African Administration and the South African central government. A race developed between the two administrations to grant the most concessions which led to over-exploitation of the fish populations in the mid-Seventies and near collapse of the entire industry.

Dr Jurgen was not able to say whether the concessions would be re-allocated to existing concession holders next year but said "historic performance" played an important role in re-allocating the concessions.

The existing concession holders are grouped into four huge cartels, only one of which is Namibian. The main companies now holding concessions are The Oceanstone Group, Kaap Kunene, Sea Products SWA, SWAFIL, Marine Products and Consortium Fisheries.

Donation

Meanwhile, the Owenstone and Kaap-Kunene investigators which form the General Development Corporation of Namibia (Gendev) have announced a R25,000 a year donation to a rock lobster research programme which will be run by Namibia's Department of Sea Fisheries.

This unprecedented move by Gendev is seen in the industry as a well-timed move to raise its stakes in being re-allocated concessions.