Top line nominal wages. Lower line real wages in 1980 Rand. **Current Date:12/88**

AMND 11/76	AMND 10/77	MAIN 10/78	MAIN 9/79	AMND 7/80	AMND 5/81	INCR 7/81	AMND 8/82	MAIN 11/83	AMND 11/84
Drvr Int >13600									
42.30	44.10	49.95	55.80	63.45	67.50	75.60	90.00	94.95	105.30
57.16	59.59	62.36	60.85	63.07	61.03	65.74	66.96	61.34	59.93

Curr. Hours: **45** Hourly Change 1978 to date: **Nominal +138.8%, Real -42.8%**, Real Weekly Wage **12/88: R 34.08**

Drvr <=1000kg									
31.50	33.30	38.70	43.65	49.95	53.55	59.85	73.35	78.75	88.20
42.57	45.00	48.31	47.60	49.65	48.42	52.04	54.58	50.87	50.20

Curr. Hours: **45** Hourly Change 1978 to date: **Nominal +164.9%, Real -36.6%**, Real Weekly Wage **12/88: R 28.54**

Drv 1000-3000kg									
33.30	35.10	40.95	46.35	53.10	56.70	63.90	77.40	82.04	91.80
45.00	47.43	51.12	50.55	52.78	51.27	55.57	57.59	53.00	52.25

Curr. Hours: **45** Hourly Change 1978 to date: **Nominal +161.5%, Real -37.4%**, Real Weekly Wage **12/88: R 29.71**

Drvr 3000-4500k									
45.45	47.70	53.55	59.40	67.50	72.00	81.00	96.30	101.25	111.60
61.42	64.46	66.85	64.78	67.10	65.10	70.43	71.65	65.41	63.52

Curr. Hours: **45** Hourly Change 1978 to date: **Nominal +134.0%, Real -44.0%**, Real Weekly Wage **12/88: R 36.12**

Drvr 4500-6500k									
51.30	53.55	59.40	65.25	74.25	79.20	89.10	105.30	110.70	121.05
69.32	72.36	74.16	71.16	73.81	71.61	77.48	78.35	71.51	68.90

Curr. Hours: **45** Hourly Change 1978 to date: **Nominal +126.1%, Real -45.9%**, Real Weekly Wage **12/88: R 39.17**

Drvr >6500kg									
52.20	54.45	60.75	66.60	76.05	81.00	90.90	107.10	112.50	123.30
70.54	73.58	75.84	72.63	75.60	73.24	79.04	79.69	72.67	70.18

Curr. Hours: **45** Hourly Change 1978 to date: **Nominal +126.4%, Real -45.8%**, Real Weekly Wage **12/88: R 39.90**

Watchman									
25.20	27.00	31.95	36.45	41.55	44.70	51.00	64.50	73.44	83.04
34.05	36.49	39.89	39.75	41.30	40.42	44.35	47.99	47.44	47.26

Curr. Hours: **60** Hourly Change 1978 to date: **Nominal +269.1%, Real -11.6%**, Real Weekly Wage **12/88: R 26.87**

JANUARY — JULY

1990

SQUATTERS - CAPE

22 held in two demos

Staff Reporter

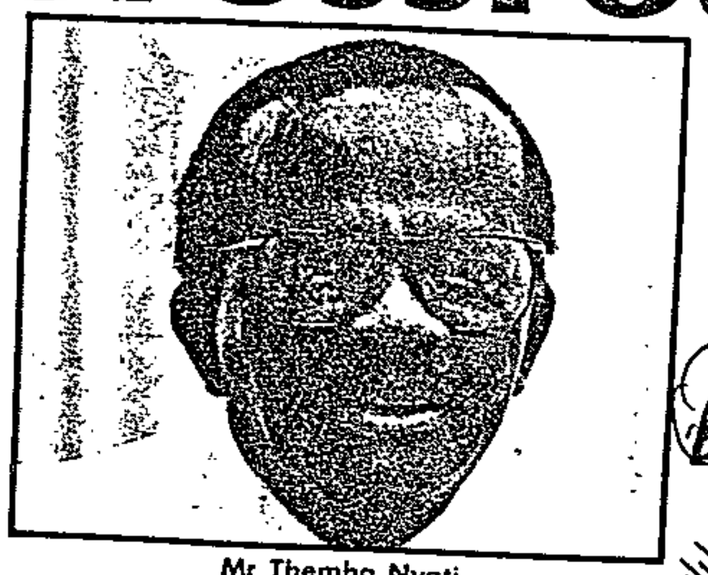
POLICE arrested 22 people at Brackenfell on Saturday after two separate protests apparently concerning the alleged removal of a man from a squatter camp.

Police said the people were arrested when they refused to comply with orders to disperse.

Both incidents occurred about 9am. Police said a small group gathered outside a Brackenfell shopping centre and 11 men were arrested. Another small group gathered outside the Hypermarket and five men and six women were arrested.

Crossroads - and black influx

FACE TO FACE



Mr Themba Nyati

BLACK influx into the Cape Town area is one of the crucial issues of the region.

Crossroads, where violence sporadically breaks out, epitomises the problem in many ways.

Mr Themba Nyati, member of the Provincial Executive Council charged with black local government and housing, talks about the crisis — and some of his own problems in dealing with it.

He was Face to Face with Deputy Editor Deon du Plessis, Political Correspondent Michael Morris and Staff Reporter Edward Moloinyane.

DEON DU PLESSIS
Deputy Editor

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

EDWARD MOLOINYAN
Staff Reporter

QUESTION: How many black people do you think there are generally in and around Cape Town and how many specifically in Crossroads?

Answer: I think it could be anywhere between 300 000 and 500 000.

Q: The unofficial figures say well over a million in Cape Town.

A: It could easily be, nobody really knows exactly what the real figure is in this city and there is also this resistance to taking a census.

There is a resistance because most of the people feel their rights are being encroached on and some feel it is to do with forced removals and perhaps accusations of squatting.

Q: Whatever their fears are, the truth is that a very large number of black people in the Western Cape are no longer squatters, they have won the right of permanence.

A: Yes they have, there is no doubt about that.

The attitude of provincial government is that every man who lives in the Cape should be given a place and it should be legalised as far as possible but this has to be done with full cognisance being given to the economic and the social departments.

Q: Is there concern about the influx of black people?

A: There is a bit of concern naturally, because this makes their condition more difficult and almost impossible in certain areas. We cannot cope with the necessary services which we are planning in the area, and you can imagine how difficult it is to plan for an area and then next morning find that there are thousands more people in that area whom you have to incorporate in your plans.

It becomes physically and financially impossible to plan with the degree of accuracy that we need in order to implement our schemes.

Q: What is the rate of influx into the Western Cape. How many people a week are arriving here?

A: I really wouldn't like to make that guess.

said:" Look we have our own leaders, these are our own leaders and we believe in them." But if they didn't participate in an election how are you going to involve them, how are you going to do justice to them? Because if you did justice to them, you would be doing injustice to those who participated in the election.

So on a purely administrative point, it becomes very difficult to get the type of satisfaction that we desire.

Now progress is being made, because when I came here, the people of Crossroads were just a political football, they were just mass of people whom nobody really cared for except for a few churches. There was no law, no order, no administration, no evolutionary development towards self-determination and towards community improvements.

It was just a slum. Nobody cared for it. We went in there and called all the leaders together and they came, and we had no reason to fear that after elections there would be complaints.

Q: This brings the recent turmoil in the township to mind — the fighting between Mr Ngxobongwana and other headmen who broke away. To what do you attribute this conflict?

A: I think it is a mixture of tribalism on the part of those people who are not standing against Mr Ngxobongwana and revolutionary on the part of the political bodies who work from outside Crossroads, who have decided that they can make some political privilege for themselves out of causing turmoil in Crossroads.

Crossroads is not exempt from the expressed view of some of our politicians that we will make the country our colour and Crossroads could be perhaps have been a nice place where they could detect this.

But it becomes awkward in a municipal sense to deal with matters of that nature because it has really nothing to do with the administration.

The Crossroads council is subjected to the same

Q: Brown's Farm does not have a water tap. Is that right?

A: Well, we were going to service the area, but they refused to accept the offer. I believe some of them do to a measure regret now that they did not accept the measure.

But I can understand, you know, they are tribal people and they are held together by a loose tribal system. The trouble that Mr Ngxobongwana has found himself in is as a result of the workings of a tribal system.

Before Crossroads became a local site, when they were on their own and they were ruling themselves and they had their own leaders, they did pretty well what they liked.

And the 12 headmen who are now reported to be against Mr Ngxobongwana were part of what they called the inner circle of the general. They talk about the general.

And they were members of the general; they elected Mr Ngxobongwana; they agreed to the arrangements that were made, which we opposed. We did not like them and we warned them and we said it is not right for you to choose your own leaders and have everybody pay so much a month without the proper financial management of these funds.

We suggested to them that they first become a local authority and we said: "We will now supply you with the financial management, your own children, people of your own choice, black and white, whatever, and work in your administration and run your affairs."

Now the troubles, as far as we can gather, are personal in that they are the things that were done by these people when they were a tribal authority.

Q: What about accusations from these breakaway headmen that Mr Ngxobongwana collected funds which later disappeared?

A: We suggested that this was a criminal matter, because they are not a recognised local au-

A: Well, that is a very small fraction, but I would like to say in this regard that Crossroads is more viable than perhaps Soweto financially because they go according to a budget and their budget is self sufficient.

In other words they do not go on a deficit budget. But the province is putting in a lot of money, the government is putting in a lot of money for the influx action that is necessary and Crossroads would have been developed much faster, were it not for it's charactertistic factors.

I called them and I said: "Gentlemen I hear that Crossroads is actually situated in an area which is below sea level which means you are going to have terrible problems in winter when it rains, you will have the rain coming down on you and you will have the underground seepage and you will be almost flooded in the area. And I said to Mr Ngxobongwana and his men why don't you agree to take Philippi, take Brown's Farm." You know what their answer to me was?

"No we cannot do it because we cannot afford to support forced removals." Now how does a whole community disadvantage itself for the sake of a foolish political ideology?

Q: It was the struggle they've come through.

A: It was a struggle that they had come through. You see they didn't believe that in the long run they might have done better if they had accepted.

Q: Would you like to see at some point in the future a single council for the whole of the Cape Town area?

A: As I say the thinking of the province is open today and I would like to see it, but I do not want it to be a superficial process.

I want it to be a real process involving real development. I won't have it if it is going to amount to another slump in the

make to its community, virtually on the wall.

Q: On the issue of influx and the fact that nobody seems to know how many people are coming into certain areas, is there likely to be a point sometime in the future when the province will feel it necessary to limit that?

A: Well we believe that the corporate bodies in this area will also advise in that matter. The industrialists have a role to play.

Q: Have they made any suggestions at all?

A: Well, so far they are trying to improve their capabilities in order to take in more people; they are trying to make more employment possible for people. But eventually someone, whether it be government or whether it be the private sector, someone is going to say we are running into trouble and we will not be able to manage.

Some of the authorities have already indicated to us that we cannot manage the rate of influx: because the people are coming into our small little towns so fast that whatever services we have been able to render to the people are simply turned into useless services.

Q: From February 1 rentals have been increased in Crossroads. There is protest because

as you know there have been no consultations before these increases were implemented.

A: Well we expect the local authorities to consult with the people, we expect them to call meetings and explain these things to the people in terms of rands and cents and services which are to be made available.

When the electricity tariff in Cape Town goes up, automatically it goes up in these areas. But of course Crossroads is slightly different because it is not in the municipal area of Cape Town, it is in the old divisional area. It is under the regional services councils, so there is a slight difference there.

But after that, they have to advertise the new tariffs in the Press which they believe is read by most of the people and they have to put up notices on the notice boards of their offices. But very often because of politics, some people decide we are not going to increase the rates and I think it is an unreasonable attitude.

But if the people are against the increases, then we as a province will not be able to approve them, and the rentals will remain the same and of course the services will not increase. Naturally you understand that.

Q: But I'm afraid services provided leave much to be desired,

so one wonders why exa
should you pay more for ser
vices which are not prov
adequately?

A: Well, because things are
expensive. And as I have
cated the services in Cape T
have reached the quality
have reached because they
been developed over 100 y
and more and as the peo
grew, they improved the
vices; they broke down the
services and they instituted
services.

Unfortunately in our case,
are supposed to do in one or t
years, what has been done
other towns over a period of
to 100 years.

Now I am not trying to dr
my feet over it. But you will u
derstand also that things used
be very cheap: the same se
vices you have to pay a fortu
for today, with the result th
even in the building trade whe
blacks say we don't wa
matchbox houses, you know tha
today they are really payin
four or five times as much fo
matchbox houses because that i
determined by the private sec
tor again.

There is nothing that we ca
do about it. The only way is t
increase our educational stan
dards and our skills and to be
involved in the corporate man
agement that is necessary.

the Western Cape. How many people a week are arriving here?
A: I really wouldn't like to make that guess.
Q: Is it measurable in hundreds or thousands?
A: It could be in thousands, depending upon what happens or what the people hear.

You know they might hear stories about progress here and thousands or more might decide, well, it is free, there is no influx control anymore, so let us take a chance and go to the Western Cape. There is life there.

People come here not for political reasons, but for economic reasons and we recognise that now. So the emphasis is on economic viability and economic measures and the quality of life for the people who live in that area.

And of course we need lots and lots of employment. But we have the problem of education or the lack of skills and very often the jobs which people think they are coming to here are not for them. And then they become frustrated.
Q: Who is responsible for the provision of services in the black areas in Cape Town?
A: Well, the local authorities are responsible for the provision of services, but the province is also fully committed to the rendering of services in the fields of hospitalisation, health and structural development.
Q: Who is the relevant local authority in Crossroads?
A: They have a town committee which was elected in 1988, in October; they were all elected unopposed.

The system was fully explained to everybody and we expected everybody to participate in the system because that is the only democratic system that is known when it comes to the election of community or municipal leaders.
Q: Is that local committee working to your satisfaction?
A: Well, I am happy to say that it is working administratively to my satisfaction, but on the other hand, there are many problems and one of them is the problem ...ain of people coming from the ...ral areas with no idea of what ... expect in Cape Town so that ...e people are very backward ...d unfortunately in Crossroads, ...ere is a great degree of tribal...n that has made the situation ...ry difficult.

We had elections. Some came, thers did not come. But we got ...e impression that the degree ... response was quite high in ...rossroads and the mayor there, ...r Johnson Ngxobongwana, ...emed to be a great leader.

We can only go according to ...ne statistics of the election. But then, because these people are tribal, those who did not participate decided that no, we are also leaders.

You can imagine what would happen in Cape Town, if Sea Point for instance suddenly it has really nothing to do with the administration.

The Crossroads council is subjected to the same scrutiny, financially, as is any other local authority in SA and the auditors' report that we had from Crossroads about how they are running their services, the charges, things like that, was quite satisfactory.

But I will admit that the majority of the people do not know what is actually happening in the running of their system.
Q: Are they actually paying for the services?
A: Yes they are paying for services. In some portions they are paying R7 per month for services which include water at certain points in the streets, sanitation and the removal of garbage. But in the newly upgraded area, which constitutes roughly a third of Crossroads, they are paying roughly R14 a month for water in the house, street lighting, drainage, streets and the removal of garbage.
Q: Who is in charge of these services?
A: The town council is instituting these services with the help of the province. The province and the government have already put in something like R15 million into the provision of services in Crossroads.

But we have this problem that because of the political perceptions of the people of Crossroads, they make development very difficult for us and even more difficult for the developers, because they will not move from their area.

There was so much mistrust that they said if we move, we will be broken up and our enemies will come in amongst us. Now that concept is a purely tribal and rural concept.

That is not in any way an urban concept and those are some of the things that we will have to teach the people of Crossroads, to establish a corporate culture along with the development we are planning.
Q: Do you have an action plan for Crossroads?
A: There is an action plan. We cannot determine for how long it will stretch. The implementation of the plan is abnormal in that the people refuse to move physically, so we had to beg them to roll over and they were willing to shift from a third of the area in order to allow development.

And as we complete the development, then some people are drawn back there and then we'll roll into the second and third areas in order to develop them.

If they had accepted our plan — that they should all shift physically to an area in Philippi in what is called Brown's Farm — we could actually have offered them more there, but they said no. Because of their tribal conception they wanted to stay together.

criminal matter, because they are not a recognised local authority, they are not a corporate body, only the police can handle the matter.

And if they tell us they have a solid case against Mr Ngxobongwana, they are free to go to court or to lay charges against him. So far nothing seems to have come out of the charges. We are not prepared to take any sides. If it is proven that he is in fact guilty the law will take its course.
Q: Would you say that black local authorities are viable?
A: I think black local authorities are the greatest political or social inventions that have come here to the people of SA.

It is not the final or an end product, but it is a wonderful beginning. At least it turns the people's minds from the road of extinction which some of us feel the whole of Africa is walking on.

We feel this is the last chance in South Africa for Africa to get its act together and to come on the road of development like other countries have done.

In local authority a wonderful opportunity is given for black people to prove themselves. I am a strong believer that one of the greatest forms or signs of civilisation is action.

When people are not civilised the only evidence that they leave of their existence will be caves or marks on the ground. But when people are civilised they begin to build houses, they begin to build places where they can use their knowledge.

And I think that black local authorities, by providing land, by providing land on the freehold system and also on the leasehold system, is doing something which many free countries of Africa have not been able to do.

I want to say that the province has changed its stance somewhere in that we do not regard black local authority as the final product of municipal government.

The province is thinking now along the lines perhaps of having a common tax base between the various parts and the province — is saying if that is for the good of the economy of the country then why not? We do not want to be bound to the policies of apartheid or to the policies of separatism or to the policies of bureaucratic invention. We do not want that. The province is free, the province is open.
Q: What percentage of the money spent in Crossroads, is raised in Crossroads?
A: All the money that is raised in Crossroads is spent in Crossroads.
Q: But what percentage of the total budget is actually raised in Crossroads?

to another ... area. I won't have it if is is going to be another playground which is deteriorating where services are going down and the moral and ethical ground from which they operate is low.
Q: Is it an accurate summation of your vision that Crossroads becomes as much a suburb of Cape Town as Kenilworth or Sea Point with all the advantages those suburbs enjoy including representation on the city council? Would that be the end point of the vision?
A: That is to me the end point of the vision. But the people of Crossroads will have to put in a lot of work and they will have to do their homework because there is a chronological value to these places.

And it is so that Cape Town is what it is because it was built over all these years. Kenilworth is about 100 years old. Crossroads is a baby and they have got to go through those periods of growth.

As I say, the local authorities system is only a start. It lets the black people inside into the system at their own level, at their own rate.

Central government for people who have no local government viability is a dream, it's a pipe dream and this is the missing link in Africa.

The whole of Africa will remain Third World because they lack the necessary capability at local government level to stimulate the community, to stimulate development, to stimulate trade, to stimulate education, to stimulate industry and thereby stimulating agriculture and improving the quality of life.

There is a crisis. Crossroads is also involved and one of the problems that Mr Ngxobongwana has had in Crossroads is operational. His idea was: "Look, let us, the adult community and the payers of the rent, be in charge of certain things, but let the students go to school and let them study because that is their right."

One of your problems that this man has to face is that the political bodies have come in and grabbed the schools in one way or the other and they have put the student population, which has a wonderful contribution to

Protesting squatters teargassed

By MARIUS BOSCH

POLICE teargassed about 250 squatters and clergymen — including World Alliance of Reformed Churches president Dr Allan Boesak — to halt a protest march at the Uitkyk squatter camp in Kraaifontein yesterday.

The protesters had planned to march to the Kraaifontein police station to hand over a memorandum protesting against the threatened eviction of the community.

Before police acted, Bellville district commissioner of police Colonel H N Wright negotiated with squatter leaders.

He warned them that the march would be illegal and that police would act.

"The last thing I want to do is to use force," he said. "I don't want to have to hurt people unnecessarily."

Given one minute to disperse

He said he would accept the memorandum and hand it over to the relevant authorities.

"It is not our job to evict people from private property but a civic matter," he said.

About 3.30pm the marchers started walking from their shacks in rows of four. Police followed in vans.

A police officer warned the marchers that the protest was illegal in terms of the Internal Security Act and gave them one minute to disperse.

Police then blocked the entrance to the road and threw several teargas canisters in front of and among the marchers.

The leaders then consulted with Colonel Wright again and after receiving an assurance that police would not interfere with a prayer meeting, they handed him the memorandum.

ABOVE: Bellville District Commisioner of Police, Colonel H N Wright, negotiates with Kraaifontein squatters and their lawyer before police took action yesterday. **LEFT:** Clergy marching with about 250 Kraaifontein squatters to protest against the 200-strong community's pending eviction.
Pictures: GLENN SHERRATT

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Picture: WILLIE de KLERK, The Argus.

PROTEST: Marchers run from teargas fired by police when more than 300 Kraaifontein squatters, led by church ministers and Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, tried to converge on the police station yesterday to ask the police not to help to evict them from the Uitkyk area today.

Squatter march halted by teargas

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Tygerberg Bureau

KRAAIFONTEIN squatters, led by the Reverend Allan Boesak, were halted by a salvo of teargas while marching to a police station in a peaceful protest.

About 300 squatters facing eviction from their shacks were on their way to the Kraaifontein police station yesterday to plead with the police not to help with their eviction while they had no alternative accommodation.

The eviction was due to take place today and follows the sale of land at Uitkyk by the Kraaifontein municipality to a private developer.

DEMOLITION

Squatters faced a similar eviction order last year and police were accused of helping with the demolition.

Yesterday, church ministers from various denominations and Dr Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, led the squatters and marched towards a police cordon around the camp.

They were within 30 metres of the police when they were teargassed. Dr Boesak and another minister were directly hit by teargas canisters.

After the effects of the teargas had worn off, squatter leaders held discussions with the police. Colonel H Wright, Bellville District Commissioner, would not speak to Dr Boesak saying "get on with your theological work".

EMERGENCY

Reporters were ordered away under the emergency regulations. However, Dr Boesak said after the meeting the police had promised not to interfere in the eviction.

Colonel Wright had said the matter did not involve the police. It was a civil matter between the developer and the squatters and was being handled in court.

Dr Boesak said the police action in response to a peaceful protest was "inexcusable".

The incident reminded him very sharply that there was very little difference between Mr P W Botha's old South Africa and President F W de Klerk's new South Africa.

VICTORY: Part of a jubilant crowd of several thousand people who last weekend attended the victory celebrations of the George squatter community. The community at the end of last year won a long battle against the threat of evictions when the local municipality agreed to upgrade the area. (307) South 11/2/-7/2/90 PICTURE: MAKHAYA MANI

Reprieve for teargassed Kraaifontein squatters (307) South 11/2/-7/2/90.

By SHANNON SHERRY

UITKYK squatter camp residents in Kraaifontein have been granted a three-month stay of eviction by the owners of land they occupy.

Hours after police teargassed about 300 marching Uitkyk residents and a group of clergymen on Tuesday, the owners told lawyers of the squatters of the reprieve, it has been confirmed.

The squatters, living under the threat of eviction since last year, had been given until January 31 to vacate land which the Kraaifontein municipality had sold to private developers.

A few hours before the deadline expired, marchers led by World Alliance of Reformed Churches president Dr Allan Boesak, planned to hand over a memorandum at the Kraaifontein police station in protest against the eviction.

Belville district commissioner of police Colonel HN Wright accepted the memorandum after police had halted the march. He promised to hand it over to "the relevant authorities".

He also assured residents that police would not evict them from the land. "It is not police work to evict people from private property. It is a civic matter," he said.

Squatter leaders said they would "carefully monitor" whether the police kept their promises not to get involved in the eviction of the residents.

The memorandum, directed at the Kraaifontein police, the Cape Provincial Administration, the Kraaifontein municipality, the Western Cape Regional Services Council and the landowner, said the "greatest proportion of blame for the housing crisis lay with the government".

"It is the government's duty to provide housing for people in the lower income groups. Affordable housing is a right, not a privilege," the memorandum continued.

In an address to the squatters after the aborted march, Dr Boesak said police teargassing of "a peaceful crowd with no intentions of violence whatsoever showed the world the new South Africa of FW de Klerk was no different to the old South Africa of PW Botha".

Mr Enrico Pedro, chairperson of the Kraaifontein Residents Association, said houses in Kraaifontein had last been built in 1976.

"In Scottsdene (a township in Kraaifontein) an average of three families live in each house. In one home there are 29 people.

"But the Kraaifontein municipality sells land to private developers who build expensive houses which people in the lower income groups cannot afford," he said.

Argus 1/2/90

Retrenched workers have their shacks demolished

302 8

False Bay Bureau

WORKERS from a Grabouw fruit-canning factory, no longer needed by a new factory-owner who intends to start a different business, this week built shacks on municipal land, but had them demolished by the council.

The workers rebuilt the five shacks on Monday, and the settlement was set to grow to about 20 structures as more workers from the Highlands canning factory left the housing, which will be needed by the new owner's workers.

Community worker Mr Rodney Calvert said there was no residential area for "Africans" in Grabouw, and that the squatters had constructed their homes between the white and coloured residential areas in the town.

Mr Calvert added that there would be about 120 people in the settlement eventually.

Grabouw Town Clerk Mr V Dudley said the squatters could not stay where they were indefinitely because there was no sewerage and water on the site.

He said the council was discussing what could be done about the squatter group.

Uitkyk squatters get 3-month extension

SQUATTERS at Uitkyk settlement, where police on Tuesday teargassed marchers protesting against threatened eviction, have been given a further three months before they have to move.

The owners of the land, the New Retreat Development Company, had given the community of about 200 until yesterday to be off the land.

However, an attorney with the Legal Resources Centre who is acting for the community said yesterday he had been told by a lawyer representing the company that they could stay.

"We had written New Retreat a letter asking for a three-month extension on the basis that the Cape Provincial Adminstration had informed us in writing they were looking for alternative land in the Kraaifontein area for the squatters," he said.

The decision to grant the extension had been taken on Tuesday afternoon at a meeting of New Retreat's directors, he said. — Sapa

CAPE TIMES 8/2/90

Reprieve for Paarl squatters till May

Supreme Court Reporter

FACTUAL disputes in an application by the Western Cape Regional Services Council in the Supreme Court to eject squatters from a Paarl farm yesterday led to the 90 squatters winning a reprieve till May when oral evidence will be heard.

The squatters yesterday disputed whether Mr Chris Mocke, chief executive officer of the RSC, and Mr Hendrick Gideon Keyser, an RSC health inspector, were authorised to bring the application.

Further disputes were whether the rights of ownership to the land (farm 827) were transferred to the RSC; whether the squatters were occupying farm 827, and whether their occupation was unlawful even if an RSC official said they could stay.

Mr Keyser said the squatters unlawfully moved on to the farm on October 24, 1988 and a notice to vacate was delivered to them. When they refused, their structures were demolished twice. However the shacks were rebuilt.

Squatters fight RSC eviction bid

AM645 307
8/2/90

By LINDA GALLOWAY
Supreme Court Reporter

AN application for the eviction of 34 squatters from land adjacent to Paarl Brickfields in Suider Paarl has been postponed so that oral evidence can be heard.

Mr Justice A M van Niekerk postponed the hearing in the Cape Supreme Court to May 10.

The application was made by the Regional Services Council.

In an affidavit opposing the application, Mr Matiyase Elias Ngqwane, 55, said he had worked at the brickfield for 21 years and lived on the premises in terms of his contract.

The other respondents lived there under the same conditions.

After a dispute between management and workers in 1988 about unfair dismissal, Mr Ngqwane's and other employees' contracts were terminated.

After the dismissals the workers were evicted from hostels and they built dwellings on adjacent open land.

A health inspector for the RSC in Paarl, Mr Hendrick Gideon Keyser, said the property was owned by the RSC and the squatters' occupation was unlawful.

Three dead in shack attack, say Crossroads residents

By EDWARD MOLONYANE
Staff Reporter

THREE people died when four men shot at a shack before setting it alight in a new outburst of violence in the troubled township of Crossroads, according to residents.

Residents claimed the shooting was connected to the continuing power struggle between followers of the controversial mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, and his opponents.

The dead were two women and a man, according to residents, who could not identify the victims. They are believed to have been visitors.

Police said a man and a youth died in the incident and a second youth was shot dead in another part of the township.

HEARD GUNFIRE

The attack took place about 3am yesterday at the Boys' Town home of Mr William Sityodana, one of 14 headmen who broke away from Mr Ngxobongwana.

Mr Kedamile Manisi, a neighbour whose shack was partly burnt, said he and Mr Sityodana were at another headman's house about 500 metres away when they heard gunfire from the direction of their homes.

They had just returned from "patrolling" about 2.30am, he said.

"The shooting went on for about 10 minutes."

He said a man told them that the isibonda's (headman's) home was on fire and they investigated.

"When we arrived a woman lay at the door outside and a number of neighbours were battling fruitlessly to put out the fire." The shack was razed.

Mr Manisi said that when firefighters arrived an hour later "a man and another person" were found.

They were "burned beyond recognition but still alive" and were taken to hospital "with slim chances of survival".

Another neighbour, Mrs Lucy Mtsweni, whose shack had two pellet holes, said she and her family were awakened by gunfire.

"When I peeped through the window there were huge flames outside and I could not see which shack was burning. The shooting continued. A red station wagon stood down the street. I saw about four men with long guns running towards it and they drove down the street," she said.

She said she joined other neighbours in attempts to put out the fire but their efforts were fruitless.

MURDER PROBES

A police spokesman, Captain Attie Laubscher said a youth and a young man had been burnt to death in the incident. They were Mr Tiekie Jordana, 24, and Michael Jordana, 15.

A youth, Zolisa Mgutyana, 16, was shot dead in another part of the township, he said.

Police were investigating two cases of murder and two of arson. No arrests have been made.

victs implicated in SA commando raids.

Squatters plan to march

Appt Times 16/2/90 307

RESIDENTS of two Port Nolloth squatter camps facing a renewed eviction attempt plan to march to the West Coast town's municipal offices on February 22 to discuss their future in the area.

private sector it is quite simply disgraceful. Now the Public Servants Association is telling us that there must be a salary increase of between 35% and 62%. The hon the Minister says that the investigations are first going to be completed by the end of March. The Budget is just around the corner. I want to know how the hon the Minister is going to budget adequately in the new Budget in order to overcome this backlog. [Time expired.]

*The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, it became very clear to me as I was listening to the two hon members that what they were doing here . . . [Interjections.]

*Mr SPEAKER: Order!

*The MINISTER: I have news for the hon member for Pietersburg. One of the very first tasks that was entrusted to me after I was appointed to this position was to take cognizance of nurses' problems. Consequently these things do not arise from the incident involving the H F Verwoerd Hospital. We have been conducting interviews with the Nursing Association for a long time, interviews that were in progress before this incident occurred.

The hon member for Durban North added absolutely nothing new to the information that is already at my disposal.

I think it is very important that we emphasise that the problems involving the nurses cannot be dealt with in isolation, since they concern quite a number of health problems. Let me mention one example to hon members. During the past two years, for example, 44 new private hospitals have been developed, which caused a direct drain on our nursing manpower. As a result of this situation nurses have of necessity been lured away from State hospitals. Consequently, in dealing with the problem of manpower, there are quite a number of factors that must be considered. It is precisely for that reason that a proper investigation has been ordered, to which we eventually hope to react. I think it is time I issued a warning by mentioning that it is apparent from all the surveys we are making at present that we are developing an over-supply of certain facilities in certain categories in some regions. It is therefore going to be necessary for us to come forward with very drastic policy changes if we want to deal effectively with the problems in the long run. [Time expired.]

Mr B B GOODALL: Mr Speaker, we are witnessing once again this Government's favourite management style. It is called "management by crisis". They let a situation develop, and when it becomes a crisis they try to do something about it. Then they try to get out of it by appointing a commission or a committee. Instead of appointing a commission or a committee, let us listen to what the nurses are saying. I would like to read to the hon the Minister a letter I received from the nurses at the Edenvale General Hospital. The letter was signed by 63 nurses. They write to me about the serious situation that has arisen in the nursing profession due to the poor working conditions, particularly with regard to salary. Some of the points and problems that they highlight include staff shortage—posts are only 59% full, and training posts only 30% full.

The long-term outlook for the profession is very bad—that is an understatement. The workload is enormous, resulting in stress, dissatisfaction, poor patient care, increased medico-legal claims, and increased absenteeism. Red tape present in the hospital services system prevents necessary changes being made as required. Attractive competitive salaries and working conditions in the private sector compound this, as the hon the Minister quite correctly said.

The necessary very high standard of education required in the profession is not recognised and remunerated. Salary scales are not in line with professional status and the responsibilities of a nurse.

We do not need a commission or a committee to tell us that the nursing profession in South Africa is in a crisis. That Department has been investigating the pension situation in South Africa for 24 years, and we still have no solution. What we have to do is to listen to what the nurses are saying and having listened, then to take action. That is what we want.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr B B GOODALL: Action! That is what we want!

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr B B GOODALL: What we want from the hon the Minister is not . . . .

Mr SPEAKER: Order! When I call hon members to order I would appreciate their co-operation. The hon member's time has expired.

Mr M J ELLIS: Mr Speaker, it is not enough for the hon the Minister simply to say that she is aware of the problem. Why are nurses leaving the Government's service to go into the private hospitals? That is the important point and it is something that the hon the Minister has got to address.

I have here 47 letters from nurses at the Johannesburg General Hospital and they all take exactly the same line as the letter to the hon member for Edenvale. [Interjections.] Every single letter states the nurses' total frustration and their hurt over the poor salaries they receive and the related conditions of service. The hon the Minister has got to undertake to put all the pressure that she can on her colleagues in the Cabinet to redress the very real problems and causes for extreme agitation that the nursing profession is experiencing at present.

I listen with interest to what the hon members on the opposite side have to say about the nurses in general. It is with great interest that I do that but undoubtedly the main issue is in fact the salaries. Here I urge the hon the Minister to consider very carefully . . . [Time expired.]

*The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, if we were to brag about how many letters we are receiving I think I can beat the hon member . . . [Interjections] . . . because it is a fact that the nurses give us information.

I should like to point out to the hon member for Edenvale that it is not a commission of enquiry. This is a scientific investigation, in which regard is in fact being had to what nurses say. [Interjections.] In fact an attempt is being made to make a survey on a national basis of what the standpoint of nurses is. Consequently there is no question of a commission of enquiry or of *ad hoc* decisions here.

There is one matter I should like to emphasise very seriously. There is no question here of our adopting measures or taking crisis management decisions.

This afternoon I should very much like to give the nursing profession the following assurance. The Government is talking to their leaders. They have impressed on us very thoroughly the seriousness of the situation. We are conversant with the facts, also as a result of the research done by the Directorate: Nursing of the department, but it is also necessary for us to launch a wider research project so that we can find long-term solutions. [Interjections.]

I should very much like to emphasise this matter and tell hon members that this interpellation is very badly timed . . . [Interjections.] Not only is it badly timed . . .

*Mr SPEAKER: Order!

*The MINISTER: It is a deliberate attempt to try to make political capital . . . [Interjections] . . . out of a very serious situation. [Interjections.] At this stage we are not ready to give satisfactory answers to the nurses . . . [Interjections] . . . but within two to three months we will be ready to go to the Nursing Council with a proposal, and also to the Nursing Association, where we will co-operate with them in order to find satisfactory solutions to the situation. [Interjections.]

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply: 307

General Affairs:

Crossroads Town Committee: weapons

*1. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

Whether any official in his Department issued an instruction that any weapons issued to members or employees of the Crossroads Town Committee or Provincial Administration employees operating in Old Crossroads be returned immediately; if so, (a) (i) on what date, (ii) by whom and (iii) why was this instruction issued and (b) how many guns (i) have since been returned and (ii) remain to be returned?

B1E

'Squatter' claims Hout Bay land is his

Supreme Court Reporter

A 74-YEAR-OLD man was adamant in the Supreme Court yesterday that the land on which he and his family had lived for 30 years and from which Orpington Investments wanted to eject him, belonged to him.

Mr Fraser Anthony was giving evidence in an application by Orpington Investments to have 11 families ejected from land next to Applegarth Farm in Main Road, Hout Bay.

The company said it would "prove by appearance and association" that the people concerned were not white and were not entitled to occupy the land.

Mr Anthony said he was born in King William's Town and had arrived in Cape Town when he was 17.

He had originally lived on the land below Main Road, but he and his family had later moved across the road — where they still lived — because of flooding in winter and because a Mr Mitchell had instructed his family to move there.

He had never asked for permission to live on the land because it belonged to him and he did not know Mr Mitchell. Nobody had ever claimed ownership of the land, he said.

Mr Raymond Anthony testified he had lived on the land from birth. He said he had married and with his father's permission built his own house. He had always accepted his father as owner of the land, he said.

The hearing continues.

CAPE TIMES 15/2/90 307

Nun speaks out for Hout Bay squatter

Supreme Court Reporter

A NUN yesterday told the Supreme Court she had met a Hout Bay squatter, Mr Fraser Anthony and his family, on land known as Disa River farm in 1964 and had never known them to live anywhere else.

Sister Agnes Krause, also a qualified nursing sister, was giving evidence in the application by Orpington Investments (Pty) Ltd to have Mr Anthony and 11 families — including some of his children — ejected from the land situated next to Applegarth farm in Main Road, Hout Bay.

The company had said it would prove by appearance and association that the squatters were not white and were not lawfully entitled to occupy the land.

Sister Krause told the court that when she arrived in Hout Bay in 1964 she was appointed community health nurse by the then Divisional Council and had met Mr Anthony and his wife Lilian when she did her health-care rounds.

One of the Anthony children, Emily, contracted tuberculosis and for about two years she had to walk to the Anthony House daily because Emily had recovered but later suffered a relapse.

She had never known the Anthony family to live anywhere else and even when their shacks were broken down by Divisional Council officials she found them sitting under bushes.

Mr Joel Krige, for the squatters, said they intended closing their case but not before seeking an agreement with Orpington whereby people regarded as Mr Anthony's extended family could claim they received authority to occupy the land from Mr Anthony.

The hearing continues today.

Mr Justice J H Conradie presided. Mr Krige was assisted by Mr J van der Berg and instructed by Enver Daniels and Co. Mr H M Carstens SC, with Mr W R E Duminy, instructed by Sonnenberg Hoffman and Galombik, appeared for Orpington.

†The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

No

(a)(i) to (b)(ii) fall away.

I should like to add that hon members must please distinguish between my Department and the four provincial administrations. They will get much more complete replies if hon members, in questions that refer to provincial administrations over which we have overall control, distinguish between the administrations and my Department.

March on 23 January 1990

*2. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether on 23 February 1990 the South African Police dispersed a crowd of about 5 000 students and parents who had gathered in and around Wale Street, Cape Town, for the purpose of holding a march; if so,

(2) whether the blade wire which had been placed in this area was removed before the said crowd was dispersed; if not, why not;

(3) whether an order was issued that the crowd had to disperse; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(4) what was the name or rank of the police officer who was (a) in charge of police operations in the area concerned on this day and (b) engaged in negotiations with the organisers of the march and their legal representatives?

B2E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

(2) No. Barrier wire was placed across Wale Street at the corner of Queen Victoria and Wale Streets and also across one lane of Adderley Street at the corner of Adderley and Bureau Streets in order to prevent the crowd from starting an illegal march. However, the crowd could freely move away from the scene along St Georges Street, Government Avenue or Adderley Street.

(3) Yes. The District Commissioner of Cape Town initially negotiated with the organisers of the march for approximately 45 minutes. They were informed that the march was being held without the permission of the Chief Magistrate and was therefore illegal. Notwithstanding several proposals made to the organisers in an attempt to disperse the crowd peacefully, they insisted that they wanted to march to the Regional Office of the Department of Education and Training to hand over a petition. It was repeatedly brought to the attention of the organisers and also the honourable member who was present, that the Police did not have the legal authority to allow the illegal march and in fact had a statutory duty to maintain the prohibition. After the organisers had refused to accept any of the proposals, the crowd was warned by an officer of the South African Police using a megaphone, in terms of the Security Emergency Regulations, to disperse within ten minutes. The warning was given in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa.

(4) (a) The Commander, Operational Unit no. 10.

(b) The District Commissioner, Cape Town.

†Mr J VAN ECK: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him whether the commanding officer was still busy negotiating about the peaceful dispersion of the crowd when the order that the crowd must disperse was given by a junior officer?

†The MINISTER: The answer is no. The negotiations had already been completed and there was no misunderstanding between the officers that were there.

†Mr C W EGLIN: According to the memorandum furnished to you!

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, must I now again say to the hon member . . . [Interjections.] . . . it seems to me that the hon member for Sea Point does not want to listen because a person cannot talk and listen at the same time. The negotiations had already been completed. There was no misunderstanding between the officers that conducted the negotiations and the one that gave the order. At that stage there were no further

discussions under way between the people that had been busy with it. [Interjections.]

†Mr J VAN ECK: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon Minister's reply, may I ask him whether the commanding officer and the person that gave the order were standing at the same place and whether they were in communication with each other? [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the person that was busy with the negotiations—that officer—continued with the negotiations there, and after it had ended, he went to the officer that gave the order, and that officer said that there was no possibility of taking the matter further. That was after the hon member for Claremont had interfered.

†Mr VAN ECK: That is not true! [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Yes, I have here a statement that he interfered. He made the situation a little more confusing than it was. [Interjections.] The hon member must rather stay away there . . . [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order!

†Mr J VAN ECK: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask whether the commanding officer in reality walked away from the negotiating group and said to them: "Just give me a minute", and then went to talk to the person who gave the order, and never came back? [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, as I have carefully explained, the negotiations between the organisers of the unlawful gathering and the police officer had ended. It had been concluded. Then this officer went to the officer who gave the order and said to him that there was no possibility of further negotiations; he had to give the people ten minutes to disperse. That is what happened.

†Mr J VAN ECK: That is untrue! [Interjections.]

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him the following question in view of the fact that the crowd was spread from the corner of Wale and Adderley Streets right up to the corner of Wale and Queen Victoria Streets, including the Cathedral grounds and partially up Queen Victoria Street, where the order to disperse was given. I happened to be in the vicinity, and I did not hear the order to disperse. I would like to know where in fact it was given. [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I was not in the vicinity. I therefore do not know exactly where the order was given but we did struggle the whole morning to get those people to disperse peacefully so that they could go home, but it got worse and worse, and that is why the police eventually, at the end of their tether, took action and broke up the gathering. [Interjections.]

†Dr P W A MULDER: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him a further question. Is he not of the opinion that he should request the hon the Minister of Justice to make it compulsory for magistrates to read the newspaper so that they can take note of such protest marches, so that the application for permission therefore would be coupled with fewer problems? [Interjections.]

Namibia: message regarding Swapo troops

*3. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether it has been established who was responsible for sending messages purportedly from United Nations personnel regarding the massing of Swapo troops on the border between Namibia and Angola in November 1989; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,

(2) whether a departmental inquiry into who was responsible is being or was conducted; if not, why not; if so, (a) what was the nature of this inquiry and (b)(i) what were the findings and (ii) what action was taken as a result of the findings;

(3) whether the tapes of the said messages are still in existence; if not, what are the relevant details?

B3E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) No.

(2) Yes.

(a) A team of electronic experts held an intensive investigation in order to ascertain the origin of the messages.

(b) (i) It was established that the messages had been intercepted elec-

HORROR 'TRIAL' . . . Philippi squatter Mr Mveliso Sitokisi shows the wounds caused by three hours of continual beating by eight members of a "kangeroo court" in Brown's Farm. Mr Sitokisi has laid a complaint of assault.
Picture: OBED ZILWA

Squatter tells of kangeroo court beating

Staff Reporter

A PHILIPPI squatter has told police he was strapped to a pole and beaten for three hours by eight sjambok-wielding members of a kangeroo court.

Mr Mveliso Sitokisi, 22, who lives in a section of Brown's Farm known as Snake Park, said he was accused of having stolen R480 and a tape recorder in the camp on Sunday.

"A group of people came to my house and said I must appear before the court. They took me and I was tied to a pole with a coat hanger that was unwound, and then about 20 to 30 men interrogated me," he said.

"Eight of them took turns to beat and question me, then they would talk with the others, then return to beat me," Mr Sitokisi said from the home of relatives in Guguletu.

Mr Sitokisi said the kangeroo courts were well known in the squatter camp and he knew exactly who his interrogators had been, but nothing could be done to stop them.

He showed the Cape Times deep cuts on the back of his legs and shoulders, caused by the beating.

He said he was returned to his shack, which his assailants searched, and was left there when no evidence of the stolen goods could be found.

Family members then took him to Philippi poice station where he laid a complaint of assault.

Police liaison officer Major Jan Calitz said police were investigating a case of grievous bodily harm. There were no arrests as yet, he said.

Water for Brown's Farm squatters

CAPE Times
22/2/90
307

Political Staff

THE Brown's Farm squatter settlement at Philippi, consisting of about 3 000 families, is to be provided with permanent water supplies by the Ikapa Town Council.

The Minister of Provincial Affairs and Planning, Mr Hernus Kriel, has told Parliament water should be available within a fortnight.

Drinking water had not been provided at the squatter camp because taps would have been in the way of development, Mr Kriel said in reply to a question from Mr Jan van Eck (DP, Claremont).

Mr Van Eck said yesterday that Mr Kriel's justification was "bizarre".

"To put development above the health of people is an astonishing distortion of priorities."

The squatters at Brown's Farm had moved there in July 1988 after they moved from the greater Crossroads area to Nyanga and then conflict developed with elements in Nyanga.

Although provincial authorities eventually accepted the settlement they refused to provide it with any services, Mr Van Eck said.

Disa River squatters lose — to be ejected

CAPE TIMES 23/2/90 (307)

Supreme Court Reporter

THE Supreme Court yesterday ordered that a Hout Bay patriarch and members of his family be ejected from the Disa River farm after they failed to prove they had occupied the land for more than 30 years.

Mr Justice J H Conradie ordered Mr Fraser Anthony, 74, nine of his children and their families and another person to pay costs, including those of two counsel and two expert witnesses.

He was judging an application by Orpington Investments (Pty) Ltd to have the families ejected from the 64-hectare Disa River farm next to Applegarth farm in Main Road, Hout Bay.

Mr Anthony said he had lived on the land for 30 years and had earned the property or occupation rights by superannuation.

Mr Justice Conradie said Mr Anthony was the most important witness and was the only one who had said he intended to earn property rights to the land by superannuation. He was unable to say when he first started living on Disa River farm.

Each of the other defendants had said in an affidavit that their father had been given permission by a Mr Mitchell to occupy the land but had later denied it in evidence.

He had warned the Anthonys' legal representatives — who later withdrew — that he would make a costs order against them personally if they proceeded with their defence and prolonged the proceedings in a "reckless and irresponsible" manner.

The Disa River community, like many others moved around, lived where they could find shelter, were often prosecuted and had their homes demolished. It was a sad existence because development and natural disasters forced them to move until for the past six or seven years they had lived at Disa River farm.

He could not imagine that they would have lived on the land for 30 years without being forced to move.

"It was a pity the case came to court. It was riddled with legal and factual problems and was doomed to failure," the judge said.

Mr H M Carstens SC, assisted by Mr W R E Duminy, instructed by Sonneberg Hoffman and Galombik, appeared for Orpington. Mr Joel Krige, with Mr J van der Berg, instructed by Enver Daniels and Co, originally appeared for the squatters.

Eviction: Hout Bay squatter refuses to move

By MONICA GRAAFF

A 74-YEAR-OLD says he will not move from the Hout Bay farm he and his family have lived on for over 30 years, despite a Supreme Court eviction order issued last week.

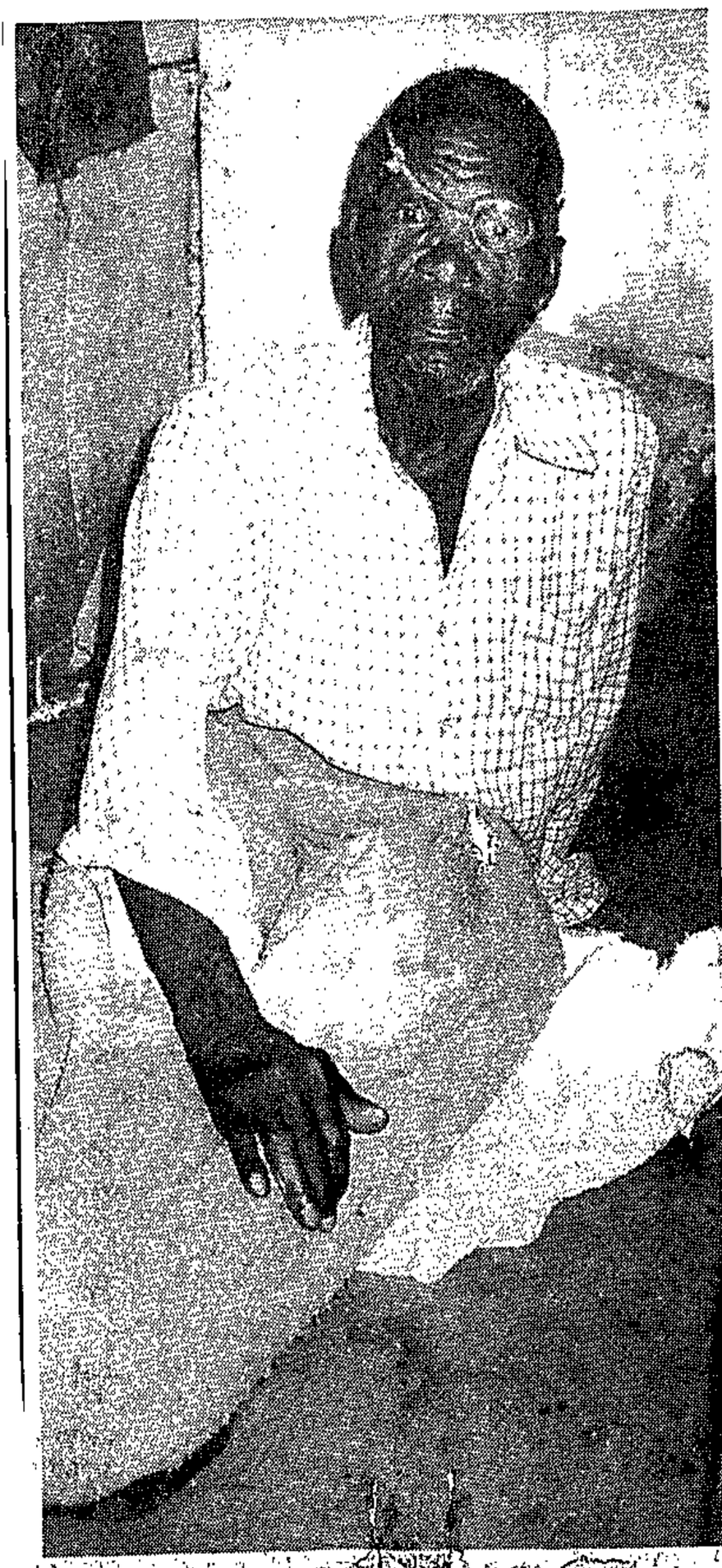
Mr Fraser Anthony said this from his shack where he lay in bed "too sad to do anything else".

On Thursday Mr Justice J H Conradie dismissed his claims to occupation rights by superannuation on the Disa River farm.

Mr Justice Conradie was judging an application by Orpington Investments (Pty) Ltd to have Mr Anthony, nine of his children and their families and another person evicted from the farm in Main Road, Hout Bay.

Mr Anthony said he was the founder and patriarch of the 70-member squatter community.

"We settled here because there is no group area catering for blacks who work in Hout Bay. We are not going to move because we have nowhere else to go," he said.



WON'T MOVE . . . Mr Fraser Anthony who wants to stay in his Hout Bay squatter settlement in spite of an eviction order.

South 11/3 - 7/3/90

Disa squatters to appeal against rulling

307

SQUATTERS in the small Disa River settlement are to appeal against a Supreme Court decision ordering them to get off the land they have occupied for more than 40 years.

This has been confirmed by a lawyer representing the squatters who last week lost their long court battle to stay in Hout Bay.

Mr Justice H Conradie ruled in favour of Orpington Investments (Pty) Ltd to have Mr Fraser Anthony, 80, nine of his children and their families ejected from the 64-hectare Disa River farm.

Said Ms Vanessa Matthews, spokersperson for the Disa River squatters: "Oupa Anthony, who cannot read or write, based his defence on the simple explanation that 40 years ago the land was given to his family by 'the boere'.

'Piece of paper'

"Oupa has never lived in a house. We all regard him here as the owner of the land and the leader of the community. He believes he has never needed a piece of paper to stake his claim on land that is his."

She said the squatters were determined to continue their fight, but also very fearful that it won't be long before new eviction orders arrive.

"We are all very tense, every time a car pulls up we jump to see whether they have come to throw us off the land," she said.

"But the people here are ready to go to Pollsmoor if necessary."

Matthews said the nine defendants in the Supreme Court case would be in contempt of court if they defied the court orders, but they had nowhere else to go.

New Port Nolloth removal threat

south 1/3-7/3/90

307

By CHIARA CARTER

THE Port Nolloth municipality has made a renewed bid to deport squatters — a year after they won a Supreme Court battle to live in the area.

The municipality this week advertised that it intended to seek permission from the Supreme Court to evict 179 squatters living on municipal land.

This follows repeated attempts to serve eviction notices on individual squatters.

About 1 000 squatters and supporters, including a handful of white residents, marched to the municipality offices last Thursday, demanding decent housing, an end to all evictions, the provision of water and toilets, job creation and a single non-racial municipality.

Surplus Peoples Project spokesperson Lala Steyn said the municipality's previous attempts to evict the squatters had foundered because of legal technicalities and the community's determination to resist eviction.

She said the new eviction proceedings were "reminiscent of past attempts to evict squatters from Lawaaikamp in George".

s to The Editor.

Squatters guilty of trespass

Staff Reporter

THE Stellenbosch municipality was not obliged to notify squatters of its intention to take action against them as most of the squatters could not read and did not have postboxes, a Stellenbosch magistrate said yesterday.

After five days of trial, magistrate Mr D J van Niekerk found 11 Uitsig squatters guilty of trespass. He postponed their sentencing to April 2.

The nine families have been fighting a legal battle for their shacks since they challenged the municipality's right to evict them in the Supreme Court in January last year.

CAPT 7145 3/3/90

11 squatters found guilty of trespass

307

Staff Reporter

THE Stellenbosch Municipality was not obliged to notify squatters of its intention to take action against them as most of the squatters could not read and did not have postboxes, a Stellenbosch magistrate said yesterday.

After five days of trial, magistrate Mr D J van Niekerk found 11 Uitsig squatters guilty of trespass and postponed their sentencing to April 2.

The nine families have been fighting a legal battle for the right to occupy their shacks since they challenged the municipality's right to evict them in the Supreme Court in January last year.

Municipal employee Mr K Ford told the court that he had laid a formal charge of trespass on May 2, 1989 without giving formal written notice.

Mr Roger Chennels, for the squatters, said they had moved on to the site legally in terms of written agreement with the municipality and that the municipality was obliged to notify the squatters of its intentions before taking the drastic step of charging them with trespass.

Mr Chennels asked leave to appeal immediately after sentence was passed.

Mr S Bean prosecuted.

(g) shall be in possession of appropriate authorization; and,

(h) are accommodated in a manner satisfactory to the local authority.

15. The Permitholder shall ensure that collecting, harvesting, drying and other treatment of seaweed in areas to which the public has legal access shall be carried out with proper and effective control so that the lawful use of the seashore by the public shall not be obstructed.

16. No permanent or semi-permanent structures whatsoever, shall be erected on the seashore without the written approval of the Minister. No compensation shall be due to the Permitholder for any such structures should the permit be withdrawn for any reasons, and the Permitholder may be required at its own expense to remove such structures and restore to original status the affected site(s).

17. All refuse or any obnoxious substance resulting from the Permitholder's and its employees' activities above high-tide level especially on recognized beaches and in public places and thoroughfares shall be promptly removed, burnt or otherwise destroyed or disposed of in such manner and at such place as shall be directed by the relevant Health Officer, local authority or Sea Fisheries Control Officer.

18. The Transport of employees to and from a collection site shall be provided by the Permitholder. All labourers employed by the Permitholder shall be in the charge of a supervisor who shall bear the necessary authority.

19. The Permitholder shall, if required, make arrangements with the local authority concerned for the provision of seaweed drying sites.

20. Access to and egress from the seashore shall be only by way of routes approved by the State, a local authority, or the owners of private property. Permission to utilize access routes or to exercise other rights in State forestry land must be obtained from the Department. The Permitholder shall in any case, as far as possible, restrict off-road use of its motor-powered vehicles to the wet-sand area and take every reasonable precaution to avoid damage to the environment, especially those sections that seem sensitive such as potentially or actually unstable sand-dunes.

21. The authorized officials of the Department and the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (CPA) may inspect any of the activities, premises or records involved in terms of this permit.

22. If the Permitholder does not itself qualify as a local secondary processor of its collection/harvest, these shall be offered, at a competitive price (if necessary, subject to arbitration) to *any third party* qualifying as a local secondary processor before they may be exported.

23. In consideration of certain public sensitivities, the Permitholder should attempt to promote a favourable public image in respect of the nature and execution of its collecting/harvesting activities, especially in localities where his employees may attract public antagonism. To aid such public relations strategy, the Permitholder and its agents, but especially its subcontractors and field supervisors shall liaise and co-operate as far as possible with the relevant local authority, and notify beach constables and conservation officers of an impending collection/harvest; the public shall be informed on site by temporarily erected signboard-displays explaining concisely the authority, activity and duration of the activity. In addition, the Permitholder and its said agents shall be in possession of and familiar with current relevant research findings.

(2) Yes, in conjunction with the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (Marine Control) of the Cape Provincial Administration

(3) No.

Persons/communities: resettled (307)

*21. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

Whether any persons or communities have Hansard 6/3/90 been resettled under section 5(1)*(b)* of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, No 52 of 1951, as amended in 1988; if so, (a) how many persons or communities, (b)(i) from which areas and (ii) to which areas and (c) who applied for the resettlement in each case? Hansard 6/3/90 B346E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS: (307)

Yes

(a) 46 Persons

(b) (i) Brackenfell 1 Person
Greenbushes (Port Elizabeth) 45 Persons

(ii) The person from Brackenfell to a home for the aged at Langa
The 45 persons from Greenbushes to Kwanobhule (Uitenhage)

(c) The squatter at Brackenfell was relocated at her own request
The squatters at Greenbushes occupied an unoccupied Farm and was a nuisance to the neighbour on whose request they were relocated.

Orange Free State, Transvaal and Natal

No. Rest of question falls away.

M-Net: broadcasting licence

*22. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Home Affairs: Hansard 6/3/90

Whether the South African Broadcasting Corporation has received any representations from M-Net with regard to amending its broadcasting licence; if so, what was the (a) purport of and (b) response to these applications? B348E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

No.

(a) and (b) fall away.

SAP: four-year short-service contract

*23. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order: Hansard 6/3/90

(1) Whether members of the South African Police who committed themselves to undertaking a four-year short-service contract in lieu of a two-year period of national service will be granted a similar reduction in their service obligations as has been granted to national servicemen; if not, why not;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? Hansard 6/3/90 B349E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) and (2)

After the announcement by the State President on 7 December 1989 that National Service is being reduced to 1 year, the South African Police, in consultation with the South African Defence Force, decided in principle to reduce the minimum period of duty in the South African Police to 2 years. This decision will be in force retrospectively from 1 December 1989. In other words, any member who completes 2 years' service on or after 1 December 1989 and thereafter takes his discharge, will be exempted from National Service and be incorporated in the Police Reserve.

Black River: pollution levels

*24. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Water Affairs: Hansard 6/3/90

(1) Whether his Department is responsible for the testing of the pollution levels in the Black River in the Pinelands/Mowbray area; if not, whose responsibility is it; if so, (a) what levels of pollutants were found in this river as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what levels of pollutants in rivers are considered to be safe;

(2) whether his Department is responsible for indicating that the river is not safe for swimming or canoeing; if not, whose responsibility is it;

(3) whether his Department is taking any steps to ensure that the river is rendered clear of pollutants; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B351E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) and (2) No, it is the reponsibility of the Municipality of Cape Town.

(3) (a) Yes.

(b) J S Slabber—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.
L Redelinghuys—Transferred to Good Hope College.
G M W Visser—Services utilized at the Umzingisi Special School.
P H de Wet—Transferred to Head Office.
C S Kelly—On sick leave pending application for early retirement due to ill health.
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Harms Commission: investigators

*13. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether, with reference to his statement on 7 February 1990, a team of investigators to be put at the disposal of the Harms Commission has been appointed; if so, (a) what are the names of the persons involved, (b) what are their qualifications and (c) by whom are they employed at present? B338E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

Yes.

(a) (i) Advocate T P McNally, SC.

(ii) Advocate L J Roberts, SC.

(iii) Major-General R N van der Westhuizen.

(iv) Lieutenant-Colonel J P Wright.

(b) (i) Advocate McNally is the Attorney-General of the Orange Free State and has been eonrolled as an advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa.

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Lead concentration exceeded

*14. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether the maximum allowable concentration of lead in the atmosphere, as specified in the reply to Question No 506 on 26 May 1989, was exceeded in Cape Town on any day in 1989; if so, on how many days? B339E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

No, the concentration was never exceeded during 1989.

Hout Bay: development of harbour area

*15. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

(1) Whether any progress has been made with the plans for the development of the harbour area at Hout Bay; if not, why not; if so, when will the plans be finalized;

(2) whether, in considering these plans, his Department or the Cape Provincial Administration has commissioned an environmental impact study relating to such development; if so who undertook the study;

(3) whether this environmental impact study will be made public; if not, why not; if so, when;

(4) whether his Department or the Administration has discussed the plans for the proposed development with representatives of the local community; if not, why not; if so, (a) with what representatives and (b) when? B340E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

(1) Major developers were asked to submit sketch plans for the development of part of the harbour at Hout Bay for purposes of tourism. Two groups of developers came to the fore, and the preliminary plans of these two groups are at present with the Provincial Executive Committee for a decision and the appointment of one of them. Subsequently the successful developer will be asked to submit full architectural plans, which, if necessary, will be subjected to an environmental impact study.

(2) Falls away.

(3) Falls away.

(4) No, because there are as yet no final plans which can be discussed with the local community. The final plans will be open to inspection by interested parties.

Mr C W EGLIN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I take it that although they are called "final", the plans will not actually be finally formalised until an impact study has been done and approved and until the local residents have been consulted and have made their input?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, what is happening at the moment is that two different plans are being evaluated. One of these developers will then be asked to present architectural plans, as they are rather expensive items. Once they have been received, those plans will be submitted to the local community for their input and comment.

Brown's Farm: housing

*16. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

(1) How many persons will Brown's Farm be able to accommodate after it has been developed;

(2) whether any other land has been allocated for those persons who were forced to leave the Crossroads area in 1986 and cannot be accommodated on Brown's Farm; if not, why not; if so, what land? B341E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

(1) The assumption is made that the 218 ha development area at Philippi is at question. A total of 5 036 erven is to be developed, and at a family size of 6 the estimated number of people is in the order of 30 000.

(2) No. Current indications are that the development area will be sufficient for *inter alia* the particular category of people.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Cape Town railway station: certain police officer present

*17. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether a certain police officer, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was present on the third-class concourse of the Cape Town railway station on the afternoon of 31 January 1990; if so, why;

(2) whether this officer or any policemen under his control took any action there; if so, what action;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B342E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes. The officer was in charge of a group of policemen who were performing duty on the station.

(2) No.

(3) No.

Tartrazine

*18. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether her Department has received any representations regarding the use of tartrazine in foodstuffs during the past five years; if so, (a) from whom, (b) when, and (c) what was the (i) purport of and (ii) response to these representations, in each case? B343E

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(b) J S Slabber—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.
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(g) shall be in possession of appropriate authorization; and,

(h) are accommodated in a manner satisfactory to the local authority.

15. The Permitholder shall ensure that collecting, harvesting, drying and other treatment of seaweed in areas to which the public has legal access shall be carried out with proper and effective control so that the lawful use of the seashore by the public shall not be obstructed.

16. No permanent or semi-permanent structures whatsoever, shall be erected on the seashore without the written approval of the Minister. No compensation shall be due to the Permitholder for any such structures should the permit be withdrawn for any reasons, and the Permitholder may be required at its own expense to remove such structures and restore to original status the affected site(s).

17. All refuse or any obnoxious substance resulting from the Permitholder's and its employees' activities above high-tide level especially on recognized beaches and in public places and thoroughfares shall be promptly removed, burnt or otherwise destroyed or disposed of in such manner and at such place as shall be directed by the relevant Health Officer, local authority or Sea Fisheries Control Officer.

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(2) Yes, in conjunction with the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (Marine Control) of the Cape Provincial Administration

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The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS: (307)

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(b) (i) Brackenfell 1 Person
Greenbushes (Port Elizabeth) 45 Persons

(ii) The person from Brackenfell to a home for the aged at Langa
The 45 persons from Greenbushes to Kwanobhule (Uitenhage)

(c) The squatter at Brackenfell was relocated at her own request
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Orange Free State, Transvaal and Natal

No. Rest of question falls away.

M-Net: broadcasting licence

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Whether the South African Broadcasting Corporation has received any representations from M-Net with regard to amending its broadcasting licence; if so, what was the (a) purport of and (b) response to these applications? B348E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

No.

(a) and (b) fall away.

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(1) Whether members of the South African Police who committed themselves to undertaking a four-year short-service contract in lieu of a two-year period of national service will be granted a similar reduction in their service obligations as has been granted to national servicemen; if not, why not;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? Hansard 6/3/90 B349E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

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Black River: pollution levels

*24. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Water Affairs: Hansard 6/3/90

(1) Whether his Department is responsible for the testing of the pollution levels in the Black River in the Pinelands/Mowbray area; if not, whose responsibility is it; if so, (a) what levels of pollutants were found in this river as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what levels of pollutants in rivers are considered to be safe;

(2) whether his Department is responsible for indicating that the river is not safe for swimming or canoeing; if not, whose responsibility is it;

(3) whether his Department is taking any steps to ensure that the river is rendered clear of pollutants; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B351E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) and (2) No. it is the reponsibility of the Municipality of Cape Town.

CMC Trial 6/3/90 307

R2m settlement in KTC squatter case

By RONNIE MORRIS
Supreme Court Reporter

IN a dramatic turnabout yesterday, a R2-million settlement was announced in the costly and lengthy Supreme Court case in which police were accused by KTC squatters of complicity in the destruction of their homes by witdoek vigilantes in 1986.

A R200 000 damages action was brought against the Minister of Law and Order by the Methodist Church in Africa and 21 KTC residents. The suit was regarded as a test case because of 3 000 outstanding similar claims by KTC residents totalling more than R5 million.

The minister was sued because it was alleged that police helped witdoek vigilantes by planning the attacks, protecting and escorting witdoeke, transporting them, preventing KTC residents from protecting their propery by firing teargas and ammunition at them, setting fire to dwellings and permitting looting and burning of property.

Last year on June 9, the third anniversary of the destruction of the squatter camp, it was estimated that legal costs were approaching the R2,5 million mark at a rate of about R3 000 an hour in court.

The plaintiffs have called 34 witnesses, including jornalists, press photographers, an MP, doctors, clergymen, lawyers, residents and community workers.

The police have called 59 witnesses, including three generals — former Commissioner of Police General Johan Coetzee, former Divisional Commissioner of Police General Ronnie van der Westhuizen and General Bert Wandrag, then, and still, in control of the riot police.

On three occasions police used Section 66 of the Internal Security Act to block access to documents which they claimed would be prejudicial to state security.

One of the police's most important witnesses, Lieutenant-Colonel Dolf Odendaal, said during evidence that he regarded the trial as part of the "total onslaught" against South Africa.

In terms of the settlement — made an order of court — the residents and the police agreed that the case should be stopped and that it was in the public interest that instead of incurring further legal costs, a fund should be established to:

● Provide assistance for community development programmes for the communities of KTC, Nyanga Bush Camp, Nyanga Extension Camp and Portland Cement Camp; and

● Provide ex-gratia compensation to residents of the areas who suffered loss as a result of damage or loss of property during the events which occurred between May 17-21, 1986, and June 9-11, 1986.

In return the squatters withdrew their action and allegations against the police.

The government undertook to make an initial contribution to the Legal Resources Trust fund within 14 days. The fund will be established to undertake community development projects.

The Legal Resources Trust also undertook to solicit contributions to the fund and to encourage police to contribute R500 000 to this fund on a rand-to-rand basis.

Each party agreed to pay its own legal costs.

In a joint press statement issued after the court case, the parties said the settlement had resulted in a saving of substantial legal costs which would have been incurred if the case had been continued.

Mr Henri Viljoen, SC, assisted by Mr Paul Pretorius, instructed by the Legal Resources Centre, appeared for the residents. Mr G D Griessel, SC, with Fritz Brand, SC, and Mr C Y Louw, instructed by the state attorney, appeared for the minister.

Case took three years to settle

R1,5 m trust fund for KTC camp

STOR 6/3/90

(307)

CAPE TOWN — The case between the Minister of Law and Order and residents of the KTC squatter camp over the burning of the camp in 1986 was settled in the Supreme Court in Cape Town yesterday, with the establishment of an initial R1,5 million trust fund.

The Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town, which has been handling the case for the plaintiffs, said that the Government had undertaken to make an initial contribution of R1,5 million to a fund "which will be established to undertake community development projects in the areas from which the various claimants come, and to provide relief to residents who suffered losses during the events of May and June 1986".

Government fund

The government has also undertaken to contribute a further sum of not more than R500 000 on a rand for rand basis to match other contributions to the fund.

The case has taken three years to reach settlement, and has involved a long and costly litigation.

A spokesman for the Legal Resources Centre said the case had arisen out of the burning of the KTC settlement during the unrest of 1986, and although there had been 3 000 claims for damages, a Mr P N Mzamkaand 20 others — including the Methodist Church of South Africa — had been chosen to represent the residents as a test case.

"The settlement has resulted in a saving of the very substantial legal costs that would have been incurred if the case had been continued," the Legal Resources Centre statement added, pointing out that the costs would probably have "exceeded the contribution the Government has agreed to make to the trust fund".

It noted that the establishment of the fund was "a constructive use of money ... and will benefit a large number of poor people and help them establish better lives for themselves".

The fund will provide assistance for community development programmes in KTC Camp, Nyanga Bush Camp, Nyanga Extension Camp and Portland Cement Camp, and also provide *ex gratia* compensation to residents of these areas who suffered loss or damage to property during the events of May and June 1986. — Sapa.

5 000 stands planned

Political Correspondent Argus 7/3/90 307

MORE than 5 000 stands are being developed on a 218ha site at Brown's Farm in Philippi to accommodate eventual settlement by about 30 000 people, according to Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Mr Hernus Kriel.

No other land had been set aside for people forced to leave Crossroads in 1986 but indications were that this development would be sufficient. •

New proposal to resettle families at Ocean View

(1881) (307) CAPE TIMES 8/3/90

By KIM CLARKIN

RESIDENTS of Ocean View have been asked by the Management Committee if they would object to homeless coloured familes, living in the Noordhoek area and environs, being resettled in a temporary informal camp within Ocean View.

The letter, which asked for a response by yesterday, has sparked some concern that mixed squatter families may be split up under the Group Areas Act.

Mrs Sandy Dowling of the Catholic Welfare Bureau fears that this might impact on the CPA's agreement to consult squatter leaders regarding land allocation.

"At a meeting on November 4 last year the CPA gave an undertaking that land would be allocated to the squatter groups in the southern Peninsula and although no deadline was given it was indicated that this would be done within 12 to 18 months.

"It was also stated that the decision would be made in conjunction with representatives from the squatter communities, but the letter from the Ocean View Management Committee raises a number of questions," said Mrs Dowling.

Democratic

Inquiries revealed that the opinions of Ocean View residents were being canvassed at the request of the magistrate of Simon's Town who was anxious to find alternative accommodation for five coloured families currently squatting at Silvermine Forest Station.

An action against the families was brought recently by Cape Town City Council officials and although the Illegal Squatting Act allows a forced resettlement the authorities are trying to find a more democratic solution.

However, the letter implies that the number of families would be much greater than five. "Due to the prevalent housing shortage many homeless coloured families are living under precarious conditions within the Noordhoek area and environs. These families, for various reasons, cannot be rehoused in conventional housing in the foreseeable future," it said.

"The only solution at this stage appears to be that these families should be resettled in a temporary informal settlement camp, provided with rudimentary services within the confines of Ocean View.

"Kindly indicate with an X in the square below what your opinion on the matter is and return same to the Housing Office on or before 7 March 7."

A "yes" and "no" box were provided for residents' responses.

Information

Mr Peter Clark of Ocean View said he objected to the tone of the letter and felt the time allowed for response was too short. "I received the notification on February 28, which gives only eight days for people to make up their minds on this very important issue.

"Also the letter doesn't give enough information, such as the numbers of people to be resettled, and location. This worries me when I think of people who own houses who may be tempted to say 'no' when the case is put in this way. Also those on the housing list may also say 'no' because of the fear that this will make the housing shortage even worse."

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Maynard Mall, Main Road
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Cape Town metropolitan area: Black housing

*20. Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

(1) Whether he is considering declaring any further land in the Cape Town metropolitan area available for Black housing; if not, why not;,if so, (a) what areas are being considered, (b) when will a decision be taken in each case and (c) how many persons will these areas be able to accommodate;

(2) whether accommodation in these areas will be of a permanent nature; if not, (a) why not and (b) what will be the nature of the accommodation offered?

B433E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(a) (i) Land to the South-east of Crossroads, to the east of the Philippi industrial area and to the North-west of the Cape Flats Freeway.

(ii) A rounding-off of the Brown's Farm development area.

(iii) A rounding-off of Mfuleni.

(iv) Land in the Noordhoek-Kommetjie area.

(v) The remainder of Khayelitsha Town 4.

(b) It is not possible to predict exactly when a final decision concerning each of the above areas will be taken, but it is anticipated that finality will be reached with regard to all of them during 1990.

(c) (i) 42 000

(ii) 1 800

(iii) 1 500

(iv) 5 000

(v) 36 000

(2) Yes—the rest of the question falls away.

Aids programmes

*21. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether any funds were spent by her Department in the 1989-90 financial year on programmes aimed at preventing the spread of Aids; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

B434E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Yes, during the financial year 1989/90 R4,5 million was spent on combating Aids. Funds were mainly spent on:

— HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) laboratory tests of suspected cases,

— supplying of more condoms,

— running costs of existing Aids Training and Information Centres,

— the establishment of three new Aids Training and Information Centres,

— education by providing brochures in seven different languages to the public,

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Charge of rape against sergeant in SAP

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(1) Whether, with reference to information furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, a charge of rape has been laid by a person from Site B, Khayelitsha, against a sergeant in the South African Police; if so, (a) what is the name of the accused and (b) what progress has been made in the investigation of the case;

(2) whether the accused has been suspended from the Police Force pending the outcome of the case; if not, why not;

(3) whether any steps have been taken to prevent the accused from contacting the complainant; if so, what steps; if not, why not?

B436E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

(a) Constable C M Nxam.

(b) It is anticipated that the investigation will be completed shortly, whereafter the docket will be handed to the Attorney-General for a decision.

(2) No, in view of the nature of the available evidence, the decision of the Attorney-General is first being awaited, after which his suspension will be considered.

(3) Yes, he was warned in writing by his station commander not to interfere with the witnesses.

Black townships: weapons issued

*23. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

Whether his Department and/or the provincial administrations issue (a) guns and (b) other weapons to persons living and/or working in Black townships; if so, (i) to what categories of persons and (ii) how many persons in these categories in Old Crossroads at present possess guns issued by his Department and/or the provincial administrations?

B437E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

I do not regard it in the interest of either the country or the public to furnish this information.

Pittendrigh report

*24. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) Whether the Pittendrigh report on pharmaceutical studies in South Africa has been completed; if so, what recommendations are made in the report regarding the rationalization of pharmacy schools; if not, when is it anticipated that it will be completed:

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B441E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(1) Yes. On request of my predecessor the Universities and Technikons Advisory Council investigated this matter and completed the report. My predecessor considered it in consultation with the Ministers of Departments of State responsible for education. It was then decided to gather further comments regarding the findings of the report from interested parties. Consultations are currently taking place between Departments of State responsible for education with the view to a recommendation to the Education Ministers in respect of the acceptance or otherwise of the recommendations in the light of the said comments.

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Teacher bursaries: repayment

*25. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education:

(1) Whether teachers to whom the Department of Education and Training is unable to offer posts are required to repay bursaries provided by this Department; if so, (a) why, (b) on what terms and (c) how many teachers fell into this category in the past three years; if not,

(2) whether the money in question is written off; if so, what total amount of money was written off in the past three years?

B442E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(1) Yes.

(a) According to the bursary agreement, all bursaries are repayable if the required period of teaching service (in any education department, including the Self-governing Territories) is not rendered.

(b) The bursary debt can be repaid in one amount or in instalments as agreed to with the bursary holder.

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(c) None.

Police, squatters blame each other

Crime Reporter

POLICE and squatters at Bloekombos squatter camp have blamed each other for starting the violence which erupted at the camp on Sunday night.

Police said yesterday that they had started firing tear smoke, rubber bullets and bird shot at the squatters only after the squatters had started stoning and damaging police vehicles.

Squatters said a policeman had started the conflict by firing tear smoke into a crowd which had gathered to see what the police were doing at the camp. They said this had encouraged them to throw stones.

Between five and 10 people were wounded by birdshot in the incident. Police said five people were treated at Tygerberg Hospital. Squatters claim that at least 10 people were wounded.

According to police liaison officer Major Jan Calitz, the police went to Bloekombos to search for a man who had allegedly been assaulted and had gone missing in the camp.

Wounded squatters arrested in hospital

By CLIVE SAWYER
Tygerberg Bureau

POLICE have arrested four Bloekombos squatters in Tygerberg Hospital while they were recovering from gunshot wounds.

The four arrested were wounded by buckshot during a Sunday night raid by police who said they were looking for stolen goods.

By late last night, requests by legal representatives to the police to release those in custody on bail had failed.

The four are expected to appear in the Bellville Magistrate's Court today over alleged public violence.

Meanwhile, an open-air protest meeting, attended by about 600 people, was called in Scottsville yesterday to decide on action following the destruction of part of Bloekombos last week by municipal workers, and the police action on Sunday.

After the meeting had been in progress for 20 minutes, police arrived and ordered the crowd to disperse, warning that the gathering was illegal in terms of the Internal Security Act.

A police helicopter, which had circled over Bloekombos yesterday, shone a spotlight on the meeting.

A request to hold a church service as an alternative to the open-air meeting was refused.

The crowd dispersed and groups of youths roamed through the town, gathering at street corners and singing freedom songs.

A Kraaifontein Residents' Association (KRA) spokesman said the police intervention was "extraordinary" considering four such meetings had been held recently, and had been peaceful.

KRA workers are taking affidavits from Bloekombos squatters to help lawyers investigating legal action against the authorities.

Another meeting would be held soon, probably at an indoor venue, the KRA spokesman said.

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Apartheid lives, say Bloekombos leaders

By CLIVE SAWYER
Tygerberg Bureau

ACTION against Bloekombos squatter camp showed that apartheid was alive and well in spite of President De Klerk's promises of reform, a Kraaifontein Residents' Association member said.

At a Press conference at the camp last night messages of support were read from the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, the National Medical and Dental Association, the Surplus People's Project, the United Women's Congress and other groups.

The conference was attended by the 400 residents of the camp, outside Kraaifontein on Old Paarl Road.

ANGER

Eyewitnesses, some wounded by police action during a raid on Sunday, expressed anger at their treatment.

KRA chairman Mr Enrico Pedro said police action had been part of a campaign to terrorise the people of Bloekombos.

A Namda doctor said the camp was relatively hygienic, in spite of the lack of water and sewerage.

"People are relatively healthy because they live close to work and medical facilities," he said, and criticised Kraaifontein municipality for not accepting the reality of the camp and extending services to it.

The Rev Courtney Sampson of the Western Province Council of Churches said homeless people needed special attention from the government.

A Kuils River clergyman called on President De Klerk to give special attention to the people of Bloekombos.

"A question mark has been thrown over the government's promises of reform by what has happened here," he said.

In a statement the KRA said it rejected the "inflexible attitude" of Kraaifontein municipality.

"Our struggle for housing, peace of mind and comfort will continue," the statement said.

South 29/3 – 4/4/90

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Group Areas Act

Cause and effect

Scrap this evil law! This is the appeal from a four-year study on the Group Areas Act by the Urban Foundation, the hounded Bloekombos squatters in Kraaifontein and the harried black tenants of Durban's flatland. The act has bedevilled race relations, made nonsense of sensible urban development and ruined lives. Reports by REHANA ROSSOUW, MONO BADELA and CHRISTINA SCOTT:

By REHANA ROSSOUW

IN a four-roomed shack in the heart of the embattled Bloekombos squatter camp, Mr Jacobus Alexander, 64, sits wistfully pondering his uncertain future.

When police moved in to assist workmen of the Kraaifontein municipality to demolish shacks in the tiny settlement, he lay on the ground with his arms covering his head as buckshot peppered the shack behind him.

nicipality finally at the end of last year agreed to a "temporary reprieve" of the 17 numbered houses.

Now an atmosphere of fear and tension pervades this tiny settlement, the local municipality not being prepared to extend the "temporary reprieve" to the Otto's Bush squatters.

Bullet-scarred zinc sheeting and shattered window panes are silent reminders of running battles between the police and squatters in the past few weeks.

On Tuesday, about 10 shacks were bulldozed and destroyed when petrol was poured over the shacks. Squatters sat huddling in the wind as their meagre possessions were destroyed.

Many of them had experienced this kind of hardship before. They are not recognised as "legal" residents in Cape Town and many have been shunted from camp to camp, until the bulldozers move in again.

The men at Bloekombos have not worked for more than a week and take turns to keep watch at night for the police and bulldozers.

The camp is one of the poorer squatter settlements in Cape Town.

Children squat miserably in the sandy wastes of the camp and raise their heads only to shout obscenities at police vans which visit the camp regularly.

The recent harassment by municipal officials and police has hardened and united the squatters.

Mr Deon Witbooi was outraged by a municipal official who threw his child out of his shack last Sunday before it was bulldozed.

"My 18-month-old daughter was sleeping in our shack and the official told my wife to get her out," Witbooi said.

"When she refused, he grabbed the child by her ankle and tossed her outside into the sand.

"They won't even treat their dogs like that. Their dogs get driven around in their cars to salons to have their hair cut."

Witbooi has only vague memories of life in a proper house. He was born in Mount Fletcher, Transkei and moved to Citrusdal when he was about 10 years old.

He came to Cape Town a few years later and lived with his grandparents in Kraaifontein, where his life as a squatter began.

Since then, Witbooi has never lived longer than three years in one camp. His homes have been demolished and burnt to the ground. He has been shot at, arrested on charges of trespassing and chased from camp to camp.

His wife Katrina took up the story: "I was born in Kraaifontein and went to school in Stikland.

"When I was old enough to take a man, Witbooi and I built a shelter along the fence at the railway line in Kraaifontein.

"One day a railway worker came there and chased us away before kicking our shelter to pieces.

"We moved from place to place until we reached Outobos, in the bushes in Kraaifontein. The municipality said we could stay there if we only put up our shelters at night and took them down again in the morning.

"Last month, two white men came to Otto's Bush late at night and burnt our shelter, with all our posessions inside."

Bloekombos fights bullets, bulldozers

"I'm leaving this place as soon as I get my pension. I'm going home to Upington. I'm tired of struggling like this," Alexander said.

For other members of this embattled community of about 200 people, the options are not as clear-cut.

Turmoil

The turmoil that has shattered their lives has a long history of misery and harassment — and a government housing and urbanisation policy which has placed millions of people out in the cold.

The critical housing shortage in the Western Cape, and elsewhere in the country, has left them with no option but to squat in small settlements where constant harassment by police and local authorities has become almost a way of life.

Now they face teargas, bullets and bulldozers.

Bloekombos residents are adamant that they are not going to be intimidated into moving.

They are demanding that the Kraaifontein municipality provide housing for all the residents.

Mandela

"The police told us that the next time they come they are going to use live ammunition, but I'm tired of running, I'm going to stay here," said Mr Almond Ninise.

"They said we must not ask the Kraaifontein municipality for housing, we must ask Nelson Mandela.

"That is exactly what we are going to do. In the new South Africa, everyone will have a house to live in."

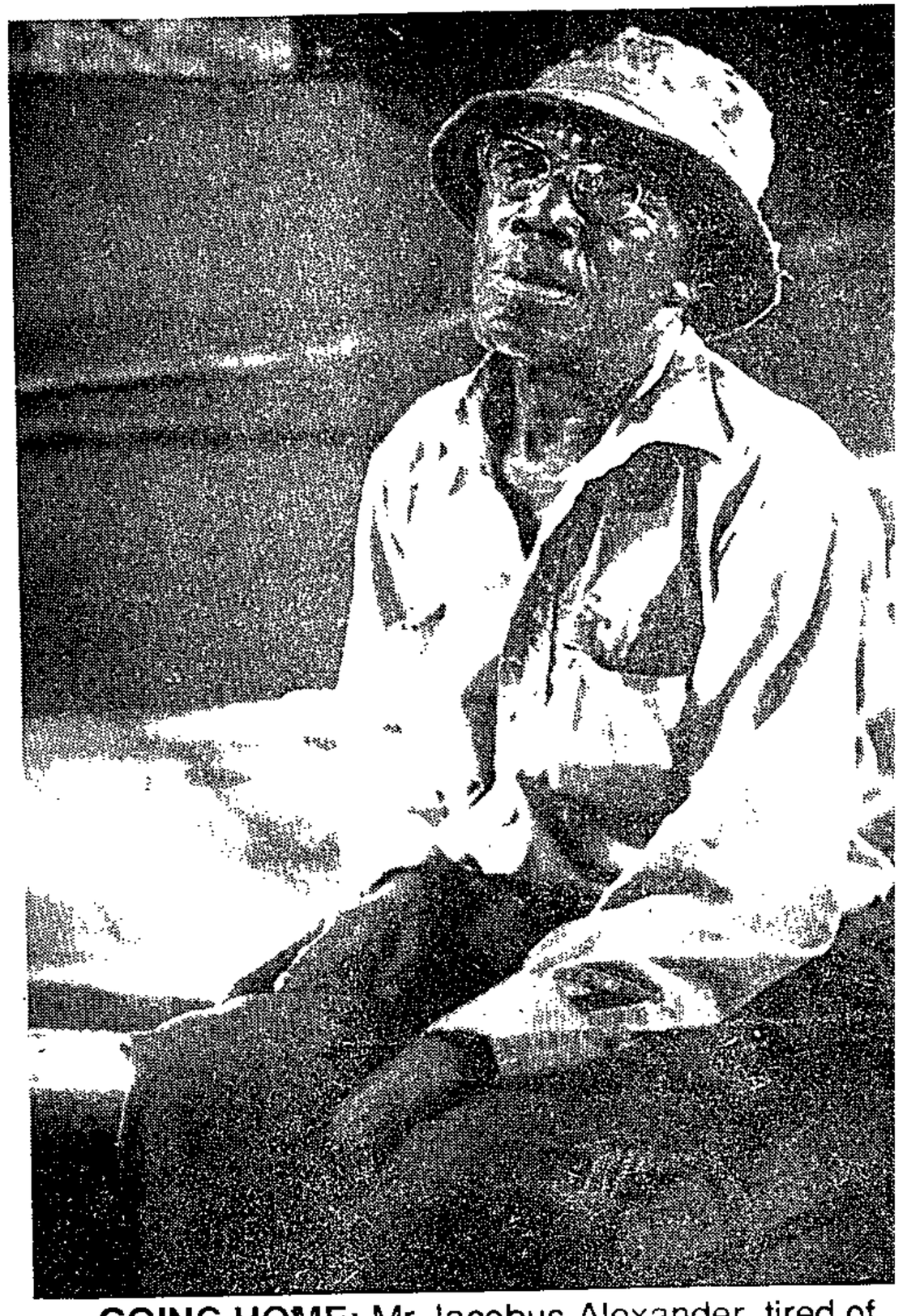
Last year Bloekombos became the first squatter community in the country to be faced with removal under the amended Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

Several court battles later, the mu-

residents have to walk for two kilometres to the nearest tap and the stench of sewage hangs permanently over the camp.

Black plastic sheeting hung over tree branches provides shelter for over 30 residents whose shacks were bulldozed in the past two weeks.

DEMOLISHED: A mother and her children after demolition of her shack



DEFIANCE: Mr Deon Witbooi re-erects his shack after municipal officials bulldozed it to the ground

GOING HOME: Mr Jacobus Alexander, tired of struggling, is leaving for his home town

Homeless to march on Tuynhuys

Sowl 29/3 - 4/4/90

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CIVIC, squatter, community and service organisations are planning a march to the City Council, Regional Services Council, Cape Provincial Adminstration and Tuynhuys next Thursday to hand over a memorandum calling for land and housing.

The protest, planned to coincide with Founder's Day next Friday, will draw attention to the plight of thousand of squatters who say their misery began three centuries ago when Jan Van Riebeeck arrived at the Cape.

Landless and homeless people from as far afield as the Northern Cape will travel to Cape Town to participate in the two-day protest.

After the march, the protesters will erect shacks in District Six and hold an open air service. On Friday morning, the protesters will hold a mass rally at which speakers from the Mass Democratic Movement and the ANC will address them.

Thousands of people are also expected to participate in a "Walk for Hope" on April 29 to bring a message from whites to the black people of Cape Town.

The walk, from Rondebosch Common to Guguletu, is being organised by bodies working in the white community such as Cape Democrats, the Democratic Party Youth and Jews for Justice, and by city councillors.

The organisers wish to show they have hope for a non-racial, democratic future in South Africa and that they identify with the grievances and demands of the black majority.

...arrival.

...three-week teachers strike in Soweto

6 Cape men sentenced to jail for public violence

Star 29/3/90

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Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Six Cape Youth Congress members who damaged shacks and a car during fighting at KTC Squatter camp were yesterday each sentenced to an effective 2½ years' jail.

The six who appeared in the Wynberg Regional Court were Mzwandil Xesha, Vusumzi Futshana, Paulos Mokoena, Simon Seneli, Theminkosi Mbanjwa and Ntsikelelo Khambi.

ABSCONDED

Another accused, Elliot Mtwa, who absconded, was convicted in abstentia and a minor was acquitted.

The men pleaded not guilty to a charge of public violence.

Evidence was that the men destroyed property belonging to Masincedane Committee members Mr Gladstone Ntamo, Mr Lucas Nunu, Mr James Gawuleteta, Miss Gertrude Nokila and Mr Madikane on January 28 1988.

The damaged property included shacks, crockery and the windscreen of Mr Ntamo's car.

Yesterday Magistrate Mr F Knox sentenced the men to five years' imprisonment of which 2½ were suspended for five years.

The accused were originally charged with murdering two Masincedane Committee members, Mr Storemont Madubane and Mr Delekile Siqaba, who was stoned and stabbed to death by a mob on January 28 1988 in KTC. However, the murder charges were dropped because of lack of evidence.

Mr S Lea appeared for the State. Mr David Kawalsky instructed by Mr E Mohammed of E Moosa and Associates appeared for the men.

Uitsig squatters sentenced

Staff Reporter

ELEVEN Stellenbosch squatters convicted last month of trespassing were yesterday sentenced in the local Magistrate's Court to three months' imprisonment.

The sentences were suspended for three months on condition that they vacate the Uitsig site on or before July 3.

Last year the squatters were granted an urgent interdict preventing them from being evicted from the site. When it expired, the Stellenbosch municipality charged them with trespassing.

In passing sentence, magistrate Mr D J van Niekerk said he hoped both parties would use the time provided (the suspended sentences) to seek a solution to the problem.

Attorneys acting for the squatters have appealed against conviction and sentencing.

Mr S Bean prosecuted. The squatters were represented by Mr R Chennels.

Squatters plan march to focus on 'land crisis'

Argus 3/4/90

(307)

By JOHN YELD
Staff Reporter

A MARCH to parliament by scores of squatters and tenants of municipal housing schemes on Thursday will be followed by a mass rally in District Six on Friday which has been claimed as Land Day.

The march, organised by the Squatter Support Committee, is to highlight the growing housing and land crisis.

It will focus on issues such as the harassment of squatter communities at Bloekombos and Uitkyk in Kraaifontein, the attempted "dispossession" of Namaqualand traditional farming communities and the desperate housing shortage in Cape Town and other areas.

REALITY

According to a pamphlet issued by the committee, the government has been forced to recognise the reality of urbanisation by abolishing influx control.

Squatter communities like those at KTC and Brown's Farm have fought off forced removals and are now involved in the struggle to upgrade their areas.

"As political change sweeps the country and everybody talks of the coming negotiations, many squatter communities have seized the opportunity and entered into local level negotiations for land and housing ...

"But change is uneven and for many people things are worse than before. The people of Bloekombos and Uitkyk, for example, continue to be raided and harassed and the authorities refuse even to talk to them."

The pamphlet said that as some South Africans were celebrating Founders' Day, communities from all over the Cape would be protesting that the majority of citizens had been dispossessed of their land.

"We are not only demonstrating about the present needs of communities. This is also our demand: to have a say in making the land and housing policy for the new South Africa.

"As the Freedom Charter says: 'The land shall be shared amongst those who work it ... There shall be housing, security and comfort.'"

● The march to parliament and the offices of the Cape Provincial Administration and Western Cape Regional Services Council will start opposite St Mark's Church in District Six on Thursday at 1pm and will be followed by an unspecified "event" in District Six at 6pm.

The mass rally at the same venue on Friday starts at 10am, with speakers from the UDF, ANC, Cosatu, Cape Housing Action Committee, Western Cape Civic Associations and other organisations.

South 4/4 – 10/4/90

Bloekombos under siege

307

WHILE squatters in Ocean View, Redhill and Fish Hoek celebrated a decision to grant them land, Bloekombos squatters on Tuesday night were bracing themselves for another raid on their camp.

The executive committee of the Cape Provincial Administration decided, in consultation with squatters, to allocate R30 000 to investigate suitable land for squatter communities in Noordhoek.

In contrast, on the other side of the Cape Peninsula, the Kraaifontein municipality decided on Monday night that all but 17 shacks at Bloekombos had to be removed.

The town clerk, Mr JH Conradie, said no decision had been taken when the 70 "illegal" shacks would be bulldozed.

However, police surrounded the camp on Tuesday night, raising fears that the demolition was imminent.

● Friday, April 6 will be renamed Land Day instead of Jan van Riebeeck Day by thousands of squatters and homeless people who will march through the centre of Cape Town to demand housing and land on that day.

South NEWS

307

Councillors in jobs scam

From THABO DANIELS

PORT ELIZABETH — Town councillors in Jansenville have used funds meant for job creation projects in the poverty-stricken town — to employ themselves.

At a gravel road repair project of the Zamukucinga Town Council, the foreman was a local councillor, John Koza.

He refused to comment, and referred inquiries to the mayor, Mr R Z Kula.

Kula said the council was aware there was unhappiness about the job creation project, but that no official complaints had been received.

Those councillors given jobs had been appointed on the strength of their past experience, he said.

Meanwhile, the residents of the two poverty-stricken mud hut townships, Brickfields and Noordgesig, are in desperate need of assistance.

The huts are in a poor state, jobs are scarce and wages are pitifully low in the town.

Mrs Harriet Mgogo, of Noordgesig, works as a domestic in the town for R30 a month.

Of this, R18 goes on rent for the "matchbox" two-roomed house she shares with her three daughters and five grandchildren.

She previously received a grant as a TB patient, but lost it when she recovered from the disease last year.

A member of the Jansenville People's Congress (JPC) said the council was incompetent and must resign.

Kula blamed pension problems on the Cape Provincial Administration, and said the council was doing its utmost to resolve the issue.

There is a desperate need for facilities in the town. There is only one school and one creche in Jansenville, and both are in Brickfield.

The local creche resembles a station waiting room. It is a big, cement-floored, empty classroom with unplastered walls.

The principal, Mrs Jolene Kholobile, expressed concern about the state of the creche, especially with winter approaching.

"The council must try something, children can't live under such abnormal conditions. There are three bucket system toilets for 56 children."

There are no matresses here, and children are going to catch colds," she said.

— *PEN*

Sebe's son jeered

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN — The magistrate's court was packed with spectators this week for the first appearance of the son of ousted Ciskei president, Lennox Sebe, on charges of attempted murder and arson.

Major-General Kwane Sebe, head of Ciskei's elite paramilitary unit, was once the second most powerful man in the Ciskei after his father. South 4/4-10/4/90

He appeared with five other high-ranking officers in the Zwelitsha magistrate's court.

They were charged with causing an explosion, four counts of attempted murder and arson. No further details of the charges were given, no evidence was led and they were not asked to plead.

The case was postponed until April 27. The accused would remain in custody at the Middledrift central prison.

— *ECNA*

Noordhoek land for squatters

Municipal Reporter

SQUATTERS in Oecan View, Red Hill and Fish Hoek will be allowed to settle on suitable land in Noordhoek, the Provincial Administration has announced.

The CPA has accepted the principle of the resettlement and has agreed to the allocation of R30 000 to the Regional Services Council to aid an investigation.

Members of the CPA's executive committee, other senior CPA officials, the member of parliament for Fish Hoek, and representatives of the squatter communities met last week to discuss alternatives for settlement.

District Six protest finds a new cause to celebrate

307

By GAYE DAVIS
Cape Town

PROTEST groups opposing government land policy have chosen tomorrow's public holiday to mark the destruction of District Six.

The Squatters Support Committee said it had renamed Founders' Day as Land Day to mark their protest because they regarded the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck in 1652 as "the beginning of the dispossession of the people's land."

Protesters from across the Cape will converge in Cape Town today for two days of action designed to highlight their demands.

They will march at 1pm from District Six to the city-centre offices of the Cape Provincial Administration and the Regional Services Council and later, at 6pm, will build shacks on vacant land in District Six to spend the night there. A mass rally will also be held in District Six's St Mark's Church.

The Squatter Support Committee, is made up of a string of organisations dealing with land and housing issues as well as the United Democratic Front and Western Cape Civic Association.

Among those taking part will be squatter communities in the greater Cape Town area, the Boland, the Southern Cape and the Cape West Coast as well as members of communities in Namaqualand who are fighting a Bill proposing the privatisation of their communally owned land.

The protests come at a time of increasing homelessness caused by a vast backlog in housing and the eviction of families unable to pay rents or high-interest bond repayments.

Noordhoek squatters to get 'suitable' sites

CPT Times 4/4/90

Staff Reporter

AFTER years of bitter controversy over squatters in Noordhoek valley, the Cape Provincial Administration yesterday decided to make "suitable" valley land available for an estimated 1 200 people from the Ocean View, Redhill and Fish Hoek areas.

This follows a meeting between Mr Koos Theron, MEC for Community Development, Mr Jannie Momberg, MP for the area, and representatives of the squatter communities last week.

At the meeting, various alternatives for settlement were discussed and the squatters said they would be prepared to settle in any of the areas mentioned.

Last night the chairman of the Noordhoek Civic Association, Mr John Cannan , said a proposed survey of how many squatters worked in the area was impractical without any form of influx control.

"Our attitude is that the squatters have forced themselves into this area on to land which is not really fit for human habitation (a reference to winter flooding). Alternative land, preferably out of the valley, should be found," he said.

Mr Cannan said a dormitory suburb was being created in an area that could not support the prospective residents, most of whom were "social security cases".

He cited poor transport services and lack of employment and facilities as reasons for finding land outside the valley.

"What would local ratepayers have to say if squatters set up camp on Rondebosch Common? It's exactly the same here," he said.

He accused the CPA of not consulting his association.

A CPA spokesman yesterday confirmed that R30 000 had been allocated to investigate providing sites which would be acceptable to all parties.

CAPE TIMES 5/4/90 (307)

Residents respond — 'no' to Ocean View squatters

DIFF

CAT

By KIM CLARKIN

OCEAN View residents have voted 'no' to five squatter families being re-located in their community. In response to a survey by the management committee, a total of 401 replies were received — 159 positive and 242 negative.

Mrs Sandy Dowling of the Catholic Welfare Bureau said the negative response probably stemmed from the lack of details on the form, such as how many families were to be re-located and where, as well as the fact there is already a chronic housing shortage in Ocean View and locals fear the situation will get worse if more people are introduced into the area.

Of the five squatter families living at the entrance to the Silvermine Nature Reserve, the magistrate of Simon's Town, Mr André Duraan, said: "Investigation is now under way to find alternative accommodation within the Cape Town City Council area, but as yet I am still to be officially informed of the outcome. However, the families will stay where they are until a solution can be found."

Leaders from the Red Hill, Noordhoek, and Ocean View squatter communities last week met senior officials of the CPA to discuss various issues.

Priority was given to the matter of provision of temporary water and toilet facilities and the eventual relocation of the communities to serviced sites in the southern Peninsula.

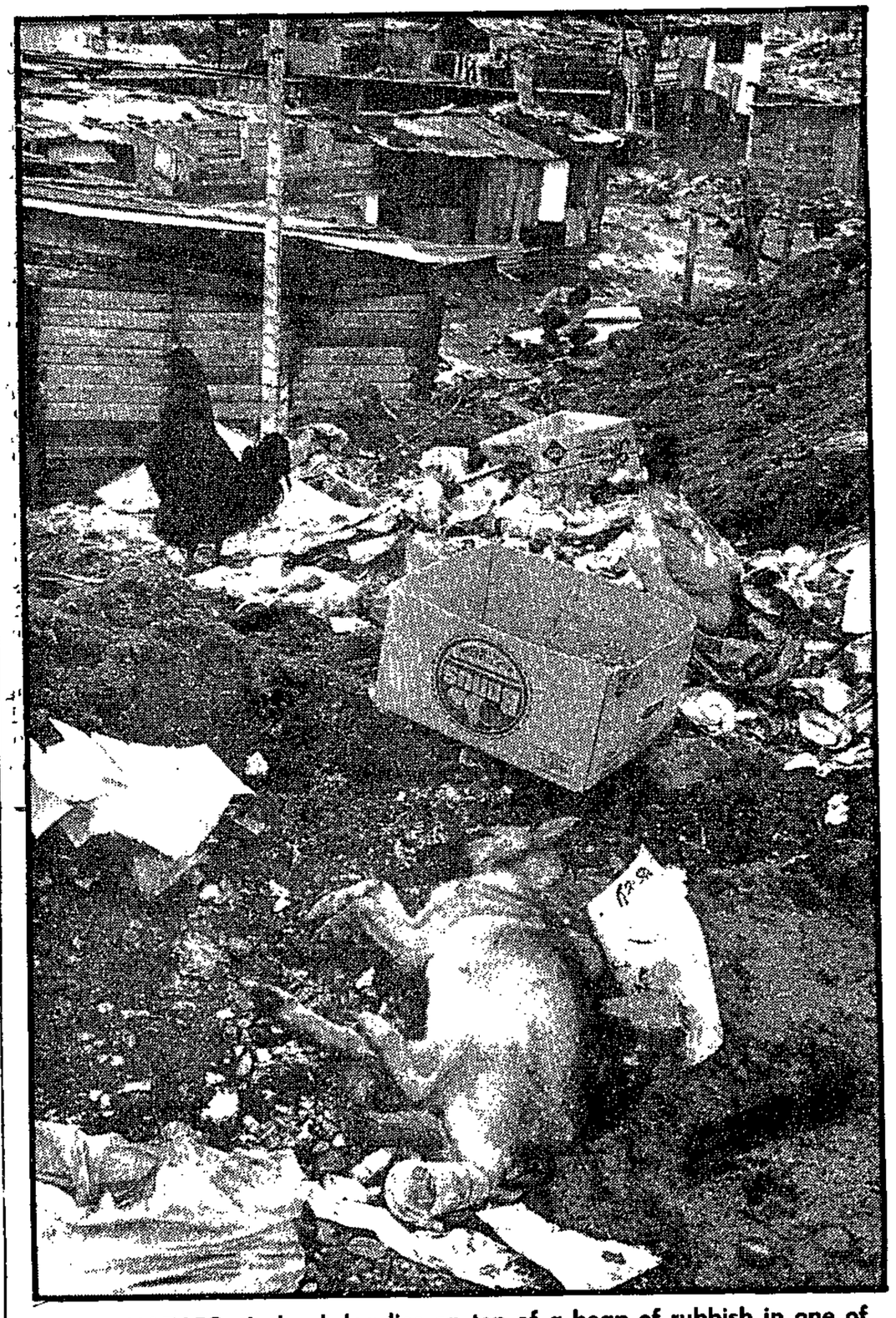
In a statement Mr J W Theron, MEC, said the executive committee of the CPA had decided, in principle, that the squatters of Ocean View, Red Hill and Fish Hoek would be allowed to settle on suitable land in the Noordhoek area.

Several sites were discussed at the meeting and the matter is under further investigation. The CPA said that R30 000 had been allocated to the regional service council for the project.

Sandra Liebenberg, legal representative of the communities, said considerable progress was made on a variety of issues.

Star 7/4/90 (306)

Cities face squatter time-bomb



HEALTH HAZARD: A dead dog lies on top of a heap of rubbish in one of the squatter areas of Alexandra township. Squatters are not unduly worried about health and hygiene.

Their only concern is day-to-day survival

Report: SUE OLSWANG
Photographs: KEN OOSTERBROEK

AS MILLIONS of people stream into South Africa's town and cities looking for work, the pressure on already overcrowded townships with minimal infrastructure and facilities is raising tensions.

Now some officials and community representatives fear that, if things continue unchecked, there could be a real possibility of war breaking out between residents and squatters.

The latest area to feel pressure from squatters is Sandton. Most squatter developments are contained within or close to the country's black townships. But Sandton, with its lucrative employment opportunities, has now also become a target.

Nearby Alexandra, an area which measures only one square mile, has seen a flood of people setting up shacks in a township already bulging with more than 200 000 official residents.

Gross overcrowding

Six months ago there were estimated to be about 14 000 squatters in the grossly overcrowded township, but this figure grows by about 300 every week and today it is close to 25 000, according to Councillor Dennis Tau, chairman of the Alexandra Town Council management committee.

Squatters have also moved onto kwa-Green, an industrial site in nearby Wynberg, and the number of people living in this area, which falls under Sandton, is said to be about 4 500.

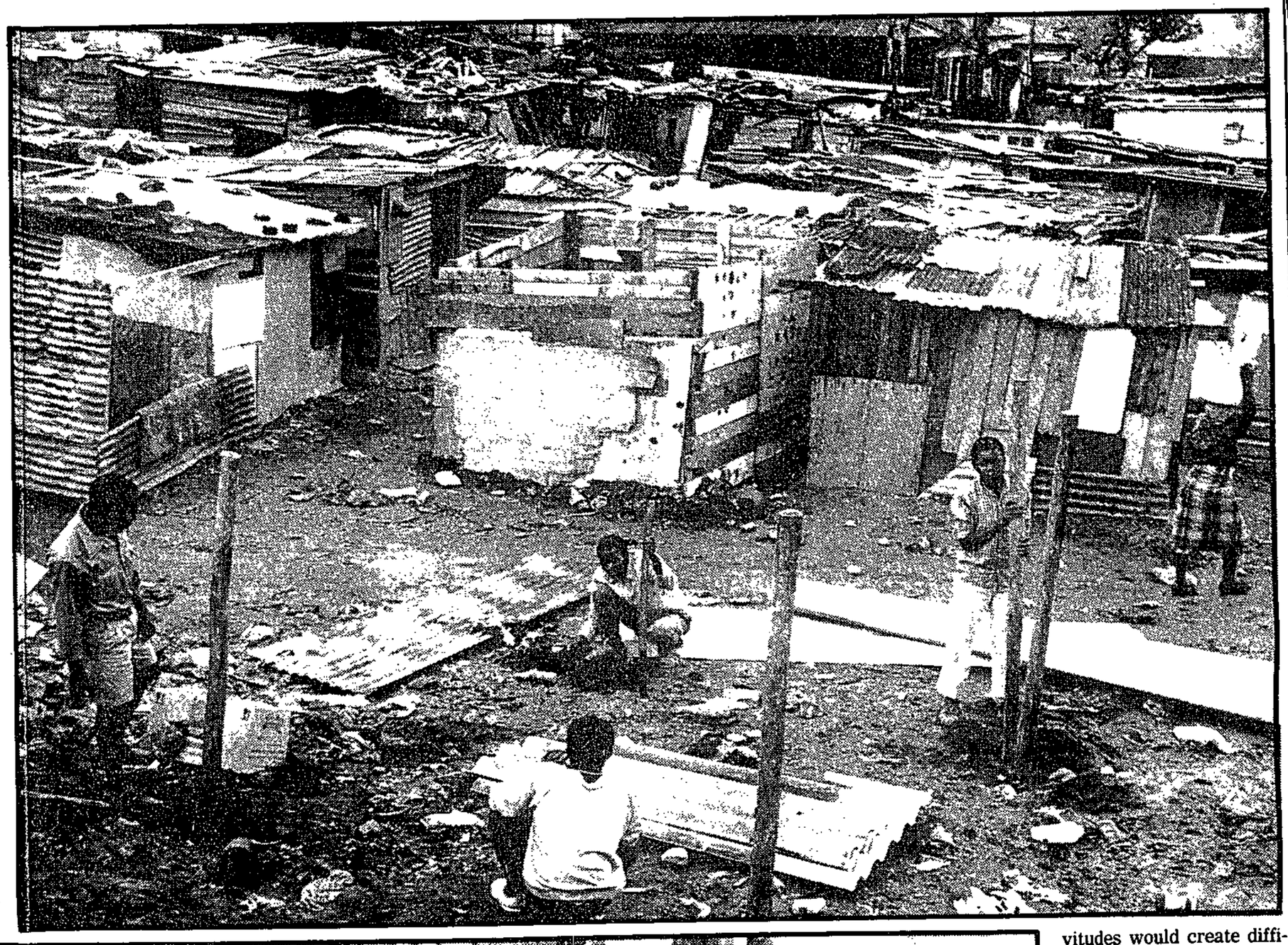
But, kwa-Green is only part of Sandton's squatter headache. Temporary dwellings have sprung up on municipal park lands and river trails along the Braamfontein and Sand spruits — in the very heart of residential Sandton — and the number of "water course" squatters living in these areas is anywhere between 2 000 and 3 000.

A large proportion of the country's squatters are unemployed people who could never begin to afford housing, but this is not the case with many of the people who have invaded Alex and Sandton.

"A socio-economic survey conducted in kwa-Green revealed that most people are employed and the average income is fairly high. There is also a great deal of entrepreneurship and informal businesses thrive," said Mr Perry Oertel, chairman of the Sandton Town Council management committee.

"The problem isn't always money, it's basically a shortage of land and housing."

Mr Tau said the same



vitudes would create difficulties for a low-cost housing development, but an upmarket development would probably tolerate the servitudes better.

Emphasising that residents' objections were not a racial issue, Mr Joosting said their only fear is a slum development.

Mr Joosting said the TPA has merely been asked to look at Frankenwald Farm as a squatter relocation area, but they should be looking at an upmarket black development as well.

"Another idea is to put the Hong Kong Chinese fa-

'War' threat as jobseekers pour into crowded black townships

SUE OLSWANG

SOUTH AFRICA's squatters are faced with lives of misery and ill health in areas where conditions can only go from bad to worse.

Thousands of people live on top of one another in minute, hastily-constructed dwellings made out of building materials ranging from corrugated iron to plastic and cardboard. The lack of fresh water and poor toilet and sewerage facilities aggravates an already desperate situation.

The concepts of sanitation and hygiene are foreign to most squatters. Many defecate and dispose of their rubbish on their doorsteps — their only thought is day-to-day survival.

Children, most of them barefoot and dressed in tatty hand-me-downs, run among dead animals and piles of rubbish in squatter developments where education has become a luxury.

"It's one helluva a way to live," said Councillor Perry Oertel, chairman of the Sandton Town Council management committee and hero of the approximately 4 500 squatters living in the kwaGreen development in Sandton's industrial Wynberg.

"We nearly died when we heard about the call for Mr Oertel's resignation," said Mr Joseph Saki, who has been elected by kwaGreen squatters as administrator of the development. "We had appealed to the Alex Town Council, to officials in Pretoria, to the TPA, and even to Mrs Helen Suzman for help, but nothing was done until Mr Oertel arrived in August last year," he said.

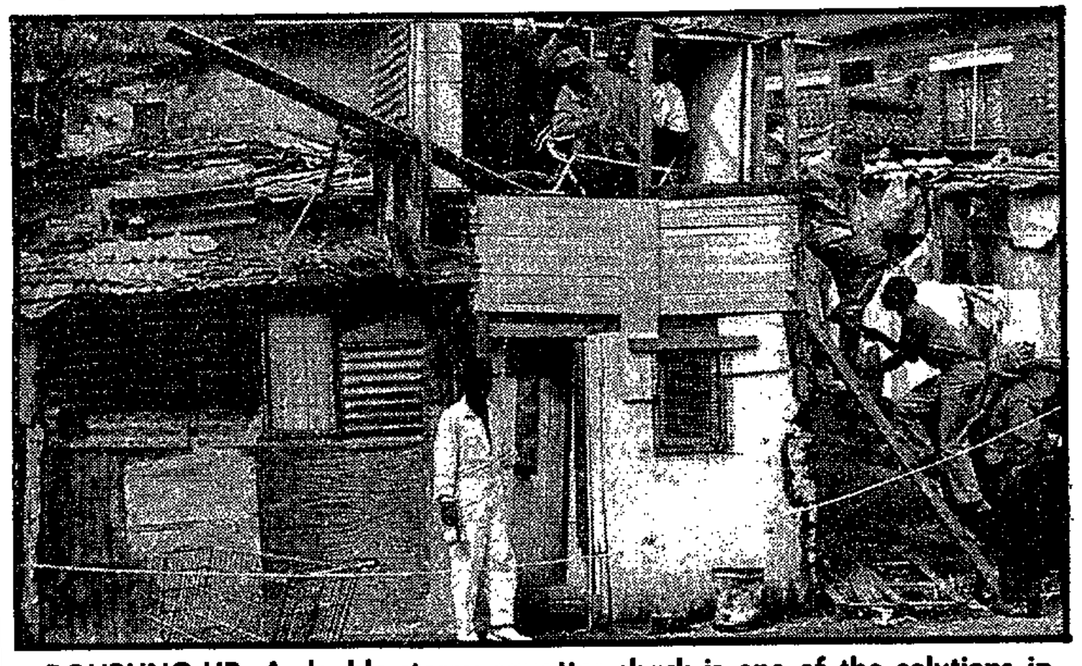
Most kwaGreen residents, who share about 27 toilets between them, have set up corrugated iron, wooden and cardboard "homes", while the luckier ones live in Zozo pre-fabricated huts and a disused warehouse.

In nearby Alexandra, where the squatter problem grows every week, thousands of people are living along flood lines and there is always the danger of waking up under water. The squatters are, however, totally unconcerned about this danger.

The "water course" squatters, who set up "homes" along the banks of the Braamfontein and Sand spruits, are perhaps the worst off. They have no access to toilets and for many the spruits are their only source of water.

"Squatters camps are an enormous health hazard because it is inevitable that living conditions will deteriorate," said a spokesman for Sandton's Department of Environmental Control.

"These areas are ideal breeding grounds for diseases such as cholera, typhoid, tuberculosis and dysentry. In winter, there is the added danger of exposure and all sorts of chest troubles, and there is constantly a threat of cross-contamination. Many of these people are employed and there is also a very real possibility of them passing diseases on to their employers."



DOUBLING-UP: A double-storey squatter shack is one of the solutions in the fight for living space in overcrowded Alexandra.

squatters and the many thousands of people who are moving on to every available bit of space in Alexandra.

"Some families pool their financial resources and can earn up to R5 000 a month between them," he said. "These people could easily afford houses, either by building or renting, but there just isn't anywhere to put them.

"Official residents of Alex are themselves struggling to find accommodation, and the heart of the problem lies in the availability of land."

'Vicious war'

He added: "I fear there may one day be a vicious war between residents and squatters over living space," he said.

Mr Joseph Saki, administrator of the kwa-Green squatter camp, expressed the same fear when discussing the possibility of relocating to Alexandra.

"We are frightened Alex residents could turn against us because they may feel we are being favoured," he said.

Mr Tau said thousands of Alex residents were currently living in "old Alex" — low-cost houses built some time ago — and are desparately seeking resettlement, but squatters move in as soon as contractors clear sites earmarked for upgrading.

"Areas are cleared by contractors during the week but they are unable to protect or guard these sites over the weekend, and by Monday morning squatters have moved in.

"Squatters have even taken over some of our streets, completely blocking entry and exit, and they are setting up shacks virtually on top of permanent structures."

Both the Alex and Sandton town councils, according to Mr Oertel and Mr Tau, have refused to get involved in forced removals.

This means the kwa-Green, Alex and "water course" squatters are there to stay until suitable land has been found for their relocation.

Presently under consideration is a 100-ha site known as Frankenwald Farm or Bergvlei. The site, which is bounded by the N3 freeway, the Modderfontein Dynamite Factory, Linbro Park, Buccleugh and the University of the Witwatersrand Science Park, belongs to the Johannesburg Municipality.

Mr Oertel has asked the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Danie Hough, whether the provincial authorities can buy the land for the relocation of the squatters.

He said Sandton and Alex council and provincial officials were due to meet next week to take a decision on the matter.

Angry Sandton ratepayers have, however, sent a petition to Mr Hough asking him to halt the investigation of the area. They have also signed a petition calling for Mr Oertel's resignation because he proposed Frankenwald Farm as a squatter resettlement area.

Mr Oertel, however, reports that the Sandton Town Council later passed a vote of confidence in him.

Mrs Jo Marais, the town councillor for the ward, recently said Frankenwald Farm was unsuitable for a squatter development because of its location and many servitudes. There are underground sewerage and water pipes in the area and a number of electricity pylons cross the site.

Mr Axel Joosting, chairman of the Buccleugh and Kelvin Ratepayers' Association, recently said his body objected to the Frankenwald resettlement on socio-economic grounds.

"Nowhere in the world do you put a squatter development next to upper-class housing. Residents are concerned about the devaluation of their properties," he said in a recent interview, emphasising that the issue had nothing to do with race.

Residents may, however, be inclined to drop their objections if an idea put forward by Alexandra's Mr Tau is accepted. He believes Frankenwald Farm may be better suited to an upmarket housing development.

"I, for one, would jump at the opportunity to move into Frankenwald if this idea was applied," he said.

"It would seem to be a better solution because we could move upmarket Alex people out of the township and into Frankenwald, and the squatters could take up some of the vacuum they left behind. This would also help to relieve a part of the critical housing shortage facing official township residents."

Mr Axel Joosting agreed wholeheartedly, adding that an upmarket development would be unlikely to provoke the resentment of nearby white residents.

"I doubt whether residents would object to a housing development of a similar quality to ours," he said. "Our only fear is a slum area."

Mr Joosting believes Frankenwald Farm's service could be used as a buffer on to the Frankenwald Farm," he said.

"The squatters should be confined to where they are and the Sandton or Alex Town Council should purchase kwa-Green and use it as a temporary area for squatters. Kwa-Green already has services such as water, sewerage and storm water drainage and the area could be slowly upgraded," he said.

"The ideal solution would be to relocate upper-class Alex residents to Frankenwald. This would take up the open space which attracts squatters and these people could then be more easily contained within Alexandra."

Relief

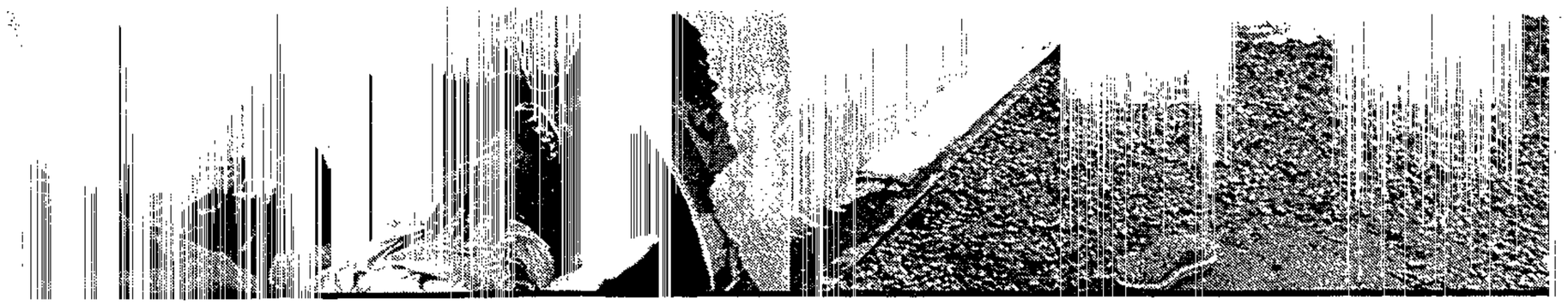
But Mr Tau said containing the squatters within Alexandra would also present problems because of a shortage of land.

"There is 38 ha of open space in what we call the extended East Bank, but this would not be enough to house all these people,"

"I would prefer to see Frankenwald Farm used for an upmarket development, which would relieve some of the housing shortage in Alex, and we could then use the extended East Bank on a controlled basis.

"Controlled squatting would mean that we would provide site and service, and perhaps a basic foundation, and then organisations such as the SA Housing Trust could help to provide low-cost structures."

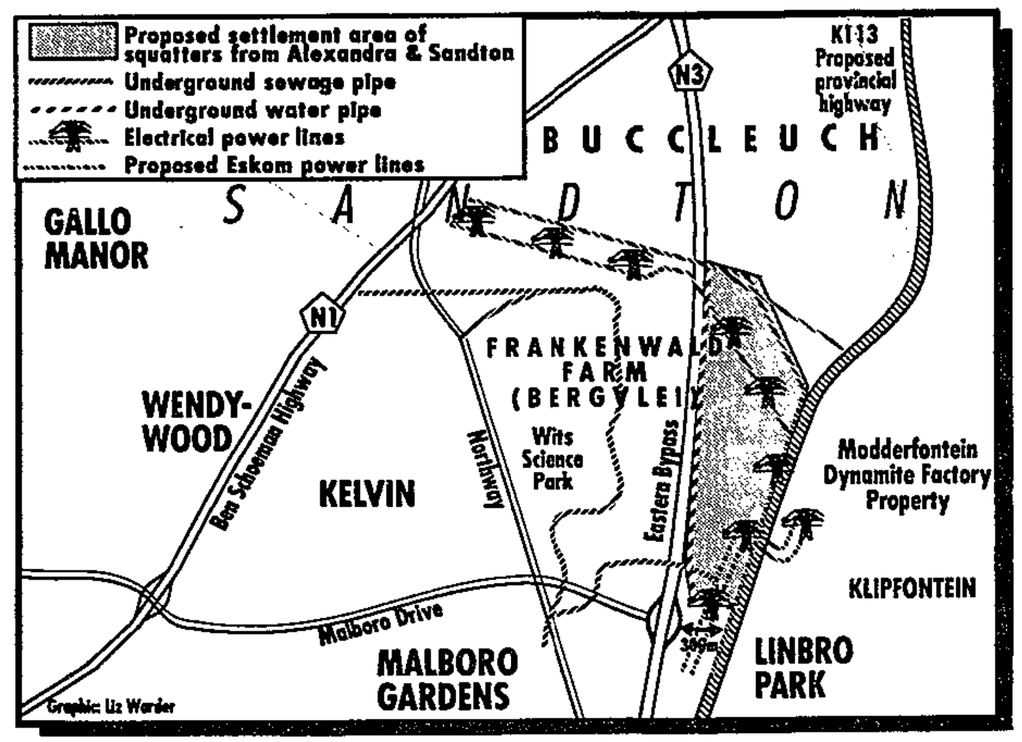
● The Alexandra Town Council has revealed that in an effort to promote co-operation and better relationships between neighbouring councils, the Transvaal Provincial Administration had decided to twin the Sandton and Alex councils.



TOP: An empty space for a new "home" has been found among the many thousands of shack dwellings which house 25 000 squatters in Alexandra.

ABOVE: Running water, taken from a row of taps provided by the Sandton Town Council, is a relatively new luxury for kwa-Green squatters, who carry the precious liquid to their shack dwellings.

RIGHT:The 100 ha Frankenwald Farm, an area proposed for the relocation of thousands of squatters who now live in Alexandra and Wynberg.



Missile sale: woman faces life in jail

DAVID BRAUN

WASHINGTON — A Rhode Island woman faces 25 years in prison and a $1,5 million (about R4 million) fine after being convicted on charges of conspiring to ship US missiles parts to South Africa.

Maryanne Callaghan (40) was found guilty by a federal jury in Washington DC under the Arms Export Control Act. She had conspired with four other accused to ship to South Africa $50 million (about R153 million) worth of gyroscopes, which are used in the guidance systems of anti-dazzo and South African-born Mr Symone Morris Behrman, have aready pleaded guilty and are due to appear in the DC court for sentencing on April 20.

The conspiracy was uncovered by a sting operation of US Customs, which set up a special bogus company with its agents posing as blackmarket weapons buyers.

'Courts too easy'

Cape lists 112 000 squatters

CMT Tribune 9/4/90 (307)

THE Cape Provincial Administration estimates there are more than 112 000 illegal squatters in the province, including 85 549 outside development areas.

A questioner in the Provincial Standing Committee was told that the Administration was identifying areas all over the province for proclamation as development areas.

The administration also disclosed how the R1 million budgeted for squatter control would be spent, during the present financial year.

It has budgeted R380 000 for land for extending the development area at Indwe and R228 250 to Boichoko Town Committee for the relocation of squatters.

Another questioner was told that the upgrading of KTC consisted of the development of 2 242 serviced sites for about R13 500 people.

307

Wagplek: a place of waiting for handouts

By Winnie Graham

"Give us this day our daily bread" is more than an idle prayer for the people of Wagplek.

At this squatter camp on the edge of Siyathemba, the black residential area of Balfour, just an hour's drive from Johannesburg, several families have been left destitute because their breadwinner has been jailed for 90 days — for failing to pay site rent to the local Siyathemba committee.

One of the women is a grandmother, Mrs Jemina Miya. She was close to tears when she spoke.

Her son was in jail, she said, and she had no money with which to buy food. She and her grandchild lived on handouts from the neighbours.

"We are hungry," she added.

Her life has never been easy, but when her 35-year-old son was home he, at least, had a job that provided money for their daily bread.

"He earned R6 a week as a gardener," she said through an interpreter. "It was not much, but it was something."

Now her son is in jail: imprisoned until June because he did not have money to pay the rent for the site on which the family has built their small shack.

Mrs Jemina Miya's precarious existence in a shack at Wagplek is in jeopardy. Her son, who earned R6 a week as a gardener, has been jailed for 90 days along with several other breadwinners because they cannot afford to pay the site rent to the local authority that controls the squatter camp. ● Picture by Winnie Graham.

Move

There are about 1 000 shacks at Wagplek. Many of the people there are the "overflow" from the township where no suitable accommodation has been made available in years.

Initially the people built their shacks on land bordering Siyathemba, but in 1987 they were told by the town committee to move to the sites where they are now.

It was agreed Wagplek would be just that: a place to wait until the town committee could make alternative accommodation available.

In the meantime, the committee agreed to provide minimal services: water and refuse and nightsoil removal. For this the people had to pay R15 a month.

Many squatters in the area, however, do not have jobs and cannot afford the rental.

To make matters worse, they claim the services are inadequate. Water is often cut off and nightsoil has to be buried because it is not removed.

In January this year several residents of Wagplek received summonses for service charges and levy arrears from the Siyathemba town committee.

On March 28 two residents were jailed for 90 days for the non-payment of debt and will be freed only if the amount owing, plus costs, is paid in full.

Jailed

A spokesman for the Black Sash, asked to help, said in one case they knew the amount owing was R73 plus costs and in another R405.

The residents of Wagplek, however, point out that several people have been jailed since the crackdown on non-payment of rentals.

But, while a number of breadwinners will be "away" until June, their families are reluctant to complain because they are afraid they will be forced out of their homes.

One woman, the mother of nine, has to support her family on R50 a month (the wage she receives working for a local Indian family).

Her husband, jailed because he owed the Siyathemba committee money, brought home R80,16 a week.

A mother of four, whose husband earned R50 a week making bricks, is also without a breadwinner.

She says her husband has been jailed for the same reason.

"We have no money but my friend shares her food with us," she said.

"Fortunately her husband has a job."

In the meantime, the Siyathemba Town Committee has made a new area available to the squatters.

Water pipes and sewage facilities are being laid on but, to date, there have been no takers.

A member of the Wagplek Committee, Mrs Mavis Mayaiza, said the sites could be bought for R450 or R600 apiece.

"But there are not many squatters who can afford to pay for them," she added.

investigated but no arrests have yet been made.

Full story page 4

Bleak Easter for squatters

South 11/4 - 18/4/90

MORE than 150 Kraaifontein residents face a bleak Easter after losing their homes this week.

The Kraaifontein municipality bulldozed 30 shacks in a pre-dawn raid on the Bloekombos squatter camp on Tuesday. 307

Later the same day, several families were reported to have been evicted from their homes in Scottsville for rent arrears.

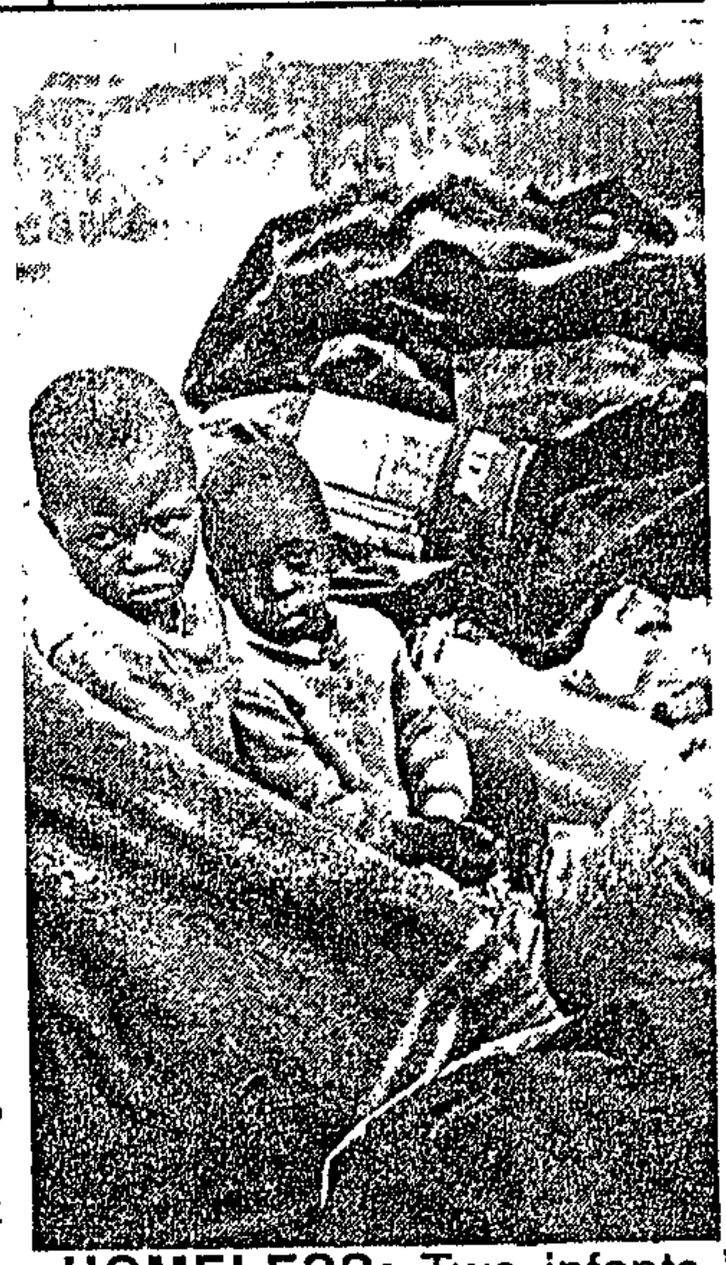
Police guarded a team of eight municipal workers who demolished the shacks at Bloekombos.

According to Kraaifontein Residents' Association spokesperson, Ms Doris Niewat, the shacks belonged to former residents of Otto's Bush.

She said the demolition had left about 130 people without homes.

"Both the Bloekombos and Scotsville families have nowhere else to live," Niewat said.

"They have no alternative but to rebuild the shacks and reoccupy their houses".



HOMELESS: Two infants seek shelter and warmth after their parents' shacks were destroyed in a 5am raid on Tuesday

307

Just six arrests in three-hour squatter camp crime sweep

By CHRIS BATEMAN

A THREE-HOUR police and army crime prevention sweep in the squatter camps of strife-torn Old Crossroads yesterday resulted in just six arrests — for dealing in dagga and liquor and for the theft of a bicycle.

The squatter camps have been the scene of shootings, burnings and several deaths in recent months as opposing factions under mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and under breakaway headman Mr Geoffrey Nongwe clashed.

A police spokesman said the army cordoned off the area while police searched for stolen property, firearms and "suspicious persons".

The purpose of the operation was explained to residents in their own language and pamphlets were also distributed for this purpose, he added.

Van Eck claim attacked

Meanwhile, DP spokesman for local black affairs Mr Jan van Eck was angrily attacked yesterday in an open letter by Old Crossroads administrator Mr "Ricky" Schelhase over his recent claim in Parliament that only Mr Ngxobongwana's followers were allowed to buy new houses in Old Crossroads.

Mr Schelhase invited Mr Van Eck to inspect all documents at his offices to verify that his administration allowed anyone who could afford it to buy homes.

This "open sales" policy was in fact the cause of much of the strife as residents were against outsiders buying the homes, Mr Schelhase added.

Mr Van Eck replied that at one stage developers had flown up to Mr Ngxobongwana's Ciskei home to have applicants for homes "cleared". He added that this practice had stopped since he had raised the matter in Parliament.

Mr Schelhase questioned Mr Van Eck's objectivity, saying he had "not once" in the past three years contacted his officials for their version of controversial events.

Sour note as victory claimed for squatters

ARGUS 24/4/90

307

By JOHN VILJOEN
Tygerberg Bureau

A DECISION to acquire land for the Bloekombos squatters has been described as a victory for the squatters, but the Rev Allan Hendrickse has been accused of political opportunism.

The Democratic Party MP for Claremont, Mr Jan van Eck, described the news as "a small victory for the belief that every South African regardless of race, colour or creed has the right to settle without interference from apartheid laws".

The decision highlighted the absurdity and unnecessary harassment" the squatters had had to endure.

There was still no clarity on whether this land would be available for all the Uitkyk, Bloekombos and Otto's Bush squatters, he said.

South Africa faced a tremendous housing and land shortage and more land would have to be made available to accommodate the homeless, Mr Van Eck said.

United Democratic Front patron Dr Allan Boesak accused Labour leader Mr Hendrickse of "political opportunism of the worst kind" by announcing the land deal in parliament last week.

"Quite suddenly and conveniently the House of Representatives has made land available to the people of Bloekombos.

"These 'representatives' have been living in luxury, oblivious to the abject poverty, discomfort and misery of the people of Bloekombos," Dr Boesak said in a statement.

"We must be careful not to be hoodwinked into trusting those who are against us. We must continue to be vigilant."

● The Bloekombos squatters have begun a consumer boycott of shops in white Kraaifontein. The boycott began on Thursday.

A prefab built for 40 — but this is school for nearly 200

MRGJ 25/4/90 307

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

NEARLY 200 squatter children are being educated in Nyanga in a small, cramped prefabricated room that serves as a school without desks, blackboards, chalk or qualified teachers.

And although Vuyisa Refugees School Camp in Zolani Centre has been operating under these conditions since its inception in 1986, the problems have now been compounded by the fact the three teachers have not been paid since January.

Teacher Miss Gladys Mahlaba, who has been associated with the school since it started in 1985, said the school initially catered mostly for squatter children from Nyanga Bush, where it operated from a shack.

Regrouped

She and the other two teachers, Ms Noluthando Paliso and Ms Luleka Nakani, live in squatter camps and all have matric.

She said after the Witdoek upheavals in 1986 various squatter communities scattered and those who regrouped at KTC re-established the school, which offers classes from Sub A to Standard 5.

Two similar schools were established in Millers Camp and Browns Farm in Philippi.

She said the Quaker Peace Centre, a Mowbray—based organisation, had helped the school to get the prefab building from a private company. The organisation had also helped raise funds for buying chalk and stationery and had paid salaries.

The teachers had attended workshops conducted by the South African Committee for Higher Education (Sached) to improve their teaching skills.

Tattered

However, they were told in January by the Quakers representatives that funds for salaries had run out.

She said the number of children attending the school was increasing annually with new arrivals from the homelands.

This was compounded by the fact that children not in possession of clinic "pink cards" and wishing to register for the first year were being refused admission at the Department of Education and Training (DET) schools.

Pupils who had passed Standard 5 at the school were admitted to the department's schools, however.

Children, some in tattered clothes and barefoot, are accommodated in the prefab big enough for about 40 pupils in normal circumstances.

There are six desks, two benches, three blackboards and parents contribute R2 quarterly for books and chalks. Most of the pupils sit on the floor.

Ms Mahlaba said other classes are offered under the trees when the weather allows.

A DET spokesman said it was "standard practice" that beginners should produce a birth certificate or clinic card to prove their age before admission to schools.

Picture: DION TROMP, The Argus.

REFUGEE SCHOOL: Teacher Ms Noluthando Paliso speaks to pupils at Vuyisa Refugees School Camp, a small building donated by a private company at the Zolani Centre in Nyanga.

Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

REBUILDING: Mr Rowland Joja, owner of one of the five shacks that were demolished by the Khayamnandi town committee last Friday, starts rebuilding.

House burnt as tensions rise in squatter camp

307 ARGUS 27/4/90

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

A HOUSE has been burnt by angry youths in protest against the demolition of shacks amid rising tensions between residents of Khayamnandi, near Stellenbosch, and the town committee.

Khayamnandi committee has decided to destroy a shanty town to make way for a housing scheme.

Town committee assistant secretary Mr A Gruywagen said 29 plots had been allocated to developers to "alleviate the housing backlog" when the scheme started in 1988. Six of the houses had been sold for between R32 000 and R40 000.

He said that the demolition of the shacks had been a "unanimous committee resolution."

The Stellenbosch Civic Association is bitterly opposed, and said the houses were too expensive for most people.

According to civic association member Ms Doreen Hani, a completed but unoccupied four-roomed house built by a private developer was set ablaze by angry youths last Friday.

They were retaliating against the Khayamnandi committee's demolition of five shacks earlier that day, she said.

The shack settlement, known as Strong Yard, is home to more than 400 families. It was allowed to mushroom by candidates standing in the municipal elections in 1988, she said.

Candidates persuaded the squatters to vote for them, she claimed, by promising them permanent status on the land.

"Now they tell them that squatting is not allowed.

"Only a few people can afford the new houses. Few people here are employed and to demolish a home just to build a bigger house in its place, for money, is heartless," Ms Hani said.

STRONG YARD: Mr Alvern Lamani and his wife Nosindiso outside their home in the congested squatter camp of Strong Yard. The Khayamnandi town committee says the more than 400 families will be moved to make way for a new housing scheme.

Down and out in full Khayamnandi: Battle for survival by 10 000

307

Argus 2/5/90

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

CONDITIONS in Khayamnandi township, near Stellenbosch, are very bad and deteriorating rapidly, according to residents.

The Stellenbosch Civic Association claims that more than 10 000 people live in the area (official figure: 6 775). There are 145 core houses, one school, which teaches from Sub A to Standard 7, one creche, no clinic and one soccer ground.

Most of the residents are unemployed. There is an acute shortage of accommodation. And — three years after the pass laws were scrapped — the hostel dwellers are still haunted by influx control.

Repeated raids

The township has about 65 of the original "single sex" hostels, which are now occupied primarily by families.

Repeated raids on the living quarters have instilled fear and suspicion among the hostel dwellers. Strangers are viewed with suspicion by women and men alike.

The hostels — dilapidated prefabricated structures with broken windows, outside communal water taps and toilets — were initially built for migrant workers from the homelands who came to work on the wine farms as "temporary sojourners."

Like elsewhere in the country, no sooner had influx control laws been abolished than hundreds of women streamed to the cities to join their migrant husbands, hoping they could now live together without the fear of dreaded middle-of-the night police raids for "illegals".

However, it was not to be in Khayamnandi. Harassment has continued unabated, according to residents, despite the existence of an "autonomous" black local authority since 1982.

For, while some other "development boards" turned a blind eye to irregularities after the scrapping of influx control in 1986, officials in Stellenbosch continued to make life difficult for the hostel dwellers.

In what were called "crime prevention operations", the living quarters of men and their newly arrived wives and families were raided. They were bundled into police vans at the middle of the night, locked up and accused of "trespassing."

Each hostel block in Khayamnandi consists of 64 double bunks (one bed on top of the other) in a huge hall divided into two. Residents pay R9,50 a month.

Walls have not been painted for ages and privacy is non-existent. In some cases, couples are forced to sleep in bunks above single men.

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

DOWN AND OUT: Unemployed residents of overcrowded hostels in Khayamnandi township try to find solace playing games and drinking home-brewed beer.

Although the hostels were initially meant for employed men, the majority are now unemployed and their only solace is the home-brew beer sold in the majority of the hostels.

A single parent and a veteran victim of the raids, Mrs Ethel Ngceba, 48, who makes a living by selling home-brew liquor, said she could not remember how many times she had been arrested for failing to "produce a permit and for the illegal selling of illicit beer."

She said she arrived in the township nine years ago. But most of the arrests had taken place "in earnest since 1987."

She, like others, still lived in fear of a "raid" because "every movement, we are under the watchful eye of people from the committee."

Mrs Pauline Kili, a former councillor who is now an executive member of the Stellenbosch Civic Association (SCA), said she had "thought she could help her people from within the system" when she joined the council in 1981.

"Manipulated"

"Today's black councils are empowered by law to call the tune in the townships but many of them are still manipulated by white officials they themselves have employed. The situation is hopeless," she said.

"We pay monthly rentals but they are unable to provide services in such a small township."

Khayamnandi committee mayor, Mr Monde Mayekiso, said his committee was "doing all in its power to rectify mistakes."

He said, however, that there were no funds and his committee was negotiating with the Western Cape Regional Services Council for land and funds.

He denied that they were powerless. "We want to improve the life of everybody in this town," he said.

He couldn't comment on other issues raised by residents.

"Hear hear," cheered Party members.

King faces boycott as refugees sit

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON. A consumer boycott has begun in King William's Town in response to dissatisfaction with the South African government's handling of the Nkonkqweni refugees.

The refugees fled Nkonkqweni last year — blaming Ciskei police harassment — and have been living in tents near Ginsberg for the past five months.

The president of the UDF in the Border, Mr Mluleki George, said yesterday that despite repeated representations to the South African government, no positive steps had been taken to rectify the situation.

Crossroads peace talks breakthrough

Argus 11/5/90 307

Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus

BID TO END VIOLENCE: Crossroads squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, left, and the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel at the meeting about conflict at Crossroads.

By MICHAEL MORRIS Political Correspondent

IN a significant breakthrough that could end squatter camp conflict in Cape Town, squatter leaders have accepted a proposal by the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, to enter into peace talks with councillors they claim are threatening their lives.

In a second major step aimed at bringing peace to the settlements Mr Kriel announced he would launch an immediate inquiry into whether black councillors, who had been issued with arms for "self-protection", were abusing the weapons and whether it was necessary for them to have weapons.

Strife in the camp has claimed the lives of at least 12 people this year, including a 35-year-old woman who was shot at point-blank range in the street. Last weekend a 47-year-old special constable was shot in the stomach. The most recent killing was last night when a 25-year-old man was shot.

Mr Kriel said: "If I am convinced that lives are being threatened, then I will act."

The far-reaching agreement, which brings the principle of negotiation politics to black local government in the Peninsula, was reached after Mr Kriel met a 14-strong delegation from the squatter camps for more than an hour and a half in the ministry's offices late yesterday.

The squatter leaders agreed with Mr Kriel's proposal for talks on condition that the mayors of Crossroads and Lingelethu, Mr Johnson Nxgobongwana and Mr Mali Hoza, attended the talks.

A key mediator in squatter affairs in the Cape, Democratic Party MP for Claremont, Mr Jan van Eck, who attended the meeting, hailed the agreement, saying: "This could be the turning point in Crossroads."

Mr Kriel, who, in an unusual departure, allowed journalists to attend the meeting, also assured the squatter leaders that the commission of inquiry into the causes of unrest in Crossroads recently announced by Administrator Mr Kobus Meir-

FW hints at partial lifting of emergency

From PETER FABRICIUS and ALAN DUNN, Political Staff

PARIS. — President F W de Klerk has disclosed that the government is considering a partial lifting of the state of emergency.

He was speaking at a Press conference here after meeting French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Mr Michel Rocard.

Mr De Klerk was asked why the government could not lift the state of emergency in those areas where the violence had subsided, leaving it in place in areas like Natal.

He replied that the government was constantly reviewing the emergency. A partial lifting of sanctions was an option that the government was considering.

He pointed out, however, that Natal was not the only place where the level of violence was high.

When the situation allowed, the government would make its decisions and announce them.

● Mr De Klerk leaves Paris today for Athens on the second leg of his nine-nation European tour.

He is to have meetings this afternoon with

Grenade attack on police station

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Soweto's Diepkloo police station has been attacked with hand grenades by men carrying AK 47 rifles.

A Soweto police spokesman said the small police station was attacked about 7.45pm yesterday.

Two handgrenades were thrown into the courtyard. One exploded and the other was defused by police explosive experts.

The duty sergeant opened fire with an R rifle and hit an attacker.

Mr Kriel, who, in an unusual departure, allowed journalists to attend the meeting, also assured the squatter leaders that the commission of inquiry into the causes of unrest in Crossroads recently announced by Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring would be independent to ensure impartiality.

He told the meeting: "I will do everything possible to bring peace to the area, but peace is something that comes from both sides. You must assist me so that we can develop the community."

Groote Schuur

After discussion through an interpreter, Mr Kriel proposed to the squatter leaders, led by Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, that if they agreed, he would be willing to arrange a second meeting between them and the councillors. He likened the process to last week's talks at Groote Schuur between the government and the ANC.

After the meeting, Mr Nongwe's delegation announced that they accepted the proposal for talks but they repeated their call for the "removal" of local councillors from their area.

At the start of yesterday's meeting, the delegation told Mr Kriel they wanted the government to disband the local councils because "they are killing our brothers and sisters" and because of alleged irregularities in the allocation of new houses.

Mr Nongwe said the councils were not meeting the needs of the communities and were not consulting the people.

Mr Gladstone Ntamo of the Western Cape United Squatters Association said the councils had no mandate from the people and were not democratically run. This did not augur well for the future of democracy in South Africa.

Mr Christopher Ntoise of the Brown's Farm community said squatters wanted the government to help protect them from the councillors who were "killing our people".

Mr Kriel told the delegation the government regretted the deaths in their communities and wanted to try to stop the killings.

He said that if people used weapons, which had been issued to them for self-protection, to "attack other people, we condemn it".

Councillors, he said, had claimed that they needed weapons to protect themselves because they were under threat and were being intimidated.

He added that it was not possible for him to "remove" councillors because they had been elected in terms of the law and although the government was committed to negotiating a new form of local government, this might take some time.

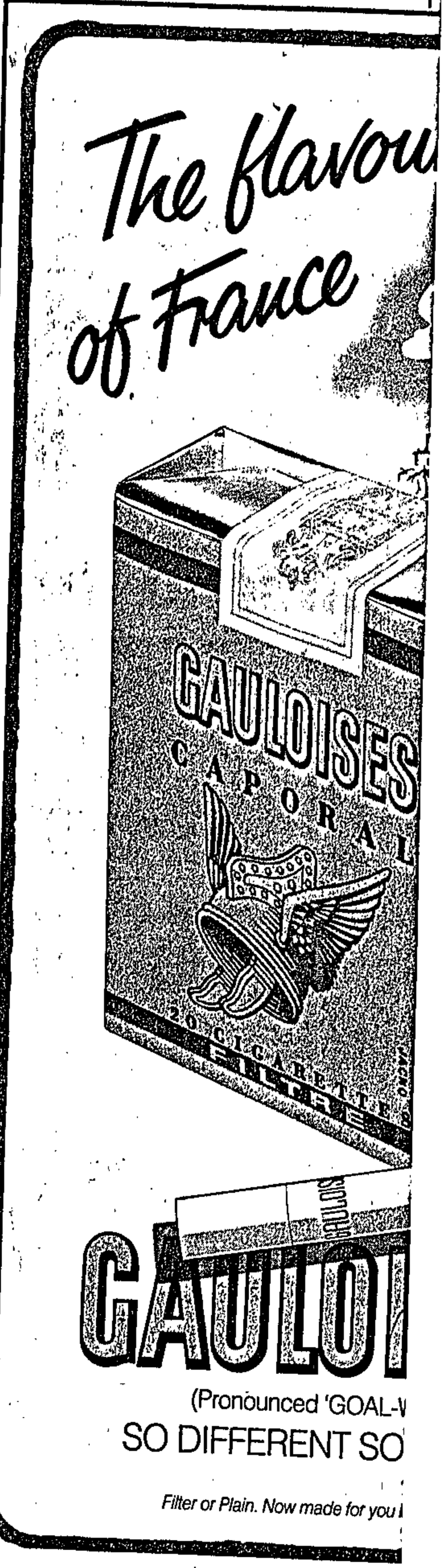
A Soweto police spokesman said the small police station was attacked about 7.45pm yesterday.

Two handgrenades were thrown into the courtyard. One exploded and the other was defused by police explosive experts.

The duty sergeant opened fire with an R1 rifle and hit an attacker.

The spokesman said: "The amount of blood found at the scene shows someone was very seriously hurt. But we have not yet found the injured person, or his body."

No policemen were injured. Damage was slight.



Kriel to meet squatter leaders

Political staff

THE Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, will this morning meet a delegation of squatter leaders who have broken away from Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana.

This was disclosed in a statement yesterday by the Democratic Party MP for Claremont, Mr Jan van Eck.

"The meeting was requested because of the continuing violence and tensions in Old Crossroads," he said.

the opinion that such association will not be detrimental to him. Juveniles are also separated with regard to age groups where facilities permit.

Discussions take place regularly between the South African Prisons Service, the local magistrates, prosecutors and the South African Police with a view to keep awaiting-trial juveniles out of prison.

Greater Cape Town area: Whites/Coloureds/Indians

386. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

What estimated number of (a) Whites, (b) Coloureds and (c) Indians resided in the greater Cape Town area as at 31 December 1989? B914E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

Data for 1989 is not available at the Central Statistical Service. The population information is obtained from population censuses. The latest available information is that of the 1985 Population Census, namely:

(a) 542 705

(b) 1 068 921

(c) 17 437

The next population census will be held on 7 March 1991.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs: 307

Upgrading of KTC squatter camp/Brown's Farm

22. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

(1) (a) What private companies were involved in the upgrading of (i) the KTC squatter camp and (ii) Brown's Farm in Cape Town and (b) for what construction work in each case;

(2) whether tenders were invited for such construction work; if not, why not; if so, (a) what companies submitted tenders and (b)(i) which tenders were accepted and (ii) why;

(3) which authority is responsible for the (a) hiring of companies, and (b) payment of such companies, in each case? B50E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) (i) and (b)

Civil Consultant Eng : Voster, v d Westhuizen & Partners
Contractors : Asla Construction

Electrical:

Consultant Eng : De Villiers & Moore
Contractors : (1) Wheeler Plumlec
: (2) Mast & Pole Maintenance

Surveyor:

(1) De Villiers, Reed, Chiddy & Murray
(2) Hoenson & Gluckman
(3) Groenewald, Turner & Wynne.

Town Planning:

Makroplan

(a) (ii) and (b)

Internal Services:

Consultant Engineers : Ninham Shand
Contractors : EU Civils (Town 2B)
(1) Murray & Roberts (Town 3)
(2) Savage & Lovemore (Town 3)
Burge & Wallis (Town 4)

Trunk Sewerage:

Consultant Engineers : Ninham Shand
Contractors : Basil Starke

Trunk Water Reticulation:

Consultant Engineers: Ninham Shand
Contractors : EU Civils

Trunk Services:

Consultant Engineers : Ninham Shand
Contractors : (1) EU Civils
(2) Clifford Harris

Electrical:

Consultant Engineers: Hill, Kaplan & Scott
Contractors : Racec

Surveyor:

Julian Grey (Co-ordinator)

Town Planning:

Bertie van Zyl

(2) Yes.

(a) Clifford Harris	Lightning Structure
EU Civils	WP Electric
Basil Starke	Sectional Poles Africa
Murray & Roberts	Mast & Pole Maintenance
Burger & Wallis	Valley Construction
Racec	Sanvido & Sons
Savage & Lovemore	GCF Construction
Asla Construction	SFS Construction
Power Construction	Haw & Inglis
Marten & East	Earthmovers United
WJM Construction	Cornfield Construction
Cyclops Engineering	F & H Construction

Malans Transport	Wheeler Plumlec
Rohr Roads	Genrec MEI
Bowmast	

(b) (i) See (1)(a)(i) and (ii) and (1)(b)(i) and (ii) above.

(ii) The lowest tenders were accepted.

(3) KTC	Brown's Farm
(a) Ikapa Town Council	CPA
(b) Ikapa Town Council	CPA and West-Cape RSC

Cape Peninsula: old-age homes for Blacks

195. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

Whether there are any old-age homes for Black persons in the Cape Peninsula; if not, (a) why not and (b) what steps are envisaged by his Department in this regard; if so, (i) what are the names of these old-age homes, (ii) who financed them, (iii) how many persons can be accommodated in each and (iv) how many such homes were built by the Government in the past three years? B475E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Yes.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

(i) The Langa and Nyanga Homes for the Aged.

(ii) The staff of the homes are on the staff establishment of, and paid by the Cape Provincial Administration. The Administrative and maintenance costs are financed by the Ikapa Town council.

(iii) The Langa Home accommodates 51 persons and the Nyanga Home 24 persons.

(iv) None.

Public Service officials in self-governing territories

218. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Development Aid:

(1) (a) How many officials in the Public Service had been seconded to each self-governing territory, (b) what post was held by each such official, and (c) what was the cost of secondment of such officials, as at 31 December 1989;

(2) whether all posts in the self-governing territories in respect of which secondment is required were filled as at 31 December 1989; if not, how many remained vacant as at that date;

(3) whether any further secondments are envisaged; if so, how many? B543E

The MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1) (a) and (b) The information as requested is contained in the attached schedule.

(c) The cost of the secondment of the officials amounted to R96 869 000 for the period 1 April 1989 to 31 December 1989.

(2) No. A recent survey indicated that 1 809 of the posts concerned were vacant on 31 December 1989.

(3) Yes. Numbers will be determined on the basis of stated requirements, the availability of funds and the availability of manpower.

POSTE GEÏDENTIFISEER VIR BEKLEDING DEUR TOEGEWESE AMPTENARE: 31 DESEMBER 1989
POSTS IDENTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION BY SECONDED STAFF: 31 DECEMBER 1989

Beroepsklas / Occupational Class	KwaZulu Geïdentifiseer / Identified	KwaZulu Gevul / Filled	Lebowa Geïdentifiseer / Identified	Lebowa Gevul / Filled	Gazankulu Geïdentifiseer / Identified	Gazankulu Gevul / Filled	Qwaqwa Geïdentifiseer / Identified	Qwaqwa Gevul / Filled	KwaNdebele Geïdentifiseer / Identified	KwaNdebele Gevul / Filled	KaNgwane Geïdentifiseer / Identified	KaNgwane Gevul / Filled	Totaal/Total Geïdentifiseer / Identified	Totaal/Total Gevul / Filled	Vakant / Vacant
Aanklaer Prosecutor	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	6	3	3
Administrasie-beampte Administration Officer	79	56	3	3	0	0	5	1	36	20	29	15	152	93	59
Administrasieklerk Administration Clerk	18	15	8	8	2	1	2	2	17	10	11	9	58	42	16
Ambagslui Artisan Staff	197	88	163	110	19	14	23	10	49	30	48	21	499	279	220
Apteker Pharmacist	49	34	1	1	10	4	0	0	3	1	3	1	66	41	25
Arbeidsterapeut Occupational Therapist	8	5	1	1	6	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	19	8	11
Argitek Architect	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	2
Bedryfsekonoom Business Economist	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	9	2	7
Belastingbeampte Taxation Officer	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Boorinspekteur Drilling Inspector	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
Bosbouer Forester	5	3	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	17	11	6
Bosbouvoorman Forestry Foreman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	0
Bosbouwetenskaplike Forestry Scientist	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	5	0
Bourekenaar Quantity Surveyor	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	3
Brandweerman Fireman	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
Departementele Inspekteur Departmental Inspector	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Dieetkundige Dietician	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Direkteur: Gesondheidsdienste Director: Health Services	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	3

Xroads peace talks 'a reality'

By CHRIS BATEMAN

PEACE talks for strife-torn Old Crossroads yesterday became a reality when the ruling town committee expressed its readiness to meet their arch-opponents under breakaway headman Mr Geoffrey Nongwe.

The ruling committee, however, expressed anger at the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, for having met their opponents and "outsiders" before "having heard us out first".

On Thursday Mr Nongwe and delegations from several Cape Flats squatter communities for the first time met Mr Kriel and demanded the scrapping of the committee.

Although they agreed to a suggestion from Mr Kriel that peace talks take place in his presence, they insisted that the mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, and his committee be removed.

Mr Kriel declined this, promising to "act" on the findings of a commission of inquiry, headed by an independent lawyer appointed by him last week.

The majority of Mr Ngxobongwana's headmen, headed by Mr Nongwe, broke away from the ruling committee last year, charging that "millions" of rands of residents' money had been misappropriated.

Since then at least 20 people have died in Old Crossroads internecine violence.

The deputy mayor of Old Crossroads, Mr Alfred Geli, said yesterday that while his committee accepted Mr Kriel's suggestion for talks as a gesture of goodwill, they rejected the "proposed interference" of local residents associations.

"They have nothing in common with Crossroads except that they say they are squatters. They are merely using the internal difficulties of Crossroads to incriminate the entire system of local government," Mr Geli said.

Reacting to charges by Mr Nongwe's faction that they were abusing officially issued weapons to "rule by force" and to terrorise local residents, Mr Geli said these were rejected with "the contempt they deserve".

Squatters win reprieve

Supreme Court Reporter

WORKERS squatting on land adjacent to the Paarl Brickfields from which they were sacked in 1988, won a reprieve when judgment in an application by the Western Cape Regional Service Council to have them evicted was postponed indefinitely.

The squatters had challenged the authority of RSC officials to bring the application.

Squatters angry at Kriel's failure to act

Staff Reporters

THE office of Mr Hernus Kriel, Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, is studying reported comments that conflict in Crossroads had arisen from Mr Kriel's refusal to sack the township's town committee.

Mr Kriel himself was not available for comment, but his office said he might comment later.

The allegation was made by squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, who warned that a full-scale war could develop.

He said residents were angry after the failure of their pleas to Mr Kriel and the deaths that followed.

At least three people — two special constables attached to the Crossroads police station and an unidentified woman — had been killed in violent incidents since Saturday, said Mr Nongwe.

Two other constables had been injured.

The renewed fighting followed a meeting between a number of squatter leaders and the minister last Thursday.

One constable, identified as Mr Makwetu, was killed about 3pm on Saturday while on duty.

Mr Welile Matshoba, also a special constable, was killed on Monday while the unidentified woman was found shot dead in her shack on Saturday morning.

A man identified as Mr Ngxokhwe, an alleged supporter of the town committee, was wounded in police action on Saturday night.

Doing nothing

Mr Nongwe said their meeting with the minister had been a "disappointment" as he "seemed to be in the dark" about how the crisis in the township could be resolved.

He said the minister had declined to dissolve the committee because "there should be something in its place".

He had promised, however, to investigate allegations that the committee had been responsible for the violence on the residents.

He said Mr Kriel had also reneged on his undertaking to stop house allocations because the committee was giving them to outsiders.

"But people from nowhere are still being allocated the houses, despite his undertaking."

Mr Nongwe said as the committee had not been elected there was no reason for its continued existence as it was doing nothing for the residents but was bringing bitterness to the community.

He said the residents were "boiling with anger" over the failure by Mr Kriel to intervene and were contemplating "driving the committee out themselves".

He said Mr Jan van Eck had been asked to arrange a last meeting with the minister.

Women rebel raiders

MAPUTO. — Witnesses have said armed women were among an estimated 50 rebels who ambushed a train near the Mozambique/South African border on Saturday, killing 18 people. — Argus Africa News Service.

(307)

2. Cape Times, Wednesday, May 16, 199(

Crossroads mayor: No charges

Staff Reporter

THE Attorney-General of the Cape, Mr Niel Rossouw, yesterday announced that he had decided not to prosecute Old Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana on fraud charges.

This brings to an end a lengthy investigation involving the alleged charging of R7 monthly tithes to an estimated 9 000 Old Crossroads households over several years by the Old Crossroads committee.

Estimates of the money involved vary between R150 000 and several million rands.

Mr Rossouw said: "The evidence is very confused and self-contradictory. In the end we won't have enough evidence to achieve a standard of proof beyond reasonable doubt."

Political undercurrents also played a role in the affair, but Mr Rossouw declined to elaborate on this aspect.

He had followed up all the evidence, he said, including "evidence that came to hand lately".

This is believed to relate to two bank account numbers forwarded to his office by the Democratic Party's spokesman for black local affairs, Mr Jan van Eck.

Mr Van Eck said in Parliament that money deposited in one account was secretly transferred to another account controlled by Mr Ngxobongwana and then spent in an "entirely different way" from what was intended.

The controversy over the affair led to bloodshed in the squatter camp, including petrol-bombings and the shooting to death of residents.

Blacks gain right to stay in Pt Nolloth

AFTER 12 years of struggle in the courts and in the streets, the black residents of Port Nolloth have won the right to remain in town.

The Tentedorp and Bloukamp Committee said in a press statement yesterday that a senior CPA official had told the committee that the administration had decided in principle "to develop a black township in Port Nolloth".

Blacks have worked in the town for many years, but there was no land on which they could settle legally. The first squatter settlements were set up in 1978.

In 1983, after many pass arrests, the community moved across the Namibian border, but three years later it was forced back again by the SWA Police.

Early in 1988, eviction orders were served on the entire community by the Port Nolloth municipality. The following year, a court found that these would amount to "mass deportation".

At the end of last year, the municipality got a "declaratory order", a prelude to eviction, from another court. Most of the black community marched on the municipality to hand over a list of grievances on February 22.

A series of meetings followed, and at these the question of permanent residence in Port Nolloth has been thrashed out.

Violence feared in volatile Crossroads

The 'mayor' of Crossroads Johnson Ngxobongwana

By CHIARA CARTER (307)

FEARS are growing that violence will escalate in the strife-torn squatter settlement of Crossroads after several shooting incidents earlier this week.

A kitskonstabel was shot dead and three other people are believed to have been injured on Sunday after unidentified gunmen opened fire in a section controlled by rebel headman Jeffrey Nongwe.

A council employee is believed to have been injured when a gunman opened fire from a kombi the following day.

Sunday's shootings followed a general meeting of Nongwe's followers and this week Nongwe and his committee of breakaway headmen alleged the town council was implicated in the shootings.

Nongwe expressed outrage that the attorney-general had declined to prosecute controversial Crossroads mayor, Johnson Ngxobongwana, in connection with allegations of fraud related to money collected from Crossroads residents. South 17/5 - 22/5/90

Nongwe said this would add to "already high tensions".

Ngxobongwana made an appearance at Crossroads this week — the first time he has been seen in the settlement this year.

Despite the shootings, Nongwe said, his followers were still committed to the peace process discussed earlier this month with the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel.

"We told Mr Kriel we are committed to peace but it is clear our town councillors are not," Nongwe said.

"Now we are demanding that someone intervene before Crossroads becomes another Natal.

"How many people must die before the authorities acknowledge the town council structures are rejected by ordinary people?"

Nongwe said the committee wanted ANC leader Nelson Mandela to make it clear that before people sat at a negotiating table, community councils should be abolished.

Moves for peace in squatter violence

ARGUS 17/5/90

By MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

CROSSROADS and Khayelitsha councillors, blamed by squatter leaders for much of the violence in the Peninsula's black areas, are to meet Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs Mr Hernus Kriel later this month to discuss setting up peace talks.

Mr Kriel will propose that they meet squatter leaders to try to find a way to end the conflict between them.

The announcement comes after the deaths of at least three people in violent incidents in Crossroads since Saturday.

"Weapons withdrawn"

Squatter leaders allege that much of the violence is perpetrated by councillors and their supporters in a campaign against opponents, and they claim some members of the town committee faction are using weapons provided by the Provincial Administration.

However, Mr Kriel's office said today that the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring, had given an assurance that all weapons issued to councillors had been withdrawn "some time ago".

The new round of talks between Mr Kriel and the councillors follows a meeting last week between him and squatter representatives under Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

It was at that meeting that the squatters backed the proposal for peace talks with the councillors on condition that both mayors of Crossroads and Lingelethu, Mr Johnson Nxgobongwana and Mr Mali Hoza, attended the meeting.

Only yesterday, however, Mr Nongwe claimed that Crossroads residents were angry at Mr Kriel's "refusal" to sack the township committee.

Mr Kriel's office has pointed out, however, that while Mr Nongwe did indeed make a plea at the start of last week's meeting for the dismissal of the councillors, he left the meeting in agreement with Mr Kriel's proposal to meet the councillors for talks.

New system

Mr Kriel had not "refused" to dismiss the councillors, but had merely pointed out that he could not summarily do so.

Until a new system of black local government was introduced, he had suggested the squatter leaders should meet the councillors and try to agree on ways to end the conflict.

A spokesman for Mr Kriel said Mr Nongwe's comments "do not reflect a true version of the meeting".

● Hout Bay's squatters, page 6.

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The Argus 17/05/90

Hout Bay's Battle of the Squatters

Death threats, action committees and "friction" are not notions normally associated with the seaside idyll of Hout Bay. However, there is trouble brewing in paradise. The underlying cause is tied up with the rapid change of a farming community into a suburb of greater Cape Town. Alongside fashionable, new houses in Hout Bay have come humbler homes of plastic and cardboard and their wealthy neighbours want nothing to do with them.

By ANDREA WEISS, Staff Reporter

THE squatters of Hout Bay were recently catapulted into the limelight with the formation of the Hout Bay Property Rights Committee whose objective is to "solve the squatter problem" by ultimately removing them.

Last week, a meeting was called and Hout Bay residents were asked to mandate this new committee to seek an audience with the government.

The meeting came at a time when the squatters themselves were essentially unrepresented. The man who best knows their background and circumstances, Hout Bay community worker Mr Dicky Meter, spends his 55th day in detention under Section 29 today.

Mrs Shantaal Meter, who believes her husband's detention is linked to his work among squatter communities, has been getting death threats by telephone and by post. Her mother-in-law also has had calls.

"The only reason I think they removed him from Hout Bay is because of the work he has done for the squatter communities," she said.

Five main groups

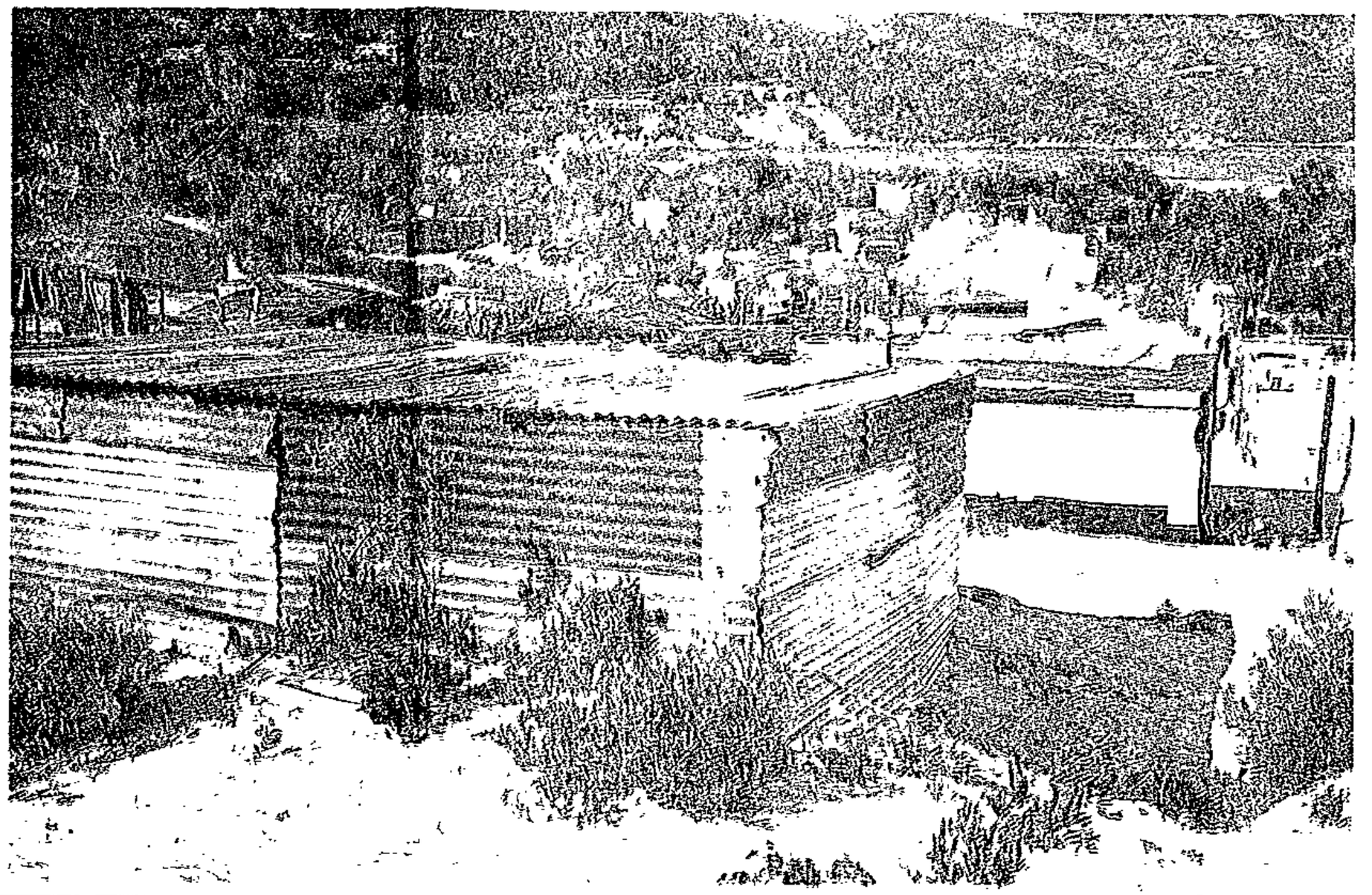
Other anonymous phone calls regarding the squatters have been made to a reporter and the Surplus People Project.

Hout Bay's squatting areas can be divided roughly into five main groups — Disa River, Blue Valley, Dawid's Kraal, Princess Bush and Sea Products Bush. Ratepayers claim there are 15 areas where people are squatting.

Disa River, the oldest of the settlements, faces the most immediate threat of removal. A Supreme Court judge has ruled that the Anthony family, who claimed to have been there for 30 years, must leave.

However, it is not Disa River which immediately concerns the Property Rights Committee.

Princess Bush and Sea Products Bush situated on either side of Princess Street within sight of upmarket houses and the beach, is home to an



. . . the wealthy determined to oust the poor

doubt they will get any response."

That there has been little communication be tween squatters and the Hout Bay ratepayers i made clear by Ms Mavis Ngetu, treasurer of committee of 10 in Princess Bush.

Ms Ngetu said contact was usually mad through the local community office. A co-worke of Mr Meter had told her that land in the area c the harbour was being discussed for the squat ters.

"But," commented Ms Ngetu, "We don't wai to live where nobody can see us; where not eve the tourists can see us. Our reaction is that w will not move unless there is a better place.

"I suggest that they should come to us an talk to us to hear our views. They can't decid for us."

Lost his job

A young man who has been in the Blue Valle

estimated 200 families, whose only source of water and sanitation is the nearby river.

Squatting on prime property

Mr Cedric Nathan, spokesman for the Property Rights Committee, in the absence of its chairman, Captain Tony Snelgar, claimed squatters were "arriving on a daily basis" from as far afield as the Transkei and Ovamboland.

"Many are unemployed, yet they seem to have enough money to subsist, so they are getting it from somewhere. And, they are squatting on prime beach-front property," he said.

"There is raw excrement going into the river, which flows on to the beach. There are serious possibilities of outbreaks of hepatitis and TB. There are no health or water facilities and there have been cases of child molesting," he claimed.

Mr Nathan added that the committees' concerns were non-racial and non-political, but focussed on the rights of property owners.

"What we are concerned about is that private property rights are being abrogated. We are concerned primarily with the inability of government agencies and private property owners to take action to prevent squatting."

Argus 17/05/90 (307)

Pictures: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

PRIME PROPERTY: Squatters in Princess Bush occupy land which would fetch thousands on the open market.

The mandate given to his committee by an estimated 500 ratepayers was to take the matter to the "highest government authority".

Can't clear away trees

He foresaw problems with granting alternative land in Hout Bay, because "trees would have to be cleared and that wouldn't be environmentally desirable" and "it would have to be public land and there isn't very much of that".

There were no plans to approach squatter leaders at this stage.

"We would like to put it fair and square in the court of the minister and ask him what he is going to do about it."

Asked what the ultimate objective of the committee was, Mr Nathan said: "I think there is the view that the squatters have to go."

Commenting on allegations of increased crime, police station commander of Hout Bay Warrant Officer Dolf de Villiers said friction was increasing because of the proximity of the squatter shacks to established houses.

Housebreakers "from outside"

However, W/O De Villiers did not ascribe an increase in housebreaking to squatters. These crimes were being committed by people from outside Hout Bay.

He believed squatters were responsible for the increase in petty theft and shoplifting.

Asked about allegations of child molestation, W/O De Villiers said there had been two reported incidents in Princess Street, one of which was an attempt to steal a bicycle. No prosecutions had followed.

In answer to the views of the Property Rights' Committee, Surplus People Project (SPP) co-ordinator Ms Adéle Wildschut said: "The reason why people live where they do is because either they have lived there for generations or they are finding access to employment. It is not just a whim."

'Make land available' plea

Because of development pressure on the land, people were becoming more visible as they were moved off farms or arrived to provide the labour offered by urbanisation.

Acknowledging the health problem, Ms Wildschut said the onus was on the authorities to provide services.

"Land should be made available for people in Hout Bay in the way it has been in the south Peninsula to the Noordhoek squatters. The solution is not to try and push people away."

The Noordhoek situation is in the process of a relatively amicable solution following consultation between all parties in the area — including squatter representatives — and land is to be provided.

Doomed to failure

In Hout Bay, there is no such consultation going on. A meeting convened yesterday in the city included everybody — ratepayers, property owners, local government, an MP, the province — except the squatters.

The meeting's objective was to establish a working committee before involving squatters.

In Mrs Meter's view, this approach is doomed to failure: "Even although they are going to set up this committee, people have said they will not work on it because Dicky is not around. I

area for the past [illegible] years with scepticism o[illegible] intentions of local ratepayers: "They just want chase us away. They call us thieves."

He is probably typical of many of the n Hout Bay residents.

From the Transkei and with a Std 7 certi cate, he was employed by a garden service. I job was terminated when his employer went university.

Now, he remains at home in the bush, washi his clothes in the river and looking for work.

A nearby neighbour at Disa River is Mr Cl ford Anthony, 31, whose grandfather testified the case against the family brought to court Orpington Investments who own the land.

Mr Anthony was born in Hout Bay and o serves wryly that the place has changed from i rural past.

"I don't know where they (the ratepayer come from. This used to be a farming worl Now, they are squeezing us into a corner."

Built half the houses

Of the charge that squatters in the area we "new' to the area, Mr Anthony said people h been moved out some years ago by the coun and were returning. "The majority are peop who lived here before."

Many had worked for building contractors ar he remarked, without irony: "You could say th we built half the houses in Hout Bay."

Also at Disa River was Mr Jacobus Isaacs, 7

He was carving a pattern of crazy paving in the clay outside his shack. A step was beir fashioned to look as if it was built from brick

Mr Isaacs, who came to Hout Bay in 1947 ar worked for a building contractor for 10 year said he wanted to build paths and plant shrut between the shacks: "Ek maak maar so sodat d lyk daar is mense hier (I'm doing it so that looks as if there are people here).

Dispossessed Fingos can now buy back land

GRAHAMSTOWN. — Twenty years after being dispossessed, 246 titleholders from Grahamstown's Fingo Village are being given the chance to buy back their properties.

But there is now uncertainty about what is to happen to the people currently living on the properties. One of the residents said they had not been consulted or warned about the plan.

Fingo Village was one of the few areas in the country where African people could own land. But in 1970, African landowners in the township were expropriated because they were to be moved to Committee's Drift.

After a long struggle against the removal, the government called it off in 1982.

Mr B.B. Zondani, the chairperson of the Fingo Village Ratepayers' Association, said the Rini Town Council had resolved earlier this year that the original property owners be given 60 days in which to buy back their properties.

The town council has been given 44 of the sites, which belong to private individuals, by the East Cape Development Board (ECDB). The other properties belong to other bodies such as churches and the Grahamstown Municipality.

Preference

Zondani said: "The people who are staying in those properties are going to get first preference to buy the properties".

Mr Zondani said his association fought so that property owners could retain their properties.

Current residents fear they may now have to move. One person living on these sites said: "We know nothing about this development, nobody consulted us or warned us, we saw it in the newspapers". — *ANA*

Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

ODD NEIGHBOURS: Expensive beachfront houses are thrown into sharp relief by the neighbouring squatter shacks in an area known as Sea Products Bush near Princess Street in Hout Bay. Tensions have risen over the future of the growing squatter community.

Argus 17/5/90

Squatters to be drawn into talks on their future

307

By MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

SQUATTERS in Hout Bay are to be drawn into an action committee established by officials and property owners to help identify land in the valley where they can settle permanently under better conditions.

The committee, to be convened under the chairmanship of Democratic Party MP for Sea Point Mr Colin Eglin, is being formed as tensions rise in Hout Bay over the future of the growing squatter community, estimated at 1 500.

ALL INVOLVED

The squatters were excluded from yesterday's 2½-hour meeting between Mr Eglin, government, provincial and regional services council officials, representatives of two Hout Bay residents' organisations and businesses.

However, the senior government official behind the new initiative, Ministerial Representative of the House of Assembly and former MEC for Helderberg Mr Jimmy Otto, insisted that the squatters be drawn in to discussions immediately.

"I am not prepared to continue with this process unless we have all parties involved," he said.

He instructed the new action committee to report back to him within 14 days.

Mr Otto told The Argus that while the Hout Bay Property Rights Committee — a new breakaway committee formed by residents opposed to the settlement of squatters in the valley — had initially rejected the idea of sitting around a table with the squatters to discuss the problems, the meeting ended in agreement that this was necessary.

He said: "We now have formed an action committee and we will draw in representatives of the whole community.

"We have gone a long way in accepting the basic fact that there are people in the squatter community who are entitled to be in Hout Bay because of their history, and (in accepting) the basic fact that if we provide structured facilities within certain norms, their presence will be acceptable to the other sections of the community.

"We have also accepted that the issue has nothing to do with race, but with living standards and sound development.

EMOTIONAL ISSUE

"By getting Mr Eglin involved, we also are showing that this process does not involve political argument."

Mr Otto added: "We still have a long way to go. There is a lot of emotion surrounding this issue. We will have to take the fire out of the situation. It's a challenge we must accept."

Mr Eglin, who acknowledged that yesterday's meeting was not "totally representative", said it had been a useful first step. He would now set about creating a representative committee that would include squatter representatives.

● **Hout Bay's Battle of the**

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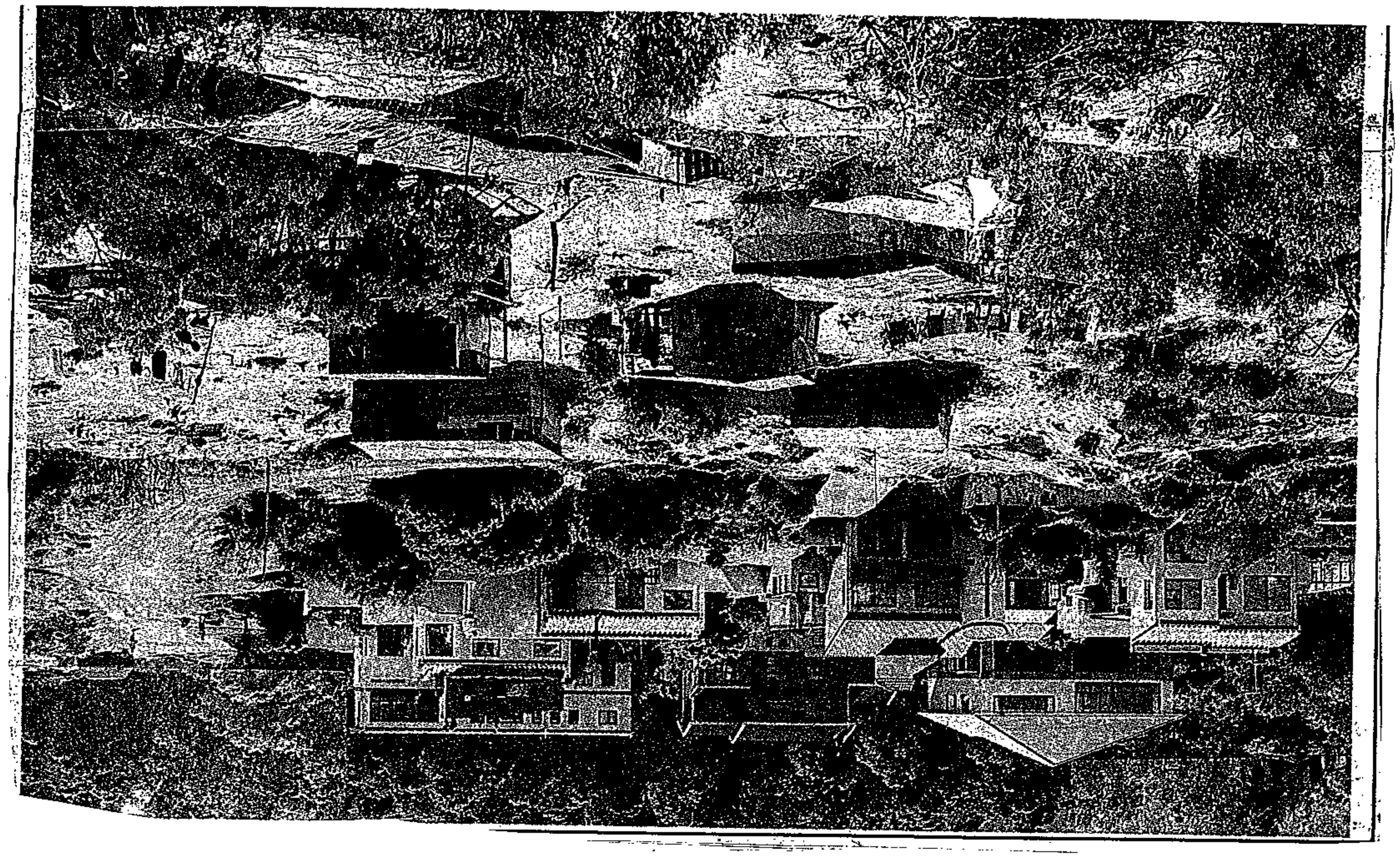

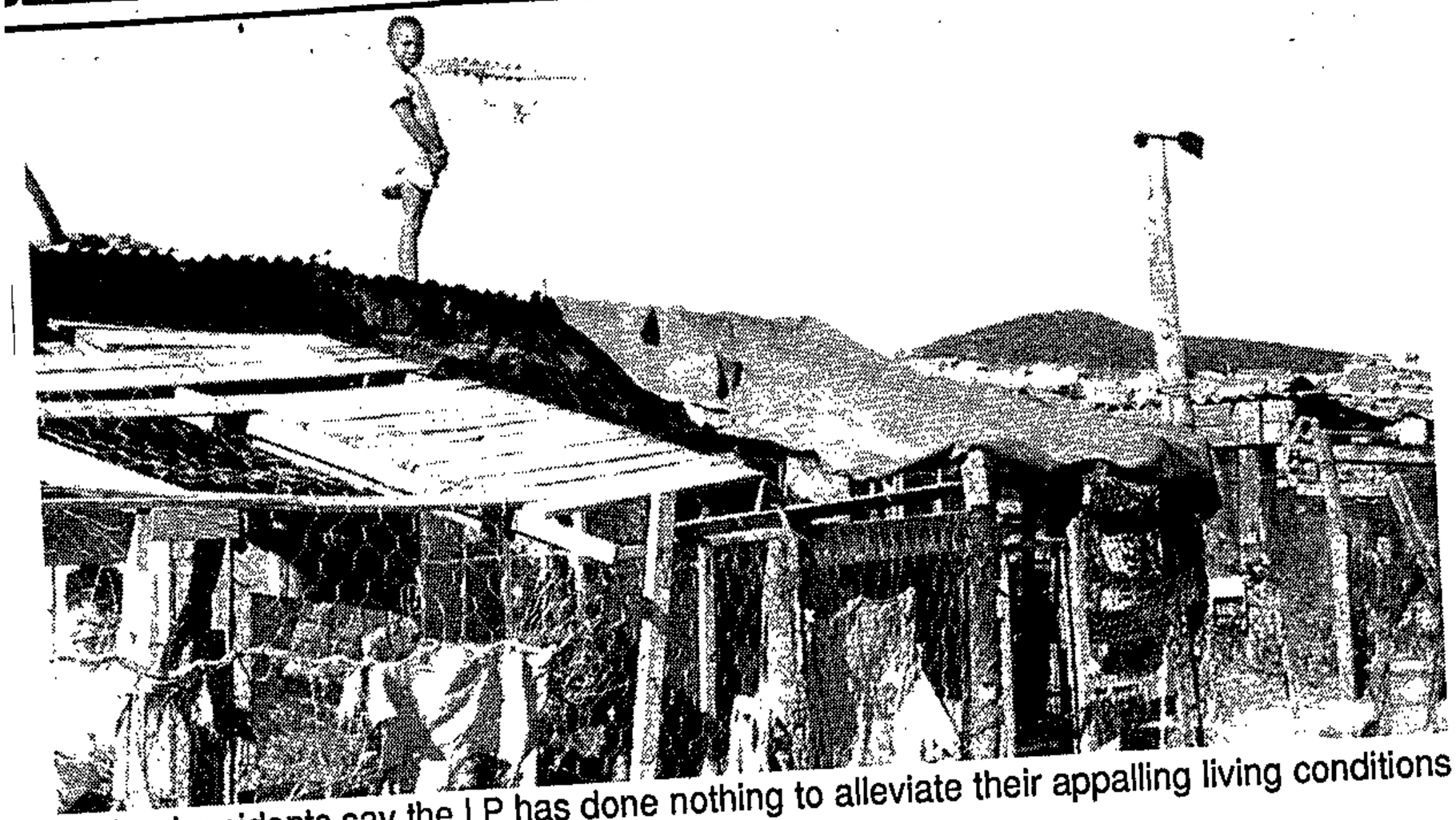

Lapland residents say the LP has done nothing to alleviate their appalling living conditions

Empty LP promises

South 17/5 - 22/5/90

From THABO DANIELS (307)

PORT ELIZABETH. — The squatter community of Lapland is still waiting, six years after some 500 families were removed from Langa location in Uitenhage and promised better housing.

Lapland is a corrugated-iron shack township built in 1983 after "coloureds" were removed from shacks in Langa in terms of the Group Areas Act.

African shack residents in the "mixed" township were removed at the same time and dumped in Tyoksville — some 10 km away.

Lapland's streets are lined with filth and children are playing in rubbish.

There is no drainage system, no running water and the "bucket system" is still in use. Parents fear for their children's health.

Severe criticism

The Labour Party and the Coloured Management Committee (CMC) have come under severe criticism from residents, who have blamed the two groups.

"If you want a house, you must vote for the Labour Party," said an angry Lawrence Myburgh, who has been homeless for the past six years.

An artisan in a local company, Myburgh currently stays in a two-roomed matchbox shack with his wife and six children.

A survey of Lapland's residents showed that more than 60 per cent of them are workers and can afford to live in better houses. Because of the critical housing shortage in the region, however, they are forced to squat.

Another resident and a mother of four, Mrs Margaret Blouw, has a board bearing the words "Ons is nie tevrede!" (We are not satisfied) stuck on the front "wall" of her shack.

"Allan (Hendrickse, the LP leader) offered us better housing long ago when we left Kabah. So far he has failed to fulfil his promises," said Blouw. — *PEN*

Squatters are drawn into action committee

18/5/90 Political Staff 307

CAPE TOWN — Squatters in Hout Bay are to be drawn into an action committee established by officials and local white property owners to help find land in the valley where they can settle permanently under better conditions.

The committee, to be chaired by Colin Eglin, Democratic Party MP for Sea Point, is being formed as tensions rise in the Hout Bay community over the future of the growing squatter community, now estimated to have between 1 500 and 1 600 inhabitants.

The squatters were excluded from a meeting yesterday between Mr Eglin, Government, provincial and regional services council officials, representatives of two Hout Bay residents' organisations and businesses.

However, the senior Government official behind the new initiative, Ministerial Representative of the House of Assembly and former MEC for Helderberg Jimmy Otto, insisted that the squatters be drawn in immediately.

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Mr Otto added: "We still have a long way to go. There is a lot of emotion surrounding this issue. We will have to take the fire out of the situation. It's a challenge that we must accept."

Mr Eglin, who acknowledged that yesterday's meeting was not "totally representative", said it had been a useful first step. He would now set about creating a representative committee that would include squatter representatives.

Squatters fear 'bulldozing'

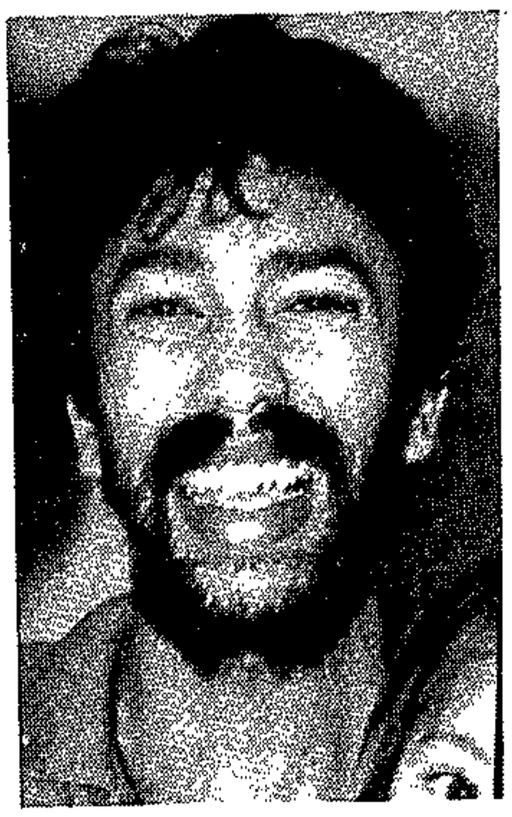
Gift
Argus
19/5/90
307

By DON HOLLIDAY
Weekend Argus
Municipal Reporter

THE bottom line in the growing Hout Bay squatter crisis is that squatters have a right to live there and land must be made available for them.

This was said by community worker Mr Dick Meter, 31, who was held for 59 days under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act before being released this week.

His absence has been seen as a major stumbling block in the resolution of the squatter problem as many squatters were reluctant to negotiate with property owners without him for fear of being "bulldozed" into an unfair settlement.



Mr Dick Meter

"This is a reasonable fear from what is essentially a poorly educated and unsophisticated community," said Mr Meter.

"They trust me to act on their behalf and take their interests seriously.

"I must make it clear that I see my role as that of a facilitator. I cannot speak for them. They will make up their own minds."

Mr Meter said there had been a number of developments during his detention and his priority was to become fully informed of the situation.

"The bottom line is that the squatters have a right to live in Hout Bay.

"They make a considerable contribution to the labour force and the money they earn is ploughed back into the local economy.

"This is more than can be said for many white property owners who do not live in Hout Bay but use their properties as holiday homes and spend their money elsewhere.

"Negotiations have to take place betweeen all sections of the community and people on both sides have to keep an open mind.

"The squatters understand and respect property owners' fears but the property owners have to respect their needs.

"Land has to be made available for them. If the government does not have the land they must think about buying it and introducing permanent housing schemes with proper amenities," said Mr Meter.

Mr Meter is employed by World Vision, a Christian humanitarian agency dedicated to community development which annually organises a "40-hour famine" to raise funds for feeding the needy.

He has lived in Hout Bay all his life.

He said he believed his release was a result of the talks between the government and the African National Congress.

● Property owners have become increasingly disturbed by the influx of squatters to Hout Bay, their occupation of private land and health hazards created by their living without sanitation.

ANC gains as LP sheds weight

South 23/5-29/5/90

LP at the election have since changed loyalties.

Monitor says the blow to the LP should be seen as part of a trend away from participatory politics (involving both the former Coloured Representative Council and the House of Representatives) since 1969, when 48 percent of the coloured community voted.

The figure dropped to 37,5 percent in 1975, to 27,5 percent in 1984, and to 18 percent last year.

"Within the coloured community, the Labour Party has suffered a loss of a great deal of prestige and support. Thirty-six percent of the coloured community in this area voted in the 1984 election, and the vast majority voted Labour," says Monitor.

More coloured people voted in the four Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage seats than voted in the 21 Cape Peninsula seats in 1984. Now only 8,4 percent claim loyalty to the LP in the Port Elizabeth area.

Although the LP took almost all of the House of Representative seats in the September elections last year, only 17 percent of the coloured community believe it did well.

Eighty-seven percent believe the ANC/MDM did well by boycotting the election, while only four percent believe it did not.

"While Labour is no longer a legitimate political vehicle for the aspirations of the coloured community, the MDM/ANC has validated itself in that community's eyes."

Monitor observed after the September election that voting had been a considerable setback for the LP.

Monitor noted there was "a lot of support" in the coloured community for State President FW de Klerk and the government.

On the question of white opinions, the survey found De Klerk's reforms were more popular with DP voters than with NP voters, and no CP voters agreed.

The survey found between nine and 13 percent of NP voters admitted changing loyalties to the CP since the election.

About one-third of DP voters have changed loyalty, although not many have moved to the ANC/MDM alliance.

FACING EVICTION: Catherine Oliphant with some of the grandchildren who live in the shack she and her husband have been ordered to demolish.

Housing backlash

South 23/5-29/5/90

A severe housing crisis in Port Elizabeth's Northern Areas, coupled with a municipality ruling that shacks erected in the backyards of privately-owned houses must be demolished, may make thousands of people homeless this winter. PATRICK GOODENOUGH reports:

PORT Elizabeth's coloured community, traditionally divided and relatively apolitical, is being mobilised by a severe housing shortage which may result in the biggest swing of support ever from the Labour Party to mass-based structures.

A history of Labour Party neglect of working class families has become the unifying force.

The critical housing shortage in the Northern Areas has been discussed by residents at recent African National Congress (ANC) mass meetings.

An estimated 3 000 backyard shack-dwellers in Schaudeville may be made homeless this winter. The municipality has ordered owners of properties on which shacks are standing to demolish the structures — or face legal action.

Small wood and iron shacks line almost every other yard in the area. Inside, they are dark and cramped, but furnished and homely. Now the occupants face losing even these simple shelters.

The shacks are not the only signs of the housing crisis in Port Elizabeth. Overcrowding is a major problem even in "proper" houses in the area.

There are almost 10 000 names on the growing waiting-list for houses in the Northern Areas. People whose names were placed on the list in 1974 are still waiting for houses.

Housing has become a major politicising factor. Area action committees and anti-shack demolition committees have been set up, and irate residents are being drawn into the ANC.

Without exception, every family spoken to in the area blamed the LP for their predicament.

Residents claimed people "in" with the LP were allocated homes far sooner than others.

Even a member of the unpopular Northern Areas Management Committee (NAMC), Mr Trevor Lee — one of only two members not elected on a LP ticket — said: "Your affiliation is important. If you're not a member of the Labour Party, it seems you don't get a house."

Mrs Maureen Goeda, who shares a three-bedroomed home with 27 other people, summed up the general feeling: "The Labour Party people say we should vote for them. We do, and get nothing. We've sat for too long. It's time we woke up and woke these people up."

Demolish shacks

Her words were echoed by Mrs Catherine Oliphant, whose husband has appeared in court for failing to demolish his son's shack behind the house.

"We vote for these people. They do nothing. We'll have nothing to do with the Labour Party," she said.

The son has lived with his wife and children in a backyard shack for four years, unable to find a home despite being on the waiting list since 1978.

Now his father, Mr Willie Oliphant, 69, faces six months in jail unless he demolishes the shack by August. Lawyers briefed by the Northern Areas Coordinating Committee (NACC) are working on his and numerous other cases.

Oliphant hopes for a reprieve. "I couldn't let them sleep in the street. I will have to wait and see what happens," he said.

Many of the people living in shacks earn a wage which could allow them to rent, or even buy, decent accommodation. There seems to be no plan for housing taking low-income earners into account.

According to the NACC, land for housing was handed to developers who often built shabby products and sold them at prices people could not afford.

It is virtually impossible to find houses to rent.

Breaking up families

A spokesman for the city engineer's department confirmed 2 500 "low-cost" houses would soon be completed.

In Bethelsdorp Extension 31, houses from R21 000 upwards will be available. The cheapest are not plastered or painted, and have no ceilings or internal partitions. They are also much further from town than Schaudeville is.

In a recent statement, the NACC said moving from the backyard structures to the Extension 31 "shacks" could not even be considered.

"Moving would mean high monthly housing payments and increased costs for transport. Breaking down shacks would result in breaking up families and forcing them out into the cold," it said.

ANC and NACC member, Mr Ronald Niegaardt, outlined the political issue: "We've rejected both the Labour Party and the Northern Areas Management Committee. We are calling for one municipality for Port Elizabeth."

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Police break up Crossroads squatter march

By VUYO BAVUMA and EDWARD MOLOINYANE, Staff Reporters

POLICE fired teargas in Crossroads to disperse about 250 people marching to the house of controversial township mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana.

Yesterday's march was held to protest against Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Mr Hernus Kriel's refusal to sack the town committee headed by Mr Ngxobongwana. Recently the Attorney-General declined to prosecute Mr Ngxobongwana for alleged misappropriation of funds.

Rival headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe organised the march.

The crowd, most of them dressed in khaki clothes and ANC T-shirts, began gathering at Mr Nongwe's house at 11am. Some carried placards demanding houses and the removal of Mr Ngxobongwana's town committee.

PEOPLE SCATTERED

Police officers told marshals the march was illegal. Seconds later police fired teargas and pandemonium broke out as people scattered. A primary school choral competition in the Crossroads community hall was briefly disrupted.

Minutes later the crowd regrouped opposite the hall and Cape Youth Congress member Mr Voli Mabuwa asked them to return to Mr Nongwe's house to "avoid possible injuries".

Attempts to contact Mr Ngxobongwana, recently returned from Ciskei after a long absence, failed.

Town committee member Mr Alfred Geli said Mr Ngxobongwana was "busy in a meeting".

● Police have confirmed using teargas yesterday to disperse a "large group" of squatters at Crossroads.

Major Reg Crewe, police liaison officer, said the group gathered illegally about 10.45am. They were warned to disperse but failed to comply.

No injuries were reported, he said.

Police use teargas to rout 250 Crossroads marchers

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Police fired teargas in Crossroads yesterday to disperse about 250 people marching to the house of controversial township mayor Johnson Ngxobongwana.

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Yesterday the crowd, most of them dressed in khaki clothes and ANC T-shirts, began gathering at Mr Nongwe's house at 11 am. Some carried placards demanding houses and the removal of Mr Ngxobongwana's town committee.

After the march had started, policemen asked the media to leave the area.

Police officers then told marshals the march was illegal. Seconds later police fired and pandemonium broke out as people scattered.

Minutes later the crowd regrouped and Cape Youth Congress member Voli Mabuwa asked them to return to Mr Nongwe's house to "avoid possible injuries".

Earlier three journalists were questioned by police near the outskirts of Crossroads.

A police officer gave them 30 minutes to leave the area.

Attempts to contact Mr Ngxobongwana, recently returned from Ciskei after a long absence, failed.

Squatters don't have to go – yet

wpfcmf 25/5-31/5/90 (307)

By MPUMELELO KIVA

A SQUATTER community of 1 000 people in Gonubie, outside East London, won a temporary reprieve this week when it was confirmed that an emergency site for the group was being sought.

The reprieve was annnounced after a meeting between the Cape Provincial Administration's MEC for Housing, Koos Theron, and the Gonubie municipality. Wednesday had also been the deadline given to the community by the municipality in eviction notices.

The squatters live on the private Gonubie Vale farm. A Cape Provincial Administration representative had said before the meeting Theron intended identifying land for the resettlement of the community, and the possibility of establishing an emergency camp was being investigated.

The municipality has already flattened 25 shacks, in what residents said was a "violation of agreements between community representatives and the council".

But the town clerk, Brian Levey, said the demolished shacks were "incomplete houses of people who just came in after the agreement with the community representatives".

Meanwhile, on Sunday, residents marched to hand over a petition, to the mayor of Gonubie, AJ Carnegie.

The march was led by the United Democratic Front, members of the Gonubie Residents' Association, which represents the squatters, and the white Committee of Concerned Gonubie Residents.

The residents demanded an end to the demolition of shacks, forced removals, improvement of living conditions, the building of houses, schools, recreation centres and an end to police harassment.

National demands were also included in the memorandum: the scrapping of all apartheid laws, especially the Group Areas Act, and the lifting of the State of Emergency. — Elnews

TOWNSHIP MARCH ... Supporters of Old Crossroads breakaway headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe yesterday marched to demand the summary removal of the squatter camp's town committee and "equal housing for all". They were later teargassed by police. Picture: STEWART COLMAN

Marchers teargassed in drive for equal housing

Staff Reporter

RIOT police yesterday fired teargas to disperse several hundred Old Crossroads supporters of breakaway headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe in a protest march to the local police station.

The march was to demand the resignation of the Old Crossroads town committee and "equal housing for all".

The teargassing infuriated teachers and pupils of the nearby Sebenza High School where a choir competition was being held. Teargas drifted onto the premises, disrupting proceedings. The march began at Mr Nongwe's headquarters in Old Crossroads.

At least one group of supporters, carrying banners and dressed in ANC colours, were teargassed on their way to the headquarters and three journalists with them removed to the nearest police station.

Police then allowed the march to progress several hundred metres before teargassing and scattering the banner-carrying crowd.

At least one woman fell and gashed her leg while residents complained about teargas entering their homes.

Mr Nongwe said that the march was to demand equal housing for his faction, the summary removal of mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his Old Crossroads committee and the holding of open elections.

● Since early last year when Mr Nongwe broke away from the conservative central committee the squatter camp has been torn by violence between the factions.

Squatter hearing set for August

Cape Times 26/5/90

307

Supreme Court Reporter

AN application by the Town Committee of Kayamandi, near Stellenbosch, to eject squatters from a piece of land because it retarded housing development and because of a threatening faction fight, will go to trial in the Supreme Court in August.

The town committee said its application was further motivated because the squatters' unlawful occupation of the land was resented by people who had been waiting for house sites since 1977.

Yesterday, Mr Justice C T Howie ordered the application against two squatters, Mr Toto Mhwaso and Mr Jada Selibhe, to be postponed for trial on August 2.

The remaining seven squatters were ordered to file opposing affidavits before June 15 and the town committee to file replying affidavits before June 29.

In an affidavit, Mr Gerhardus Adrian Human, Kayamandi Town Clerk, said he feared faction fights between the squatters and people on the waiting list if the court did not order the squatters to vacate the land.

Mr Joel Kriga, instructed by Mr B Wagley, of E Moosa and Associates, appeared for the two squatters. Mr R E van Rooyen, instructed by Mr W P Welgemoed, of Bowman and Hayward, appeared for the Kayamandi Town Committee.

PEACE TALKS . . . Mr Ngxobongwana (centre) at yesterday's meeting with Mr Kriel. One of the mayor's town councillors, Mr Alfred Geli, is on his left. **INSET:** Mr Kriel.

Pictures: GLENN SHERRATT

Xroads leaders 'to talk'

By MARIUS BOSCH

PEACE could soon be a reality in strife-torn Crossroads after the township's controversial mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, yesterday agreed to meet rival squatter leaders for peace talks.

At a meeting between Provincial Affairs and Planning Minister Mr Hernus Kriel and the Crossroads Town Committee yesterday, Mr Ngxobongwana agreed to enter into peace talks with rival leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

Mr Nongwe and a delegation of squatter leaders met Mr Kriel earlier this month and agreed to talks with the town councillors they claimed were threatening their lives.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Kriel's director-general, Mr E G de Beer, Provincial Administration MEC Mr Koos Theron and Crossroads town clerk Mr Ricky Shelhause.

Describing Mr Ngxobongwana and his councillors as the legally elected representatives of Crossroads residents, Mr Kriel said it was certain that "there are problems inside Crossroads".

He said it was sad to hear that people were losing their lives in the township and that the government would do "everything in its power" to prevent the loss of life.

Speaking through an interpreter, Mr Ngxobongwana said the rival delegation should not "bring squatters from other areas and claim that they are Crossroads residents".

He said he and his committee had "never used firearms, bullets or bricks" and that they had never destroyed property but that their constant aim was to have people talking to each other.

"Bullets do not solve problems . . . only talks," he added.

Mr Kriel said a date for the meeting would soon be set.

Racing against time to house roofless Hoekers

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

AN urgent investigation into the "impossible" task of finding suitable land to house the Noordhoek squatter community is under way and town planners have been instructed to report by the end of June.

They are trying to identify a 30-to-40-hectare site somewhere between Noordhoek and Ocean View which will have a minimum social and physical impact on the valley.

However, much of the study area falls within the Cape Peninsula nature area and includes several exceptionally environmentally sensitive sites. Much of it is also below the five-metre contour line — where development is traditionally banned — and is subject to periodic flooding.

Cut-off date

And several residents are concerned that they are not being given sufficient time to comment before the June 6 cut-off date.

Mr John Duxbury, a partner in the firm of town and regional planners which is conducting the investigation on behalf of the Cape Provincial Administration, confirmed that they were rushing against time to complete their brief. He said they had been given six weeks "to do the impossible".

Although it had not been technically necessary to ask for public comment, he had persuaded the Provincial Administration that it was "important", he added.

"Although it's impossible to let everybody know, we're looking to get as much input as possible. The more I can get, the better balanced picture I can give to the authorities."

A letter had been sent to 100 local authorities, ratepayers associations, organisations and individuals asking for an urgent input. These included the Peak-to-Point Conservation Trust and the Surplus People Project.

The letter said the firm had been instructed to identify a site for the Noordhoek squatter community and to assess the impact of this development on the Noordhoek valley.

"It has been accepted in principle that the squatters are to be located in the Noordhoek valley and that a site of approximately 30 to 40 hectares is required to accommodate their community.

"Our instruction is to suitably locate this community with the minimum impact on the valley."

"Extreme urgency"

Their report had to be completed by the end of June and the matter was "of extreme urgency". A cut-off date of June 6 for comment on the "sensitive matter" was therefore necessary.

But the letter to the Kommetjie local council had not arrived by Wednesday and it appeared to have been delayed at the offices of the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

Concerned councillor Mr John Eilbeck said the council had not yet been offficially informed of the investigation and there would be no time to discuss the issue with residents or with locals from Ocean View, Fish Hoek, Sunnydale or Noordhoek before the closing date.

Hout Bay land for squatters

CMT Tribune
2/6/90 (307)

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS at Hout Bay are going to be given land in the area — with government permission.

Provincial Affairs and Planning minister Mr Hernus Kriel said yesterday that it was a fact that black people were living in Hout Bay and land in the area must be identified by the community itself in order for squatters to be accommodated legally.

After meeting with representatives of the Cape Provincial Administration and CPA MEC, Mr Koos Theron, Mr Kriel said the land would have to "tie in with existing socio-economic patterns".

He warned, however, that strict action would be taken against illegal squatters after the accommodation of existing squatters.

Hout Bay residents have been up in arms over squatters in their area and fears have been expressed that the rising squatter numbers could lead to a sharp drop in property prices and residents said the crime rate had increased sharply.

Last night the chairman of the Hout Bay Property Rights Committee, Captain Tony Spengler, said he was "most disturbed" that Mr Kriel had seen it fit to issue a statement before replying to a letter handed to him by the committee on May 28.

Land selection

The multi-racial committee was representative of most of Hout Bay residents, Capt Spengler said, adding that the letter called for a meeting with Mr Kriel to discuss the "upholding of the basic law of property ownership".

Mr Kriel said the MP for the area, Mr Colin Eglin, had been contacted along with two ratepayers' groups and Mr Eglin was expected to report back on the issue of the land by June 6.

Both Mr Eglin and the two ratepayers' groups had agreed that the community itself should identify the land, Mr Kriel added.

"As soon as the proposals have been received, they will be evaluated by the CPA so that land may be purchased and rudimentary services supplied so that squatters may be accomodated legitimately," Mr Kriel said.

He added that the private sector and utility companies would then be in a position to provide housing in the area.

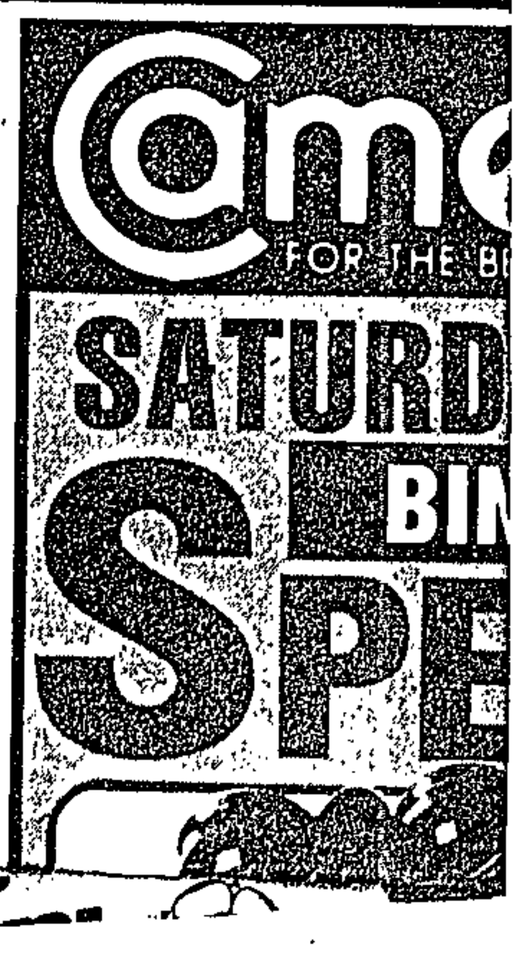
The CPA was in the process of identifying land in Noordhoek and an announcement was expected within the next two weeks, Mr Kriel said, adding that financial arrangements for the purchasing of Noordhoek land and provision for basic services had been made as well.

A technical committee was "well underway" in identifying land in Somerset West which will then be purchased.

Mr Kriel said as soon as these actions had been taken, "strict action will be taken towards illegal squatters", Mr Kriel said, adding that "alternate accommodation will then be available for them".

BUSINESS BRIEF

Gold (Ldn close)	$361,25
Gold (NY close)	$359,00
Rand	R2,6570/85
FT index (close)	1882,40
BD 100	3636,80
Dow Jones	2890,00



Squatterland — the search continues

w/t Argus
2/6/90

307

By ANDREA WEISS
Weekend Argus Reporter

LAND will have to be identified for squatters living in Hout Bay, said the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel.

"According to the minister it is a fact that black people are living in the area and that through proper planning land will have to be identified which will tie in with existing socio-economic patterns," said a statement issued yesterday.

Provide housing

Mr Kriel's statement follows a meeting with Mr Koos Theron MEC, the Cape Provincial Administration ministerial representative, Mr Jimmy Otto, and senior officials of the CPA.

Mr Colin Eglin, Democratic Party MP for the area, is to report back to Mr Kriel on June 6 on finding land in Hout Bay.

"As soon as the proposals have been received they will be evaluated by the CPA so that land may be purchased and rudimentary services supplied so that squatters may be accommodated legitimately.

"The private sector and utility companies will then be in a position to provide housing in that area," the statement said.

The CPA was identifying land in Noordhoek and an announcement was expected within a fortnight.

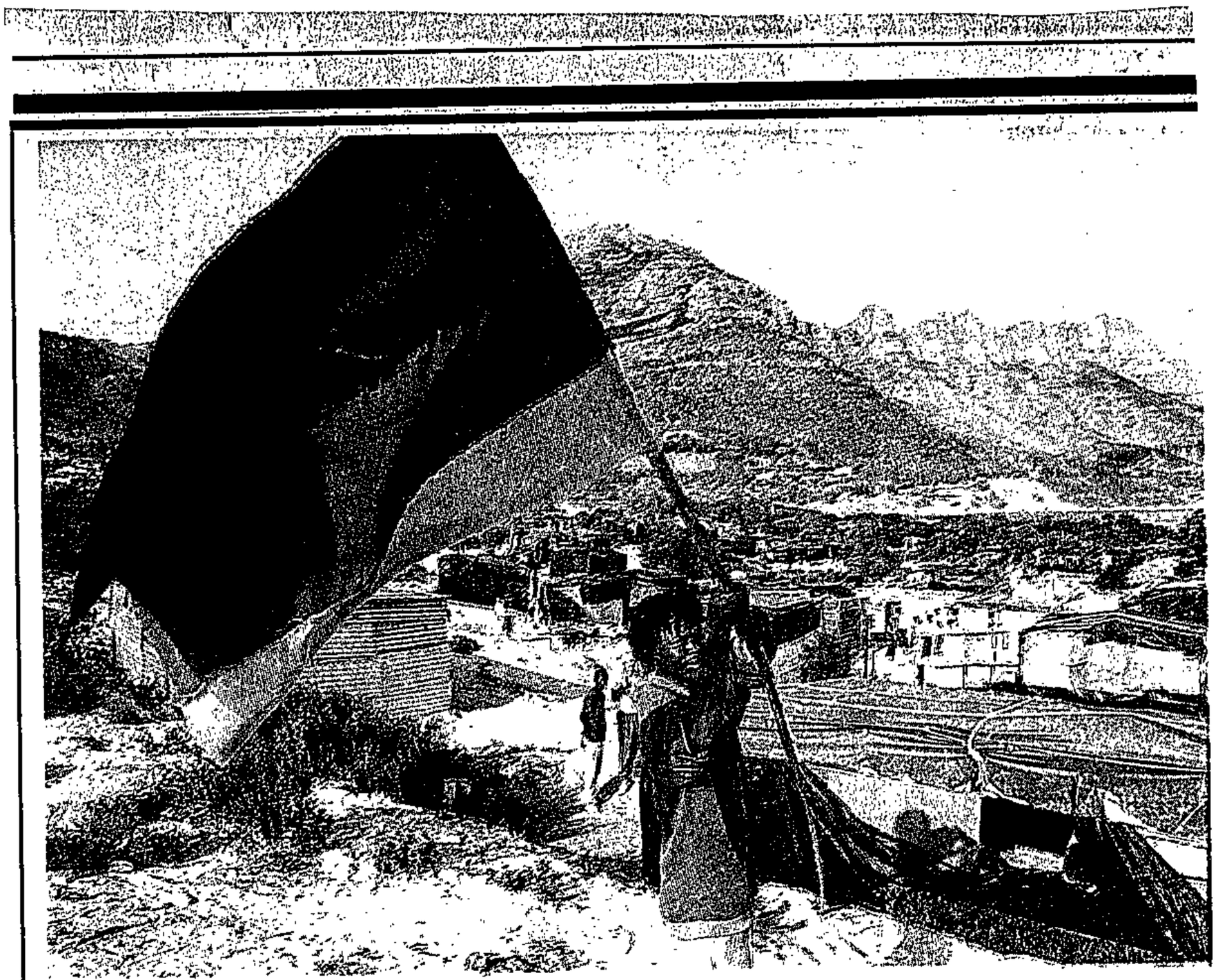
In Somerset West a technical committee was also identifying land for squatters.

As soon as these actions had taken place strict measures would be taken against illegal squatters, as alternative accommodation would then be available, the statement warned.

Argus.

307

2/6/90



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, Weekend Argus.

Hout Bay squatter Mr Godfrey Kapape — keeping the ANC flag flying.

Weekend FOCUS 3

Has the ANC staged a takeover in the three-year-old Republic of Hout Bay? Locals have been puzzled since they spotted the ANC colours fluttering boldly in Princess Drive.
Weekend Argus Reporter JANIS FRASER investigates.

ANC flag has Hout Bay in flutter

HAS there been a quiet coup in the sleepy Republic of Hout Bay — which three years ago declared a tongue-in-cheek UDI and issued its own passports?

That's the question some of the locals are puzzling over since they noticed the black, green and gold of the African National Congress fluttering boldly in Princess Road, in full view of traffic and plush homes on the opposite hillside.

Squatter Godfrey Kapape, who hoists the flag ceremoniously each morning and lowers it before he goes to bed, says he doesn't see it as a takeover.

All he wants is for everyone at Hout Bay to co-exist cordially. He decided a couple of weeks ago that it would be nice to start flying the flag.

He says he runs an unofficial ANC office from his neat cardboard and plastic house, tucked in the shelter of a dune. He's heard some people in the houses across the road might be a bit upset, and some people did come and speak to him about it, but generally there's been no problem. After all, the flag isn't outlawed any more.

Not everyone in the growing squatter camp is an ANC member, he adds. But it's nice if they are.

Mr and Mrs Lennox Anderson, who live just around the corner, said they, their friends and neighbours were "distressed" to see the ANC flag flying, just as they believed the constant stream of people passing their house to draw water was getting beyond a joke.

"I wrote to ask the Regional Services Council to instal water and toilet facilities for them; I also asked them to halve my rates since I had to put up with all of this. Of course they turned my requests down," said Mr Anderson.

HORTICULTURE student Mr Matthew Leve, who lives not far from the squatter camp, said he did his best each day to help out with water and other essentials for squatters, who had become his friends.

"If they had more support the problem could be solved. People have to learn to live together."

Meanwhile Mrs Reena Cole, who issues about 750 Hout Bay "passports" a month for charity at Mariners' Wharf, says she's still hearing of the odd instance of people passing them as legitimate travel documents.

"There was a German chap in here a couple of months ago who said he had his stamped when he crossed a border. I believe they've been warned at London airport to watch out for them though."

Flag-flyer Mr Kapepe say's he's not bothered about Hout Bay or any other passports. "I'm not going anywhere. I like it here. I want to stay in Hout Bay all my life."

Hout Bay offer pleases squatters

CAPE Times 4/6/90 (307)

By MARIUS BOSCH

HOUT BAY squatters are elated about the prospect of settling legally in the village — but feel they would only be able to afford R30 rent a month and that they should be consulted about where they should settle.

Squatter spokesman Mr Charlmane Mguga told the Cape Times yesterday most residents were "very happy" that they were going to get land in the area but insisted that they did not want to move from their present site — where at least 100 shacks have been erected in front of prime seaside property.

However, Hout Bay Property Rights Committee chairman Captain Tony Snelgar said the more than 300 squatters near Princess Drive were only a fraction of the estimated 2 000 squatters in the area.

He said the main aim of the multiracial committee was that the "basic law of property ownership be upheld".

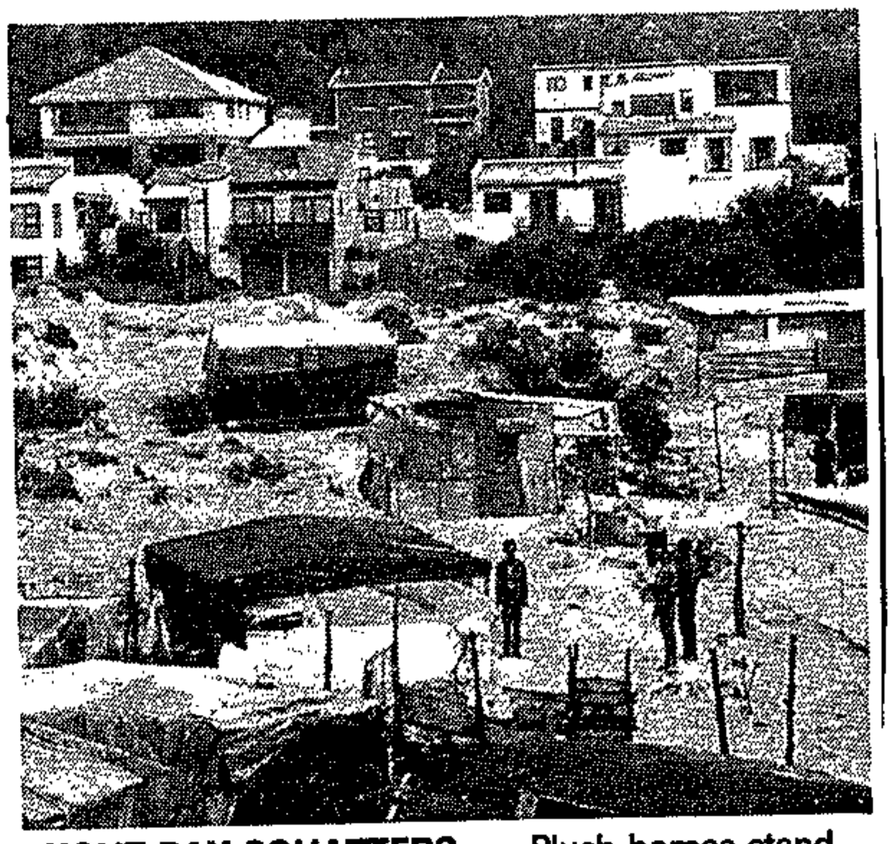
Already squatters had tapped into the water mains of one resident — leaving her with a water account of nearly R2 000, Captain Snelgar added.

Domestic servant Ms Violet Ce said she was elated that she would be legally accommodated in Hout Bay.

Ms Ce said she had lived in the town for the past 15 years.

Mr Mguga said "we don't want to be isolated from the white community and want to take part in the local government", adding that most of the squatters would only be able to afford R30 per month rent.

On Friday the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Planning, Mr Hernus Kriel, announced that land would be identified in Hout Bay where the squatters could live legally. But he warned that strong measures would be taken against illegal squatters.



HOUT BAY SQUATTERS . . . Plush homes stand in sharp contrast to the squatter shacks on Princess Drive in Hout Bay. Only a road separates the squatters from the houses.

Suitable land for squatters?

AN environmental impact study into suitable land for squatters in Noordhoek should be completed within the next two weeks, a Cape Provincial Administration spokesman said yesterday.

CPA spokesman Mr Van Heerden Heunis declined to comment on unconfirmed reports that the site for the resettlement of the squatters would be between Ocean View and Sunnydale.

However, Simon's Town DP MP Mr Jannie Momberg said that no land had in fact been identified yet and that nothing definite was on the cards at present.

The chairman of the Noordhoek and District Civic Association, Mr Mark Wiley, said the favoured location for the site was in the middle of the wetlands — which was a nature area and at present home to "flocks of breeding bird colonies".

Families left homeless in the chilling cold or scorching sun after their shacks have been razed are a familiar sight in black townships.

Crossroads - life near the bottom of the heap

Sowetan 7/6/90

307

Sowetan
7/6/90
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JEFFREY Nongwe's metal shack stands rusting in a patch of churned-up mud in Crossroads.

The 63-year-old black squatter leader, a former staff driver at the South African Parliament in Cape Town, says he must replace the shack's scrap metal walls every two years because of rust caused by winter storms.

For 15 years Nongwe has lived in Crossroads, a rainswept huddle of wood and metal huts on sandy ground only a few kilometres from plush white Cape Town suburbs.

Worse

He says life without electricity or sewerage for Crossroads' 50 000 shanty dwellers - whose living conditions place some of them near the bottom of the heap in South Africa's racially-divided society - "just gets worse".

"People are very stranded here," he said in an interview in his chilly front room, where plastic sheets serve as windows.

"We spend years in the damp. Most of the problems people have concern flooding and damp, like chest disease," he said.

Symbolic

"The government treats us worse than wild animals in a forest. At least the animals have their proper home."

Crossroads is symbolic of the desperate situation in most of South Africa's urban areas, where migrant workers who come to work in the cities find themselves with no place to live.

This Cape Town shanty town, once a centre of resistance to apartheid, was devastated in 1986 by faction fighting which killed about 100 people and drove 60 000 from their homes.

The settlement is only a fraction of a fast-growing army of urban poor that poses Pretoria's biggest development challenge.

Experts say up to 10 million blacks - over a quarter of the entire population - live in informal housing such as shacks or tents in South Africa and its 10 tribal homelands.

Since laws restricting blacks' movements were lifted in the mid-1980s, shanty towns have mushroomed around urban areas where blacks seek work.

Cape Town's squatter camps house 480 000.

Crossroads is still troubled, but the immediate cause of tension has changed.

Unlike many squatter communities around the country, Crossroads' residents have largely won the battle to stay on their patch close to their jobs in "whites-only" areas.

The authorities have allowed developers to begin building houses in Crossroads, considered a priority area because of its violent past.

Control

The Surplus People's Project, an organisation which campaigns for squatters, said the threat of forced removal of Cape Town's blacks was being replaced by a struggle over who controls access to the houses and services developers provide.

"Control over the location and form of informal settlements has become a way (for the Government) to ensure that squatters do not spread themselves in 'unmanageable' pockets throughout the urban areas," it said in a report.

"It is these communities, with their mafia-style leadership and local bully boys, which have become the cornerstones for maintaining 'law and order' in the black townships."

Nongwe pointed out holes in his walls which he said were caused when attackers fired shotguns at his home on December 10.

Nongwe and his supporters are at odds with Crossroads' Government-backed black local councillors.

Residents, many of them labourers earning R400 a month, must pay the council for waste removal and the use of communal water taps and lights.

Many complain the new houses are too costly.

Blacks are more open about showing impatience for a better life since black political activity was legalised in February.

"Before World War Two the Boers were also poor. They stayed in places like this," said Nongwe.

Helped

"But the Government of the day helped them to develop. If the Government can do it for them, they can do it for us."

The Government wants to raze all Cape Town's shantytowns eventually and replace them with better housing for fewer blacks. It wants to move some people to the new township of Khayelitsha, far from the city where they work.

"The Government wants an end to squatter camps but it's not because they feel sorry for squatters. It's because squatter areas are uncontrollable," said Laurine Platsky, a town planner researching urban development.- Sapa-Reuter

Bay squatter talks pave way for solution

By ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter.

METROPOLITAN

HOUT BAY'S squatter controversy could be resolved within weeks after an historic meeting between all parties in the valley.

The meeting in the city yesterday was described by the Democratic Party MP for the area, Mr Colin Eglin, as "quite a distinct advance" as squatters, the harbour community, white ratepayers and the government had sat down together for the first time.

"Here were people, all affected by the problem, looking at it collectively," he said.

Down to specifics

The meeting followed a recent announcement by Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Mr Hernus Kriel that land for squatters was to be identified and bought in the area.

Mr Jimmy Otto, Mr Kriel's ministerial representative, said a follow-up meeting had been organised for June 13 when the number of squatters and specific land possibilities would be discussed.

Mr Otto said it was "an achievement" that all groups were talking about the problem.

"If you go back in history, it is a miracle that we can sit together and discuss a sensitive problem."

Mr Otto said the next step in finding a piece of land big enough for the squatters was to establish the location and number of squatters. These figures would be on the table at the next meeting.

The government and the squatters were starting to look at land. Proposals would be submitted to the Cape Provincial Administration, which would have to buy the land and negotiate prices.

At the same time, immediate problems of sanitation and water had to be addressed.

Mr Otto said he had undertaken to provide water if somebody within the squatting community was prepared to take responsiblity for "the bill".

Some still opposed

Squatters had accepted that it was difficult to control a criminal element and had indirectly asked for more police protection, he said.

He added that there was a group in the area still "very opposed to opening up Hout Bay".

"There is more than enough common ground to solve the problem, but it's going to be tough. We will have to market the problem.

"From the government side, we have bent over backwards in the sense that we are prepared to accommodate people in an orderly way which will not degrade or upset the local community."

Peelton refugees back home

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON. — East Peelton's Nkqonkqweni refugees, forced to flee from their homes eight months ago beacuse of Ciskei police harassment, made their long-awaited return home this week.

From early Thursday heavily-laden trucks were seen carrying people and possessions back to Nkqonkqweni.

Since their eviction from Ciskei in October last year, the community, numbering almost 213 families, have been living in tents at Chikane Village near Ginsberg on land set aside by the King William's Town municipality.

Squatters: City 'could become a Calcutta'

Cutt This 9/6/90 307

By MARIUS BOSCH

SQUATTERS moving into exclusively middle-and-high-income residential areas could become an increasing reality, and there was a possibility that Cape Town could turn into another Calcutta or Mexico City, academics warned this week.

Professor C T Welch of Stellenbosch University's department of Urban and Regional Planning said the phenomenon of the influx of squatters into established urban areas was a "fact of life".

Professor Welch warned it was possible that Cape Town could evolve into another Calcutta or Mexico City — where millions of people live in squalor and poverty.

He described the process as a natural one in Third World countries and warned if land was not provided in an ordered way around Metropolitan areas, people would move onto land that was acceptable to them.

"These people have nothing and they are moving to an area where there is a promise of wealth," he said.

UCT Urban Problems Research Unit director Professor David Dewar said situations where squatters settled on land in Hout Bay very close to plush white-owned homes gave a "good idea what will happen if the government does not open land".

Ngxobongwana slates kitscops

By CHRIS BATEMAN

THE mayor of Old Crossroads, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, broke a long silence yesterday to launch a blistering attack on special constables whom he claims are responsible for murder, widespread torchings and theft in his community.

Mr Ngxobongwana, who has been uncontactable for several months, called for the summary removal of special constables and their replacement with SADF troops whom he said were "neutral and keep things under control".

The latest Crossroads violence was on Friday night when a woman was shot dead in her new Phase 2 home and two people were injured. Police confirmed the death, adding that 11 homes in the development were torched over the weekend.

The woman, who was shot in the head, was identified as Ms Ethel Maqoqwana, 23.

No arrests have been made.

The long-standing Old Crossroads leader, against whom a six-month fraud investigation was recently dropped for lack of evidence, also replied to consistent demands for his removal from his arch-opponent and former headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

He was prepared to accept demands for an open referendum on the issue "if everybody agrees to sit around a table — but no outsiders, just Old Crossroads people".

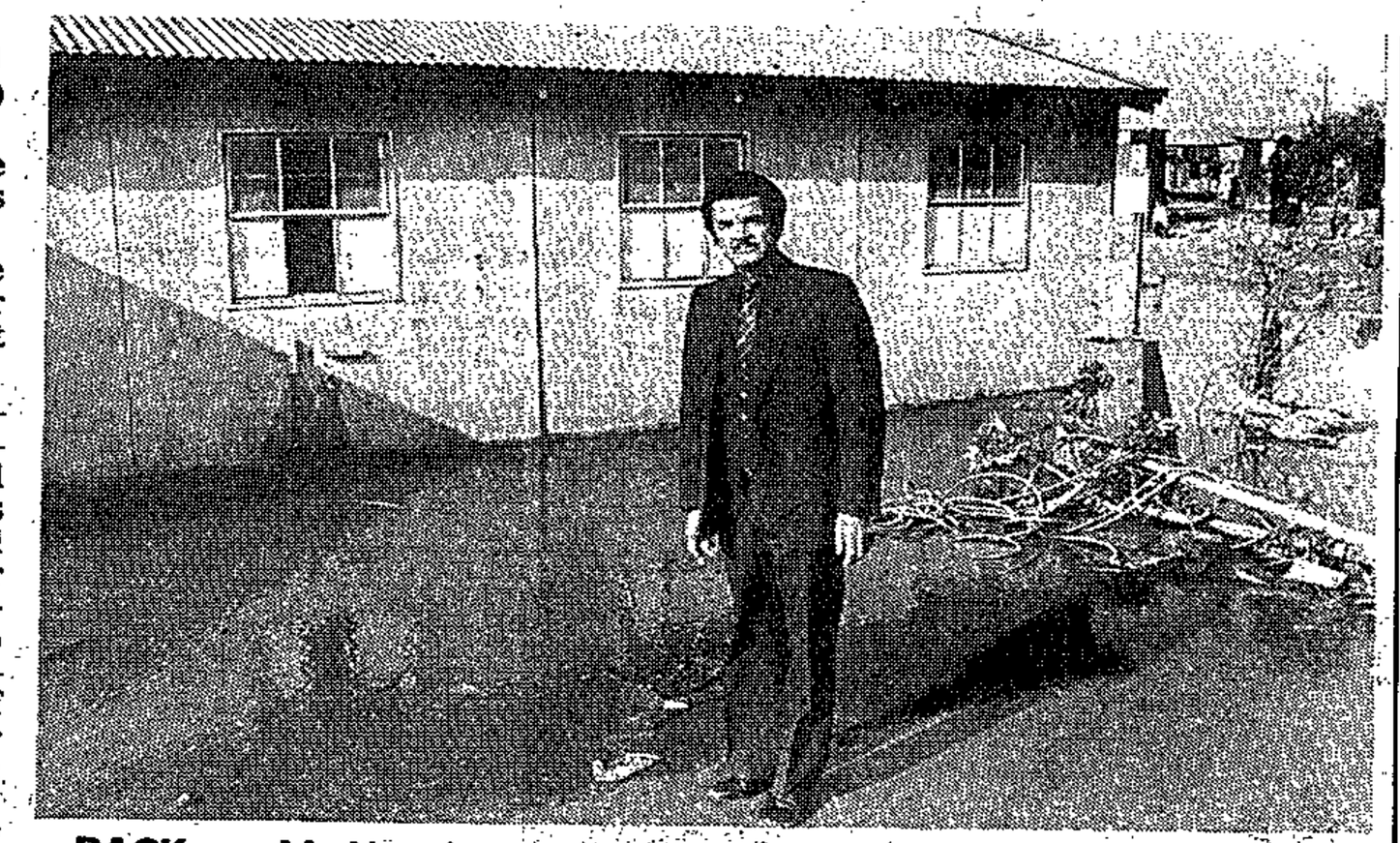
He said Mr Nongwe himself had proposed that he stand for mayor in October 1988. This made Mr Nongwe's current demands for his removal "strange".

Special constables have come in for heavy criticism from Mr Justice J H Conradie at least twice in the past 12 months.

Ten days ago the judge criticised police for arming an "unqualified, poorly trained and mentally ill-equipped person" as a special constable. He jailed Constable Mbulelo Gwemntu for three years for culpable homicide and declared him unfit to possess a firearm.

Brigadier Vic Haynes, head of police liaison, appealed for Mr Ngxobongwana to "be specific and bring us the evidence".

He said police were studying Mr Justice Conradie's judgment "at high level".



BACK . . . Mr Ngxobongwana in a waterlogged part of the squatter camp yesterday. Picture: ALAN TAYLOR

CAM Times 14/6/90 307

Noordhoek protest time 'too short'

By PETER DENNEHY
Municipal Reporter

NOORDHOEK residents are unhappy at having been given just over a week to lodge objections to eight possible sites for the permanent settlement of poor black families.

Mr John Cannon, the Noordhoek District and Civic Association chairman, said yesterday that a firm of consultants had recently circulated an outline of the Noordhoek Valley in which eight zones were identified where services, such as water and sewage removal, could feasibly be provided.

"It reached most people by about June 1, and they were required to answer by June 6," he said. "The time they gave us has now expired, officially."

The circular had gone out to those whom the consultants had considered to be affected property owners and to organisations in the area.

A representative from the consultants had then visited and tried to speak to as many people as possible, but she herself had had little time for this.

Mr Cannon said: "Very little time has been given, considering that the authorities have been sitting on this problem for the past five years."

Only 1 500 people owned or rented property in the valley, so if the government settled 2 500 squatters there, existing residents would be "suddenly outnumbered".

"If the area set aside is to be between 30 and 40 hectares, the number of squatters is likely to be 5 000. The numbers are vague at the moment."

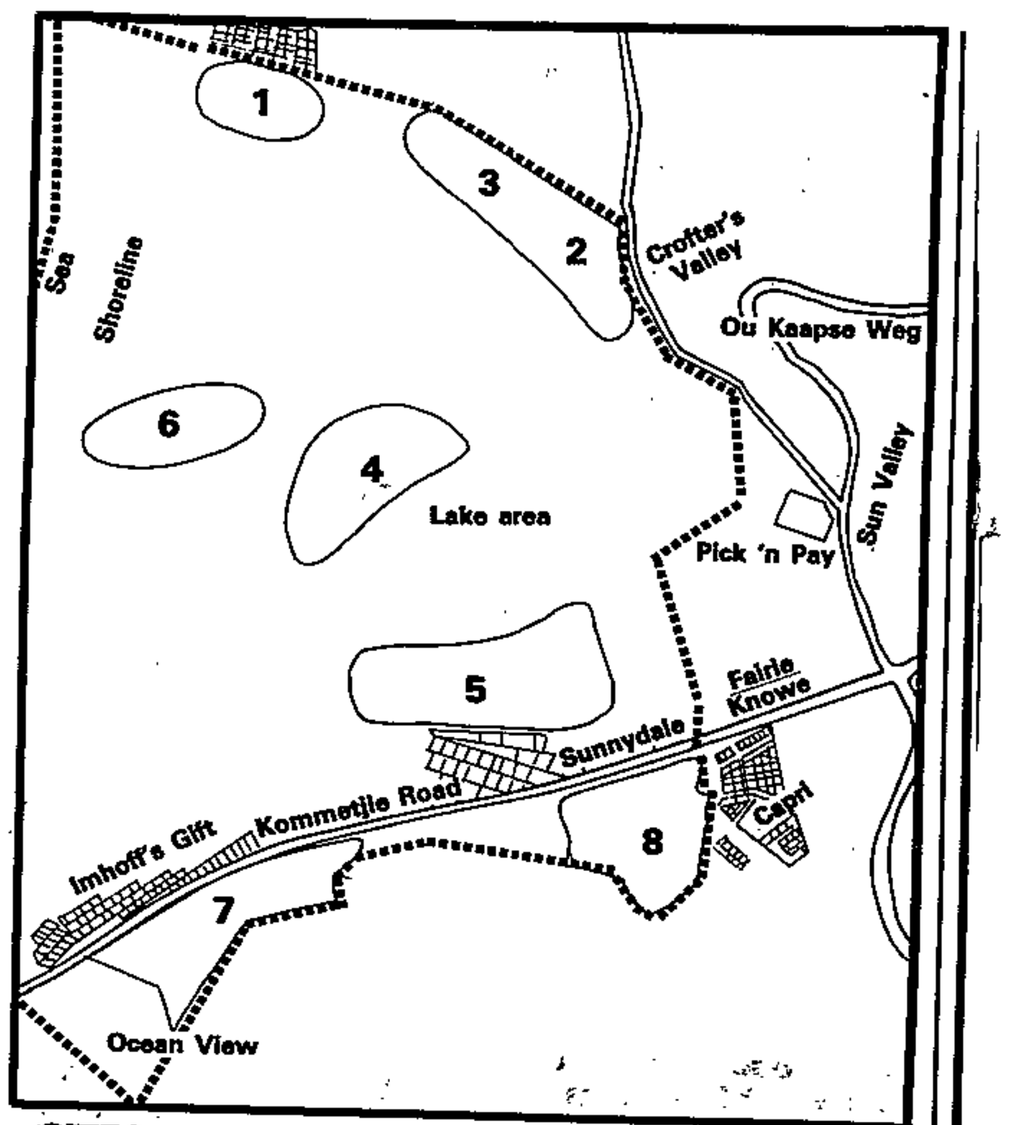
Mr Cannon said the present members of his ratepayers' association "could get swamped".

He understood that the Cape Provincial Administration proposed to establish a site and service scheme in which there would be just one tap to serve every 20 families.

"This is totally out of line with the development of the rest of the valley."

He also asked: "If you are going to settle 5 000 people who do not have jobs in an area that already has unemployment problems since the navy cutback, where are they going to get jobs?"

Mr John Duxbury, a partner in the firm of consultants (Van der Merwe, Duxbury and Dunn) engaged in the study, said yesterday that so far only a very preliminary site selection had been done.



SITES . . . The dotted line marks the area in which eight sites have been identified where it is feasible to provide sewage and refuse removal and water.

(307) 15/6/90

Coping with accommodation

By ESANN van RENSBURG
Staff Reporter

COPING with the accommodation shortage and the ever-increasing demand for low cost housing is probably the major challenge facing Cape Town today, says Cape Town City Planner, Mr Neville Riley.

Greater Cape Town has a black population of close to one million people with only about 20 000 formal housing units to serve them. This means that 80 percent of the city's black population do not live in formal housing.

Prior to the building of New Crossroads, no new housing for low income black families had been provided for 20 years, says Ms Josette Cole, urban co-ordinator of the Surplus People Project.

Some families who were placed on waiting lists as long as 15 years ago are still waiting for houses.

Black people who have lived and worked in Cape Town for more than 35 years have not been able to and still cannot afford formal housing.

These people deserve first consideration, says Mrs Eulalie Stott of the City Council's Standard Housing Committee.

Health risks

With the ever-increasing emphasis on private housing developement, formal housing is being provided at a steady pace for higher income black people. The majority, however, cannot afford to buy these houses and they remain squatters.

The negative aspects of squatter dwelling are vast. Amongst the consequences identified by the University of Cape Town's Urban Problems Research Unit, are health risks and social stress resulting from, among other things, overcrowding and inadequate utility services which in turn lead to crime, social deviance and the exploitation of those that can least afford it.

The authorities are upgrading these areas in terms of sewerage, taps, toilets and sites that are marked down, but according to Ms Cole, these services are minimal, taking into account the number of people who have to be catered for.

Some progress has been made though.

Eviction cycle

Ms Cole says that the authorities have, in some cases, responded to the needs of squatters by providing services where they are desperately needed.

Communities outside the "legalised" squatter areas are also fighting for their right to land. Complaints by local residents have led to the eviction of many a family from its home.

Ms Cole believes the private sector is compounding the problem because its developments are forcing up the value of land thereby putting lower income groups at a disadvantage. Land is being used up very quickly and squatters on the land are being evicted, a cycle that is not easy to break.

Mr Riley says the private sector should not only address itself to economic housing, but should find ways and means of providing adequate shelter for the ultra poor.

According to him much of the problem lies in finding economically-affordable land on which to build good, but affordable houses with affordable materials at convenient locations close to public transport and work opportunity.

He says building costs are escalating rapidly and that the council together with the authorities and developers "have pursued every possible route to try and provide ways and means of curtailing cost and to keeping housing affordable".

Because of the escalation of building costs and the fact that there is less available land and less government funding, the City Council's output of houses has decreased drastically.

Post war, Cape Town produced more than 80 000 coloured and Indian housing units. This was more than any other major city in the country. The funding for this was from central government. Today, the annual council housing output can be counted in hundreds, whereas in the late seventies the annual production was over 5 000 dwelling units.

He suggests some possible solutions to cope with certain of these problems. These include steps such as increased housing density planning. This would mean that infra-structure and amenities would be shared among more people. More houses per hectare would reduce the cost per unit.

"This is nothing new. Many cities worldwide develop to much higher densities than we are suggesting," says Mr Riley.

The sharing of facilities like schools and sports clubs will make more space available for the building of houses.

New low income homeowners do not necessarily either want or need homes on generous plots. To reduce unit cost, the principle of multiple land usage will have to be practised, he says, and the authorities should be encouraged to promote multiple usage of open space.

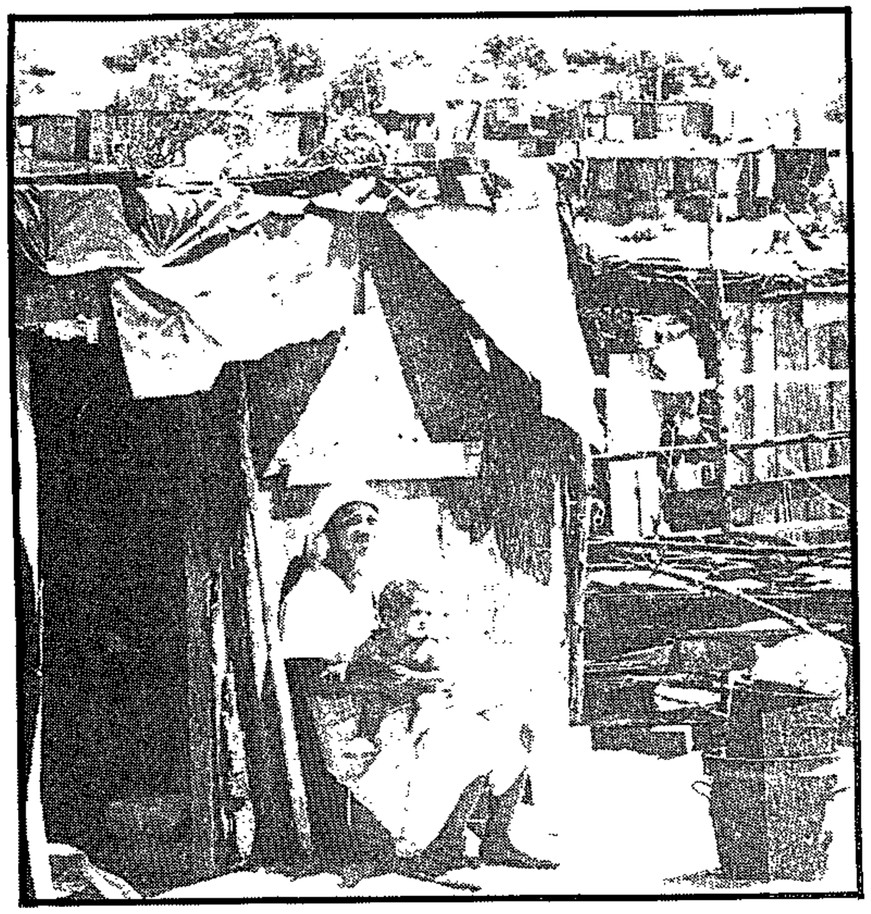
Mr Riley says that even if other sources of finance are found, the poor will not be able to afford the payments, unless they are heavily subsidised. The majority of black and coloured people in Cape Town earn less than R600 per month and simply cannot afford the full repayments on a house.

Self-help

Successful self-help coloured housing projects include Mitchell's Plain, where people with the necessary skills have built their own houses at a much reduced price. These self-help projects with information and training centres cater for people who earn less than R1 000 a month and have been successful in several areas of Cape Town. Even here there are more than 40 000 families on the waiting list.

This kind of project can only help some of the people and obviously does not cater for the majority. It is, therefore, solving only a small part of the problem.

SQUALOR: Thousands of families on the Cape flats live in makeshift housing in shocking conditions. Formal housing is not available, and if it was most would not be able to afford it.



SQUATTING: Eighty percent of the black population in the Cape live in "informal" housing such as this.

Ms Cole believes the lines of communication between authorities and communities have opened up a lot and people are starting to work together to try and solve some of the problems.

The Cape Provincial Administration has accepted in principle that there is an urgent need to solve the black housing crisis. Certain local authorities are, however, not as sympathetic and the red tape and bureaucracy often hamper efforts to alleviate the problem.

The communities argue that what is needed is a shift in housing policy. Practical suggestions are required on how to provide shelter for those who are unable to afford houses built by the private sector.

White people in Cape Town have to learn to adapt themselves to the problems concerning right to land, Ms Cole says.

"The Group Areas Act has entrenched in white people's minds a sense that they have more right to land than black people do."

It seems, though, that everyone agrees that joint action and co-operation are needed to solve the problem

Government, local authorities and communities need to get together to devise a strategy to provide shelter for Cape Town's people. Possible solutions lie in the re-directing of funds, finding more financial help, organising low cost self-help projects and finding ways to build cheaper, but well-constructed houses

There are no simple solutions to any one of these problems. Identifying them is easy, finding practical solutions is not, says Mr Riley.

Co-operation between the people, civic associations, local authorities, politicians and government in setting affordable levels of expectation is the key to the delivery of affordable shelter, he says.

Noordhoekers in clash with 'arbitrary' MP

307

By DALE KNEEN
Staff Reporter

Argus 15/6/90

ANGRY Noordhoek residents have crossed swords with their Democratic Party MP Mr Jannie Momberg, over the squatter problem in the valley.

They have also vehemently criticised the government and the Regional Serivces Council for allowing the problem to escalate to "alarming" proportions.

About 1 500 residents showed overwhelming support for a proposal that houses be built for squatters who had lived in the area for "many years" and for those who were employed in the valley.

The proposal by the Noordhoek District and Civic Association at a meeting last night, did not touch on housing for the unemployed or newer arrivals.

Spokesman for the association, Mr Mark Wiley, said the proposal was a "constructive alternative" and not a suggestion by "inhumane, racist and obnoxious people trying to force our will on others".

Mr Momberg showed support for providing all the squatters — estimated to be about 2 000 — with low-cost housing in Noordhoek.

Residents later demanded a motion of censure against Mr Momberg, MP for Simon's Town, which said he had tried to find a short-term solution in a "precipitate and arbitrary" manner.

The residents also called for monthly meetings with various municipal authorities to develop strategies and methods for the "effective, vigorous and high profile" control of squatter influx.

Landowners who allowed squatting on their land should be charged under relevant Acts and made to pay towards rehousing the squatters, the residents said.

Trapped man 'shot himself'

Argus 15/6/90

By VUYO BAVUMA, Court Reporter

AN alleged trained terrorist trapped by police in a house in Guguletu committed suicide by shooting himself in the lower jaw, the bullet penetrating his brain.

Wynberg magistrate Mr G Hoffmann made this finding in an informal inquest on Mr Nkuleko Matsi, 29, who died on July 5, 1988, after a skirmish with police.

Mrs Ethel Loza, 45, owner of the house, said she had accommodated Mr Matsi whom she knew as "Solly" because he was being sought by police.

State pathologist Dr G J Knobel found that although Mr Matsi had two bullet wounds in his chest, he was killed by a bullet which went through his brain.

Anti-SA law urged

NEW YORK. — Mayor David Dinkins has proposed a law to toughen the city's economic sanctions on South Africa, saying New York should not support the "evil" of apartheid. Sapa-AP.

Fire delays flights

CHICAGO. — Dozens of flights from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, said to be the world's busiest, were delayed after a fire in an air-traffic control tower. — Sapa-Reuter.

Walrus ivory racket?

ANCHORAGE (Alaska). — Suspected poaching of walruses for ivory is being investigated in the Bering Sea. — Sapa-AP.

SAM ⊕ + 6007 □

Mayor's home under hail of gunfire

By CHRIS BATEMAN

PEACE initiatives in Old Crossroads were dealt a severe blow at the weekend when the homes of the mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, and a senior committee member, Mr Alfred Geli, came under a "hail of gunfire".

The attack came hours after a date was provisionally set for talks between rivals, former chief headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe and Mr Ngxobongwana, to be chaired by the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Planning, Mr Hernus Kriel.

July 10 has been set as the provisional date for peace talks.

Neither Mr Ngxobongwana nor Mr Nongwe could be reached for comment last night.

Reliable township sources said the "hail of gunfire", on Friday night included automatic weapons.

Nobody was reported injured in the attack but police were handed empty shotgun, R4 and 22 cartridges allegedly found near the scene, reliable township sources said.

Shotgun pellet marks were found on the wall of Mr Ngxobongwana's home which had several windows shattered, they added.

It was reliably learnt that senior members of the Old Crossroads Town Committee were being hosted at a braai at Mr Ngxobongwana's home on the night of the attack.

There was an unconfirmed report of a 16-year-old youth having been shot dead.

A police spokesman said no incidents of "unrest or intimidation" had been reported to him for the entire weekend.

Owners warn of squatter action

CM-Trails 20/6/90

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Staff Reporter

THE Hout Bay Property Rights Association yesterday gave the government until June 28 to provide 40 squatter families alternative sites, otherwise it would implement its "own strategy".

Association chairman Mr Tony Snelgar said the "bottom line" was to uphold the rights of property owners. Private land was being used for squatting and hundreds of thousands of rands had been spent on legal action, but it was like "writing letters to stop a flood".

Police were not enforcing eviction orders and the association had been given a mandate from property owners to deal with the problem.

A police spokesman said one complaint of trespassing against a group of squatters and four against property owners allegedly allowing squatting were being investigated. The cases, all from the Princess Road area, would be forwarded to the attorney-general for a decision.

Ultimatums

Mr Snelgar said should the government not act, the association's own strategy would be revealed on June 28.

The Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, said it was a "pity people are reacting so impulsively and issuing ultimatums — the whole process is ongoing at this stage".

A CPA spokesman said the progress report from city planners Van der Merwe, Duxbury and Dunn had made no specific recommendations but provision would be made for 1 200 people already living in Noordhoek valley, Red Hill and Kommetjie.

Mr John Duxbury said his final report deadline was June 29. He had been instructed to make provision for "natural growth" of up to 500 squatter sites, he said.

'Kei anger over rebels

GRAHAMSTOWN. — Transkei military leader Bantu Holomisa has hit at South Africa for not informing his government about the presence of ANC dissidents in the territory. South 21/6-27/6/90

This comes after the shooting in Umtata last week of Sipho Phungulwa, one of the eight ANC dissidents who recently arrived back in South Africa claiming the movement had tortured rebels and suppressed dissent.

Custody

Phungulwa was gunned down on Wednesday of last week as he got out of a minibus in Ngangelizwe township, according to Transkei Police.

Another member of the group, Nicholas Dyasop, was with him at the time. The South African security police have said he is in their protective custody.

Holomisa was quick to express surprise that the news had been released by South African intelligence sources, and not in co-operation with Transkei.

He said South Africa was "controlling" all returning exiles, and Transkei should have been told if any wanted to come there. If other exiles came, protection was arranged in consultation with the ANC or PAC.

"It is still a mystery as to why these (dissidents) in the first instance came to South Africa," he said.

The incident occurred a day after the two visited the Umtata ANC office to request a meeting with the regional executive. According to a spokesperson for the organisation, Dr Zola Dabula, the men had said they wanted to "clarify their position" and to inform the executive "how bad" the ANC's leadership was.

Dabula said the men were told their request would be discussed, and they should return later in the week for a response.

But many questions around the incident remain unanswered.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Media Assistant/ Typist:

Student Affairs Dept

The right to stay

South 21/6-27/6/90 309

From THABO DANIELS

PORT ELIZABETH. — Official attempts to divide a "mixed" community in the small Southern Cape town of Sedgefield failed when African squatters won the right to remain in the area.

After a two-year struggle against their forced removal, the 78 African families living in the Smutsville township will no longer be forcibly removed, and will soon have proper houses.

Phumi Booysen, a member of South Cape Against Removals said that an open piece of land alongside Smutsville had been identified as "home" for the squatters.

In the meantime, they will stay on in their present shack homes until proper houses are built. — PEN

ATTENTIVE . . . Squatters from the Disa River community in Hout Bay listen to speakers at a press briefing yesterday. From left are Ms Vanessa Matthews, Hout Bay Action Committee member Ms Laetitia Meter and Disa River pensioner Ms Sara Isaacs.

Picture: RICHARD BELL

Some in H Bay 'cement racial tension'

CNA Times 23/6 307

Staff Reporter

THE "confrontational attitude" of some Hout Bay residents was encouraging squatters in the area to become more militant — and was "cementing racial tension" in the area, the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association said yesterday.

And at a press briefing attended by Hout Bay and Noordhoek squatters yesterday, a community spokesman said immigrant property owners in the valley were depriving SA citizens of their rights.

"We are alarmed by the racial tension that is developing in Hout Bay. The situation is fast becoming untenable," the executive of the ratepayers' association said in a statement to the Cape Times yesterday.

Both sides had to adopt a "realistic" approach. The government had the power to solve

Cape Times

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the problem by making government-owned land available immediately in Hout Bay.

Meanwhile, at a press briefing organised by the Surplus People's Project yesterday, squatters from Hout Bay and Noordhoek expressed their concern about the growing conservative backlash against them.

Ms Josette Cole of the SPP said the backlash against the government's announcement that land would be provided for squatters in the area was an indication of some of the problems that could be expected in the "new South Africa".

Hout Bay community worker Mr Dick Meter claimed that much of the property in the area belonged to "foreigners".

This was echoed by Noordhoek squatter spokeswoman Ms Theorida Mhlom, who said: "We have all the rights to stay wherever we want to stay, because we are South African citizens."

Squatters challenge residents

By ESANN VAN RENSBURG
Weekend Argus Reporter

SQUATTERS in Hout Bay have responded to the growing row about their presence by alleging that property owners regard them as convenient cheap labour and have no respect for them as human beings.

This was said at a Press conference called by three organisations representing squatters in Hout Bay, Noordhoek, Kommetjie, Fish Hoek and Red Hill this week.

The Hout Bay Squatter Co-ordinating Committee, the South Peninsula Joint Squatter Committee and the Surplus People's Project said in a statement that the government had never been serious about its responsibility to house people.

Those who attempted to house themselves affordably were treated like criminals.

Denied property rights

"Many of the homeless people who are squatters today have never had an equal chance to sell their labour and prosper as the whites had," said Mr Dicky Meter, member of the Hout Bay Action Committee.

Mr Meter said that as long as white people refused to take into consideration the fact that the homeless had been denied the right to buy property in Hout Bay, negotiations could not continue in good faith.

The Hout Bay Property Rights Association was "intentionally fomenting racial tension in the area". The organisation has threatened to take the law into its own hands if the government does not start squatter evictions.

A rumour had been spread that the attempts to house squatters in Hout Bay were an ANC strategy to ensure a majority in the area once a new government had been elected, explained a Hout Bay property owner.

Call for support

The joint statement by the three organisations said that in spite of the government abandoning its previous "orderly urbanisation" strategy and being willing to purchase land for black communities in "white" areas, the reality was quite different.

They called on the public to support the squatter communities to dismantle apartheid.

A spokesman for the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association said the government had the power to solve the problem but had delayed acting.

Residents were rightly concerned about crime and their property rights. "At the same time, however, the confrontational attitude adopted by certain elements of Hout Bay society by fomenting racial tension is encouraging the squatters to become more militant and does nothing to limit the influx."

The Argus, Monday June 25 1990

Burning issues at Khayelitsha

By DALE KNEEN
Crime Reporter

MORE than 18 shacks have been burnt to the ground in Khayelitsha as groups supporting the Pan Africanist Congress and the African National Congress clashed at the weekend.

No one was injured in the fires, which started about 2am yesterday in Site B after weeks of tension between the two groups.

According to the regional chairman of the Western Cape Civic Association, Mr Michael Mapongwana, violence flared about three weeks ago when a group supporting the PAC assaulted an ANC supporter.

A group of ANC supporters retaliated and allegedly burnt down PAC supporter, Mr Mbuyiselo Roro's shack. He died in the incident.

Retaliated

Talks were held between the ANC and the PAC supporting Joint Action Committee, which was led by Mr Willie Gwiliza Gobingza, in an attempt to end the violence.

Pictures: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus

POLITICAL VIOLENCE: More than 18 shacks were torched in Khayelitsha at the weekend in clashes between the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress. These shacks in Site B, were apparently set on fire after talks between the two groups broke down last week.

THE Argus 25/6/90

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The Western Cape Civic Association and three church leaders, including Reverend Tax Mdnyelwa, had "tried every possible means" to stop the violence, said Mr Mapongwana.

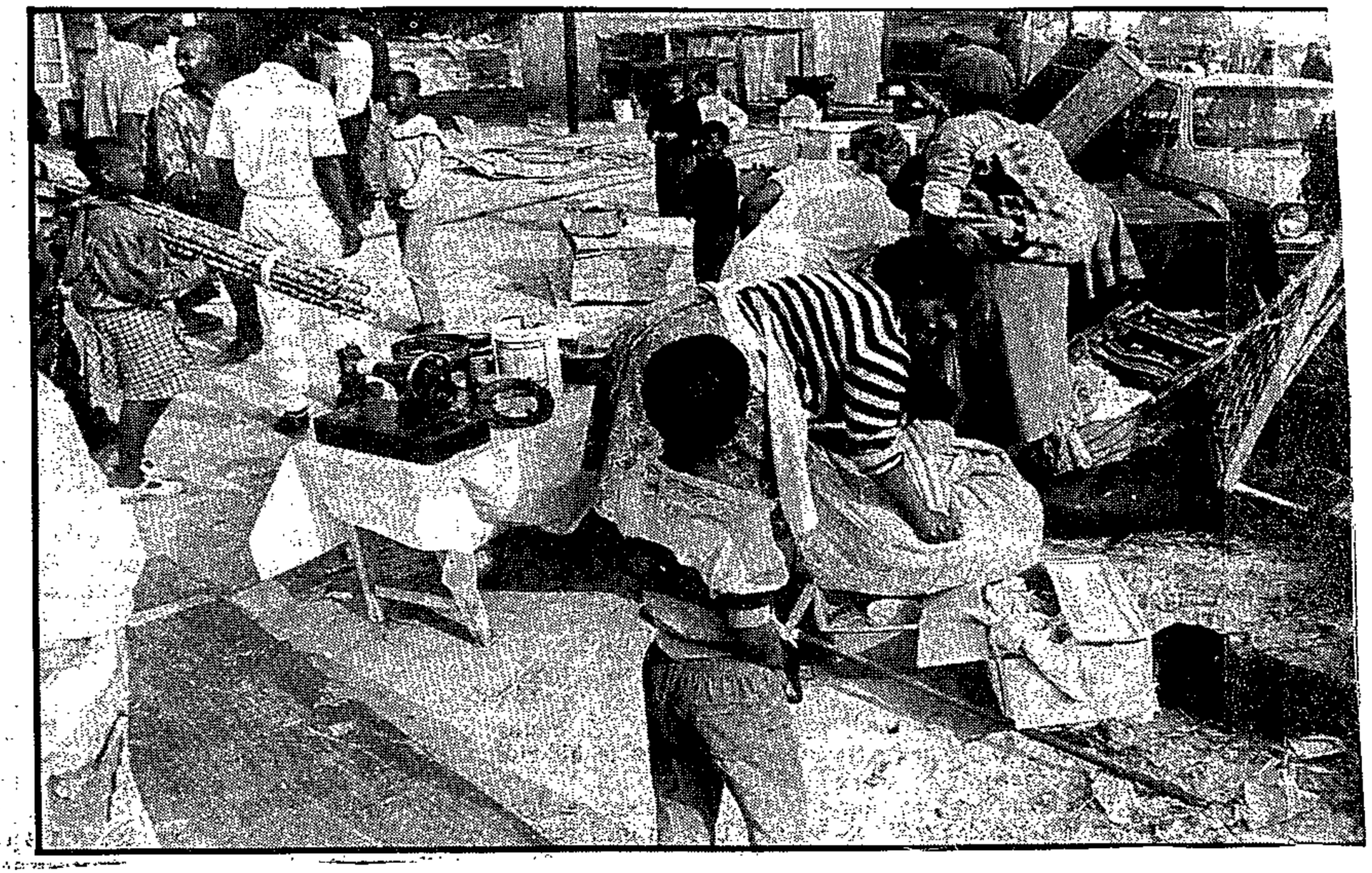
Talks between the two groups ended last week when the Joint Action Committee apparently failed to attend a scheduled meeting.

Mr Mapongwana said yesterday's violence began when PAC supporters torched a shack and then ANC supporters retaliated by burning down several others.

"We will attempt to get the two groups together today to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident," said Mr Mapongwana.

The parties involved were urged to end the violence because "it is vital at this time to have peace".

"We are totally against black-on-black violence and therefore we will do everything possible to end these clashes," said Mr Mapongwana.



THE Argus 25/6/90

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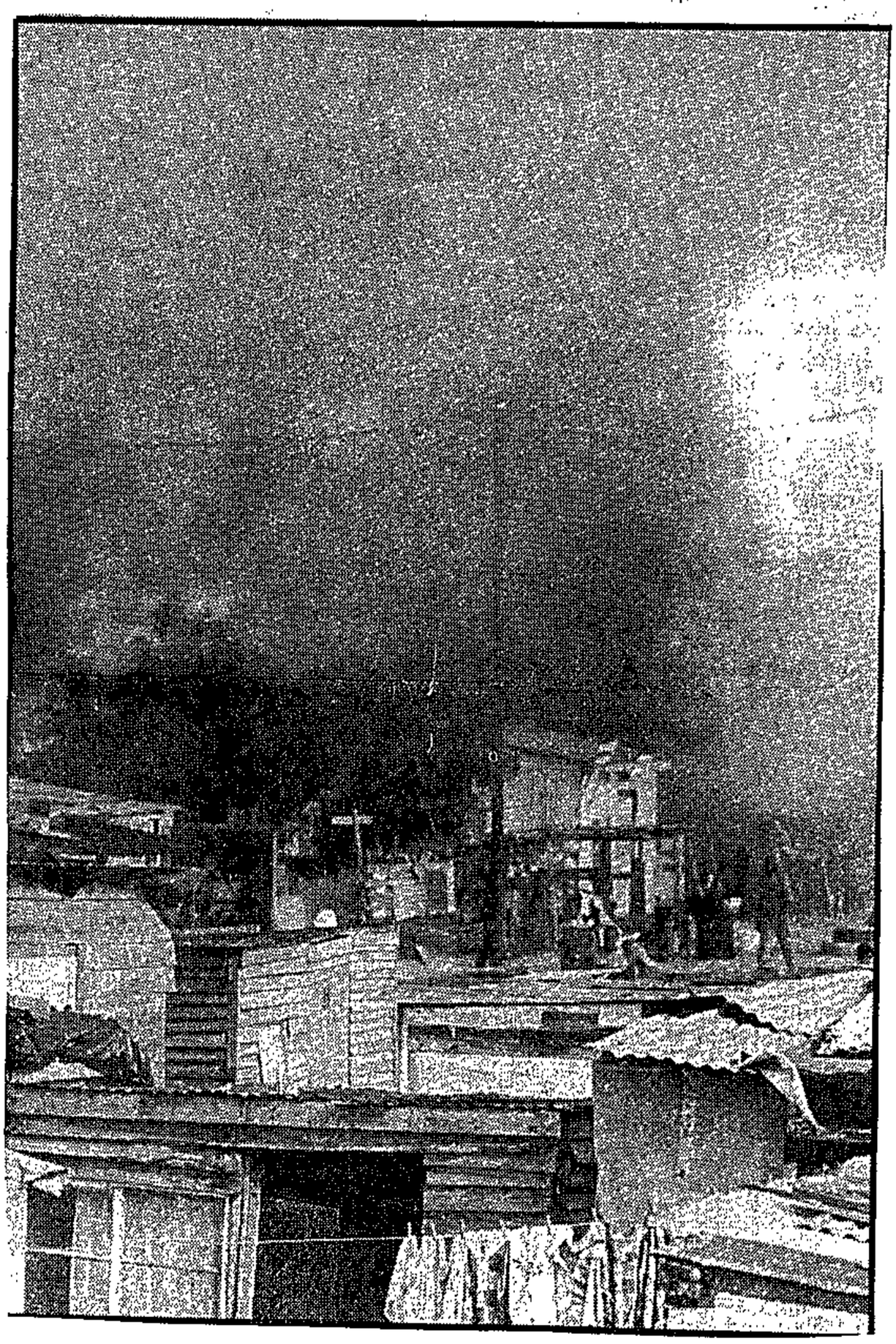
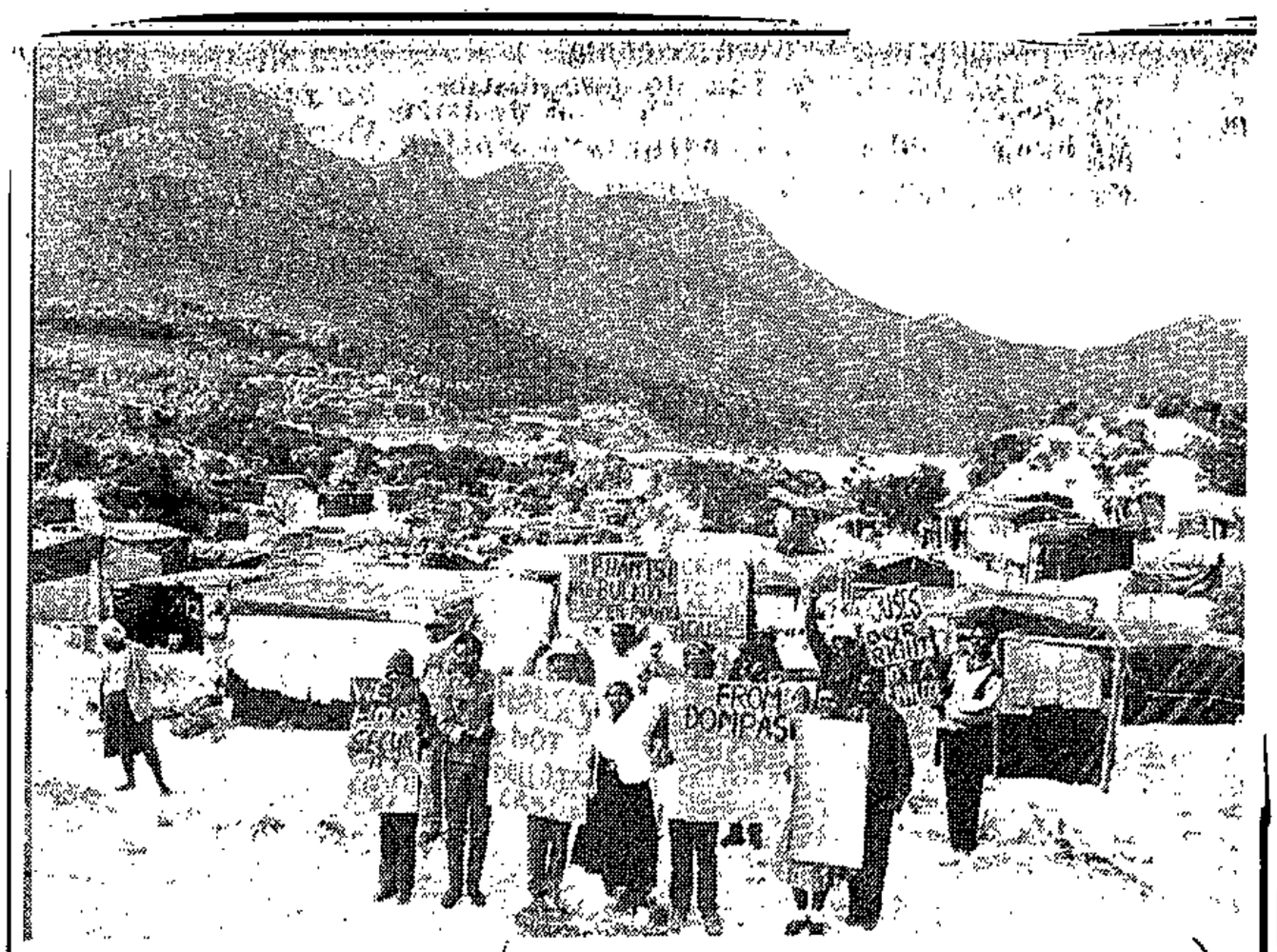
PALL OF SMOKE: A pall of smoke rose from the shackland area as the fires raged yesterday afternoon. Nobody was injured in the fires, but hundreds of rands worth of goods were lost as people were unable to remove all their belongings from shacks before the fires were lit. The fires were doused by firemen with four engines and a water tender.





SQUATTERS' DEMO. . . Hout Bay squatters threatened with eviction demonstrate yesterday against the plan to move them.

CPA Times 26/6/80 307

Hout Bay squatters hold demo

Staff Reporter

HOUT BAY squatters threatened with eviction from their beachfront shacks yesterday held a placard demonstration to protest against the pending action against them.

Ms Josette Cole of the Surplus People's Project (SPP) said yesterday that the squatters in the "Princess Bush" camp had received eviction notices yesterday and that the owners of the property had given the squatters until June 28 to vacate the site.

She said police had assured the workers earlier yesterday that police would not enter the area and interfere with negotiations between the squatters and property owners.

A meeting between the two parties was to have taken place yesterday afternoon — including a delegation from the Hout Bay Property Rights Association, which had threatened to take the matter in their own hands if the squatters did not move from the site.

On Friday Hout Bay community worker Mr Dick Meter accused the Property Rights Association of fuelling racial tension and demanded that government freeze evictions of squatters.

Shacks burnt in Khayelitsha strife

MORE than a dozen shacks were burnt to the ground in Khayelitsha near Cape Town at the weekend in clashes between groups supporting the PAC and the ANC, it was reported yesterday.

No one was injured in the fires, which began on Sunday afternoon after weeks of alleged tension between the groups. Sowetan 26/6/90

Regional chairman of the Western Cape Civic Association, Mr Michael Mapongwana, said violence began about three weeks ago after a group supporting the PAC assaulted an ANC supporter.

A group of ANC supporters retaliated and allegedly burnt down the shack of Mr Mbuyiselo Roro, a PAC supporter, who died in the blaze.

Talks between the two groups ended last week after a Joint Action Committee apparently failed to attend a scheduled meeting.

"We will attempt to get the two groups together to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident," Mapongwana said. - Sapa.

Finding on Khayelitsha migration

By DON HOLLIDAY
Staff Reporter

CONTRARY to popular belief, the overwhelming majority of people in Khayelitsha moved there from elsewhere in the Western Cape and not from the Transkei and Ciskei, a University of Stellenbosch sociological study has concluded.

The study, by Mr Jeremy Seekings, assisted by Mr Johann Graaff and Mr Pieter Joubert, involved 755 residents in four shack areas, sites B and C and the "Greenpoint" tent-town.

Its aim was to examine migration into Khayelitsha.

Only 13 percent of residents came from outside the Western Cape, the study found. Most residents arrived from Crossroads and the formal townships of Nyanga, Langa and Guguletu. The major reason for moving was housing.

Almost all of the people questioned who had been born outside of the Western Cape moved to that area before the abolition of influx control.

Ex-squatters 'temporary' shelter still their home four years later

CAT Times 28/6/90

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By KIM CLARKIN

A FAMILY among 108 living near Ocean View is paying more than R90 a month for a two-roomed dwelling without floor or ceiling and the community faces a rent increase from July 1. Others pay between R18 and R30 according to income.

When the families were housed at the settlement, Mountain View, in 1986, they were told it was temporary and that alternative housing would be provided within a couple of years.

There is no drainage in the settlement; only a few public cold water taps serve all the families and residents claim refuse from Ocean View has been dumped beside the settlement.

New committee

They also say the outside toilets are frequently broken or overflowing and almost a year can pass before the 45 ℓ drums in the toilets are emptied. Often the sewage is then buried by RSC workers within metres of the houses.

EVEN BASIC NEEDS BEING BARELY MET

Residents said their children were falling sick because of the poor conditions and that little had been done despite complaints lodged with authorities such as the Regional Services Council, Labour Party and Ocean View Management Committee.

Simon's Town MP Mr Jannie Momberg said he was appalled by conditions in Mountain View and even more by the Ocean View Management Committee's inaction.

He said: "It's the people who are losing and even though they are not in my constituency I want to help them."

Minister of Housing Mr D M Curry last week called a meeting to discuss the situation in Ocean View and Mountain View. It was agreed that a committee be formed to deal with the community's problems, with Mr Momberg and Mr Basil Cupido, MP for Southern Cape, as well as members of the Ocean View Management Committee serving.

NOT A DROP TO DRINK ... Mountain View has no drainage, so water from the few cold-water taps, which serve over a hundred families, collects in stagnant, smelly pools.

Rent charges

Mr Michael Engel, a Mountain View resident who said his rent has just been increased by 37,5%, claimed that the families did not mind paying for housing provided they had adequate facilities.

He said: "Many people are moving back into the bush rather than paying rent for the poor living conditions they get in Mountain View."

The rents are calculated on income and most range from R18 to R30 a month but because of the threat of increased rentals for what the squatters believe to be poor facilities many are reluctant to complete the income survey forms. This makes them liable to be charged rents calculated on an income of R1 000 per month, far more than most earn.

Sick children

Mr Engel said: "I arranged a meeting with the Regional Services Council, National Health Department and social workers in January last year but it didn't take place because the police came to arrest me."

He said he was told he was being held because "someone said I was the man who told the people not to pay rent".

Mrs Sandy Dowling, from the Help the Homeless Committee, said the Mountain View situation was a result of undemocratic action by the authorities not who did not consult the community before housing them.

She said: "Everyone was horrified when they saw the result."

According to Mr Engel the residents — most of whom work as fishermen, labourers, bricklayers or gardeners — will be offered participation in a self-help project or the chance to buy or rent houses in a new scheme.

However, the project seems to have halted although a plot was cleared at the top of Alpha Way about two years ago.

Mr Engel said: "There will be only 36 plots in the self-help project and these will be sold at R18 000 each. Individual buyers will be given loans of R30 000 — leaving only R12 000 to complete the houses. The rest of the people will have the chance to buy or rent other houses, but I don't think we can afford this."

Because of the number of children who are becoming ill the Ocean View Children's Committee has become involved in the plight of Mountain View residents and is helping organise a public meeting to elect a committee to solve the community's problems.

□ Various questions sent to the Chief Executive Officer of RSC in an attempt to clarify the situation were not answered in time to be included in this report. A follow-up will be published in the next Constantiaberg Review.

RUBBISH DUMPED ... Mr Michael Engel with refuse alleged to be from Ocean View which was dumped within metres of the dwellings in Mountain View.

Priceless father crowned

PATRICK RAINSFORD was voted the King of the Cape Peninsula at the Blue Route Mall, Tokai, on Father's Day.

His eight-year-old son Lloyd won him the day of a lifetime, which included prizes worth R400, with a poem that summed up his feelings.

My dad, my dad, my dad
is the best in all the land.
I wouldn't be glad to give him away
for more than a thousand rand."

KERR'S
FROZEN FOODS
FROZEN VEGGIES AT
OLESALE PRICES!!
per kg
Carrots,
Less) Mix,
rows
R3,50 per kg
Sweet potatoes, Cauliflower,
Butternut, Mixed-Veg,
Carrots, Chips, Pumpkin
ONDAY to FRIDAY 08h00 — 17h00
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Cape Times 28/6/90 (307)

Talks on squatters' fate

By PETER DENNEHY

THE fate of scores of shacks in the Princess Bush area of Hout Bay hangs in the balance today as consultations take place between squatters, property owners and other interested parties.

Meanwhile in the Regional Services Council meeting yesterday, Mr Clive Keegan, chairman of the Land Use and Transport Planning committee, demanded the formulation of a coherent and co-ordinated regional policy on squatting.

He also warned that unless the problem was urgently addressed, "we are going to be faced with unstoppable land infiltration".

Dr Cedric Nathan of Hout Bay, a committee member of the local Property Rights Association, said in an interview that he had no idea whether any shacks would be demolished today.

"That depends on what happens at the meeting between various representatives of the community and the squatters," he said.

Earlier this month his organisation had set today as a deadline for the government to provide 40 squatter families with alternative sites to those which they occupy at present.

A spokesperson for the Legal Resources Centre, which is acting on behalf of the "informal settlers", confirmed that a meeting was due to be held today.

Among those who would attend the meeting would be the owner of the Princess Bush land, officials of the Cape Provincial Administration, squatter leaders and legal representatives, Hout Bay residents' organisations and Mr Colin Eglin, Hout Bay's parliamentary representative.

At the RSC meeting, Mr Keegan said there was a great deal of unhappiness in Hout Bay and Noordhoek about informal settlements creeping in there.

The present response of the authorities was one of "crisis management".

"The land use committee has asked time and time again that we should at least be given representation on the provincial co-ordinating committee (on squatting)," Mr Keegan added.

People of the dump

South 25/6 - 4/7/90

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They have become known as the people of the dump. Their daily survival depends on the food and useful items they find in the mountain of rubbish dumped at the "Etipini" at Kwazakhele near Port Elizabeth. To most of them the dump has been "home" for more than five years, reports ZOLA NTUTU:

PORT ELIZABETH. — The plight of childen who scavenge for food at a rubbish dump in Port Elizabeth remains unsolved, months after Operation Hunger transferred its assistance scheme from community family feeding to school feeding.

The national deputy director of Operation Hunger, Ms Mpho Mashinini, said the transfer was made because of a lack of funds. The organisation felt people should initiate schemes to help themselves.

Many concerned people are still wondering why the "Etipini" rubbish dump in Kwazakhele, which was closed down in the 70s, is still feeding the children.

Conditions

Children as young as eight, some with their parents, were discovered last week sniffing glue, smoking dagga and tobbaco, and living in a dumping area in a tiny cardboard hovel.

It has been home to some for the past five years and their living conditions are worse than those of the "street urchins" in town. They have no water supply or ablution facilities, but sneak to the taps at the nearby blocks of houses to get water.

Some of the children said, although they had parents living in the townships, they could not stay with them because of overcrowding and poverty.

Trucks from firms and warehouses in Port Elizabeth bring refuse and food scraps to the dump.

I found the stench almost unbearable as I watched children stoop to sift through the garbage. One child's hand was bleeding as he pulled it out of the heap — it had caught hold of some razor blades.

Small children were helping grownups. Women roamed around screeching with harsh voices, a goat was eating whatever it could find.

An elderly woman told me: "I feel deeply moved at your presence here."

She said their problems were beyond solution, and that "we live in mortal sin here".

She said she decided to scavenge for food and "valuables" dumped there after she had been refused a pension to enable her to rent a house and feed her children.

"If the people call this living, they are gravely mistaken," she added. She appealed to anyone who could come to their aid to do so.

A nine-year old boy, Dumane, said he was born and had grown in garbage.

He does not know where his parents are and said he stayed there because there was nowhere else to go. He said he sniffed glue because "my body goes through all the motions like a robot, while at the same time my head belongs elsewhere".

Thembile, 14, who can read and write, said he left school because his parents never encouraged him to study, instead telling him they had no money. He said he was forced to scavenge for copper to sell in the township.

A 17-year old boy said: "Do whatever's in your power to let our voice be heard. It's a crime that we should be allowed to die like this.

"We are dying of TB, and we are slowly roasting, but let our children live," yelled an old pensioner.

Encourage

Not much help appears to be on the way for these desperate children, although the "Liebenhause" (house of love) shelter in Gelvandale hopes to incorporate the street children by raising funds to extend the existing building to offer overnight accommodation to the children.

The shelter, run by social worker Ms Anthea Thompson, currently provides care to 12 children.

Thompson said attempts to encourage the children to come to "Liebenhause" had met with little success. They were "territorial" by nature and would not leave their area.

Despite difficulties, a dogged determination to improve the lot of the children and establish a platform to enable them to reintegrate themselves into society is what keeps Thompson going. — *PEN*

R700 000 mansion for church head

Cape Times 29/6/90

JOHANNESBURG. — The South African African Council of Churches is building a R700 000 double-storey official residence for its general-secretary, the Rev Frank Chikane.

SACC spokesman Mr Saki Macozoma said yesterday the actual cost of the house in Diepkloof was R300 000 "with the balance being for sophisticated security equipment", including an alarm, alarm gates and a 24-hour armed security guard.

This was because of the bombing of Khotso House two years ago, and the poisoning of Mr Chikane last year. Costs will be borne by foreign churches.

Squatters, owners to start committee

CMH Times 29/6/90 (307)

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

HOUT BAY residents and squatters reached a watershed agreement yesterday — both communities are to set up a joint committee to monitor and control influx into the area.

The committee, which will be made up of representatives of the Property Rights Association, the Ratepayers' Association and the squatters, will report any new squatters to the government.

"This committee will now go into discusson with the land owners and give us all breathing space to negotiate," said Mr Jimmy Otto, ministerial representative for the Western Cape, Department of Local Government.

Mr Otto said that the squatter problem had not yet been solved.

"But at least everybody is talking and we are putting a stop to the inflow of new people until we find a solution," he said.

Government town planners have identified four vacant sites for the squatters, ranging from two to 50 hectares in size, Mr Otto said.

"We have narrowed it down to four sites and eliminated some of the sites where the land is not acceptable for accomodation," he said. The land owners still had to be brought into discussions.

The government would not demolish shacks that had been accounted for and numbered in accordance with a recent survey that identified 1 085 squatters in Hout Bay, said Mr Otto.

"Those people who remain in Hout Bay will have to be able to afford the accommodation we provide. We don't want a Crossroads situation. The settlement must blend in with the community," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Legal Resources Centre, representing the squatters, said the joint committee had been set up to look at matters of "mutual concern".

The legal representative for the Property Rights Association, Mr Michael De Nobrega, said the negotiation was headed in "some direction, but we are not out of the woods just yet".

● Yesterday Bellville mayor Mr Willie van Schoor described reports of a squatter settlement in Welgemoed as "nonsense".

"We do not have any squatters in Bellville. There are from time to time these so-called 'bergies', but we are at present negotiating a night shelter to get these people off the streets," he said.

July: Sangoma XVI | Zambia | Bomb sc

Possible solution for squatters?

Cape Times 5/7/90 pg 7

Municipal Reporter

TWENTY-FOUR sections of land have been identified in Hout Bay as possible sites on which existing local squatters may be able to settle legally, Mr Jimmy Otto, ministerial representative for the South-Western Cape, said yesterday.

The tentatively identified sites were situated between Mr Sol Kerzner's Leeukoppie estate near Sandy Bay on one side, and Constantia Nek on the other.

However, Mr Otto added, owners of 23 of the sites had already said they were not interested in selling. There was virtually no state land involved.

The pieces of land varied in size from about 52 hectares to two or three hectares, Mr Otto said.

There had been some discussion of placing the squatters on three or four of the smaller sites, rather than in one contiguous area.

"We need about ten hectares altogether," he said. "There are about 350 huts at the moment. At least we have established control, there is a fixed number (of squatters)."

He said there was no question of the press being able to publish a map of the sites at this stage.

"We have to come up with something acceptable, that will blend in with its surroundings," Mr Otto said. "The local community are preparing a survey. Some (of its members) want to get involved financially to ensure that whatever we place there is going to blend in with the existing community."

Professional planners would also be involved in the planning process, although planners from the Cape Provincial Administration had done all the inital spadework.

Some property-owners in Hout Bay were still "putting on more pressure" for the removal of squatters, he said.

"We may have to look at an emergency tent camp, which the local community did not want from the beginning. They say it will become a permanent thing."

The Argus

Squatters wait to hear about camp

NRBUC 6/7/90 307

By MICHAEL DOMAN
False Bay Bureau

ABOUT 500 squatter families in settlements in the Hottentots Holland basin will have to wait until next month to hear if a site for a transit camp earmarked by local municipalities is available.

Brigadier Hennie Kotze, Mayor of Somerset West, said a 12,3-hectare site east of Sir Lowry's Pass Village and the Lourens River had been identified for the camp.

The land, in the Stellenbosch area of the Western Cape Regional Services Council, was being investigated by a technical committee for its availability and the costs of providing water, toilets and rubbish removal.

About 500 squatter families who would move there are living in camps at Ambulance Park, Waterkloof, Die Bos and another near Heldervue.

Mr Kotze said squatters from the Sun City grouping near Sir Lowry's Pass might also be accommodated while the land they presently occupied was properly developed.

Squatter leaders would be consulted once it was known whether the site identified was available or not, he added.

A source in the Helderberg Advice Office said an interim committee existed to represent squatter groups in the area, including one at Zandvliet Farm in Macassar.

It was unfortunate that the squatter communities had not been consulted by the municipalities before they identified the site.

the officials said. CM Times 7/7/1986 30

Squatters appeal for help

MORE than 100 squatter families will have to abandon their homes because of flooding. Yesterday Mr Enoch Maduywabe, vice-chairman of the Western Cape United Squatters' Association, appealed to companies for donations of building materials to enable the flooded-out squatters to relocate. The affected shacks, a total of 127, are in KTC, Nyanga Extension, Miller's Camp, Brown's Farm and Old Crossroads. Mr Maduywabe can be reached at ☎696-0981.

…n-making by consensus and an inde- … Thatcher visit …

Crossroads peace talks in balance

Cape Times 10/7/90

307

By CHRIS BATEMAN

A MEETING today between the feuding factions in Old Crossroads, chaired by the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, hangs in the balance after a weekend of violence.

The home of a member of Mr Jeffry Nongwe's breakaway faction was torched and shot at by men in balaclavas, several other homes were attacked and a special constable was arrested for attempted murder after a shootout on Saturday.

The shootout between special constables supporting one or other squatter faction broke out about 9.30pm on Saturday. The official police unrest report confirmed that shots were fired at "a group of special constables", adding that a man was arrested. A police spokesman refused to elaborate.

Well-placed sources said the arrested man was a special constable and the shootout was between special constable supporters of the factions.

Mayor Mr Johnson Ngxogongwana last month lashed out at special constables, saying they attacked his supporters and sided with Mr Nongwe. He called for their removal.

Yesterday Mr Gladstone Ntamo, spokesman for the Western Cape United Squatters Association (Wecusa), under which Mr Nongwe's faction falls, appealed to Mr Kriel to "tell his people (Mr Ngxogongwana's town committee) to stop attacking us, otherwise the meeting can never take place".

"We'll go to the talks, but not if these attacks continue," he added.

Mr Ricky Schelhase, government adviser to the Old Crossroads town committee, asked for evidence to support Mr Ntamo's allegations that the torching was by people driving a town committee minibus. He confirmed that several homes in the new Phase 2 development were fired upon with shotguns.

…forts beaten Boris

…e-skating …ed as the …with the …s final at …

… had her …nd large … face.

But yesterday it was rumoured that "Katy" was smuggled into rented Becker's house near the courts last week.

● Meanwhile the man who defeated Becker in a thrilling five-set match, new Wimbledon champ Stefan Edberg, is expected to annouce soon that he will marry his long-time girlfriend Annette Olsen.

CPA SIT-IN ... Addressing the Tambo Square residents yesterday were, from left, Mr Gerrit Erasmus, of the Goodwood CPA, Mr Kobus Olivier, acting CE of the Ikapa Town Council, Mr Fanie Naude, and lawyer Mr Essa Moosa, representing the residents.

CAPT Tintè 10/7/90 307

Refugees in housing sit-in

Staff Reporter

A GROUP of 70 women and children residents of Tambo Square, New Crossroads, yesterday held a sit-in at the Cape Provincial Administration offices in Goodwood to demand a solution to their housing crisis.

The 2 000 residents of Tambo Square are refugees from Old Crossroads who claim to have been given a guarantee of housing by the old Bantu Affairs Administration Board in 1983.

The Tambo Square area, where the refugees have been waiting for the "promised housing", has no ablution facilities or electricity.

A meeting between the protesting group and administration representatives was called in the Goodwood CPA building, with CPA regional representative, Mr Fanie Naude addressing the women through an interpreter.

Acknowledging that the residents "live under the most difficult conditions", Mr Naude said he would report back to them on July 23.

As the day drew to a close, bread brought by Tambo Square residents was distributed among the restless children, while women lay around the carpeted room.

Mr Naude said that after "discussing their needs" the women left about 6.30pm.

He denied that the women held a sit-in, preferring to call it an "unscheduled meeting".

Louie et cie

Mid-Winter SPECIALS!

Suits, Dresses, Sportswear

BARGAIN

WINTER OF DISCONTENT . . . Noordhoek squatters emerge from their shacks during a break in the rain to try to get a fire going in a brazier. The adults are, from left, Mr Mbulelo Majumbuzi, Ms Lindelwa Koyo, Mr M Jolose the woodcutter, Mr Sidney Soga and Ms Meisie Mosinki.

Picture: RICHARD BELL

Winter miseries for squatters

Municipal Reporter

WINTER downpours and strong winds have brought with them the regular seasonal increase in the miseries of Cape Town's squatter communities.

Western Cape United Squatter Association vice-chairman Mr Enoch Maduywabe reported yesterday that over the weekend, 52 more dwellings were found by his own organisation to be uninhabitable as they were standing in water.

Last week, he said, another 127 shacks had been condemned for the same reason in KTC, Miller's Camp, and Old Crossroads.

In Noordhoek, where about 600 squatters are living on low ground adjoining several expanses of water, the entire community is looking forward to moving to drier land.

Ms Orimpia Nkwandla, a member of the Noordhoek squatters committee, said yesterday that her community did not mind that the land it presently occupies was not among eight sites identified as possibly suitable for squatter settlement.

"This place is very wet, and cold from the big dam nearby. So the people here are hoping to get another piece of land."

She would prefer to be allocated high-lying land, possibly near Ocean View. Easy access to a tarred road was also important, because many squatters travelled to work in Fish Hoek and Kalk Bay.

Ms Nkwandla earns a living by running a small créche at her home. The créche has a carpeted floor which is very damp from rain leaking in through the roof.

A voluntary teacher from the Vineyard Fellowship, who declined to be named, proudly showed the Cape Times an extraordinarily large shack which serves as both a community hall and an informal school for 40 pupils from the ages of six upwards.

They concentrated on learning English, Arithmetic and Maths, she said.

"I follow the syllabus of one of the local schools," she said. The school day lasts only from 9am to 1pm, as most of the children can't concentrate for longer than that.

"They don't sleep well at night, because they are often cold and wet."

The Regional Services Council provides the squatters with water brought in by tanker as the vlei water is unsafe to drink. It also provides a clinic service, trying to stamp out tuberculosis which is a problem in the area.

It is not yet decided which of eight possible pieces of land in Noordhoek will be allocated for the squatters.

CPA SIT-IN ... Addressing the Tambo Square residents yesterday were, from left, Mr Gerrit Erasmus, of the Goodwood CPA, Mr Kobus Olivier, acting CE of the Ikapa Town Council, Mr Fanie Naude, and lawyer Mr Essa Moosa, representing the residents.

CPA Times 10/7/90 307

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He denied that the women held a sit-in, preferring to call it an "unscheduled meeting".

Rival Crossroads leaders meet today in peace move

By MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

ARCH-OPPONENTS in Crossroads, mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, are meeting today under the chairmanship of the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, to find ways to end the conflict that has caused death and misery in the settlement over many months.

Both men were expected to be accompanied by delegations.

Today's meeting follows two separate meetings between Mr Kriel and representatives from each side.

Negotiations on the situation in Crossroads originated in Mr Kriel's acceptance of an appeal by the Democratic Party MP for Claremont, Mr Jan van Eck, that he meet the squatter leaders to hear their complaints and allegations first hand.

Mr Kriel succeeded in convincing first Mr Nongwe and, at a later meeting, Mr Ngxobongwana to try to resolve the conflict through negotiations. At the time, he likened the process to the Groote Schuur talks between the government and the ANC.

Today is the first time both sides are getting together.

Conflict between the two factions in Crossroads has focused on allegations by the squatters that Mr Ngxobongwana's supporters have been favoured by the town council, that the councillors have allegedly attacked and fired on squatter leaders and their supporters and that corruption is rife in the council's activities.

Councillors have denied the allegations, but the squatters have repeatedly appealed to the government to disband the Crossroads town council.

TRUCE . . . Rival Old Crossroads leaders Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana (left) and Mr Jeffry Nongwe (right) after yesterday's peace talks with Mr Hernus Kriel, Minister of Provincial Affairs and Planning (middle). Picture: RICHARD BELL

Crossroads 'war' truce

Cape Times 1/7/90 307

By CHRIS BATEMAN

A TRUCE was yesterday declared by the warring faction leaders in Old Crossroads after 10 months of bitter fighting in which dozens of people died and many homes were destroyed.

Mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his arch-rival, breakaway former chief headman Mr Jeffry Nongwe, publicly committed themselves to stopping all violence and to further talks to try to resolve their "deep divisions".

The unexpected agreement, reached after nearly four hours of often acrimonious debate under the chairmanship of Mr Hernus Kriel, Minister of Provincial Affairs and Planning, came after a weekend of renewed violence.

The two groups agreed to appoint the respected community leader and chairman of the Western Cape Hostel Dwellers' Association, Mr Johnson Mpukumpa, as mediator and co-ordinator for future talks.

Five members of each group will form a working "peace" committee.

Speaking at a press conference with the rival committees flanking him, Mr Kriel said he was convinced the two men would keep their word. Both rivals declared themselves satisfied with the initial meeting.

Mediator Mr Mpukumpa, who carries the full weight and approval of the traditional "homeland" Xhosa chiefs, said "other commitments" had kept the chiefs from travelling down to Cape Town to help solve the problem.

Yesterday's meeting was held at Mr Kriel's offices.

Mr Kriel said that while he felt the talks were "historic", the biggest bones of contention were that each party felt the other was responsible for the violence while Mr Nongwe's group questioned Mr Ngxobongwana's legitimacy among residents.

The question of an open referendum on the election of a new town committee would be high on the working committee's agenda, he confirmed.

● Back in Crossroads late yesterday, Mr Mpukumpa, with the agreement of both sides, was trying to arrange a joint gathering in a local community hall to announce a massive get-together for tonight at which both leaders would speak.

"It's crucial to keep momentum going now and we don't want any misunderstanding contributing to further violence," Mr Mpukumpa said.

An immediate joint mass meeting was rejected because the menfolk had yet to return from work. They would be encouraged to return from work as early as possible today for the meeting.

Crossroads rivals agree to bury hatchet

By MICHAEL MORRIS, Political Correspondent

CROSSROADS Mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his arch rival, squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, have made an historic pact to end violence in the conflict-ridden community and work together to resolve the causes of the strife.

The two men — who shook hands across the table at a Press conference after a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs Mr Hernus Kriel — gave undertakings they would make an immediate appeal to their supporters to end the violence.

Mr Ngxobongwana said: "I will tell the people of Crossroads to stop fighting and stop the burning of houses."

Deep differences

Mr Nongwe made a similar pledge, adding that he "had never rested" in urging people to stop the violence.

While deep differences remain between the factions, the two leaders have agreed to form a committee of five from each group, free of government interference, to identify the causes of the conflict and find ways to resolve them.

They agreed that Mr Johnson Mpukumpa, a prominent member of the community and national organiser of the Hostel Dwellers' Association, will serve as the co-ordinator of the committee.

Both Mr Nongwe and Mr Ngxobongwana, each of whom was accompanied by a delegation of supporters at yesterday's meeting, expressed confidence in the likelihood of peace talks succeeding.

Mr Kriel has asked the two factions to report to him on progress made in future talks.

He was "very pleased" at what he described as an historic outcome. A start was finally being made on resolving the violence.

It had become very clear that everybody in Crossroads was "tired of violence".

"The most important thing is that we have a commitment from all present to stop the violence in Crossroads. They undertook to go to their supporters and call off the violence so peace can return."

Mr Kriel said that, while the leaders had expressed appreciation for his and his department's role as mediators, they felt it was necessary to conduct the next round of talks on their own.

They had yet to agree on an agenda.

"Watershed" in peace bid

He recognised the process would take some time since there were "a lot of wounds to heal", adding, "there is no point in setting a time-scale".

He highlighted the violence and the discontent among Crossroads residents about the activities of the local town committee as issues that would be high on the new committee's agenda.

Mr Kriel said he was hopeful the committee would come up with proposals on local political representation that would be acceptable to both sides, but added that any changes would have to be in line with government policy.

Democratic Party MP for Claremont Mr Jan van Eck, who has played a key role in getting the first round of talks off the ground, hailed the result as "very satisfactory ... a watershed".

"After a very long, hard slog I am confident that the agreement will reduce violence and I am confident also the different leaders will genuinely try and resolve the conflict and the reasons for it."

Picture: DION TROMP, The Argus.

NEVER-ENDING: Cape Town's "grand old man of the sea" Mr Frank Robb has calculated that on any one day, gill nets used by the Taiwanese fishing fleet would stretch several times the distance between Walvis Bay and the Mozambique border.

'Close loopholes in gill net laws'

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

LOOPHOLES in South Africa's tough anti-gill net legislation should be closed immediately and any vessels found carrying gill nets in South African waters should be confiscated, the Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé has been told.

In a letter to Mr Kotzé, the secretary of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, Mrs Nan Rice, said she was "deeply concerned" at loopholes in the legislation promulgated last year.

Mrs Rice, who is spearheading the campaign against the use of the "Wall of Death" gill nets, said: "The clause 'without a permit' should be removed from this legislation and no support systems, cold storage facilities or anything else given to gill-netting vessels.

"Further, if anyone is found carrying these nets in our waters ... the vessels should be confiscated, as is laid down in legislation promulgated by countries like New Zealand."

UNSURE OF POWERS

Mrs Rice expressed concern that law enforcement officers were unsure of their powers to act against vessels with gill nets.

"Some are still saying, for exampe, that they are unable to board foreign vessels. Private vessels can be boarded at any time and should be, especially those suspected of being carrier vessels, which these gill-net trawlers are using to avoid being prosecuted."

In spite of claims by the Taiwanese government and its officials in South Africa that gill nets would be phased out by next year, this had not been made into law, said Mrs Rice.

R22 000 may be used to fight 'wall of death'

Environment Reporter

THE major part of a big fund-raising promotion which will guarantee the Dolphin Action and Protection Group (DAPG) at least R22 000 is likely to be spent in the fight to ban gill nets internationally.

The campaign, initiated earlier this month by a major retail chain and a leading dairy, has been dubbed "Save Our Seas the 2% Way".

Pick 'n Pay and Dairybelle will give two percent of the monetary value of all two-litre, two-percent milk jugs sold through the group's stores nationally for two months.

"We have estimated that this sum will amount to at least R22 222,22 and we guarantee this figure," a spokesman said.

DOLPHIN POSTERS

The promotion also includes free dolphin posters and neck tags on the two-litre jugs incorporating a four cent coupon, and stories on the mysteries of the dolphin.

A delighted Mrs Nan Rice, secretary of the DAPG, promised that "every cent" would be spent in a worthwhile way.

She pointed out that the DAPG had spent R19 000 printing educational pamphlets which had been distributed throughout the country.

"We aim to ban gill netting completely and utterly internationally. If it continues it will cause a marine environmental disaster," she warned.

Mr Ray Murray, of the retail chain, said he believed everyone could contribute towards protecting the environment.

Hout Bay squatters are a 'politically sensitive issue'

AARGUS 11/7/90 307

By ESANN van RENSBURG
Staff Reporter

POLICE are unwilling to enforce the eviction of illegal squatters in Hout Bay because they do not want to discredit President De Klerk internationally, according to the chairman of the Hout Bay Property Rights Association, Mr Tony Snelgar.

He was speaking at a meeting of the association attended by more than 300 people at Hout Bay last night.

The chairman of the meeting, Mr Rob Vos, said the squatter issue was a political problem.

"That's why the state is reluctant to act. We have spoken to the squatters and feel assured that given a plan for a better deal, they will take it," he said.

The association criticised the government for not enforcing certain laws and said the law was definitely not negotiable.

MEETING: Hout Bay Property Rights Association committee member Mr Cedric Nathan.

Pictures: WILLIE de KLERK, The Argus

RESIDENTS: Part of the crowd of more than 300 at the meeting at the Hout Bay Hotel to discuss the squatter issue.

Monitor body

Its representatives had attended meetings with government officials and representatives of squatter communities, ratepayers and property owners to find an amicable and humane solution to the problem.

The association reported:

- The completion of a census;
- A joint-monitoring committee was being established as a forum for communication between all parties, and also to deal with new arrivals;
- Alternative, affordable accommodation would be found;
- The pay-your-way principle would be upheld;
- Private professional consultants would provide a socio-economic study to determine the availability of affordable accommodation;
- Due account would be taken of earnings, employment, and social environment; and
- Any accommodation in Hout Bay had to fit in with the socio-economic environment and should be adopted only after community consultation.

The association made it clear that "no government plan must be foisted on Hout Bay, to later become an expensive white elephant forever".

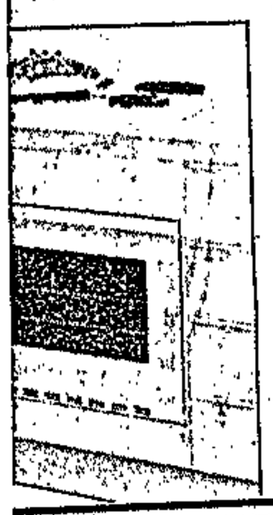
Squatters had to be accommodated according to hierarchy, Mr Snelgar said.

it Again!!!

BUILT-IN APPLIANCES AT CREASE PRICES

ARISTON

RCOUNTER OVEN & HOB



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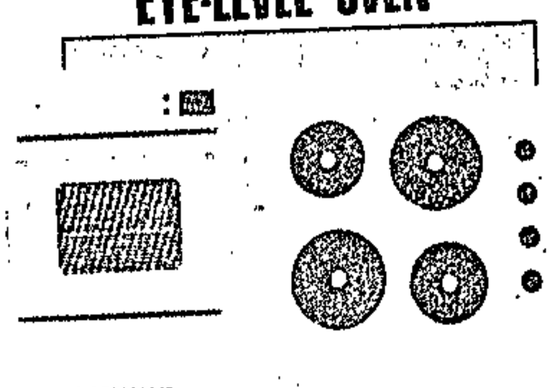
- FULLY IMPORTED
- 600 x 600 mm

R1599

ARISTON

EYE-LEVEL OVEN



WITH WARMER DRAWER & HOB
- DIGITAL TIMER & ROTISSERIE
- 600 x 600 mm

R1799

Smuggling probe: Bid to extradite SA couple fails

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A former Defence Force major and his wife, who were alleged to have been part of a smuggling ring involving endangered wildlife species, were discharged by a Johannesburg magistrate.

The magistrate, Mr S Janse van Rensburg, yesterday refused to grant a postponement of an inquiry into the extradition of Mr Marius Meiring and his wife Pat to the United States.

Mr and Mrs Meiring were arrested in Berea, Johannesburg, earlier this year after an extradition application by the US to stand trial there.

RHINO HORN

The couple allegedly smuggled a rhino horn, a cheetah rug and an AK-47 rifle from Angola.

In an indictment issued in the US in 1988, they were charged with a count of conspiring to import and sell endangered wildlife species and five counts of smuggling.

Mr P Stipp, for the Meirings, submitted to the court that a postponement of the matter would be futile.

He said there could never be an extradition to the US as the couple were not within the jurisdiction of any American court at the time the offences were allegedly committed.

Squatters protest over housing

(307)

SOWETAN 11/7/90

A GROUP of 70 women and children residents of Tambo Square, New Crossroads, this week held a sit-in at the Cape Provincial Administration offices in Goodwood to demand a solution to their housing crisis.

The 2 000 residents of Tambo Square are refugees from Old Crossroads who claim to have been given an unfullfilled guarantee of housing by the old Bantu Affairs Administration Board in 1983.

Their make-shift shacks in Tambo Square are under water after the heavy winter rains, according to a spokeswoman for the group.

"Your dogs live better than us," a spokeswoman told the Goodwood CPA regional representative, Mr Fanie Naude.

The Tambo Square area, where the refugees have been waiting for the promised housing, has no ablution facilities or electricity.

A meeting between the protesting group and administration representatives was called in the Goodwood CPA building, with Naude addressing the women through an interpreter.

Naude said sites had been identified in Tambo Square, and on tip sites in Nyanga And Guguletu, but this could not be revealed without further consultation. - Sapa

Gates unlocked after protest march to RSC

PROTEST MARCH . . . Residents of Mountain View march to present a list of grievances to the rent offices at Ocean View.

CAPE TIMES 12/7/90 (307)

LAST Wednesday about 400 people marched from Mountain View to the rent offices at Ocean View to present a long list of grievances about living conditions in the settlement which has been home to 108 families since 1986.

Issues on the list presented to a Western Cape RSC official included the lack of drainage, inadequate toilet facilities, poor building structures without ceilings or floors, inadequate water points and bathing areas and no electricity.

A recent rent increase was also a point of contention and, according to Miss Martha Brown of the Ocean View Children's Committee, local residents supported the Mountain View people in their objection to paying increased rents for poor facilities.

The RSC representative who received the protesters' requests for better conditions indicated that the authorities would take action.

"The march was peaceful and went well. It gave the people back their dignity because they felt they were doing something about their situation and their first victory was getting the gates to Mountain View opened, which were previously always locked."

A Mountain View committee has been formed which will meet this week to decide what the next move will be if the RSC does not address grievances.

The committee has approached squatters in the Noordhoek and Ocean View areas to coordinate efforts to improve their living conditions.

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Squatters deny agreement to monitor 'influx'

CAPE TIMES 14/7/1990 307

Staff Reporter

HOUT BAY squatters said yesterday that they had never agreed to monitor or control further "influx" into the area in which they had settled.

"We would like to set the record straight," said squatter representative Mr Ashley Anderson. "This matter was merely put to us to be discussed."

But Mr Tony Snelgar of the 1 000-strong Hout Bay Property Rights Association said the squatters had actually asked for a monitoring committee, on which they would serve, to ensure that a shack about to be demolished was not a numbered one.

On this committee there would be four squatters, two people from the mainly-white Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association, two from the mainly-coloured Hout Bay Delegation, two from the Property Rights Association and a CPA official, Mr Snelgar said.

"That was agreed to at a full meeting at which minutes were taken," Mr Snelgar said. "They cannot disclaim that."

But Mr Anderson said the squatters had merely agreed at a meeting with the CPA late last month to set up a meeting with the Property Rights Association and the ratepayers' association "to discuss these and other issues of mutual concern".

Discussions had now taken place "on a number of issues", said Mr Anderson, who serves on the Squatter Co-ordinating Committee, representing all squatter settlements in Hout Bay.

"We have decided that it is neither possible nor appropriate for the squatters to monitor or control influx. This could promote vigilantism and violence, as has been seen in so many other squatter settlements."

These views had been conveyed to the property rights and ratepayers' associations. Mr Snelgar said the Property Rights Association now realised it would not get squatter co-operation on monitoring, "so we have set up our own committee to do this".

Community leader Mr Dick Meter said the squatters reported that no new shacks were going up, but established ones were sometimes moved to drier ground.

"The squatters have decided that if influx into Hout Bay is to be controlled, this is the task of the state," Mr Anderson said.

"We feel that the only way that the influx into Hout Bay can be stopped is if the state urgently supplies land to landless communities in all areas of Cape Town, if not the whole country."

A spokesman for the Surplus People's Project said there was a tendency throughout the Peninsula on the part of the CPA and local authorities to impose a new sort of influx control "through the development process".

In return for offers of land, communities were being asked to control the numbers of people in their areas themselves.

"This is politically unacceptable. It is not going to solve the problem. It did not work in Crossroads when it was tried in 1979."

Xroads committee 'from both sides

By PETER MALBIN

AT a historic unity meeting yesterday between the leadership of warring Old Crossroads squatter groups, an eight-man monitoring committee was elected from the ranks of both sides to defuse the explosive situation.

"The elected monitoring committee will work out the mechanism of bringing about peace in Crossroads," Mr Johnson Mpukumpa, national organiser of the Western Cape Hostel Dwellers' Association, said.

The squatter war has been raging for 10 months between groups headed by mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his rival, breakaway former chief headman Mr Jeffry Nongwe.

Mr Mpukumpa, who chaired the meeting, attended by 40 delegates, said the mood was conciliatory and there was no tension.

Elected to the monitoring committee were Mr Ngxobongwana and two members of his group, Mr Nongwe and two members of his group, and two members of the Western Cape United Squatters' Association.

The next meeting will be held "in the very near future", Mr Mpukumpa said.

Crossroads squatter war may end soon

At a historic unity meeting on Sunday between the leadership of warring Old Crossroads squatter groups, an eight-man monitoring committee was elected from the ranks of both sides to defuse the explosive situation. Sowetan 17/7/90

"The elected monitoring committee will work out the mechanism of bringing about peace in Crossroads," Mr Johnson Mpukumpa, national organiser of the Western Cape Hostel Dwellers' Association, said.

The squatter war has been raging for 10 months between groups headed by mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his rival, breakaway former chief headman Mr Jeffry Nongwe. - Sapa

Squatter sites 'sold' for R100

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

SQUATTERS in the Hout Bay, Kommetjie and Noordhoek areas had to be accommodated and they could not be forced back to Khayelitsha, according to the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring.

"We can, in co-operation with them, ask them to move to an area in the vicinity where we will provide water and a form of sanitation," he said in an interview in the latest issue of Leadership, which was released yesterday.

However, he thought there had been an element of deliberateness.

"I have been told that people have been walking around in Ciskei selling those sites next to the beach for R100.

"When our people asked squatters why they hadn't gone to organised areas like Khayelitsha, they were told: 'But we bought this plot, and we're paying R5 protection money per month'."

He also disclosed that he had refused an additional R500 000 grant from the province to complete the resort at Van der Kloof, a small town on the Orange River just above the P K le Roux resort, until the municipality had removed all petty apartheid signs.

He was taken to the resort where he saw a big "whites only" sign.

At a meeting, he told the councillors that the province would give an additional R500 000 for the resort only if the noticeboard was taken down.

"Some councillors were shocked but they've taken it down.

"What's wonderful about these days: You can stick your neck out and it won't be cut off," Mr Meiring said.

There had been one, at most two, problems over the scrapping of beach apartheid and after this year's season municipalities said race problems were negligible although there were some behaviour problems, such as drinking and littering. But these were practical problems that could be solved.

"Whether it's separate amenities, beaches or group areas, or central legislative bodies, we have to share.

"But we must at all costs retain decent norms and standards."

Mr Meiring added that he had no doubt that the Group Areas Act was on the way out and he did not see something in its place as a new form of discrimination but rather as a method to retain some form of order.

307.

South 1917 - 2517190

Health in squatter areas deteriorating, says MCW

HEALTH conditions in the Cape Town squatter areas had deteriorated to alarming proportions, the Movement of Christian Workers (MCW) said in a statement following an evaluation workshop of its project coordinators earlier this month.

The MCW has developed projects among squatter communities around the issues of health, education and music.

It points out that:

- 61 percent of the deaths of African children are attributable to malnutrition, premature births and related infections;
- Operation Hunger is struggling to feed 1,5-million;
- About 12-million people have dormant tuberculoses; 15 percent of these will have the full-blown disease, resulting in 10 to 20 deaths daily. The Western Cape is believed to have the highest TB death rate in the world.

"The MCW assists people with basic information on first aid, but sees a more important task in helping people to demand proper health care to which they have a right," its general secretary, Mr Marcus Rogers, said.

Through its Music Project, the MCW assists young unemployed persons to be creative and compose music which speaks about their living conditions; they are also taught to play the marimba and the guitar, and discuss the role music can play in building the new South Africa.

"All the projects have the basic aim of awareness — creation, reflection and initiation into action, however small, to improve the quality of life of the people in these squatter communities," Rogers said.

End July deadline for Knysna squatters

307
South 1917-25/7/90

From THABO DANIELS

PORT ELIZABETH. — At a time when Knysna is engaged in building one nonracial municipality, the future looks bleak for squatters who have been served with eviction notices.

The Knysna municipality has distributed pamphlets in White Location giving residents until the end of July to move out or face the bulldozers. Some 153 families who have lived in the camp since 1988 are affected.

The squatters were promised accommodation in the newly-built wooden township of Khayalethu, which has about 120 houses.

Residents affected by the forced removals are those living in structures erected two years ago that are "illegal" because they are not numbered.

A resident who asked not to be named said: "I will never go to Khayalethu. Who can move from one matchbox to another?" she asked.

Knysna acting town clerk, Mr Charles Erasmus, said the squatters would have to move because they had erected their shacks on private property

Hout Bay squatters deny buying plots

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter Argus 19/7/90 307

HOUT Bay squatters have denied allegations by Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring that they refuse to move to Khayelitsha because they claim they bought the plots from a seller in Ciskei.

The Administrator was quoted in a newspaper as saying "he had been told people had been walking around Ciskei selling sites on the beach for R100".

The report also said that when squatters were asked why they had not gone to "organised" areas such as Khayelitsha, they had replied that they had "bought" the plots and were paying R5 "protection fee" a month.

Squatters interviewed yesterday dismissed the statement as a "fabrication", saying they were staying in the area "long before (Mr) Meiring became Administrator".

They said the only money they paid was for water accounts to "human- hearted" property owners who allowed them to fetch water from their yards.

The chairman of the Hout Bay Princess Bush Community Association, Mr Charlmaine Mguga, 25, said there were about 380 families in the settlements, which are on either side of Princess Avenue.

He said most of the people knew one another and some had been working in the area for more than 20 years.

Some had moved from their factory single men's hostel to the bushes to accommodate their families.

"Some of us have been here for a long time. This place developed in front of our eyes. To say today we are forking out R100 to buy plots is sheer fabrication," said Mr Mandla Ndungu, 40, a seaman.

Battle of the bulldozers

Western Cape teachers have had their salaries docked because of their support for the stayaway on September 6 last year.

The NTUF has called on teachers to attend school on Tuesday but to engage in programmes focussing on the crisis in education and the launch of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) in October this year.

In the Western Cape, the NTUF met principals on Wednesday to discuss protest action.

The day will start with pickets at schools and on streets, followed by an assembly at most schools with talks on the significance of the action and workshops for teachers on the formation of Sadtu on October 6.

The day of action will end with a mass rally.

By REHANA ROSSOUW

FROM Dobsonville in Soweto to Bossiesgif in Plettenberg Bay, squatters are locked in a bitter battle against the bulldozers.

The lack of housing and land for South Africa's millions of homeless is fast becoming a flashpoint for popular anger — and police action.

At least two people have died from police bullets in recent weeks as angry squatters confront bulldozers razing their shacks.

And in Cape Town, the proposed development of 176 houses in District Six by Ilco Homes has sparked off a campaign highlighting the plight of the city's homeless.

Western Cape United Civics (WCUC) publicity secretary, Ms Zohra Ebrahim, said the organisation was planning pickets and a possible sit-in demonstration at Ilco Homes next week.

Insensitivity

"When the levelling off the ground begins, we will send our people to try and halt it."

Ebrahim said they were inviting all people who feel the development of District Six should not continue without taking into account the political sensitivity of the area, to voice their protest through action.

The campaign will be spearheaded by the ANC, the UDF and WCUC. Cosatu has been invited to participate.

Ebrahim rejected government claims that their actions were "confrontationist".

"We are merely reclaiming our land. It is our birthright and we have no need to confront anyone about that simple truth."

Confrontation between the authorities and the homeless is continuing in Dobsonville and other parts of the Transvaal where the demolition of shacks continues unabated.

At least two people died when Alberton municipal officials demolished shacks outside Thokoza township early last week.

In Bossiesgif, Plettenberg Bay, local authorities have vowed to demolish squatter houses and residents were planning action.

●See Page 2 &3

Baker in a stew

Workers take boss to court over racist remark

— Page 5

Festival slammed

SABC under fire for phony movie venture

— Page 9

School vandalised

Huge losses as thefts disrupt classrooms

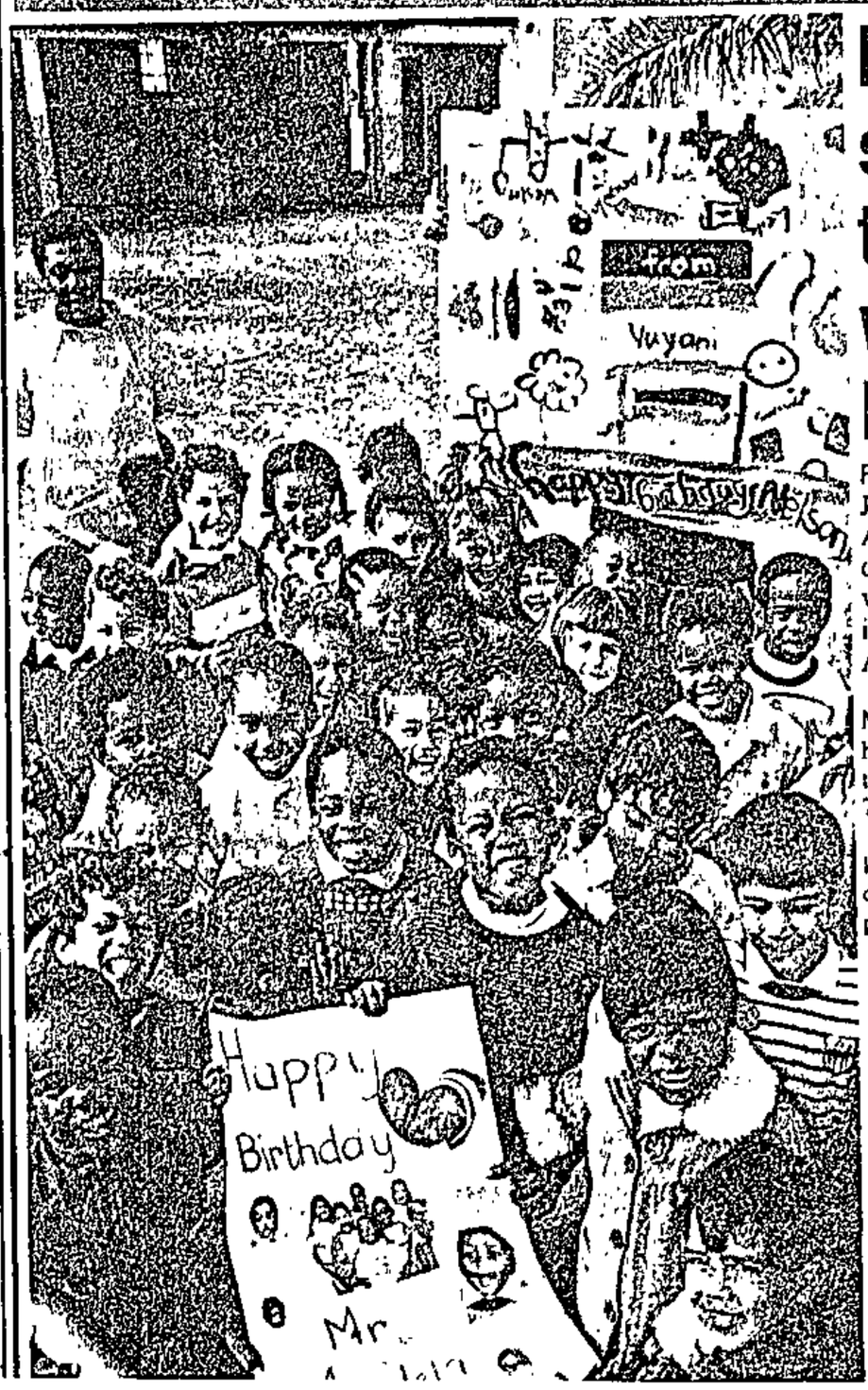
— Page 3

Shock defection

Top table tennis star quits NSC

— Page 24

Tots' toast to a leader



Mandela seeks talks with De Klerk

From MONO BADELA

JOHANNESBURG. — All ANC deputy-president Nelson Mandela wants as a birthday gift is "votes for all South Africans".

"I feel I'm 36 years old," Mandela said on his return home on Wednesday — the day he celebrated his 72nd birthday.

He spent his birthday like virtually every other day since his release from prison — travelling.

Birthday special:

— See pages 7, 8 &18

Mandela and dozens of his friends and colleagues left to celebrate his birthday at his Orlando West home after he addressed about 400 ANC supporters outside the Jan Smuts

BUSINESS DAY, Friday, July 20 1990

Call for reinstatement of home subsidy plan

WILSON ZWANE

THOUSANDS of black prospective first-time home buyers and the home-building industry would be greatly affected by the cessation of the subsidy scheme for first-time buyers, SA Perm GM Denis Creighton said yesterday.

This follows Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel's announcement earlier this week that funds budgeted for the first-time home buyers subsidy scheme had been exhausted.

SA Perm had thousands (Creighton could not disclose the exact figure) of applicants whose fates were in the balance. "Of these applicants 40% will not qualify because of the R2 000 income limit, while others might not be approved by government because of lack of funds," he said.

The home-building industry would lose a substantial number of buyers who would now not qualify because of the cessation of the scheme. Ways should be found to continue the scheme, he added.

DP administration of black affairs spokesman Jan van Eck called for the reinstatement of the subsidy, saying its cessation would have a serious effect on the critical housing situation in the black community.

"It should also be questioned why the funds for black first-time home buyers have been exhausted when it was announced in Parliament this year that additional funds had been made available for white first-time home buyers," Van Eck said.

He added that if the subsidy was to benefit the "needy" then all needy home buyers should receive it and not only those belonging to a certain race group.

"It was announced in Parliament this year that R3bn had been put aside for the socio-economic development of blacks. That money should now be used to offset the impact of the subsidy cut," Van Eck said.

Kriel was unavailable to comment.

Organisers decide on squatter targets

LESLEY LAMBERT

CAPE TOWN — The UDF's squatter campaign, scheduled to start in August, will begin taking form in the western Cape today as local UDF leaders and civic organisations decide on the areas they plan to occupy.

● KRIEL

Regional UDF chairman Bulelani Ngcuka said yesterday that open areas in Hout Bay, District Six (renamed Zonnebloem) and possibly Tableview had already been targeted for squatter occupation.

Ngcuka said the plan to occupy District Six had become urgent as Cape-based property developer Ilco Homes was scheduled to start building 177 new homes there on Monday.

"We will use whatever means are available to prevent the development of upmarket homes in this area," he warned.

While a number of small residential developments have sprung up in District Six since it was declared a white area in the late 1960s, most developers, including the BP project aimed at rehousing the coloured inhabitants who were forced to leave, have steered clear of political controversy.

UDF sources said Ngcuka's announcement indicated that the political movement had decided the time was right to reclaim the area.

Ngcuka said the UDF's plan to "seize unoccupied government and certain private property to accommodate the homeless" was due to be implemented next month. The idea had started with a resolution — adopted earlier this year at the Conference for a Democratic Future — to highlight the housing crisis.

An estimated seven-million urbanised people were homeless, he said.

At a national level, UDF officials have declared their willingness to discuss the squatter crisis with Provincial and Planning Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel, who has requested a meeting.

Ngcuka confirmed this yesterday, but said it was on condition that the talks "lead to homes for the homeless".

eries walked out this week protesting against wages and conditions. — Pen

Groenewald, who were charged with illegal diamond dealing. They appeared in court and were released on bail. — Sapab

300 squatters walk out of Ciskei

GRAHAMSTOWN: Over 300 Thornhill residents have walked out of the Ciskei and occupied vacant farmland in South Africa, after calls by the United Democratic Front in the Transvaal for homeless people to seize land.

The residents occupied a farm, Poplar Grave, just north of Whittlesea in the Eastern Cape on Tuesday night. More residents of the sprawling community are expected to move to the farm, which is approximately 20km from Thornhill.

There has been some confusion about whether the Transvaaal UDF call is a national policy, but last night the Eastern Cape general secretary of the UDF, Gugile Nkwinti, hailed the Thornhill move.

He said it was correct and in line with resolutions taken at a UDF workshop in Cape Town earlier this year. "At the workshop it was resolved that vacant land must be occupied by the people," Nkwinti said.

However, local observers stressed that the move was not a response to the UDF call, but was born of the community's own history of frustration. Having originally moved from the Herschel district when it was due to be incorporated into the soon-to-be-independent Transkei, they were promised land in 1976, and have never received it.

At the end of 1989 the Thornhill community instructed the Legal Resource Centre to inform the South African government that they would walk out of the Ciskei by February this year, unless the 1976 promises were met.

The government responded three months later, denying that the community had any claim to land or rights to South African citizenship, but saying they were prepared to resettle the community in Waverly in the Ciskei.

The walk-out from the Ciskei was postponed as this was seen as the first positive response from South Africa.

The land which was promised to the Thornhill community was purchased from white farmers in 1980 by the SA Development Aid Trust. They have said it is now available for black agriculture.

In May this year the South African government said that land would no longer be incorporated into homelands without the approval of the residents.

At this stage there has been no reaction from the South African and Ciskeian governments about the occupation of the farm. — ANA

PICKET LINE ... Protesters line the corner of Lower Burg and Riebeek streets yesterday during a legal lunch-time protest against the development of District Six. The protesters later confronted Ilco management, one of the companies proposing to build houses in the district.
Picture: GLENN SHERRATT

20 protesters confront Ilco over houses in District Six

By PETER DENNEHY

TWENTY protesters who stood outside the Ilco Homes offices in Lower Burg Street yesterday decided after less than half-an-hour to go upstairs and confront the company's management.

They had been protesting, with council and magisterial permission, against the company's R20-million project to erect 176 homes on 3,5ha of land which it owns in District Six. Each of the homes would be sold for about R100 000.

Among the slogans on the protesters' placards was "ANC says no to luxury homes in District Six", "Return the land to the people" and "Occupy the land".

Mr Seraj Desai, one of the protesters, told Ilco director Mr Alfons Meyeridricks that he was being confronted "for going against the wishes of the people".

Mr Meyeridricks replied: "I have taken notice of your complaints. We are willing to talk about the development, but to pursue the discussion now would serve no purpose."

Father Basil van Rensburg said the company had bought the land "at a steal". Other reputable companies (Total Oil and Anchor Data Systems) had been approached and had moved out of District Six, but Ilco had moved in like "a scab company", he said. He challenged Ilco to take him to court.

Asked whether his company had paid R400 000 for all its District Six land, Mr Meyeridricks replied: "It seems unlikely."

He denied that his company had threatened to get court interdicts against the organisers of the national campaign for land and housing.

Father Basil then asked Mr Meyeridricks whether his company supported the view of Cape Town City Council that high-density, low-cost houses should be built in District Six.

Mr Meyeridricks said it would cost more than R2 000 a unit just to get the electricity connected. Providing full services to each plot would cost about R10 000.

His company was prepared to talk to people who wanted houses in District Six about the type of houses, he said. Ilco had built 70 000 homes in this country, Mr Meyeridricks added.

BOARDROOM TAKEOVER ... Women of Tambo Square squatter camp crowd into the boardroom of CPA offices in Goodwood, which they have occupied to stress their demands for housing.
Picture: STEWART COLEMAN

Squatter women occupy CPA office

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 120 women — who claim they were promised houses in 1983 — have occupied the boardroom of a Cape Provincial Administration office in Goodwood

The occupation followed a meeting yesterday at the CPA offices between residents and CPA regional representative Mr Fanie Naude.

At the meeting the women, all from Tambo Square, next to KTC squatter camp, claimed that when they were removed from KTC in 1983 they were promised housing by the old Bantu Affairs Administration Board.

Residents asked whether there were funds available to develop the present site and to provide housing. They also wanted to know when the authorities would begin building houses.

"We are getting tired of waiting," they said, as some women started crying loudly.

Residents said their health had deteriorated in the years spent living in the squatter camp and nothing had been done for Tambo Square.

Their lawyer, Mr Essa Moosa, said the squatter camp was water-logged, and there was no drainage or regular removal of rubbish or night soil.

Mr Naude announced an immediate relief project to improve drainage and sanitary conditions at the squatter camp, but the residents rejected this, saying the money could be used for the new site instead.

Mr Naude proposed a working group, comprised of representatives from Tambo Square, the CPA, the Ikapa town council and the Urban Foundation, be formed to choose one of three possible sites for the housing.

"This is not a delaying tactic," Mr Naude said. "I need your assistance, and your co-operation."

Mr Moosa said the occupation, in which several children are included, would continue until "residents get satisfactory answers to their demands".

The occupation is part of the UDF's national campaign for houses and land, said UDF Western Cape executive member Mr Willie Hofmeyer.

The UDF would arrange for food, mattresses and blankets at the office, he said.

20 held for CPA picket

Staff Reporter

TWENTY people have been arrested for picketing outside a Goodwood CPA building in which about 100 women and children from the Tambo Square squatter camp, Old Crossroads, have been occupying a boardroom since Monday.

A meeting on Monday night on the issue between representatives of the CPA, residents and high-level UDF/ANC executive members ended in deadlock.

The residents claim they have been promised housing since 1983 and are demanding specific details about their promised land before withdrawing from the CPA building.

study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. — Sapa.

the SAP is neutral in the conflict and we only enforce the law. This is a political problem

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20 women at sit-in begin hunger strike

Argus 26/7/90

By JENNY VIALL
Tygerberg Bureau

TWENTY of the 125 women staging a sit-in at the Cape Provincial Administration's Goodwood offices have gone on a hunger strike.

Lawyer Mr Essa Moosa said the women, residents of Tambo Square in Old Crossroads, would continue the hunger strike until their housing demands had been met.

The 20 women would be joined by others if no progress was made.

The women and 10 children have occupied a boardroom at the CPA offices since Monday, when proposals by Mr Fanie Naude, regional director of the CPA, failed to meet their demands.

They have vowed not to move until their demands had been met.

They claim they have been promised housing since 1983. They are demanding that they be given land and guarantees of sufficient funds to build houses.

UDF representatives are to meet the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring, today to discuss the housing issue.

CPA 'has strategic plan for squatters'

By PETER DENNEHY

THE Cape Provincial Administration had a strategic plan to deal with squatting, but it was not being implemented because there were no funds for it, a RSC councillor said yesterday.

Professor D E W Schumann, of Stellenbosch Municipality, claimed at the RSC monthly meeting that he had heard this from senior CPA sources.

Approached for comment yesterday, CPA spokesman Mr Van Heerden Heunis said a proper response could only be formulated today.

"If finance is the problem, we must see whether the RSC has a responsibility to be helpful in solving this problem," Prof Schumann said, adding that nothing seemed to be happening at present. This was not true, Mr Heunis responded.

RSC chairman Mr Piet Loubser told councillors that although the RSC was responsible for the provision of infrastructure, it did not wish to take on the politically-sensitive task of trying to solve the squatter problem.

According to a report before the RSC yesterday, squatters could get land for a nominal amount.

In other land transactions with the State, the principle of the disposal of the land at market value would be maintained.

Squatters on hunger strike

CPA-Tenders 26/7/90

Staff Reporter

TWENTY of the Tambo Square squatter women occupying the Goodwood CPA boardroom embarked on a hunger strike yesterday that "will last until their housing demands are met".

Relatives of the women demonstrated outside the building yesterday. Police ordered them to disperse several times before shepherding them to the railway station.

Yesterday morning the women's lawyer, Mr Essa Moosa, and UDF/ANC members met Mr Fanie Naude, regional director of the CPA, and presented him with an ultimatum that the women would go on a hunger strike if a response to their housing demands was not received by 1pm yesterday.

When the deadline passed, 20 women went on a hunger strike from 6pm yesterday, said Mr Wllie Hofmeyr, Western Cape UDF executive member. There are plans for a further 20 women to join the hunger strike if the "crisis isn't resolved in the next few days", he said.

The residents claim they have been promised housing since 1983 and are demanding specific details about this before they leave the building.

The UDF plans to raise the issue today when it meets Mr Kobus Meiring, Administrator of the Cape.

Mr Naude was unavailable for comment.

SHELTER: The Mfolozi family in their shack made of wood and flimsy plastic

A shack called 'home'

With the UDF and ANC's defiance campaign this week to highlight the national housing crisis, the spotlight has fallen on South Africa's seven million squatters. South 26/7 – 1/8/90

SOUTH reporter REHANA ROSSOUW and photographer YUNUS MOHAMED spent a night with the Mfolozi family at the Bloekombos squatter camp at Kraaifontein, about 30 kilometres from Cape Town.

They found that the hopes and wishes of the Mfolozis are exactly the same as that of the rest of South Africans — a secure and comfortable home that they can live in for the rest of their lives:

Rehana Rossouw

Yunus Mohamed

CANDLELIGHT: Buthisi Mfolozi, 14, studies by candlelight in his family's shack. Often, his mother cannot afford paraffin

THE winter mist hovers over Bloekombos, outlining shadowy figures and flimsy structures.

In the centre of the camp about 30 young people gather, herded into rows by an authoritative young man.

"Our young people have decided to form a choir," a woman explains.

"They are going to practise every night then break into smaller groups and hold concerts for us."

The group warms up with a brisk toyi-toyi and freedom songs then begin to sing a hymn, their "Hallelujah's" drifting through the mist like a chorus of angels.

Smaller children run barefoot through the camp, laughing and playing despite the winter chill.

Shelter

Our "mother", Mrs Sheila Mfolozi, pulls us away, and guides us through the camp to shack number 15, our home for the night.

Outside her plastic and wooden shelter is a sign perched above a cross, "Anantoni Apostolic Zion Church — Bishop Mfolozi".

Sheila Mfolozi introduces us to her family.

Her husband Lemmon Bishop Mfolozi, 62, is a shy, sturdy man who holds church services in their shack on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

He also serves on the Bloekombos Committee, which governs the camp.

Staying with them is her brother-in-law Johnson Langa, whom they brought to live with them two years ago when the municipality destroyed his shack in Outobos, leaving him with only two blankets left of his possessions.

Johnson smiles hugely when Sheila teases him about his bachelor status, saying she is still looking for a woman for him.

Sheila's eldest son John drifts into the shack later, after spending the evening with some friends who are also unemployed.

Candlelight

At a table with his head bent over an Afrikaans primer, studying in the candlelight, is Bhutisi, 14.

And giggling and hiding her head behind her father's broad back is three-year-old Sindiswa, Sheila's youngest child.

The Mfolozi's have been living in squatter settlements since they married 24 years ago.

They are one of about close to two million squatter families scattered in small settlements in South Africa.

They have little hope of ever occupying the home of their dreams unless millions of rands is pumped into black housing.

The Mofolozis met in Wellington but moved to Cape Town to seek employment after their first child was born. They have been living "in the bush" in the northern suburbs ever since.

"Every time we built a shack and settled in, the *boere* came and burnt us out," Sheila says.

"I can't even remember how many camps we lived in. The only life my children know is life as a squatter."

The family moved to Bloekombos two years ago. Their house was demolished and rebuilt four times after raids by the police and municipality sent them scuttling for safety.

Their present dwelling — consisting of flimsy wooden poles with plastic sheeting draped over, was built by Sheila and Butisi.

"It was much bigger than this before, but during the last raid our plastic was torn and we had to make it smaller," Sheila explains.

Their shack consists of one big room. Two tables line the one wall and a double bed the other.

There are no wardrobes, shelves or cupboards. All the families' possessions are stored in tin trunks piled up against the wall.

There are no windows in the shack and the iron door is closed with a piece of wire. The wind filters through holes in the plastic sheeting.

Huddled round a fire in the centre of the shack, the family describes their "hard life".

"We tried to get a house but every time we go to the municipality they said if we live in the bush we must get out of their offices," Sheila says.

"They say we must go back to the land where we were born — I don't have any land, I was born in Elsies River.

Injury

"My children have never known a house with taps and a toilet, they don't know what it is like to have electricity, to have a hot bath."

This is Sheila's dream — a house with a toilet, taps and light bulbs.

However, the family is unsure whether they can afford such housing. Lemmon has not worked for two years because of a hip injury. John earns a few rand doing casual labour, but Sheila is the only person in the shack with a steady income.

She works as a char for a white family in Kraaifontein and earns R100 a month.

A local shop allows her to buy on credit, so on payday, most of the R100 goes towards paying her debt.

"We don't eat during the day at all and most nights we have dry pap for supper," Sheila says.

"When we have sugar, I make some tea as well. Meat, we have once a week or even less.

"I can't do better for my family; it is impossible to feed them on R100 a month."

Like most squatter families, ill-health plagues the Mfolozi family. For the past week, Julia has not been eating and her body is racked with a dry cough.

Despite their poverty, Sheila invites us to share their supper — stamp mielies boiled in water on her primus stove. She ladles it out into enamel bowls and the family sprinkles Aromat over to add some taste to the sparse meal.

"Look how my pots are shining now," says house-proud Sheila. "You should see it when I can't afford paraffin, they're black with soot."

The family settles down for the night. The singing of the choir has died down at 10pm, most of the residents are inside their shacks.

For most, the only entertainment is conversation or a radio.

The only shack with a generator belongs to a family running a store. They have electric lights, a stove, TV, hi-fi, fridge and all the other appliances taken for granted in most homes.

Jackson Masala, also a member of the Bloekombos Committee, comes to see Lemmon to discuss a meeting with the Kraaifontein municipality to be held next week.

The seven-person committee, elected by the residents of the squatter camp, meets twice a week and discusses issues concerning the community.

They also mediate in family disputes, but instead of meting out punishment, settle them through negotiations with both parties.

"The people of Bloekombos want to stay here, they have nowhere else to go," Masala says.

"All we want is what every resident of South Africa wants.

"We want the municipality to give us land, to build an office, school, creche and shops.

"We want water and toilets. The office must have white and black people in it, where we can jointly discuss our problems."

Masala says the committee is aware that most of the squatters cannot afford to pay rent.

Floor

He proposes that the committee collects a sum agreed on from each resident and give the total to the municipality.

At 11pm, the family settles down for the night. The Mfolozi's hospitality extends even further and we are offered a bed.

Sheila extracts clean linen from the tin chests and Lemmon dismisses our protests with a quote from the Bible, saying he will be offended if we do not allow him to offer his bed.

Finally, silence descends on Bloekombos as residents huddle into their shacks, preparing for a dawn temperature of close to zero.

The wind whips the plastic sheeting from side to side. Fortunately, it isn't raining and there is no need to place buckets on the floor to catch the water seeping in through the roof.

At 6am, a resident moves through the settlement, calling out the time. Butusi stirs and is first up. He washes, dresses and leaves for school at 6.20am, while it is still dark.

Busfare

His school only starts at 8am but it is a long walk for a boy who cannot afford busfare.

Sheila leaves next; she has to be at work at 7.30am and walks into Kraaifontein as well.

We stand at the edge of the camp, watching her leave. The morning mist is even thicker than the evening's and Sheila soon disappears as she walks through the bush.

Bloekombos is awake now. Men and women trek through the sand to the latrines at the edge of the camp.

Women with buckets of water perched on their heads make the two-kilometre trek back from the nearest tap.

The sun finally pierces the blanket of mist — heralding the start of another day of hardship for Kraaifontein's squatters.

Tambo Square squatter sit-in 'to end'

By JENNY VIALL
Tygerberg Bureau

A SIT-IN by 125 women from Tambo Square squatter settlement at the Goodwood offices of the Cape Provincial Administration is expected to end at noon today.

At a 5½-hour meeting yesterday between representatives of the ANC, UDF and Cosatu and the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, and CPA officials, an agreement was reached on housing for about 3 000 residents of the Tambo Square, New Crossroads squatter camp.

The women occupied the CPA offices on Monday and said they would not move until they had been given guarantees of land for resettlement and funds for housing. They claim they have been promised housing since 1983.

In terms of an agreement between the two parties, the CPA will undertake a relief project in Tambo Square to provide water points and improve services.

A joint committee of residents, organisations in the area and the CPA will be set up to identify an alternative site to resettle the squatters.

The CPA will also provide services to the site and will make R1 million available in the next financial year as a contribution to housing.

The CPA will also facilitate a meeting between residents, financial institutions and the Independent Trust (the "Jan Steyn fund") to design development strategies for the area.

A Tambo Square spokeswoman said: "We're very excited."

SQUATTERS FM 27/7/90

White elephants (307)

Cape Administrator Kobus Meiring was due to meet UDF regional leader Dullah Omar this week. Government wants to defuse tension over efforts to encourage squatters to occupy vacant land in Zonneblom — formerly Cape Town's famous District Six.

There is a UDF-ANC national campaign to highlight the plight of squatters but, unlike other areas where actions are aimed at unused State land, private property will be targeted in Zonneblom.

Protests have started against Cape-based Ilco Homes in an effort to stop the building of another 176 houses in the area. Ilco was due to start construction this week but has postponed the project.

Campaign organisers say they are also eyeing seven luxury State-owned houses in Walmer Estate on the border of Zonneblom. They have been empty for more than 18 months because of a squabble between government and the Labour Party for whose leaders they were built.

About 50 000 people of all races — but mainly coloureds — were forced to move from District Six when it was declared a white group area in 1966. Most of it was declared a slum and demolished. The Cape Technikon is being built on most of the land. The rest is privately owned but most is vacant because developers fear political repercussions.

Zonneblom was recently proclaimed a free settlement area and it seemed that building would start. Ilco's development will be the first since the area was opened. The 176 houses are expected to sell for about R100 000 each but the UDF wants low-income dwellings in the area to help house some of the estimated 500 000 squatters in the western Cape.

While this seems highly unlikely, particularly because land earmarked for residential development is privately owned, government will be hard-pressed to justify the continued

FM 27/7/90 (307)

waste of State assets in Walmer Estate while claiming to be short of funds for low-cost housing.

The seven houses in Walmer Estate — a coloured group area — were completed early last year at a cost of R4,9m. Another R375 000 was spent on furnishings. The empty houses have 24-hour guards. Facilities include a communal swimming pool and tennis court.

When the houses were finished Labour Party ministers refused to occupy them in protest at the Group Areas Act. Earlier this year Public Works Minister George Bartlett said the State was considering either selling or letting the houses. Labour Party MP Gerald Morkell denied that ministers were looking for ways to "sneak" into the houses.

He said the party originally agreed to the building of the houses in a coloured group area on the understanding that the Group Areas Act was to be scrapped.

Bartlett's department told the *FM* this week that no decision had been made on the future of the houses. ■

Sit-in ends: CPA says yes to housing fund

Staff Reporters

THE occupation of a Goodwood CPA boardroom by about 120 Tambo Square women will end today following an agreement reached with the CPA to allocate R1 million for housing in the next financial year.

The assistance will go towards financing housing in a yet-to-be-chosen site. Funds will also be made available for the development of the land and for the provision of essential services.

Ms Zohra Ebrahim, one of the negotiators, said last night that this figure could run "in the region of R6 million".

In the meantime, says the CPA, it will improve conditions in Old Crossroads by draining the area, improving access routes and providing taps.

The announcement came after a five-hour meeting yesterday between delegates from the CPA and the UDF/ANC/Cosatu alliance.

Also present were representatives of the Tambo Square community and the Western Cape United Civic Organisation.

● The Western Cape United Squatters' Association (WCUSA), which represents tens of thousands of squatters, has hit out at Regional Services Council (RSC) chairman Mr Piet Loubser for his reported reluctance to help solve squatter problems.

Mr Loubser told councillors at the monthly RSC meeting this week that although the RSC was responsible for provision of squatter infrastructure, it did not wish to take on the "politically sensitive" issue of trying to solve the problem.

A fellow councillor, Professor D E W Schumann, also said he heard from senior CPA sources that there was a "strategic plan" for squatters but that there were no funds for it.

Mr Enoch Madwabe, vice-chairman of WCUSA, said yesterday that the councillors' "ill-advised" comments were a "recipe for conflict".

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POLICE BLOCK . . . Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dean Colin Jones and squatter leaders are stopped by police and told that their march to deliver a memo to the police station was illegal and that magisterial permission must be obtained. Picture: BENNY GOOL

Squatters demand probe into shootings

Staff Reporter

HOUT BAY squatters yesterday morning demanded, in a memorandum handed to police, that a "full and independent inquiry" be set up to investigate the shooting of two men by police on Sunday night during a narcotics raid on the Princess Bush squatter camp.

About 200 people who gathered in pouring rain in an attempt to march on the police station to deliver the memorandum were stopped by police, who said the march was illegal.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu acted as a facilitator of negotiations between squatters and police. He was later allowed, together with local Anglican parish priest the Rev John Frye and a squatter delegation, to deliver the memorandum to police.

Anglican Dean Colin Jones and Bishop Charles Albertyn were also part of the group who attempted the march.

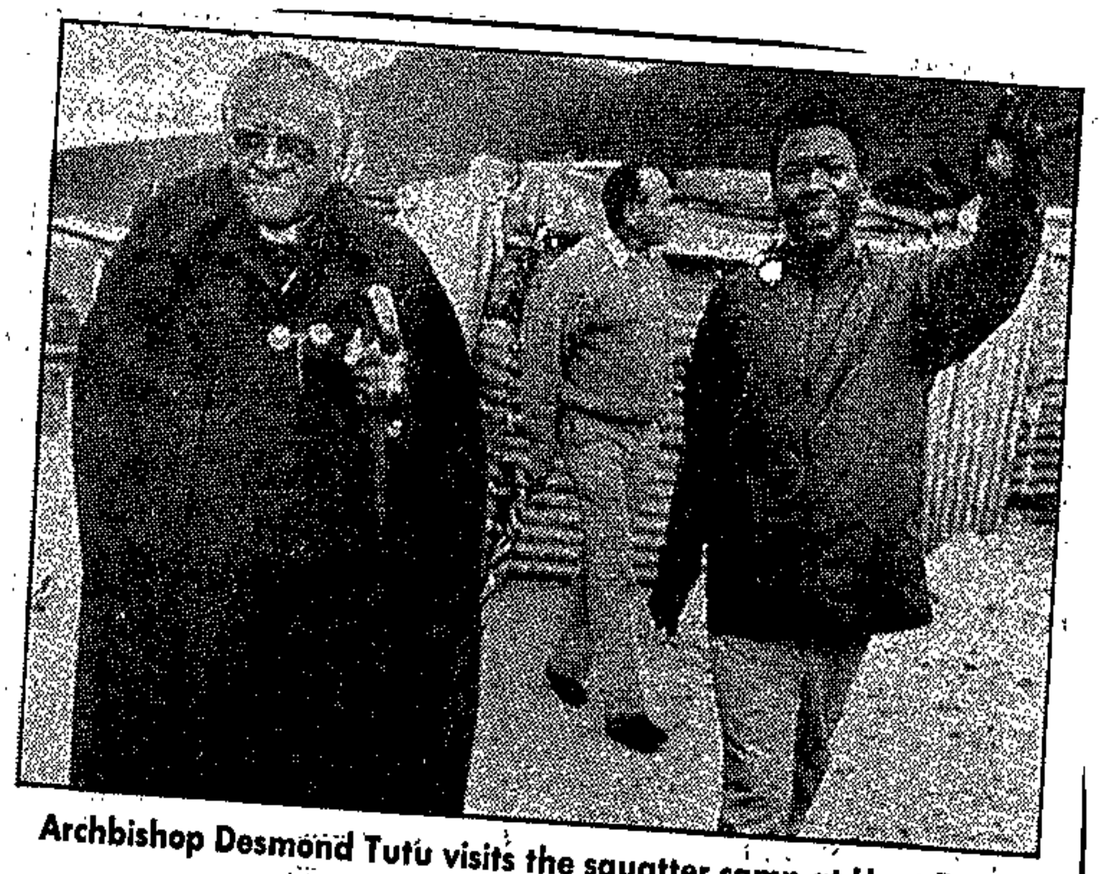
In the memorandum the squatter delegation alleged that five policemen — three plain-clothed and two uniformed — entered the Princess Bush community on Sunday evening to arrest Mr Eric Ntobeko Kutuko. Two other men were wounded, one seriously, in subsequent police action.

"We have noted that when people from Princess Bush community go to the local police station with complaints they are very often turned away by your policemen. The only time your policemen enter these areas is to harass, and in this particular case, to shoot people," the memorandum claimed.

The memorandum demanded an end to police violence and harassment and called on police to serve communities in a "rightful and decent manner".

Mr Dick Meter, Hout Bay community leader, said Sunday's incident was "unnecessary and uncalled for" and said it again showed that police were able to take the law into their own hands.

People were still angry and would march after permission had been granted "to show how we feel", he said.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu visits the squatter camp at Hout Bay.

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Squatters make demands

CAPE TOWN — A squatter delegation, which included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, handed a memorandum to the police in Hout Bay yesterday.

The memorandum alleged that five policemen entered the Princess Bush community to arrest Eric Ntobeko Kutuko on Sunday. Several people were wounded, one seriously, in the process.

"The only time your policemen enter these areas is to harass and, in this case, to shoot people," the memorandum said.

It demanded an end to police violence and harassment, and called upon police to serve communities in a "rightful and decent manner". It also urged that police should not carry arms during inspections. — Sapa.

Pictures: ERIC MILLER

DISCONSOLATE: With a bulldozer working in the background, a couple sit disconsolately with their few possessions.

Dawn demolition at squatter camp

FIRST LIGHT: Police keep watch around dawn as the bulldozers move in.

DRUMBEAT: A woman beats a drum as the Bloekombos squatter shacks are demolished.

By JOHN VILJOEN, Tygerberg Bureau

BULLDOZERS from Kraaifontein Municipality demolished about 30 shacks at Bloekombos squatter camp outside Kraaifontein at dawn today.

Police with semi-automatic weapons, teargas launchers and rifles monitored the demolition by bulldozers and eight white municipal workers.

The demolition left more than 130 people without shelter, according to a spokesman for the Kraaifontein Residents' Association.

Yellow-helmeted workers tore down shelters with their hands, while the bulldozers flattened others. Residents scurried about removing belongings from their shacks and salvaging building materials.

The Kraaifontein Residents' Association spokesman said she had been refused permission to speak to the squatters before the demolitions, or to contact the town council.

The Kraaifontein Town Council decided last week to act against squatters to whom it had not granted permission to erect structures. The shacks demolished today belonged to former residents of Otto's Bush squatter camp.

Firm undertaking

Shacks belonging to squatters who had settled at Bloekombos before the Otto's Bush squatters arrived, were left standing, in terms of the council's decision.

Mr Jan van Eck, Democratic Party MP for Claremont, said the demolitions were a "betrayal".

"I had a firm undertaking from the mayor and deputy mayor that these people wouldn't be touched while land was available."

A lawyer who has represented the squatters, Mr Barry Adams, said Kraaifontein Municipality was carrying out a political philosophy, as in Boksburg and Carletonville.

"This local authority is taking a much harder approach than others. It's an approach not approved by the CPA and the CPA has asked them not to carry out such demolitions," he said.

Kraaifontein Mayor Arthur Collyer said his municipality had "no solution for the problem".

LOOKING ON: Police and blanket-wrapped Bloekombos shack dwellers look on as the squatters' homes are destroyed.

'ear

7 000 squatters arrive in Cape Town every month

Argus 12/4/90

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By TOM HOOD, Business Editor

BETWEEN 7 000 and 10 000 squatters are arriving monthly in greater Cape Town with the largest new concentrations in Khayelitsha, Crossroads, KTC, Nyanga, Noordhoek and Hout Bay.

This has been disclosed by Mr Brian Mellon, Western Cape president of the Institute of Professional Land Surveyors.

He called for areas of land to be carved up into housing plots and set aside in an effort to cope with the burgeoning problem.

"It is of paramount importance that we identify and set aside ground on which squatting can take place legally in the metropolitan area," he said.

Expropriation should follow to legalise settlements.

"SWEPT UNDER THE CARPET"

The problem was one of growing concern and could not be "swept under the carpet", said Mr Mellon. "It has to be faced and we as an institute have identified certain fundamentals."

These include recognising that most squatters had basic skills, such as crude house building. They had a desire to create a home environment without harassment and they were generally peaceful communities, he said.

A rational development plan must be drawn up by a development team taking into account the future need for amenities such as schools, shops, creches, clinics, churches, business areas and playing fields.

The institute was prepared to offer its services to the State and various authorities to help formulate a plan to resolve the squatter problem.

Residental plots should be defined at a minimum cost by beacons. This would then give the squatters security of title to develop within the defined area.

Communal water points and toilets should be installed to take care of the communities' initial basic requirements.

The State should supply basic building materials at cost. These would include clay, cement and thatch for the erection of traditional houses by the squatters themselves.

The future of such a community would then become dependent on an upgrading process to the point where the community itself became viable.

CAPE TIMES 11/4/90 (307)

Town council rips up squatter homes

HOMELESS ... A mother with her child on her back stands amid her belongings while municipal workers from the Kraaifontein town council use bulldozers to destroy her wood and iron shack.

Picture: ADIL BRADLOW

By ANDRE KOOPMAN

KRAAIFONTEIN municipality demolished 62 squatter shacks in a dawn raid yesterday, nine days before an alternative "transit site" for the squatters was to be "formalised".

Last night Kraaifontein mayor Mr Arthur Collyer admitted that the Cape Provincial Administration had agreed to set aside land for the squatters.

"We went ahead with the demolition as no date had been given for this," he said.

He said he had been informed that the squatters were rebuilding their shacks. These would have to be demolished again.

Yesterday police armed with rifles surrounded the Bloekombos squatter settlement and held back angry black residents from the shacks while municipal workers searched through the structures and piled personal belongings outside.

The people were given a few minutes to collect their possessions before two yellow bulldozers flattened the homes.

Mr Jan van Eck, DP spokesman on black affairs, said the demolitions were the "act of a lunatic right-wing fringe in Kraaifontein, who are out to destroy race relations at any cost.

"We had an agreement between the municipality, Cape Provincial Administration and the administration of local government and housing that the shacks would not be destroyed.

"All the parties concerned agreed in principle that another 'transit camp' would be found for the squatters," he said.

The agreement was to be formalised on April 19 when MPs returned from their Easter holiday.

Last Wednesday the muncipality had threatened to destroy the shacks, but Mr Van Eck had managed to obtain a reprieve by the agreement.

Mr Collyer said yesterday that the shacks were flattened because the government had refused to provide land for the squatters and because "they could find no solution to the problem".

He confirmed that the municipality had been informed by the province and the department of local government and housing that an alternative site would be identified.

Shack razing 'shameful'

Political Correspondent

KRAAIFONTEIN Municipality used bulldozers to destroy about 20 squatter shacks at Otto's Bos next to the Bloekombos squatter camp early yesterday, the MP for Claremont, Mr Jan van Eck, said.

Mr Van Eck said the destruction of the shacks — for the fourth time — was "a shameful act now that we are being told that a new South Africa is coming about".

The squatters had "nowhere else to go" as there was nowhere in the northern areas where blacks could live legally.

"As far as these squatters are concerned, the destruction of their homes and possessions by bulldozers and the violence of bullets and teargas used against them means that SA is as inhuman and uncaring as before."

Squatters: Boesak pledge to talk to FW

MRG 6/3 11/4/90 307

By JOHN VILJOEN, Tygerberg Bureau

THE plight of the Bloekombos squatters, whose shacks were demolished by the Kraaifontein Municipality, is likely to be discussed when church leaders meet President De Klerk today.

According to a spokeswoman for the Kraaifontein Residents' Association, United Democratic Front patron Dr Allan Boesak promised to speak to Mr De Klerk when he visited the demolition site yesterday.

Dr Boesak said he would use today's meeting to pressure Mr De Klerk and the municipality over the squatter issue, and would support the squatters in whatever action they decided to take, according to the spokeswoman.

By 6pm yesterday most of the demolished shacks had been rebuilt.

"We are expecting the municipality to demolish again and we have told the people of Bloekombos to be alert," the spokeswoman added.

Young comrades allocate 'plots' free of charge and within hours a shack has sprung up.

Cape squatters increasing

BETWEEN 7 000 and 10 000 squatters are arriving each month in greater Cape Town, the Western Cape president of the Institute of Professional Land Surveyors, Brian Mellon, said in Cape Town this week.

The greatest areas of new squatter concentration are at Crossroads, KTC, Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Noordhoek and Hout Bay.

There are fears that Crossroads, especially, might erupt into a "mini-Natal" situation over the Easter weekend.

Tensions are reported to be running high in this area, and MP for Claremont, Jan van Eck has warned that any eruption in Crossroads "could make Crossroads 1986 look like a picnic".

Mellon, in turn, has called for areas of land to be carved up into housing plots in various squatter areas and set aside to cope with the growing problem.

"It is of paramount importance that we identify and set aside ground on which squatting can take place legally in the metropolitan area," he said, adding that expropriation should follow to legalise settlements.

He urged the setting up of communual water points and toilets, and said the State should supply basic building materials such as clay, cement and thatch, for the erection of traditional houses by the squatters themselves.

Three houses in Crossroads Section 4 were "torched" on Wednesday, according to a fire brigade spokesman, and tensions are reported to be growing between Crossroads' town committee and a rival group under breakaway headman Jeffrey Nongwe. – Sapa.

AR6US 307

'Hounded' squatters: DP slams government

By MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

THE government should stop "hounding" squatters in the northern areas and provide land for them to settle, the Democratic Party's unrest monitoring and awareness committee group chairman, Pinelands MP Mr Jasper Walsh, said.

Squatters could not be "expected to disappear into thin air", he said.

He issued a statement in the wake of the latest dispute between the Kraaifontein Town Council and squatters at Bloekombos.

FIRE

Four new shacks had been created in the area to house 35 people whose dwellings, over the road from the settlement, had been destroyed in a fire allegedly started to clear up the area.

Kraaifontein municipal officials took the four shacks down on Thursday night, claiming they were illegal.

When Mr Walsh visited the area on Friday morning with two UMAC officials, Ms Val Rose-Christie and Ms Margie Probyn, the squatters had almost completed re-building the shacks.

Mr Walsh said: "These people cannot be expected to disappear into thin air.

"They are desperate to find somewhere to live and are tired of being hounded like animals. We have appealed to the government time and again, but to no avail.

PLIGHT

"Suitable land must be found in the northern areas to house these people and the many more who are forced to squat indiscriminately. Government continues to duck this issue and has shown no humanity in dealing with these people's plight."

Mr Walsh said the DP and the Kraaifontein Residents Association would continue to monitor the situation "until the government accepts that it has a responsibility towards these people and does something about it."

South NEWS

Brackenfell's 'reject' people

South 1917 – 25/7/90 (307)

By REHANA ROSSOUW

A CRISIS is looming in the northern suburbs again after bulldozers moved in on squatters living on privately-owned land in Brackenfell.

About 16 families have been living in the bush on Everite property for more than six years.

Screened by the trees, their existence was discovered by the Kraaifontein Residents' Association only last month when the company began clearing the field.

Most of the structures erected by the squatters are flimsy sheets of plastic as they move from place to place, dodging the bulldozers.

Mrs Margaret Klaasen and her common-law husband Mr Johannes de Bruyn have been living on the Everite land for two years.

"Most of the people here are now sleeping under plastic. We had structures but broke them down when the bulldozers came," Klaasen said.

The harassment of the "Everite squatters" began in March this year when police arrested six of them and charged them with illegal squatting.

This month, Everite hired a private firm to begin clearing the bush around the squatters.

"The workers piled all the trees they cut down near our structures and said as soon as it was dry they are going to set it alight and burn us down too," Klaasen claimed.

"With all the bushes and trees gone, we have very little shelter; when the wind blows our plastics fly off.

"What kind of life is this? We are very uncomfortable here but there is no land or housing available in Brackenfell or Kraaifontein.

"I'm not leaving here until I get land to build on or a house to live in," she vowed.

Ironically, the squatters on the Everite land are being pressured to leave by their employers — most of them are either employed by Everite or the municipality.

"I worked for Everite as a casual labourer for six years," said Mr Charles Speelman, 42, who has been a squatter all his life.

"Eight months ago I hurt my back while I was loading pipes. Now the company wants nothing to do with me," Speelman said.

"I am like a reject they cast aside when they were finished with me. I am bitter and won't move anywhere."

Everite spokesperson Mr Brian Gibson said the squatters had been living on the ground only for a few weeks, and not years as they claimed.

He said the company was under pressure from the local community and the municipality to "persuade" the squatters to leave the premises.

"We are attempting to come up with a solution acceptable to all parties by negotiating with them," Gibson said.

He said the land was being cleared because the sand was needed for Everite's production process.

Squatters are land areas in Cape Town daily choking

Sowetan 26/7/90

307

Squatters watch helplessly as a bulldozer ploughs through shacks at Dobsonville.

Pic: ROBERT NORTON

By IAIN MACDONALD

IN the future, Cape Town will look "more like Tokyo than Washington" as waves of squatters continue to thrust themselves cityward into the fragile, limited triangle of land between the mountain chains of the Peninsula and the sea.

This is the basic scenario for the future of the city spelt out by all organisations concerned with the current "squatter crisis" in the Western Cape, and Cape Town, squeezed by a real lack of land, looks set to enter the toughest decade in its 350-year-old history.

Even purely official figures bear this out with a frightening intensity.

In the squatter camp and fledgling township of Crossroads, there is a population of more than 67 000, with, to date, only 1 669 formal houses available.

In Khayelitsha there are more than 370 000 people with just over 9 500 formal houses to go around. Guguletu has a population of more than 100 000 served by some 7 800 formal houses, while Langa and Nyanga have populations of over 48 000 and 66 000, with only just over 2 900 and 4 100 houses respectively.

But the current lack of housing and land is only the tip of the iceberg, as, officially - according to Cape Provincial Administration estimates - some 2 000 unemployed, homeless people a month continue to drift into the area.

Unofficial figures put the influx much higher, at somewhere between 8 000 and 10 000 a month, but these, like the official figures, are difficult to estimate with accuracy because of the shifting nature of the population and its reluctance to be counted.

No income

What is clear, however, is that, because of its unique geographical situation, Cape Town is strapped for land in real terms to accommodate such large numbers, more so than any other city in South Africa.

Add to this the fact that the bulk of the squatter population has no formal income - an Urban Foundation report states that the basic economy of Crossroads is centred on dagga-processing and distribution - and the scene is set for a momentous social struggle around houses and jobs that is already beginning to change the face of South Africa's Mother City.

Western Cape regional director of the Urban Foundation, Mr Ben van der Ross, identifies two essential problems: not enough land, and the growing prevalence of "sporadic squatting", of which the Hout Bay confrontation between squatters and wealthy white landowners is a prime example.

He remains hopeful, however, that integration would occur as the squatter camps gradually developed into "long-term suburbs", bringing in their wake "a bigger labour pool and greater buying power".

A crucial element for such development was the ability of such fledgling communities to take root economically, and Van der Ross called on "business and the ordinary citizen" to get involved.

"You can't redistribute wealth, but you can redistribute opportunity. Then people can create wealth for themselves, can pay their own way and be treated with dignity," he said.

Town-planner and development specialist for the Urban Foundation, Mr Gavin Wyngaard, who runs a physical upgrading programme at the Masiphatisane Centre at Crossroads, says Capetonians "must learn to be comfortable with the situation".

"Our cities are going to look more and more like what we see here. South Africa hasn't got the resources to provide for all its people and by the turn of the century we'll see squatter settlements doubling in size," he said.

According to him, the root of the problem is low incomes and a scarcity of jobs which have virtually forced mainly Transkeians and Ciskeians towards major centres like Cape Town as part of a continuing pattern of urbanisation that has, in part, followed the abolition of the pass laws and influx control.

Warning

"More and more people are going to come to the cities. People have to get comfortable with that fact. They will come because they've identified life in the city as a way of improving their lot, and we must help them address their income situation," he said.

He warned that "unless programmes to upgrade squatter communities are looked at a lot more seriously, we can expect the situation to get out of hand".

Already the situation is a political hot potato, even though there is a remarkable similarity of purpose underlying the squatter issue from groups as diverse as the UDF, Government, civic bodies and provincial authorities.

With the UDF's call to squatters to move into areas like District Six and fiery speeches in Hout Bay by the CP, as well as the political furore around other Cape squatter areas like Bloekomsbos near Kraaifontein, the issue has begun to move into high gear in recent weeks.

The need

This week, as the Administrator of the Cape Mr Kobus Meiring meets the UDF in an attempt to defuse the District Six situation, the UDF's vice-president in the Western Cape, Mr Dullah Omar, warned that "the Western Cape is in for a big shock".

Children of the future would become squatters because the existing township units would be unable to accommodate them physically, and coupled with the unemployment problem, they would be unable to afford houses, he pointed out.

To house the growing stream of squatters, 4,6 million units would have to be built by the year 2000 - some 400 000 units a year.

"If we don't do it now, it will get out of control.

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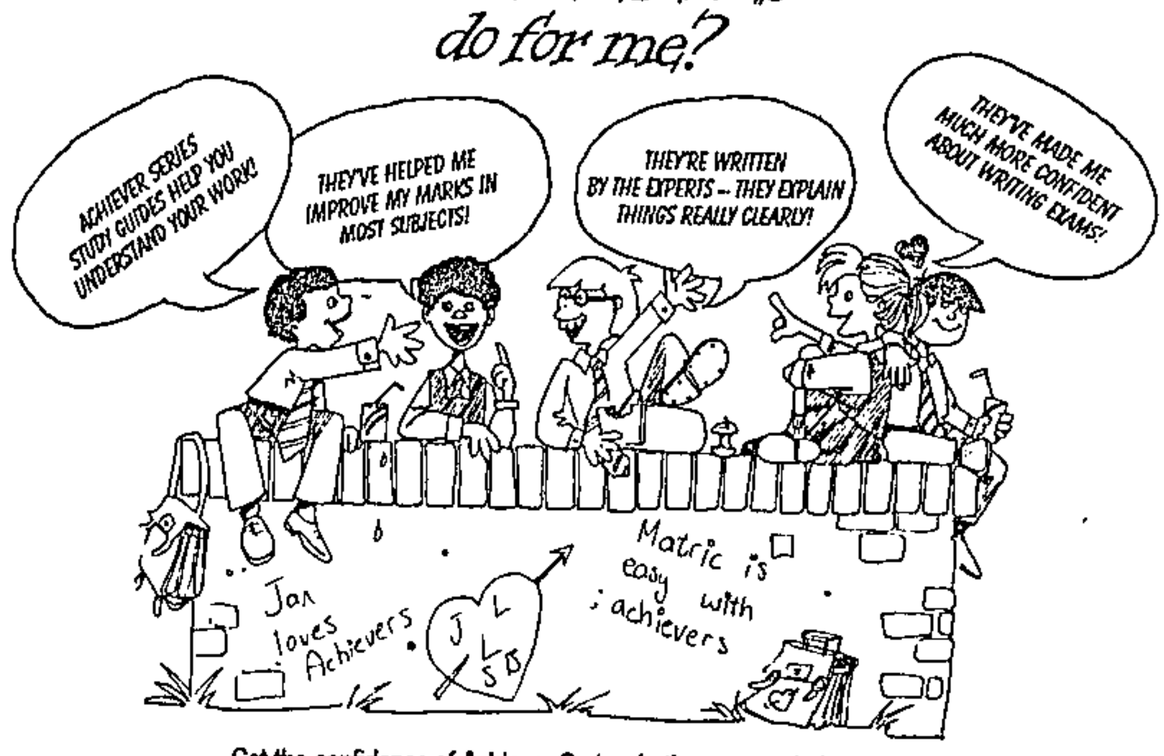

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SQUATTERS — CAPE

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Hout Bay motorists bombed

Staff Reporter

POLICE are investigating two petrol-bomb attacks on motorists in Hout Bay on Sunday night, after two squatters of the Princess Bush community were shot during a police narcotics raid.

Mr Robert Kreymborg, of Hout Bay, escaped possible injury when a petrol bomb was flung at his car in Princess Street but failed to ignite.

When he reported the matter to police he was told another motorist had also been attacked.

Major Jan Calitz, a police liaison officer, confirmed that charges were being investigated.

On Monday permission was granted for a delegation consisting of squatters, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and a local Anglican parish priest, the Rev John Frye, to deliver a memorandum to police after an aborted protest march.

In the memorandum, squatters demanded a "full and independent inquiry" into the shooting of the two men. They also alleged that squatters wanting to lay complaints with police were often turned away.

The memorandum also claimed: "The only time your policemen enter these areas is to harass and, in this particular case, to shoot people."

Major Calitz denied that police harassed people and said police were there to keep law and order.

Major Calitz said the shooting of the men had taken place when a group of people who had surrounded police became aggressive and threw stones and other objects at police, after they arrested an alleged dagga dealer.

"It's up to the court to decide whether police had acted correctly or not."

Mr Dick Meter, a Hout Bay community worker, said he and other volunteer workers had been at Princess Bush squatter community till about 11 that night and had not seen any petrol-bomb attacks on motorists.

Police had twice before been to the squatter community, once to count the shacks and another time to demolish two housing frames.

There had also been police patrols after the shooting but police had not stopped him and the other volunteers, Mr Meter said.

Bid to evict Hout Bay squatters

HOUT Bay squatters have vowed to fight a Supreme Court application to evict them from prime land in the area.

On Wednesday, the owner of land on which the Princess Bush community has settled brought an urgent application to the court asking that the squatters be evicted. South 2/8/ - 8/8/90

Mr Andries Beyers said the squatters caused pollution, trespassing, theft and threats to personal safety in the area.

The court decided the squatters should respond by August 16, giving reasons why they should not be ejected from the property.

"We don't have a choice, we will have to fight the court action," said Hout Bay community leader Mr Dick Meter.

"The squatters have nowhere else to go." 307

Meter said the squatters were committed to a process of searching for a negotiated solution to the problem.

He said by trying to evict the squatters through the courts, Beyers was not part of the solution but creating further problems.

"All we want is a rightful place in Hout Bay. Every family must be allowed land according to need and not greed," Meter said.

"We have tried to set up meetings with Beyers but he is obviously not prepared to meet us."

Meter said allegations of theft and threats against landowners were "grossly overplayed".

He said the crime rate in the area had not increased after squatters moved into Princess Bush.

Renewed fighting in squatter camp

CAPE TOWN — Two people were shot dead and scores of pupils have been injured in renewed fighting at the troubled Crossroads squatter camp, putting attempts to bring peace to the camp in the balance.

Concerned mothers said the violence had taken a uglier turn and small children had been hacking one another with pangas and other dangerous weapons on school premises. — Own Correspondent.

Star 2/8/90

307

Dispute over 'squatters' at Kayamandi

Supreme Court Reporter

JUDGMENT was reserved in the Supreme Court yesterday in an application by the Kayamandi town committee to eject alleged squatters from land because their presence retarded development and could cause a faction fight.

The town committee said in papers its application was further motivated because the unlawful occupation of the land was resented by people who had been on a waiting list for houses and sites since 1977.

Mr Toto Mhwaso and Mr Jada Selibhe said they had built shacks on the land out of necessity, had been granted permission by the mayor and disputed that they were living on erven earmarked for development.

In a counter-applicatiun they disputed the town committee's authority to bring the application on the grounds that all the relevant factors had not been taken into consideration.

30 police escort sheriff serving eviction notices

CAPT 7-7-15 4/8/90 30?

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 30 policemen escorted the sheriff of the Supreme Court into Hout Bay's Princess Bush squatter camp yesterday morning to serve eviction notices on 155 squatters living there.

The notices were served on behalf of the property owners, city land surveyor Mr Andries Wessels Beyers, city attorney Mr Willem Petrus Malherbe and the Jan Zeger Schuurmans-Stekhoven Trust, who have jointly brought a Supreme Court application against the squatters.

The notices pinned to the doors of 155 shacks (all existing shacks) gives the squatters until August 16 to show why they should not be evicted.

The applicants state that the sale of the land for R3 million to a property developer is being hampered by the squatters' continued occupation.

The chairman of the Princess Bush Squatter Association, Mr Charlmane Mquga, yesterday pledged to fight "for the right to stay here" and appealed to the residents of Hout Bay to "be patient and constructive about the serious housing crisis in the area".

"We don't live in shacks on other people's land because we want to," he said. "We are here because we cannot afford the travelling costs between the Cape Flats and our work in Hout Bay.

"We are also here so that families can live near their wives and mothers who work as domestics in the area."

Squatters 'must be helped move to farm again'

CAT Times 7/8/90 p. 307

THE self-styled president of the "Republic of Hout Bay", Mr Len Pothier, has given the Atlantic Review his views on the squatter problem in the area and said there were valid arguments on both sides.

He said: "On the one hand the squatters are there having been driven by hunger to leave Transkei, or wherever, to look for work in Cape Town.

"The adjacent property owners, for their part, have every reason to object to nearby land being occupied by squatters contrary to all laws and regulations."

Mr Pothier said that on the other hand the squatters were not behaving properly and, by so doing, were sacrificing their one trump card — public sympathy for their plight.

He pointed out that about five years ago Hout Bay had an identical squatter problem adjacent to the north shore township and when it reached an intolerable stage the then Divisional Council made a site-and-service camp available at Brown's Farm, near Phillipi.

Clean-up

The squatters were offered a place where they could re-erect their shelters and have available fresh water, sanitation, garbage removal and freedom from persecution.

"They accepted and the council moved their goods for them and helped them to re-erect their new homes and then returned to Hout Bay to carry out a litter clean-up operation.

"The whole thing proceeded smoothly and the squatters were moved in a humane manner."

STRAIGHT TALK . . . The "President of the Republic of Hout Bay", Mr Len Pothier, does some straight talking on the squatter problem in his area.

Mr Pothier said the current situation cried out to be handled in the same way, but now there was the complication of the tri-cameral system and a profusion of ministers, deputy ministers, departments and committees, none of which wished to take responsibility for decisive action and all "passing the buck".

Monster

There was fatuous talk of finding ground for the squatters in Hout Bay but this would not be forthcoming.

Even if the Group Areas Act was waived and the cost was not an issue, there were still "the instant and natural objections property owners would raise once that ground was identified".

Mr Pothier said that while the dithering went on there was every chance for outsiders, ranging from the far Left, through the church, and the AWB on the far Right, to stir the pot and to polarise the squatters and the property owners.

He said: "The longer the obvious and the humane solution of using Brown's Farm once again is delayed, the greater the polarisaion will become and the greater the chance of something ugly occuring."

Crossroads peacemaker: 'I'll quit'

ARGUS 8/8/90 307

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

PEACE could come to Crossroads only if two rival squatter leaders resigned and community organisations took over the running of the shanty town, says "peacemaker" Mr Johnson Mpukumpa.

He has threatened to resign as mediator in the dispute between Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his chief rival Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

Mr Mpukumpa said yesterday he had got the two parties to three meetings since the truce was declared.

A former trade unionist and now chairman of the Western Cape Hostel Dwellers Association, he said his impressions were that the two men were "not interested in peace, but are power hungry".

He felt long-lasting peace could only be restored if both men were removed and the the Crossroads community, including community organisations took over the township's affairs.

His decision to step down would be discussed at a meeting of representatives of the African National Congress, Western Cape United Squatters Association — under which Mr Nongwe's faction falls — and the Western Cape Civic Association tomorrow.

Senior ANC member Mr Christmas Tinto — who is also regional president of the United Democratic Front — said Mr Ngxobongwana had "indicated he had no problem" in stepping down.

Mr Tinto said: "Our attempts at bringing peace to the area are continuing relentlessly and we believe we shall overcome.

"Both men must go because they have supporters who may feel offended if only one is removed.

"Mr Ngxobongwana has no problem stepping down and rejoining the ANC because he was a member of the Port Elizabeth branch of the movement in the sixties."

A church leader at Boys' Town, Crossroads, has also called for the removal of both men, saying this move "would save many lives".

Meanwhile the situation was still tense in the township with one shack reported torched yesterday.

Mr Nongwe and Mr Ngxobongwana who claimed to have "deep divisions" declared a truce at a meeting chaired by Provincial Affairs and Planning Minister, Mr Hernus Kriel, on July 10.

The violence, which has claimed scores of lives since last December, has raged continuouly even after the truce. At least four people have been killed.

Mr Johnson Mpukumpa

No Crossroads peace talks

By CHRIS BATEMAN

PEACE talks between the two warring Old Crossroads factions failed to materialise yesterday when the ruling committee stayed away.

Yesterday marked the third relatively peaceful day in succession after a chaotic previous week which saw at least four people die and some 20 homes burnt out. Four homes were burnt out over the past 36 hours.

Old Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana was in Ciskei making funeral arrangements for a committee member who recently died in a car crash. However, fellow committee members had indicated that they would attend.

Old Crossroads Town Secretary Mr Ricky Schelhase said earlier that he believed the committee had been "fully briefed" by Mr Ngxobongwana.

Chief mediator Mr Johnson Mpukumpa yesterday addressed an assembled crowd including opposing headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe and squatter leaders of nearby camps.

He said attempts would be made to establish a basis of "forgiveness" between both sides at a future meeting.

Previous meetings between the warring factions had produced a readiness to "step down" and allow an interim committee consisting of acknowledged and respected community organisations to take over the running of Old Crossroads.

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W/E Argus

11/8/90

Squatters ask F W to help

Weekend Argus Reporters

HOUT Bay squatters marched to the local police station today to deliver a memorandum calling on President F W de Klerk to intervene in the growing housing crisis in the area.

The group of about 80 marchers was comprised of mostly residents of the Princess Street bush community who live on the Hout Bay beach dunes.

The march followed a heated meeting of the Hout Bay Property Owners' Association last night during which more than 300 Hout Bay residents — all members of the association — unanimously voted to pay their rates into a trust account instead of to the Regional Services Council until such time as the "current problems" have been resolved.

Mr De Nobrega, who acts as attorney for the association, said members would sign a "petition" to this effect.

Earlier, the association said it would take legal action against landowners who refused to evict squatters.

Eviction notices

More than 150 eviction notices have been served on squatters, who have until August 16 to appeal against them.

During today's march, police armed with shotguns, teargas and batons kept a close watch on proceedings but at no stage did it appear as if violence would break out.

The squatters memorandum expressed concern over government plans to evict residents in the Princess Street settlement. The memorandum called on President de Klerk to "intervene immediately to stop any action that might lead to the eviction of any legitimate resident or the destruction of the Princess Street settlement."

The document was compiled by members of the Disa River and Blue Valley squatter communities and the Hout Bay Action committee. It noted that negotiations were under way between ratepayers, squatters and local authorities for an acceptable solution to the crises.

The squatter community asked President de Klerk to bear in mind that Africans were not allowed to live in Hout Bay in terms of the Group Areas Act and that the apartheid system had impoverished the African community.

The squatters also asked for an end to police harassment

Hout Bay's rates revolt

Cape Times 11/8/90 (307)

By BRONWYN DAVIDS

HOUT BAY residents vowed last night not to pay rates until the squatter problem in the valley was solved.

The decision to boycott rate payments en masse is unprecedented in a white constituency.

The move was unanimously agreed to by about 350 residents at an emotionally-charged meeting called by the Hout Bay Property Rights Association.

Amid rumours that squatters would try to invade the meeting, policemen patrolled the grounds of the hotel where the meeting was held.

There are also fears of a confrontation in the usually placid valley today as squatters are marching to protest police action and forced removals.

Friction

Yesterday residents asked Cape Town's chief magistrate to stop the march as "no guarantee for the safety of people could be given".

The bid failed and permission was given for the march.

Friction between squatters and property owners has been mounting since early this year.

After several evictions and subsequent protest marches by squatters, a working committee consisting of squatters, property owners and the government was formed.

Since June the committee has been negotiating about possible sites where squatters might be housed.

RATES REVOLT . . . Hout Bay residents at the meeting last night where they decided not to pay rates until the squatter problem in their town was solved. On the right, addressing the meeting, is Mr Tony Snelgar, Property Owners Association chairman.

Picture: STEWART COLMAN

meeting stated that property owners and ratepaying residents would "remit rates in a trust account which will not be under the control of the Regional Services Council".

Rate payments — between R2 000 and R3 000 a year for each property — would be withheld until "all the current problems have been solved".

Property Rights Association committee member Mr Michael de Nobrega said if the RSC wished to sue people who signed the petition such legal action would be opposed by the association as a group.

The chairman of the association, Mr Tony Snelgar, told the meeting that property owners could no longer tolerate people who broke common laws, "standards of behaviour based on lawlessness and filth" and the disruption of the peacefulness of Hout Bay.

He said the association had taken legal action against landowners to force them to evict 155 squatters by August 16.

If the authorities did not abide by the court orders they would sue the Minister of Law and Order for contempt of court.

The association also intended taking legal action against the government in terms of "nuisance and health laws", said Mr Snelgar.

He also asked residents:

- Not to hire people who looked as if they were new to the area but rather employ people who had lived in the harbour area for a long time.

Lawlessness

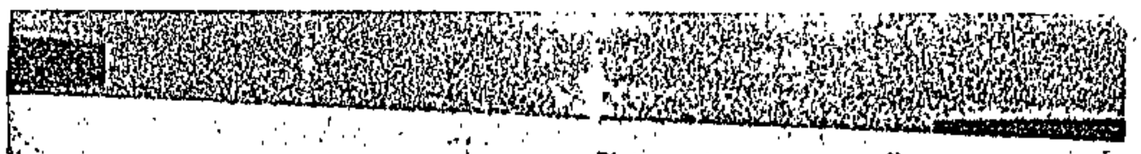
- To fence their properties and evict squatters within 48 hours if they moved onto the property.
- To report all criminal incidents, take photographs and keep records of infringements by squatters.

Mr Snelgar said that with the increase of violence in the area, residents feared that Hout Bay would turn into another Crossroads, Khayelitsha or Port Elizabeth.

"We are not against people of different colours. We are against standards of behaviour based on lawlessness and filth.

"We don't believe squatting on private property is the way to solve the problems," said Mr Snelgar.

Next week Hout Bay residents will vote on a call for a non-racial independent municipality in an informal referendum.



Picture: JOHAN SCHRÖNEN, The Argus.

car burns fiercely after it was flung more than 25m in an weekend. The driver lost control and hit three parked cars in eriously injured but eight people died in other road accidents

Government, ANC in 'sort of alliance'

Argus 13/8/90

By MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT has acknowledged that it was in "a sort of alliance" with the ANC — and other parties — to the extent that they agreed on the ground-rules of politics, according to sources.

But there was no question of the ANC "co-determining government policy", one senior source said.

He was reacting to a comment on television last night by ANC deputy president Mr Nelson Mandela that the ANC was already "in a sort of alliance" with the government.

The source acknowledged that there was a level of co-operation with the ANC but pointed out that there was a similar relationship with other parties. He defined this co-operation as "an agreement on the ground-rules of the game".

This was seen as a positive development in a country where for too long there had been no such agreement between the main black and white parties.

"So, even though one has very serious problems with the policies of the ANC — or the AWB or CP — there is a certain level up to which one has co-operation. But it is certainly not as if the ANC is co-determining government policy."

The source admitted that the notion of co-operation between the government and the ANC was the kind of thing the white right would seek to exploit to its own advantage.

The CP has often accused the government of treating the ANC as an arm of government, but without having tested the will of the people.

● See page 2.

statement later today. The TOWU could not be reached for comment.

Four hacked to death

Argus 13/8/90 307

By DALE KNEEN
Crime Reporter

FOUR people were hacked to death with pangas in two separate incidents at the weekend.

In the first incident, three men allegedly attacked and killed two men and sexually assaulted a woman before hacking her to death with pangas.

The names of the dead have not yet been established but it is believed they are residents of a squatter area called Creamix, near Brackenfell.

Police said a man and a women who were walking along a path through a bushy area were the first victims.

The three attackers allegedly robbed the men and sexually assaulted the woman before hacking them to death with pangas at 7pm on Saturday.

Later the three attackers argued with a man at a discotheque in the area and then allegedly hacked him to death.

The bodies of the first three victims were discovered by passers-by yesterday.

Police were called and two men arrested. Detectives were still searching for the third suspect.

ON THE MARCH . . . Sporting ANC banners, Hout Bay squatter leader Mr Dick Meter, right, and other Hout Bay Action Committee members and squatters march to the local police station. A memorandum calling on State President Mr F W de Klerk to intervene in the squatter issue was handed over. Picture: BENNY GOOL

13/8/90

Squatters' Tensions rise as govt 'fails'

Staff Reporter

THE failure of government to remove newcomers to the squatter settlements in Hout Bay as promised had created a charged situation, according to the chairman of the Property Rights Association, Mr Tony Snelgar.

"There is a danger that if the law is not enforced, people outside our Association will take the law into their own hands," he warned.

Mr Snelgar refused to say if residents were arming themselves in the once peaceful valley but claimed that the crime rate had soared.

"There is no such thing as freedom without law, order and discipline. If the laws of the land are not enforced, instead of leading to freedom it will lead to anarchy."

His comments follow an agreement last Friday by members of the Property Rights Association to suspend their rates until the squatter problem in the valley is solved.

The chairman of the Hout Bay Squatters Co-ordinating Committee, Mr Charlamagne Mguga, has called the rates revolt "provocative".

"We reject the unlawful attempt by the Property Rights Association to remove us from Hout Bay by engaging in a rates boycott," he said, adding that the Association's decision not to employ new squatters in Hout Bay would only lead to an increase of crime in the area.

There are now approximately 1 500 squatters in Hout Bay, as opposed to 450 squatters last year.

The Property Rights Association claims to represent 4 500 residents, including 115 paid-up members of "colour" who remain in the background for fear of reprisal.

The Association claims that the government broke promises to:

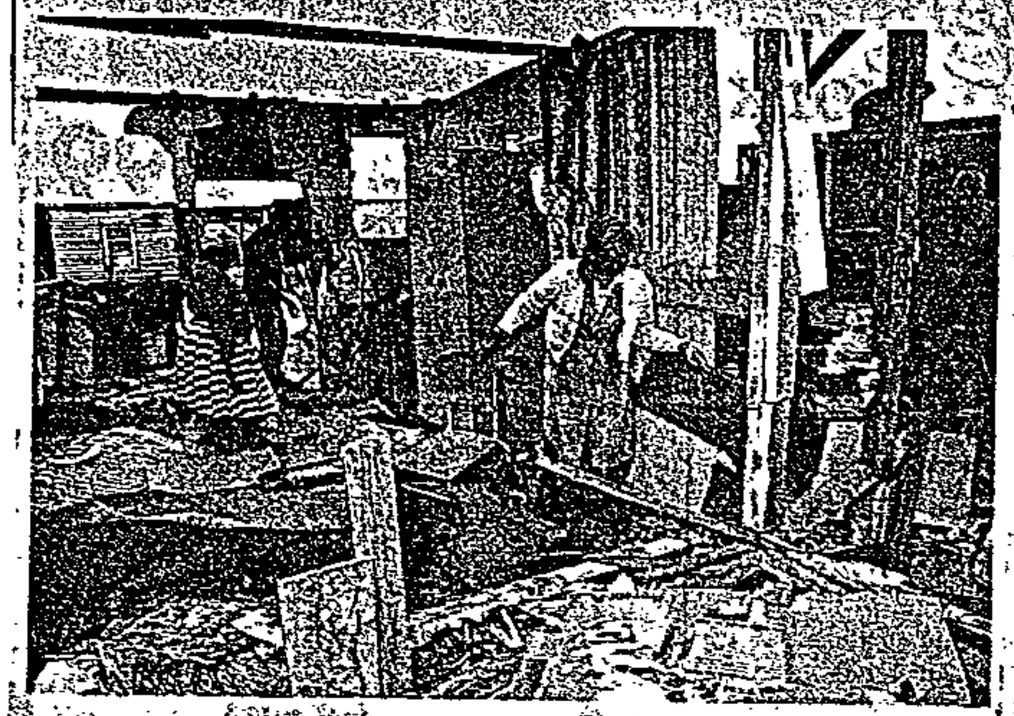
- Appoint eight officials to patrol the area and remove newcomers;
- Provide transport for new squatters evicted from Hout Bay; and
- Demolish unnumbered shacks.

A government proposal to create a transit camp in Hout Bay for all the squatters until adequate housing was provided would be considered, according to the Legal Resources Centre representing the squatters.

TOYI GUN . . . Hout Bay squatter supporters, one carrying a toy rifle, do a toyi-toyi dance during Saturday's march. Picture: BENNY GOOL

Argus 14/8/90 307

Khayelitsha squatters moved east to serviced sites



Pictures: DION TROMP, The Argus.

BREAKING DOWN: Green Point residents in Khayelitsha worked in pouring rain to break down their shanties to move to a new, serviced area near Monwabisi Beach. Here, Mr Moses Hulashe and helpers are pulling down his shack.

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

RESIDENTS of Green Point, one of Khayelitsha's most dilapidated and violent squatter camps, are being resettled in a new area with basic facilities, but the move has met with mixed reactions from the squatters.

The Lingelethu Town Council is moving residents of the squalid camp to an area with high mast lighting, tarred streets and flush toilets north of Monwabisi beach.

They are being transported with their building materials in council vehicles.

According to a Lingelethu Town Council spokesman, about 3 199 families will be moved to the new area.

The "trek" to the new area started on Wednesday after town council officils served notices on residents.

Working frantically to put down their shacks as in pouring rain last week, some residents were fuming over the move, saying they had expected to be provided with "proper houses".

They said the place was far from anywhere and the authorities were "throwing them towards the sea" without any consideration for the availability of transport.

The new area is about a kilometre from the only public transport, Khayelitsha railway station, and about 2km from the nearest school in Khayelitsha.

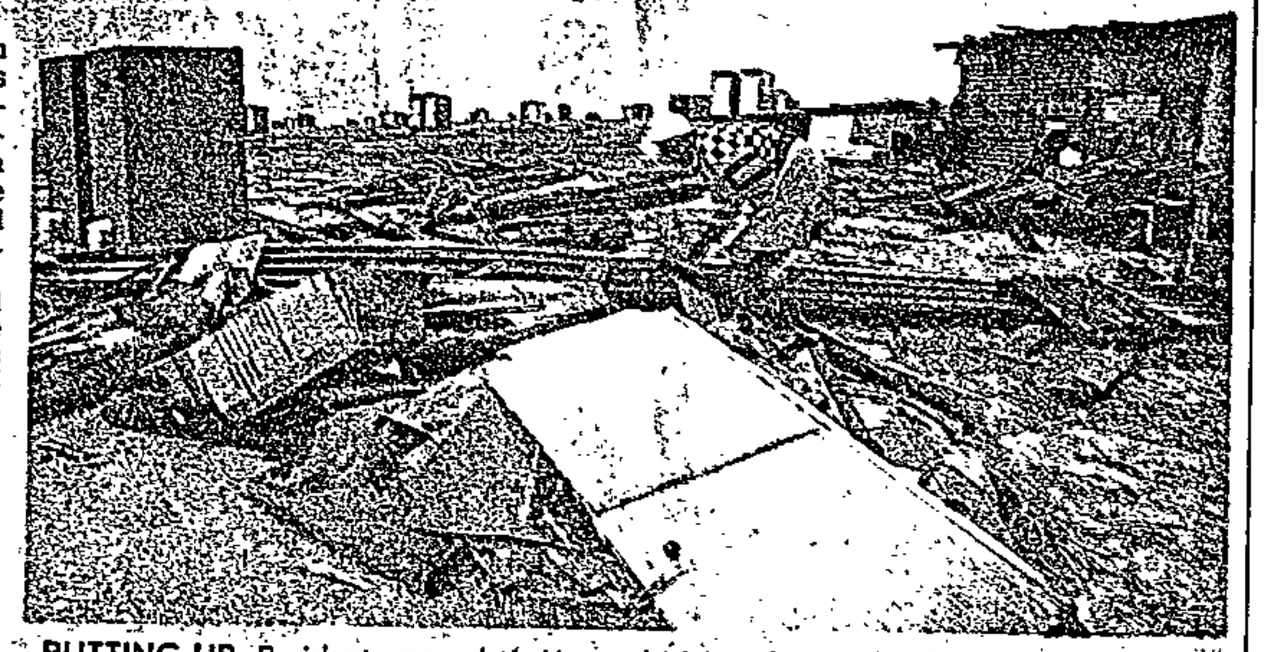
Move voluntarily

They also complained that their pleas to the Lingelethu Town Council to halt the resettlement until the rain was over had been ignored.

But the Lingelethu Town council maintains the move is not a "forced removal" and residents are being moved voluntarily.

Most of the squatters are refugees of the Crossroads "witdoek" upheavals of 1985-86.

One such person, Mr Jack Bles, was one of about six residents interviewed who was opposed to the resettlement.



PUTTING UP: Residents moved to Monwabisi Beach area begin the task of rebuilding their homes, but at least the area is serviced and there are communal toilets.

Mixed reactions from those who have packed up

He said: "I don't know how many times have I had to rebuilt my shack since I arrived in Cape Town in 1981. I thought this was my last destination. But it's moving, moving all the time ... this time to the sea. They should have upgraded this place."

Other residents were happy about their "new homes," however.

Mr Moses Hulashe, a painter who had been staying in Green Point since 1986 from Site C, said the move "showed things were promising".

Flushing toilets

"We will obviously have transport problems but there are flushing toilets and stands in the new area are bigger."

His views were echoed by Mrs Elizabeth Kgethang, who said she was "tired" of staying in Green Point because of frequent floods in rainy weather. "Because of the bucket toilets we use here there was always a terrible smell. "I'm happy to leave this place," she said.

HELPING HAND: Yomelela Primary school pupils Mzuhleli Mbele and his younger sister Vuyokazi of Green Point help with pack items from their parents' shack.

Court action after farm shacks razed

THE Legal Resources Centre will apply for a spoliation order in an attempt to force a Piet Retief farmer to re-erect the 30 homes he bulldozed on Friday.

As far as the centre can ascertain, no court order was obtained prior to the demolition.

If the spoliation order is granted, the farmer will be liable to re-erect all the structures demolished by him and return the site to its prior condition. The estimated cost is R65 000.

The demolition of the 30 dwellings, which took place on Friday, left 62 people homeless.

Mr Ken Margo of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee said the farmer, Mr H A A Klingenberg, had been trying to evict Mr Mapagamisa Mavimbela (65) and his "household" of 62 for more than a year.

Mavimbela is a labour tenant and apparently had an agreement with the previous owner of the farm. - *Sapa.*

Warning to Hout Bay residents

CNA Tears 14/8/90 307

Staff Reporters

HOUT BAY residents who refuse to pay their rates until the squatter problem in their suburb is solved will be "cutting off their nose to spite their face", Mr Jimmy Otto, ministerial representative for the south-western Cape (Department of Local Government), said yesterday.

Services to Hout Bay would suffer, Mr Otto said in reaction to the non-payment resolution by about 350 residents at a Hout Bay Property Rights Association meeting on Friday.

"They (Property Rights Association members) have been complaining about the squatters' ability to maintain standards," Mr Otto said. "To me it (this latest statement) seems a little bit silly."

He had been surprised to hear of the strong reaction from the association, especially as there had been no indication of this at a meeting he had held earlier on Friday.

"It's a pity that we get an outburst like this," he said. "It amazes me."

No decision had yet been taken on the allocation of land to squatters in Hout Bay, he said. The issue had been discussed, as he was "playing open cards with the groups in Hout Bay", informing them of everything before decisions were taken.

He said much progress had been made already in Hout Bay, where "fairly good control over numbers (of squatters)" had been established.

About 13 or 15 new shacks had gone up, but this compared well with Kraaifontein, where numbers had doubled or trebled in the same period.

"There has been a strong reaction from some of the white residents in Hout Bay," he said. "Many of them are complaining about the fact that we want to place squatters in Hout Bay at all."

Mr Hernus Kriel, the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, had said squatters should be accommodated acceptably within the community, and this had been put to all groups' leaders, who would then inform their communities.

The authorities would not interfere in the pending court action initiated by private owners, he said.

He hoped an agreement that would satisfy most of the people could yet be reached.

Mr Clive Derby-Lewis, Conservative Party President's Councillor, said yesterday that Hout Bay's squatters were "nothing but land thieves" and the Conservative Party would support local property owners' efforts to have them removed.

He will address a public meeting on the squatter issue at the Hout Bay Hotel tomorrow night.

● Referendum for Hout Bay — Page 8

Hout Bay squatter crisis at key stage

MRC 45 15/8/90 307

By ESANN van RENSBURG
Staff Reporter

CRUCIAL developments in Hout Bay's controversial squatter problem are likely to bring matters to a head as residents continue their rates boycott and an eviction deadline is reached.

Tomorrowis the deadline for Princess Bush squatters to respond to a provisional eviction order.

"No one knows where the squatters will go if the court decides that the eviction order should be made final," said a spokesman for the Legal Resource Centre.

Local services

Said Mr Dick Meter of the Hout Bay Action Committee: "Because of the legal developments I will be very surprised if the squatters are evicted."

The Conservative Party in Hout Bay supported the property owners' attempts to have the squatters removed and was to hold a meeting tonight.

About 350 residents and members of the Hout Bay Property Rights Association have refused to pay rates until the problem is resolved. The Provincial Administration has said in response that services would deteriorate.

A referendum tomorrowwill test public opinion on a proposal that the village become a nonracial municipality.

The Princess Bush squatters are occupying land that the three owners intend developing.

"We've wanted to so for a long time, but were always told that the area was sensitive," said co-owner Mr Andries Beyers.

Plans for 94 townhouses, a conference centre and a private beach were to be presented no later than today to the Regional Services Council.

Meanwhile, efforts to find a solution acceptable to all parties will continue. Representatives of sectors of the community had agreed on a "fairly common approach" to the housing problems after "a very positive meeting", according to the area's Democratic Party MP, Mr Colin Eglin.

He welcomed the government's approach to the problem, noting an undertaking to reach general agreement with the co-operation of the whole community, ranging from the squatters to the landowners.

The meeting, last Friday, was the fourth in a series attended by all representative bodies.

"I was a bit apprehensive beforehand but it really went well and one could describe the outcome as a major exercise in public and human relations," Mr Eglin said.

The squatter problem had served to show up the general land and housing problem in Hout Bay, he said. Community representatives had agreed to go back to their constituencies to discuss proposals arising from the meeting.

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

REFUGEES: Crossroads residents outside Noxolo Primary School, where they have taken refuge after the burning of their homes.

Squatters take refuge at school as shacks torched

307 (900)

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

ARGUS 16/8/90

MORE than 40 Crossroads families have taken refuge at a school after their shacks were torched. Moves to bring peace to the shanty town have failed.

Many residents have lost hope as violence continues between supporters of the township's controversial mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, and breakaway headman, Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

The victims, most of whom have lost all their possessions, are supporters of Mr Ngxobongwana in Section One.

They have taken refuge at Noxolo Primary School, which has been deserted since fighting between pupils supporting one or other of the warring factions broke out there two weeks ago.

The school's 35 classrooms are each occupied by up to three families.

The refugees said at the school yesterday that no-one was hurt in the fires, which raged for "a day and a night" early this week.

They alleged special constables and supporters of Mr Nongwe were responsible for the attacks. They said the trouble started when a special constable shot at a youth.

The youth, identified as 17-year-old Qolisile Jonas, was admitted to Groote Schuur Hospital where he was treated and discharged yesterday, a hospital spokesman said.

Miss Noluthando Fakela, who shared a two-roomed shack with her younger sister, said they were lucky to escape when their shack was razed about 2am. They were left with only the clothes they were wearing.

Miss Fakela's parents were killed when their shack was attacked and set alight last December.

She said: "Sound sleep is impossible here, so we were not really asleep at the time of this week's attack.

"We heard footsteps outside and when my sister looked through the window she saw two men wearing balaclavas and carrying long guns. One was moving around our house as if pouring something.

"Minutes later there were huge flames all around the place. Because we sleep with our clothes on we managed to dash out through the flames and our house was razed."

Squatters plan to steal Hout Bay land — CP

Argus 16/8/90 (307)

Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS have a planned strategy to steal land from legitimate landowners in Hout Bay, says Mr Clive Derby-Lewis, CP member in the President's Council.

He was speaking last night to about 60 people who turned up for a Conservative Party meeting to discuss the area's squatter problems before today's referendum in the town.

The referendum will enable residents to choose whether to establish an own town council or stay with the regional services council.

Mr Derby-Lewis said: "In the Wild West a man who stole land would have been hanged from the nearest tree. The problem in South Africa is that the laws governing this sort of thing are not being applied.

IMPI ON DOORSTEP

"The DP liberals in control in Hout Bay have suddenly been shocked by an impi camping on their doorstep.

"Squatting has become a rash, a bad disease, in the Western Cape."

South Africa was fast reaching the point where President De Klerk would have to be impeached because he was not upholding the laws he had sworn to uphold.

He attacked the concept of a non-racial municipal council with no wards, as proposed by the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association and the Local Government Steering Committee.

Committee chairman Mr John Grierson was allowed to address the meeting. He denied that squatters living in a proposed transit camp in the area would have the right to vote in municipal elections as alleged.

C/L Times 16/8/90

Crossroads homes burn

307

Staff Reporter

IN another fierce round of fighting, seven more homes were torched in Old Crossroads last night, bringing to 14 the number of dwellings destroyed over the past two days.

Firemen went to the scene under police guard "but left as soon as they could", as an armed group some 200-strong was seen massing in the area, a spokesman for the fire brigade said.

The seven shacks in Section One of Old Crossroads were gutted, destroying all their owners' possessions.

Several residents, their possessions piled high on trucks and vans, were also seen leaving the area yesterday.

... to Swedish law.

Murder bid probe

EAST LONDON — Police confirmed yesterday that they were investigating a case of attempted murder after a news agency journalist, Miss Louise Flanagan, and an African National Congress activist, Mr Jerald Hawkes, were shot at in the city centre here on Wednesday afternoon.

Squatters in protest

BLOEMKOMBOS squatters yesterday marched 4km to the Kraaifontein police station to hand over a petition demanding that police stop "harassing squatters".

Reports by Staff Reporter, Own Correspondent, Sapa-Reuter-AP and UPI.

Crossroads peacemaker to try again

CM: Times 17/8/90

307

Staff Reporter

CROSSROADS peacemaker Mr Johnson Mpukumpa is set to resume his role as mediator in the faction war after a renewed flare-up of violence that has left some 17 shacks razed and a youth badly hurt.

In a tense atmosphere yesterday, special police constables armed with shotguns patrolled the smoking ruins in Section One of the squalid squatter settlement.

A resident, Mr Velile Maliwa, said groups of more than 200 had attacked each other at the boundary of areas of Old Crossroads controlled by rival leaders, Mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and breakaway headman Mr Jeffry Nongwe.

He said the trouble started when a "comrade", identified as Lulamile Mrubata, 17, was shot and wounded in the neck on Wednesday evening while walking to a shop through Mr Ngxobongwana's territory. Retaliatory attacks had degenerated into an all-out war.

Mr Mpukumpa said he would meet residents and community leaders in Nyanga later today to decide how to resolve the conflict. He would then approach Mr Ngxobongwana and Mr Nongwe with a view to calling a truce.

Local UDF to review land policy

THE Western Cape branch of the UDF and local civic organisations are to "re-evaluate the land occupation programme" at a weekend workshop following Thursday's historic squatting pact between the government and the UDF.

UDF publicity secretary Mr Willie Hofmeyr said yesterday that the Western Cape UDF hailed the government's decision to stop demolitions of squatter shacks without prior consultations as "a great victory".

Mr Hernus Kriel, Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, said in Pretoria after a meeting on Thursday with UDF co-president Mrs Albertina Sisulu and others that [illegible]or shacks would not be demolisa[illegible]nd the forced removal of communities would not take place without prior consultation with the communities concerned.

Mr Hofmeyr said yesterday that even before Thursdays' meeting the land occupation campaign had been suspended in respect of District Six.

ANC LAUNCH . . . Children entertain the crowd yesterday at the launch of the Western Cape ANC branch.

Picture: BRONWYN DAVIDS

ANC launches branch in Old Crossroads

Staff Reporter

THE ANC yesterday launched its biggest Western Cape branch — with a membership of over 3 500 — amid the squalor of the Old Crossroads squatter camp.

The festive launch outside squatter leader, Mr Jeffrey Nongwe's, shack was attended by about 5 000 people who were treated to a feast of traditional "struggle" songs, dance and poetry.

The crowd cheered wildly when speakers demanded that the controversial mayor of Old Crossroads, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, step down and "move out of the way of freedom".

Mr Gladstone Ntamo of the Western Cape United Squatters' Association urged the youth of Old Crossroads to join Umkhonto we Sizwe because there was "no defence force and police in SA".

"If there were a proper defence force and police, there would be no violence taking place in Natal, Johannesburg and elsewhere," said Mr Ntamo.

Mr Ntamo also appealed to traditional leaders to reject the Transkei Association of Traditional Leaders and urged them to support the ANC-affiliated Congress of Traditional Leaders of SA.

The meeting was chaired by squatter leader Mr Christopher Toise.

Squatters win landmark judgment

Cape Times 21/8/90 307

By RONNIE MORRIS
Supreme Court Reporter

IN A landmark judgment yesterday, Mr Justice J H Conradie dismissed with costs an application brought by the Kayamandi Town Committee, Stellenbosch, for the ejectment of squatters from council land.

Instead a counter-application by the squatters for a review of the committee's decision to bring about a court action on the grounds that all relevent factors had not been taken into consideration, succeeded.

Mr Justice Conradie said the town committee had the authority in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act to expropriate land to establish transit areas when dealing with homeless persons.

Moving the squatters from their present sites would have social implications and if they were driven from one place they would merely go to another.

It would consequently involve an invasion of the living space of other persons and would affect the community as a whole.

"It is no answer to say that they had come from elsewhere and that they should go back to where they came from," the judge said.

The town committee said in papers that the squatters' ejectment was also necessary because their occupation of the land retarded development and was resented by people who had been on a housing waiting list since 1977.

The town committee did not dispute that no thought was given to the housing shortage prior to its decision to take legal action.

In terms of an interim order granted on May 15, five squatters cited as respondents were ordered to show cause why an order should not be granted in terms of which any person who unlawfully occupied the premises should not be ordered to leave and prohibited from returning.

Mr Justice Conradie said there was no reason to believe that the interim interdict had not come to the notice of other people.

The order which invited people to oppose the application was obviously flawed and permission was refused for the town committee to reissue the interim interdict.

● Mr Patrick Swartz, chairman of the Stellenbosch Civic Association, said the problem in Kayamandi was one of housing because no new houses had been built since 1942.

The community had tried to persuade the authorities to provide more housing but its appeals had fallen on deaf ears, Mr Swartz said.

Even though the squatters had won the court action, they were still prepared to move if they were given alternative sites and if low-cost housing were built.

Irreparable harm would have been caused if the squatters, some of whom had lived in single-sex hostels, had been moved from Kayamandi after their families joined them, he said.

Mr Swartz called on the Kayamandi Town Committee to resign if it was incompetent or unable to administer the township.

Mr Krige, instructed by Mr B Wagley of E Moosa and Associates, appeared for the squatters. Mr Charles Louw, instructed by Bornman and Hayward, appeared for the town committee.

Cape Times 21/8/90 307

Cap

30 years under the prison wall

Staff Reporter

ONE of the longest-established squatter communities in the Peninsula is the scarcely noticeable settlement among tall bushes on the far side of Pollsmoor Prison.

Some of the squatters there told the Cape Times yesterday that they had lived in the same place for more than 30 years.

Mr Elvis Petterson, 32, said he had been born in the squatter camp and "hardly knew what a real room looked like". His parents, Mr William Brinkhuis and Mrs Jeanette Petterson, are still living there.

The state land on which he lives is at the end of the Blue Route on the Pollsmoor Prison side of the road.

Mr Petterson said he remembered that there used to be nine shacks in that area 12 or 13 years ago.

Gradually more people had moved in, many of them arriving after being forced off nearby land where houses were being built.

Now there were about 30 shacks, inhabited by a total of perhaps as many as 150 people "if you count all the children", he said.

Many of the squatters work as caddies on the neighbouring Westlake golf course, where they are able to earn up to R20 on a good day.

Nobody charges them rent. They have organised their own refuse dump and water is available from a tap near the edge of the prison property.

Remnants of concrete-floored bungalows, apparently inhabited by soldiers in a bygone age, are scattered through the bushy area.

The squatters live there in peace, as their presence is accepted by the authorities. Almost all were keen to reveal for how many years they had been on the council's housing waiting list.

A soup kitchen run by the House of Representatives visits every Thursday and sometimes charities provide the squatters with second-hand clothes, they said. One of the shacks has a TV set run off a car battery, but most of the squatters live in abject poverty.

Older residents can remember a time when shacks used to be demolished, some years ago. Mr Petterson said his shack was once burned down by white people who were subsequently caught and punished.

Mr Daglin Davids, who has lived there eight years, said he lived on the occasional guinea fowl and moles that he caught, waterblommeties plucked nearby and sheep's heads which he bought.

OLD TIMERS ... Ms Jeanette Petterson and Mr William Brinkhuis, who have lived in the squatter area for decades. Picture: BENNY GOOL

Further reprieve for Hout Bay squatters

CAPT Times 21/8/90

307

By RONNIE MORRIS
Supreme Court Reporter

HOUT BAY squatters at the Princess Bush community yesterday won a further reprieve from being ejected from the land when an interim Supreme Court interdict against them was extended to September 19.

Mr Acting Justice W A van Deventer also ordered that opposing affidavits be filed before September 7 and replying affidavits before September 14.

Costs are to stand over.

The squatters are opposing the ejectment application brought by property owners Mr Andries Wessels Beyers, Mr Willem Pretorius and Mr Jan Schuurmans-Stekhoven.

They blamed the squatters for tresspassing, causing extensive pollution in the area, theft and threating personal safety.

The land the squatters were occupying was worth about R3 million and is situated in the heart of the Hout Bay residential area, extended from Princess Street down to the sea, they said.

The majority of the squatters were hostile to the owners who had been deprived of possession of their land, Mr Beyers claimed.

The squatters opposed the granting of a final order and also attacked the question of urgency. Negotiations were under way with the authorities for them to be housed on an alternative site.

Delivering judgment, Mr Acting Justice Van Deventer said: "The Roman-Dutch concept of ownership and its incidental rights is not only fundamental to our legal system but also to our socio-economic structure.

"Absolute protection of our proprietary rights is one of the very pillars of an orderly society. The courts will therefore unhesitantly enforce possessory and proprietary rights in the public interest.

"Misappropriation or unlawful appropriators who act outside the law invokes retaliation.

"It is therefore in the public interest, and our courts will always strive to ensure that possessory or other proprietary rights be restored to an unlawfully dispossessed applicant as expeditiously as possible," Mr Acting Justice Van Deventer said.

About 20 copies of the court order are to be made available to Mr Charlamagne Mguga, chairperson of the Princess Bush Committee. A copy is to be fixed at a central place and the order will also be read by loudhailer from a central point.

Mr David Knight SC, assisted by Mr John Whitehead, instructed by the Legal Resources Centre, appeared for some of the squatters. Mr Charles Louw, instructed by Mr Adrie Brandt of De Klerk and Van Gend, appeared for the owners.

Families on Disa River farm settlement given eviction notice

307

AM63
2/18/80

By ESANN van RENSBURG
Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS living on the Disa River farm settlement in Hout Bay have been given an eviction notice by the landowners, Orpington Investments — a Trust Bank subsidiary — and could soon be removed from the land.

This follows a Supreme Court eviction notice issued earlier this year in terms of which a 74-year-old man and his family who had lived on the land for more than 30 years were ordered to move.

The court ruled that although the Anthony family claimed to have lived on Erf 3438 for 30 years, it gave them no right to occupy the property.

In February Mr Justice Conradie ordered the squatter family to pay the costs of the application against them and said he had considered at one stage ordering defence counsel to pay the costs if they continued with "reckless and irresponsible" litigation.

But Mr Fraser Anthony refused to move from his shack and said that he and his 70-strong family would remain there.

"We settled here because there is no group area catering for blacks who work in Hout Bay. We are not going to move because we have nowhere else to go," he said at the time.

MONTHS OF SILENCE

Miss Vanessa Matthews, a spokesman for the Disa River squatters, said the warrant of ejectment for people to vacate the property had come after months of silence.

"We are sure this latest action comes as a result of the Hout Bay Property Rights Association's pressure on landowners to order the eviction of squatters from private land," said Miss Matthews.

At this stage there was no clear indication of when the squatters would be evicted, Miss Matthews said.

'Council must find land for squatters'

BR6G 21/8/90 (307)

By GILL TURNBULL, Supreme Court Reporter

IN a landmark decision, a Cape Town Supreme Court judge has ruled that a Stellenbosch black town council must establish a transit camp for squatters before evicting them from land destined for council housing.

Mr Justice J H Conradie handed down judgment yesterday in the dispute between the Kayamandi Town Council and two squatters named as occupying land intended for council housing.

An urgent application for the eviction of the two squatters and about 150 others who had moved on to the land was brought before the Supreme Court on May 15.

Court jurisdiction

Mr Justice Conradie said that because the squatters could not be identified — because there were too many of them and they moved around — the council was asking for a decree, not an order, and this was outside the jurisdiction of a court.

Mr Justice Conradie said it was not disputed that no thought had been given to a transit camp, although the applicants had considered the acute housing shortage.

"What is to become of the squatters? . . . If they are driven from one place they would merely go to another, invading the living space of others and affecting the community as a whole.

"It is no solution to say they should go back from whence they came."

In dismissing the application with costs, Mr Justice Conradie said: "I cannot say that the respondents are not to be ejected but what I do say is that the applicant must consider what is to become of them."

Mr L J Krige, instructed by Mr B Waglay of E Moosa and Associates, appeared for the squatters. The council was represented by Mr C Louw, instructed by Bornman and Hayward.

Star 21/8/90 (307)

Landmark decision on squatter evictions

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Cape Town Supreme Court has ruled that a Stellenbosch black town council must establish a transit camp for squatters before evicting them from land destined for council housing.

Mr Justice J H Conradie handed down judgment yesterday in the dispute between the Kayamandi Town Council and two squatters named as occupying the land.

An urgent application for the eviction of the two respondents and about 150 others who had moved onto the land was brought before the court on May 15.

Mr Justice Conradie said that because the respondents could not be identified — as there were too many of them, and they moved around — the applicants were asking for a decree, not an order, and this was outside the jurisdiction of a court.

"The Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act imposes duties upon a local authority, and while it does not specifically mention what these entail, it is clear that alternative land is to be considered."

Driven

Mr Justice Conradie said it was not disputed that no thought had been given to a transit camp, although it was stated that the applicants had taken the acute housing shortage into consideration.

"What is to become of the squatters? Moving them from their present site would have social implications, and if they are driven from one place they would merely go to another, invading the living space of others and affecting the community as a whole.

"It is no solution to say they should go back where they came from."

In dismissing the application, Mr Justice Conradie added: "I cannot say that the respondents are not to be evicted, but what I do say is that the applicant must consider their fate."

L J Krige, instructed by B Waglay of E Moosa and Associates, appeared for the group of squatters. The council was represented by C Louw, instructed by Bornman and Hayward.

Land to be found for Hout Bay's squatters

By ESANN van RENSBURG
Staff Reporter

HOUT BAY is a step closer to finding a solution to its squatter problem after a successful meeting — the fifth in a series — between all groups.

A five-hour meeting yesterday between representatives from the CPA, the Hout Bay Squatter Committee, the Ratepayers Association and the Property Rights Association resulted in agreement on several issues.

The meeting resolved that there had to be a rational and systematic way of dealing with overcrowding in the harbour area and with the need to resettle those people who were squatting illegally in such a manner that would give them legal security of tenure.

The meeting agreed that:

● A body known as the Hout Bay Development Trust would be established through which representatives of the community, government departments and people and organisations who could make a financial and planning contribution could co-operate to carry out this project.

● A team of professional town planning consultants would be appointed to draw up a strategic and structural plan which would address the immediate and long-term development needs of Hout Bay.

● Mr Colin Appleton, a development consultant, would be invited to accept the appointment as project co-ordinator. He would have a mandate to attend to the setting up of the Hout Bay Development Trust and the appointment of the town planning consultants in consultation with the community and government departments.

Handling of the situation in the short-term is still under consideration and will be discussed at a meeting within the next two weeks.

Meanwhile groups have said they intend to meet to resolve differences.

Identification

The final identification of land will be handled by the town planners. A possibility of aquiring either private or State-owned land existed, said Mr Koos Theron, member of the provincial executive committee.

The size of such land would probably have to be between 10 and 15 hectares, he said.

But the threat of eviction hanging over the heads of the Princess Bush and Disa River farm squatters still existed, Mr Theron said.

Mr Colin Eglin MP said it was essential that a developement trust had to handle the resources and funds needed to solve the housing needs in the area.

TEARGAS . . . Old Crossroads leader Mr Benedict Matho with a teargas canister allegedly fired at residents.

PAC claim 'brutal attacks' by ANC

CAPE TIMES 23/8/90 307

By CHRIS BATEMAN

THE Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) yesterday rounded on the ANC for "brutal attacks" on their supporters in Old Crossroads and vowed to "defend" their squatter members in future.

At their first press conference, held in the Noxolo School hall in Old Crossroads and attended by at least two members of mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana's town committee, the PAC paraded a string of "refugees".

The school was shut down last week to house some 200 refugee squatter families mainly loyal to Mr Ngxobongwana whose homes were torched in attacks which ended late on Friday last week.

Minutes before yesterday's conference was due to begin, a youth was reportedly assaulted by supporters of breakaway headman and ANC member Mr Jeffrey Nongwe near the school hall, prompting a sudden and violent response.

Five youths and a man sprinted across an open field towards the scene of the reported incident armed with sharpened steel spikes, sticks and a shotgun.

The shotgun was fired once and the youths returned. No injuries were apparent. Two police Casspirs appeared and drove off towards the scene.

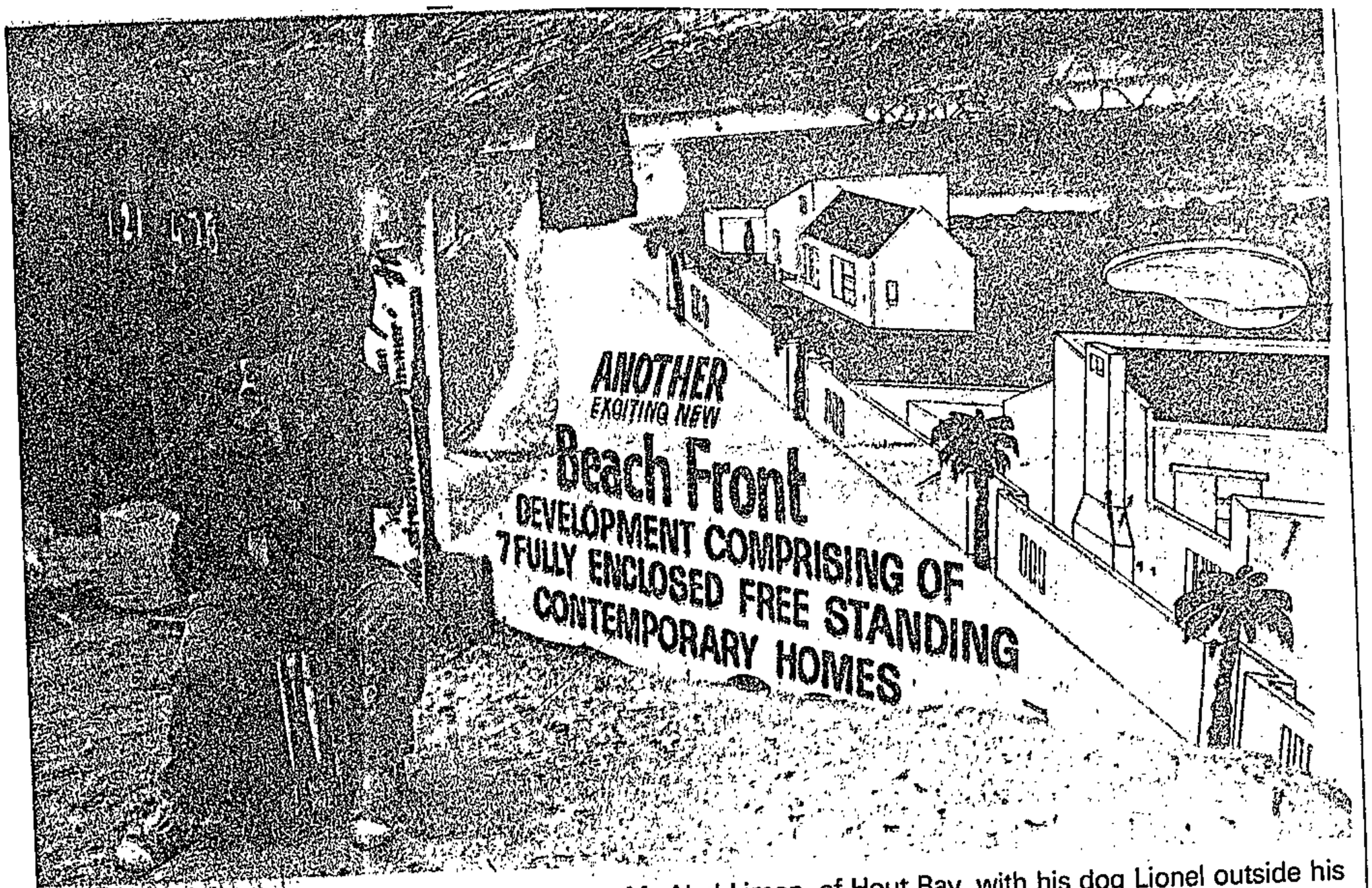
PAC executive member Ms Patricia de Lille told journalists and residents that the PAC was "as much against community councillors as the ANC is".

However, tensions between the two rival organisations had been building for the past three months in Khayelitsha and Old Crossroads. Efforts to get the ANC to discipline its members via a joint monitoring committee had "failed". Ms De Lille said the PAC had 2 000 paid-up and partly paid-up members in Old Crossroads.

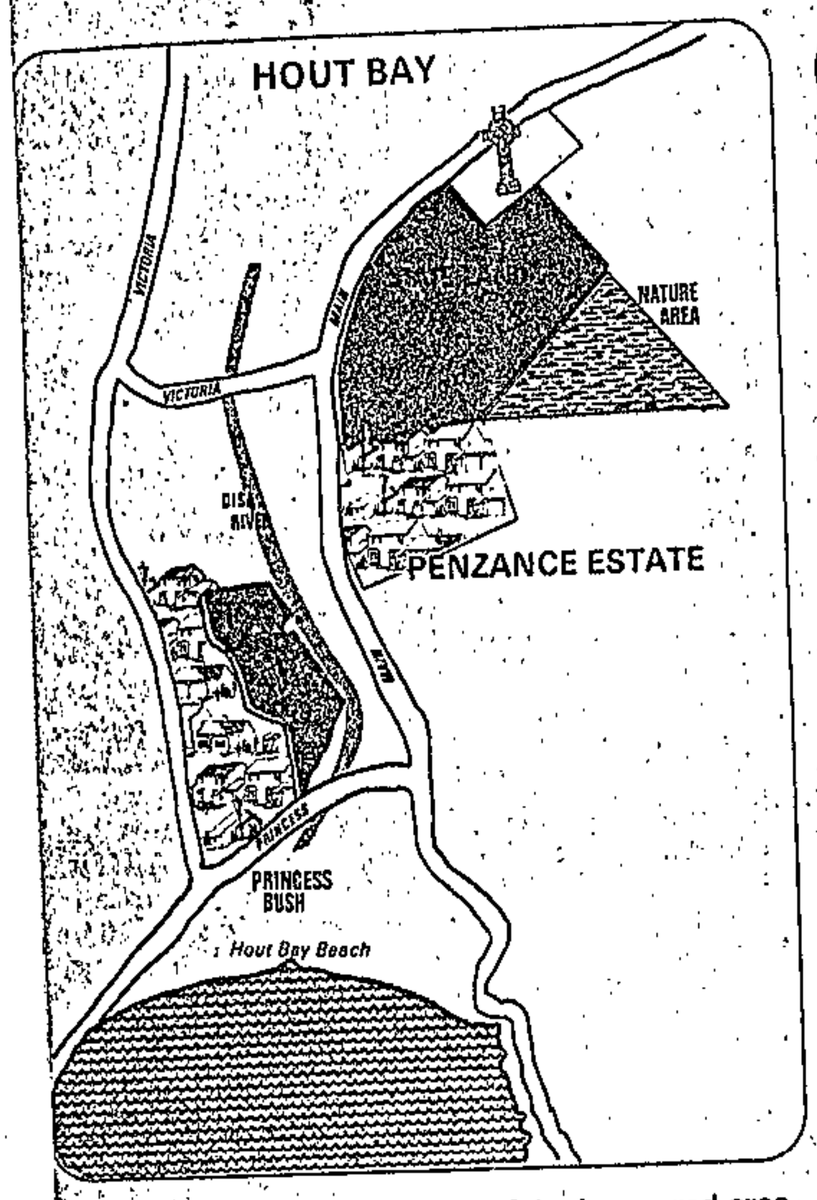
Yesterday's meeting follows an ANC launch in Old Crossroads on Sunday at which it claimed a paid-up membership of 4 115 squatters.

● ANC regional interim committee member Mr Christmas Tinto denied that the ANC was responsible for attacks, appealing to the PAC to "talk to us before going to the press".

● Old Crossroads politics are delicately poised with both Mr Ngxobongwana and Mr Nongwe agreeing to disolve their committees and submit to an interim ruling committee consisting of UDF-linked organisations.



UP WITH JONESES . . . Princess Bush squatter Mr Abel Liman, of Hout Bay, with his dog Lionel outside his imaginatively walled beachfront shack. He is not sure where the board used as a wall comes from. Picture: RICHARD BELL



SQUATTER LAND? . . . Part of the larger red area, between the cemetery and Penzance Estate, seems a likely area where squatters might be asked to resettle. It is owned by the Regional Services Council and is only partly developed. The other piece of state land is too small for a squatter settlement. Virtually all other land in Hout Bay is either privately owned or part of the nature reserve. Private land could be bought, but this option would be expensive.

Cape Times 23/8/90

Clues on Hout Bay squatter site

By PETER DENNEHY

ALL parties to the Hout Bay squatter dispute kept resolutely silent yesterday on the question of which land might be allocated to the squatters, but the Cape Times was able to identify a likely area.

The first clue was a small orange "x" fleetingly seen on a map of Hout Bay hanging on the wall of the library hall during a meeting of all parties concerned on Tuesday.

The map was hurriedly being rolled up when the press was allowed into the meeting after consensus had been reached on some issues.

A second clue was provided when Democratic Party MP for Hout Bay Mr Colin Eglin said during the press conference that "the state has said that there is land and that it will be made available".

Mr Koos Theron, a member of the Cape Provincial Administration's executive committee who chaired the meeting, did not contradict Mr Eglin, but he added that the possibility of buying land from private owners could not be ruled out.

Mr Theron also provided a third clue when he said that although planners would determine how much land was needed, "we are thinking of 10 to 15 hectares".

A map from the Regional Services Council (RSC) showed yesterday that the state, or its local arm the RSC, owns only two pieces of land in Hout Bay — apart from a sliver of land on the beachfront which would obviously be unsuitable.

One seems too small. The other, near the Victoria and Main Road intersections, is being used as a tree and shrub nursery, forestry station and road-maintenance camp.

Princess Bush resident Ms Mavis Dungelo said yesterday: "If we get land in Hout Bay, then we will be willing to move, but we must move with our houses, we don't want tents. We want a permanent place in Hout Bay."

Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association chairman Mr Peter Cooke confirmed that all the other pieces of state land (other than the nursery/forestry station land) were too small, but he did not wish to rule out buying private land.

Provincial Administration spokesman Mr Van Heerden Heunis declined to comment.

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Angry Crossroaders plea with the PAC: Defend u

AKGVS 23/8/90. (1184) (1248) (1307) (307)

By VUYO BAVUMA, Staff Reporter

ANGRY Old Crossroads residents claim the African National Congress is collaborating with squatter leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, who they allege burnt their houses and attacked them — but this has been denied by the ANC.

At a Pan Africanist Congress Press conference yesterday residents also accused the police of taking sides against them and said they wanted the PAC to defend them against these "senseless" attacks.

Resident Mr Benedict Matho alleged that police were involved in helping Mr Nongwe in the conflict.

Truce a failure

Another resident said the truce between the warring factions after peace talks initiated by the government in July was a failure because it had never been conveyed to the people.

He said he fetched his son from school every day to protect him against attacks by supporters of Mr Nongwe.

Teachers from three schools said they were worried as their pupils could not get to school because of the violence.

Mrs Patricia de Lille

"Amid this violence our main priority remains that of providing education.

"We have decided to accept children from the other areas because we know that the children cannot reach other schools," said a teacher at Mkhangeli Higher Primary.

Another teacher said pupils were being chased away from school by Mr Nongwe's supporters.

Mrs Patricia de Lille, spokesman for the PAC in the Western Cape, said the organisation intended to defend its members from attacks.

"It will be tragic if the Western Cape is now to suffer the fate of the horrifying violence of the Transvaal.

"It's our view that where ANC supporters failed to persuade people to join them they resort to extreme intimidation and violence against those who make a democratic choice," Mrs De Lille said.

The ANC has denied attacking or threatening PAC members in Crossroads and said it was not "even aware the organisation existed in the area".

● A father saved his son from being kidnapped by knifemen in Old Crossroads.

The son was attacked about midday yesterday near Noxolo Primary — now home to 200 refugees whose houses were torched in the recent fighting.

Women residents at Noxolo quickly spread the word that the boy was being "dragged away."

A girl arrived at the school and told residents the attackers had threatened to assault and take her as well if she did not run away.

Within minutes the boy's father and reinforcements — mostly armed youths — assembled on the border of the territories.

Soon after the son was freed one of his captors

Urgent talks on Bay transit camp

Staff Reporter Mabs 24/8/90 (30-7)

THE Hout Bay Property Rights Association held an urgent meeting last night to discuss a proposed transit camp on prime land.

"We have gone on record on numerous occasions for a planned solution to the problem of overcrowding in the harbour area and for historical squatters in the valley," a statement from the association said after the meeting.

"We believe the proposed decision by the State for a transit camp in Hout Bay is hasty and needs to be tested in the community.

"It should also be linked to the future and long-term planning of Hout Bay."

The association said it had therefore called for a public meeting on Thursday, August 30, to review the matter.

The member of the provincial executive committee for the Cape, Mr Koos Theron, and Mr Colin Eglin, MP for Sea Point, would be invited to speak.

Old Crossroads leader lashes out at PAC

By CHRIS BATEMAN

A SENIOR member of the Old Crossroads mediation committee set up to try to resolve the internecine violence yesterday lashed out at the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) for "making cheap accusations" against the ANC.

Mr Gladstone Ntamo, spokesman for the Western Cape United Squatters' Association and member of the mediation committee, was reacting to PAC accusations on Wednesday that the ANC was sponsoring attacks on its members.

The PAC held an inaugural press conference in Old Crossroads attended by at least two members of mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana's official committee.

Mr Ntamo said that instead of making "hollow accusations", the PAC, a relative newcomer to the scene, should become involved in the mediating committee on which several ANC members served.

"They should know by now that the fighting is not between political organisations but about internal disputes over land, housing and funds," he said.

Breakaway headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, an ANC member, leads a powerful faction against Mr Ngxobongwana. Since the internal split 18 months ago, scores of people have died violently and hundreds of homes have been torched.

Mr Ntamo said the PAC was welcome to recruit members in Old Crossroads but they should not try to "oversimplify the issues in an attempt to gain support".

The ANC claims 4 115 paid-up members in Old Crossroads and the PAC 2 000 paid-up and partly paid-up members.

● The squatter camp's politics are delicately poised with both Mr Ngxobongwana's and Mr Nongwe's committees agreeing to step down to let an interim ruling committee take over. This committee would consist of UDF-linked organisations. The mediation committee is trying to achieve this goal.

Squatter row a 'blessing' for Hout Bay

Cape Times
24/8/90
30

Staff Reporter

THE Hout Bay squatter controversy is a "blessing in disguise" for city planners who are now using the opportunity to make long-term plans acceptable to the majority of residents for the region, informed sources said yesterday.

The emotive issue, which has seen the Hout Bay Property Owners' Association initiating a rates boycott, squatters marching to deliver petitions and racial tensions rising, had forced city planners into taking a "realistic long-term view", well-placed source said yesterday.

An umbrella body called the Hout Bay Development Trust and incorporating all interested parties was set up at a meeting in Hout Bay on Tuesday.

The meeting resolved to appoint a team of town planners to draw up a strategic and structural plan to address "both immediate solutions and the longerterm development needs of Hout Bay".

One source said the issue could result in Hout Bay becoming a model for future suburbs in a post-apartheid era once the Group Areas Act was scrapped.

Present planning was taking a "15 to 20 year" view and would take into account overcrowded fishermen's flats in the harbour, harbour redevelopment and the potential siting of new hotels.

Another source said state land outlined in the Cape Times yesterday was just one of "several options". This included swopping state land for private land on which squatters could be housed.

Among the organisations involved are all local resident associations, the Urban Planning Research Unit, the Jan Steyn development trust, the Legal Resources Centre, the CPA and central government.

AUGUST 28 1990

Crossroads violence continues

ARGUS 28/8/90

307

Staff Reporters

VIOLENCE continued in the strife-torn township of Old Crossroads last night when a shack was destroyed in a fire.

Firemen put out the blaze in the Boys Town section, preventing it from spreading to other shacks.

Yesterday a meeting called about the refugee crisis at Noxolo Primary School in Crossroads ended abruptly when a large crowd threw stones at the gathering, a teacher said.

The meeting had been called by concerned teachers from the neighbouring Sebenza Secondary and Imbasa Primary Schools to address the growing "refugee crisis" at the school.

A member of the teachers' delegation said the teachers from the schools were concerned there were no classes at Noxolo Primary School because the Department of Education and Training had failed to take "decisive action".

But a DET spokesman said the situation was out of its control because Noxolo school did not belong to the department but to the Old Crossroads community.

The teacher said it was planned to mediate between the two warring factions separately to resolve "at least the schooling part"

Court told of Crossroads shooting

By FEROZA MILLER
Staff Reporter

AN Old-Crossroads resident told the Wynberg Regional Court that she saw headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe fire shots from the driver's seat of a minibus while a large group of men wearing balaclavas threw petrol bombs at houses.

Mr Nongwe, 54, has been charged with four counts of arson and three of malicious damage to property.

It is alleged that he caused about R26 000 damage to houses put up by the Old Crossroads committee.

NEW HOUSE

Mr Nongwe has pleaded not guilty.

Mrs Priscilla Mazele said that on March 2 she moved into a new house in Old-Crossroads.

"I was awakened by the sound of a car engine. I looked out of the window and saw close to 100 men approaching on foot. The men were wearing balaclavas. One man was in the driver's seat of a silver-grey Volkswagen kombi — he was Mr Nongwe," Mrs Mazele said.

The hearing continues today.

Shacks destroyed in Crossroads battle

Argus 30/8/90

307

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

EIGHT more shacks have been torched and two teenagers are believed to have been wounded by birdshot in a "fierce battle" between two warring factions at Noxolo Primary School in Crossroads, residents said.

The school has been the scene of violent incidents since supporters of Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana took refuge there after the torching of their shacks in feuding two weeks ago.

Refugees at the school, growing daily, said the incident took place about 1pm yesterday when two special constables guarding them had left.

They said a few minutes later, before the arrival of replacecement guards, "a huge singing crowd" advanced from Section Four, which is rival leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe's stronghold.

There were mostly youngsters, women and children on the school premises at the time of the attack, they said.

"The crowd positioned themselves outside the gates and many stones rained down. There was a stampede to take cover in the classroom. But our youngsters could not take it any longer and they counter-attacked.

"It was terrible as children screamed and windows were shattered. The ordeal lasted for about five minutes," said Mrs Nowinile Blackie.

When The Argus arrived at the school two hours later two police vehicles were there.

A group of youths, apparently from Section Four, could be seen about 80m from the police vehicles.

Sources at the Crossroads Day Hospital said two youths had been treated for birdshot wounds.

Mr Nongwe's supporters have denied that they were responsible for the attacks.

Many parts of the normally congested shantytown have been laid bare since the burning of shacks began.

Piles of burnt-out corrugated iron are now a feature of most parts of Section One.

Mr Ngxobongwana's deserted property, the only core house in Old Crossroads, has also been attacked and partly burnt.

Mr Ngxobongwana is in Ciskei, a Crossroads Town Commitee member said yesterday.

Noordhoek squatters — meeting next week

Cape Times, 30/8/90

307

By KIM CLARKIN

A LONG-AWAITED meeting between representatives from squatter communities, residents and ratepayers of Noordhoek, Sun Valley and Kommetjie, the Cape Provincial Administration, the ministerial representative for local government and other interested parties will take place next week to discuss land for squatters.

According to Mr Koos Theron, MEC for Community Development and Land Use Co-ordination, a report, dated July 7 which identifies eight possible sites will be presented and it is hoped agreement can be reached on a location.

Land was promised to the squatter community in November last year. Local MP Jannie Momberg, the Surplus People's Project (SSP), the Noordhoek District and Civic Association (NDCA) and the squatters all agree that a solution to the problem must be hastened. Most agree, too, that no matter where the land is situated some group will be unhappy.

ALL THE FACTIONS WILL GET TOGETHER AT LAST

Property prices

The squatter camp in the Noordhoek wetlands is home to mor than 200 families — some of whom work locally while others have come to the area looking for work.

Residents fear property prices will fall and the ecology of the wetlands will suffer as the temporary settlers cope with life without drainage, piped water, sewerage or waste removal.

Ms Josette Cole, urban co-ordinator for the SPP, claimed the only concession the authorities had made was to deliver water by truck to the community a few times a week.

The NDCA claimed the number of shack settlements was increasing as a steady stream of people settled in the area. They said that since the squatters had come to roost petty crime had risen while recent violence had cost two people their lives.

Mr John Cannan, chairman of the NDCA, expressed how his members felt: "We don't want the squatters in Noordhoek. However, we are prepared to help work out a solution and do our part to help house them."

Redistribution

Sandy Dowling of the Catholic Welfare Bureau believed redistribution of wealth would have to become a reality in a changing South Africa but felt the limbo state was not easing relations between squatters and the rest of the community.

She said: "We can't implement plans for community services such as schools and clinics until some decision has been made."

A recent circular from the NDCA asking residents for financial support to start a 'Defence of Noordhoek' fund was seen by Josette Cole as an indication that the white community was beginning to mobilise against the squatters.

No major influx

She said: "It is not realistic to say there is no unemployment because there is a widespread need for jobs throughout the region, not only among the Noordhoek squatters."

On the subject of crime, she claimed the squatter communities were taking steps to identify where the problem was and solve it themselves — "they are also concerned about security".

Josette Cole said fears about a major influx was an exaggeration of the true picture.

"First, there aren't the jobs and, second, it's geographically too far from many amenities to attract huge numbers of people."

PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS . . . Squatter children pose in the midst of their settlement in Noordhoek, home to more than 200 families who live without sewerage or waste removal, piped water or drainage. Local ratepayers fear for property values and the ecology.

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New homes in Plumstead

CONSTRUCTION started last week on a townhouse development on the site of the old Harewood Nursing Home.

Many local residents were pleased to see the nursing home make way for the townhouses on the corner of Brampton and Tiverton roads, Plumstead, as the old building had become a "vagrants' delight".

The homes will sell for about R168 000.

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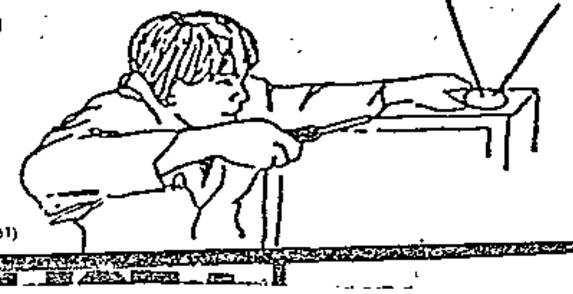

(CM1239061)

Health week in Constantia

TOUCH and herbal remedies are among the topics which the Wholistic Health Education Centre will explore during a health week at the Constantia Shopping Centre from Tuesday next week until Sunday.

Michael and Nancy Rault founded the centre 10 years ago and have travelled throughout the US and Canada, studying diet, nature cure and wholist health techniques.

Mr Rault said: "We believe the public is interested in learning new ways of being healthy and the health week is the next step in community education.

"For instance, few realise the comforting and nourishing properties of human touch and the dramatic effect it has on the human system.

"We have been teaching people to use non-sexual touch to help family and friends. Techniques such as therapeutic massage, reflexology and aromatherapy are less habit-forming than tranquillisers and have a much different effect.

"Another area of education we will be promoting at the health week is medicinal herbalism."

Every day from 10.30 to 11am various topics will be discussed at the WHEC table.

Evening lectures will be held in the shopping centre's foyer from Tuesday to Thursday at 7.15pm. These will last 45 minutes and are free.

The WHEC table will be manned from 10am to 2pm and from 4pm to 6pm every day as well as during evening lectures.

□Call (021) 794-1963/4.

Change 'will rub off on False Bay firms'

THE changes sweeping rapidly through the world and South Africa will drastically affect businesses along the False Bay coast.

This was said by Mr Christo Wiese, chairman of Pepkor, as guest speaker at the annual meeting of the False Bay Business & Professional Association.

He said Pepkor's choice to develop the Marine Hotel site was not an emotional one but based on careful research. Muizenberg had been chosen from 500 towns in South Africa because of its potential.

He said the planned R8 m shopping centre fitted in with Pepkor's medium and long term-plans.

Mr Gerald Musikanth was re-elected chairman and Mr Rob Hinsch was elected vice-chairman and secretary.

□The National Monuments Council has laid a charge with the attorney-general against Pepkor Property Holdings for demolishing the Victorian wing of the Marine Hotel.

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FIRE-BOMBED . . . Firemen douse the blaze at Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana's house which was firebombed yesterday. Picture: OBED ZILWA

Xroads mayor's home bombed

By MONICA GRAAFF
Crime Reporter

THE home of Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana was fire-bombed yesterday in a flare-up of tensions between warring factions in the squatter township.

The bombing followed two sniper attacks on groups of his supporters earlier in the day and on Wednesday.

Police confiscated 19 petrol bombs found at Noxolo Primary School in the area and arrested two men.

Mr Ngxobongwana's bungalow — the only brick house in Section One, Old Crossroads — was gutted. Almost every shack within a 200-metre radius of his house has been razed by fire.

Firemen, guarded by machine-gun toting riot police, doused the blaze at a scene marked by the absence of onlookers.

An ANC flag fluttered above a shack about 200 metres away belonging to a member of the rival side, led by breakaway headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

And at the Noxolo Primary School, half a kilometre from the fire, over a hundred families belonging to Mr Ngxobongwana's faction were seen clinging to high barbed wire fences surrounding the school. This has become their home since fighting flared about two weeks ago.

The residents, virtually imprisoned, looked out in anxious anticipation of another sniper attack.

They said a gunman had sent a volley of shotgun fire into the school grounds about 3am. This followed a similar attack on about 30 youths walking towards the school about 1.30am on Wednesday.

Police confirmed both incidents, adding that special constables guarding the school had returned fire. They said these special constables, accused of supporting Mr Nongwe's side, had been driven out of the school shortly before Mr Ngxobongwana's house was fire-bombed.

Police also reported stonings in the area yesterday. On several occasions, they broke up barricades outside the school.

On Wednesday, police used teargas to break up a group of stone-throwers and to stop fighting between groups armed with sticks and stones.

Mr Ngxobongwana has apparently lost a fair amount of support to Mr Nongwe in the last couple of months and many of Mr Ngxobongwana's supporters fear he will not return from the Transkei, where he has been for the past month.

A community development official operating from Mr Ngxobongwana's town committee, Mrs Antoinette Lourens, said no teaching had taken place at the school in weeks.

Kitscop 'was told how to testify'

Court Reporter

A SPECIAL constable and witness in the Wynberg Regional Court trial of Old Crossroads headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe yesterday refused to corroborate the evidence of another special constable whom he said had told him how to testify.

Special Constable Nkotsenasi Tsolo, of the Nyanga police station, told a packed courtroom that Constable Albertus van Wyk had told him to say he had stood guard at Mr Nongwe's home and that, shortly after midnight on March 3, he had noticed that Mr Nongwe and his car were not at home.

During questioning by the prosecutor, Mr Ben Julius, Constable Nkotsenasi said that in fact he had never been to Mr Nongwe's home.

Mr Nongwe, 54, has been charged with four counts of arson and three of malicious damage to property. The state alleges that he caused about R26 000 damage to houses put up by the Old Crossroads committee.

Mr Nongwe has pleaded not guilty.

The trial was adjourned to October 8.

sday, September 4 1990

Crossroads strife drives many away

By CHRIS BATEMAN

HUNDREDS of Old Crossroads refugees, mainly supporters of absent mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, have begun streaming out of the strife-torn squatter camp to find alternative accommodation.

The mini-exodus began at the weekend after further petrol-bomb attacks on homes surrounding the burnt-out shell of Mr Ngxobongwana's house and similar attacks on newly-built homes nearby.

Mr Ngxobongwana's home was torched on Friday. The controversial mayor is away in the Ciskei, reportedly to attend to funeral arrangements for fellow committee member Mr Alfred Geli.

Police arrested two people and confiscated two shotguns and several petrol bombs in the vicinity of his home over the weekend. An attempted murder docket was opened following the slight wounding of a man by gunfire on Saturday.

Some 200 women and children supporters of Mr Ngxobongwana are still sheltering in the Noxolo Primary School near his home after their homes were torched, allegedly by supporters of breakaway headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

Schooling at this and two other local schools has been disrupted for several weeks.

Mr Ricky Schelhase, town clerk of Old Crossroads, revealed yesterday that since the internecine violence broke out over a housing fund two years ago, damage estimated at R1 million had been wrought in the squatter camp.

Torching

Supporters of Mr Nongwe, who is also the ANC chairman in Old Crossroads, yesterday expressed concern at the weekend appearance of PAC member and former Ngxobongwana lieutenant Mr Prince Gobingca.

Mr Gobingca, who blamed the ANC for the torching of his R23 000 Khayelitsha home in June this year, was present at the weekend launch of the PAC in Old Crossroads.

Mr Gladstone Ntamo, a member of the Old Crossroad mediation committee, said yesterday that both factions had agreed to attend a peace meeting in Salt River tomorrow. Mr Ngxobongwana however, is still away in the Ciskei.

SAP to probe 'ANC support'

By MONICA GRAAFF
Crime Reporter

POLICE yesterday undertook to investigate PAC allegations that special constables were supporting the ANC in the Old Crossroads faction fighting.

Regional deputy commissioner Brigadier Nick Acker announced this after a meeting at police headquarters between PAC leader Mr Prince Gobingca and top policemen.

The fighting is between supporters of the absent Crossroads mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, and those of breakaway headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

Mr Gobingca, a squatter leader in Green Point, Khayelitsha, claimed that most of Mr Ngxobongwana's supporters were now PAC members.

Mr Nongwe's side had openly supported the ANC since February 2, when it was unbanned.

Mr Gobingca, who initiated yesterday's meeting which was described by both sides as "fruitful" and "genial", asked police to end "their partisan backing" of Mr Nongwe's faction.

At an impromptu press conference after the meeting, Mr Gobingca accused the ANC of intimidating PAC members by "burning down our shacks".

Mr Gobingca, whose own Green Point home was burnt down last month, said the PAC was therefore "duty-bound" to go to the assistance of its Old Crossroads members, "all of whom have lost their homes to ANC arson attacks and who have been forced to seek refuge at Noxolo Primary School".

● According to Sapa, SABC radio reported yesterday that violence flared in Old Crossroads yesterday afternoon when a group of youths stoned shacks in Section One before setting them alight.

But if oil prices remained at current mas orders were placed, than in July.

Katlehong services 'collapse'

Blay 7/9/90

WILSON ZWANE

SEWERAGE blockages are imminent in the East Rand township of Katlehong as all equipment has become unserviceable due to the lack of repair and maintenance funds.

In a statement, Katlehong mayor Gideon Molotsi said essential services in the township were "collapsing" as the rent boycott continued. The rent boycott began in Katlehong about five months ago.

Molotsi added that, apart from the blockage of sewers, refuse and rubble could not be removed in the township any longer as his council owed a private firm "a considerable amount of money".

This private firm suspended its services on Tuesday, Molotsi said.

"Also, certain sections of the township have been without electricity for six days because most of the power sub-stations are not serviced regularly due to the lack of funds. Some of the sub-stations have also been destroyed by acts of vandalism," he said.

Molotsi appealed to the community to pay at least "the temporary flat rates" to enable the council to provide essential services.

Monthly flat rates are R30 for people without electricity, R50 for people who have electricity and R130 for shop owners.

Crossroads mayor 'rejects peace call'

CAPE TOWN — An opponent of Crossroads mayor Johnson Ngxobongwana, Jeffrey Nongwe, said yesterday he was prepared to "talk peace".

307

He had conveyed this to the controversial leader — but had received a negative reply. Blday 7/9/90

Old Crossroads resembled a deserted war zone yesterday. For more than two weeks faction fighting has brought normal community life to a standstill.

More than 30 shacks were torched on Wednesday. A number were still smouldering yesterday as residents salvaged building materials and prepared to move away.

Nongwe was one of Ngxobongwana's headmen, but a dispute over rent caused him to break away with 14 other headmen.

Ngxobongwana's brick house, the only one in the area, was burnt to the ground at the weekend. It had been shot at on a number of occasions.

"We have had enough fighting. I do not know why Ngxobongwana does not want to talk. The children must go to school, we cannot go on like this," Nongwe said.

More than 50 families whose shacks were razed moved into classrooms at Noxolo Primary School, forcing the school to close. After negotiations, the people moved to the Topcor Training Centre and from there to temporary tents nearby, while others put up shacks. — Sapa.

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

Remark on city squatters

Cape Times 8/9/80 Staff Reporter 307

THE Cape Times has received a letter from attorneys acting for Noordhoek businessman Mr Jeffrey Alfred Louw following a report in yesterday's Cape Times which quoted "a Mr Louw" as having suggested at a Noordhoek residents' meeting that bulldozers should be hired and the Noordhoek squatter camps razed.

The attorneys say the remark attributed to Mr Louw is incorrect and that he in fact said bulldozers should be employed to thin out the Port Jackson bush, which in turn, would facilitate influx control and curb the establishment of illegal squatter colonies.

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LEFT: A Post Office worker takes a chain-saw to a squatter's illegal makeshift home in Milnerton, opposite the racecourse.
RIGHT: Women and children with their possessions after their shacks had been destroyed.

Pictures: STEWART COLMAN

50 Milnerton squatter shacks demolished

By PETER DENNEHY

CHAIN-SAW demolitions of shacks on state land in Milnerton were "temporarily halted" yesterday after a lawyer intervened on behalf of the squatters.

However, several shacks on Post Office-owned land in the Port Jackson bush just off Koeberg Road, opposite the racing stables, were destroyed before the moratorium was declared.

A team of Post Office workers were guarded by police as they tore down the shacks while dozens of women who lived in the shacks sang ANC songs.

The chain-saw operator cut all the long planks he could find in half, and the black plastic covering many of the shacks was confiscated.

Eventually a lawyer intervened on behalf of the squatters, and the shack demolitions have now been suspended, according to the Post Office.

Squatter leader Ms Beauty Mafani claimed that more than 50 shacks were demolished, but Mr Ben Rootman, a spokesman for the Post Office, said he believed fewer than 30 had been demolished.

Ms Mafani said there were a total of "about 1 000 houses" on the site.

She said she had lived there since 1983. At that time her husband had worked at the stables, where women were not accommodated.

Milnerton mayor Mr Willem van Staden said he had been told that there were "many hundreds of people" in the bush, and that they were "the women-folk of the 400 stablehands".

Milnerton town clerk Mr Peter Gerber said the municipality had served a notice on the landowner last month (August 27) in terms of the National Building Regulations, requiring it to get rid of "unauthorised structures".

Ms Mafani said police had raided the squatters on Thursday, arresting 21 people and charging eight of them. Five pleaded guilty to illegal squatting and were fined R50 each, while three pleaded not guilty and had to appear again on September 18.

Everyone ran away and they came back to find four shacks burning, she said. Police liaison officer Major Jan Calitz denied police had set them alight. Police had seen the men who set them alight and chased them, but they got away, he said.

Squatter assurance 'broken'

CAPE Times 12/9/90 307

AN attorney for the Milnerton squatters said yesterday that he was drawing up a memorandum to Mr Hernus Kriel, saying that this week's shack demolitions amounted to a breach of an undertaking by Mr Kriel.

Last month Mr Kriel, Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, said forced removals of squatters or demolitions of shacks would not take place without consultation with "the communities concerned".

Mr Kriel's statement was made after a meeting with Mrs Albertina Sisulu and other UDF office-bearers, and it resulted in the UDF abandoning its announced programme of land occupation.

Attorney Mr Barry Adams said it was his contention that there had been no consultation in the case of the Milnerton squatters.

Mr Kriel is overseas until Monday, according to his administrative secretary, Mr Richard Kruger.

Mr Adams said he had been given to understand that the UDF had also taken up the Milnerton squatter demolitions with Mr Kriel's office, which had referred the matter to Mr Koos Theron, a member of the Cape Provincial executive committee.

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Disabled squatters need material to build shacks

Argus 13/9/90 307

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE, Staff Reporter

THIRTEEN Khayelitsha squatters being moved to a new area cannot use the worn-out material from their old shacks and the authorities have been unsympathetic to their pleas for help.

The squatters are mainly elderly pensioners and unemployed disabled people. Their shacks are in Green Point, one of Khayelitsha's most squalid and violent squatter settlements.

The Lingelethu Town Council in the township is moving Green Point squatters to an area with tarred streets, high-mast lighting and proper sanitation north of Monwabisi beach.

Lingelethu town clerk Mr Graham Lawrence said the new area would house 3 199 families when the resettlement — which started last month — was completed.

The group, most of whom have been living in Green Point since the squatter camp sprang up in 1986, said the idea to move to the new area appealed to them and they were happy about it.

Unemployed single parents

But they said the building material in their present structures was too old to use to build other shacks.

Spokesman Mr Mlungisi Tonisi said some of the squatters were unemployed single parents with no source of income. Others had been battling for the past few months to get their old age pensions.

They had approached the Lingelethu Town Council for assistance in the form of corrugated iron, nails, planks and poles. But an official had told them there was nothing the council could do.

Mr Lawrence said he did not know about the group.

"But if they bring their problems to my attention through the correct channels and we are able to establish their bona fides, we may be able to provide manpower for the demolition and the erection of their new homes. We obviously cannot give them building material unless it's at a price."

● Anyone willing to assist with building material can contact the Mitchell's Plain Advice Office at ☎ 32 7128.

D:1

taxi driver Sandile Mbilele said he had to get his petrol from a station over the bridge when electricity was cut off yesterday.

"We are deeply concerned about the street lights being switched off and are going to talk to the people involved tomorrow," he said.

District Six 'model' for new SA

Business Day 14/9/90

LESLEY LAMBERT

CAPE TOWN — District Six provided a golden opportunity as a model for post-apartheid town and regional planning, Cape Administrator Kobus Meiring said yesterday.

Addressing the annual conference of the SA Institute of Town and Regional Planners, Meiring said the Cape Town suburb, which had become a symbol of apartheid, could be transformed into a model for future development in SA.

"No one can take away the hurt or wish away the emotion of District Six. But someone can make it live again by turning it into a home that is more attractive than the one that existed previously," he said.

District Six's future as a post-Group Areas suburb is currently back on the drawing board of a heavyweight working group consisting of the Cape Provincial Administration, the Cape Town City Council, the ANC, the UDF, private property developers and landowners.

The group's brief is to synchronise the planning of future developments in the suburb and to ensure that provision is made for affordable and widely acceptable housing.

(307)

Simplify

Meiring also gave his full support for the increasing insistence on greater community involvement in town and regional planning.

"I share the view that John Citizen's participation in and co-responsibility for planning matters can curb dissatisfaction significantly, and considerably simplify and expedite the envisioned developments.

"I, therefore, believe that citizen commitment to public affairs should not be limited to the occasional ballot box, but should also entail responsible, representative and continuous participation in planning issues," he said.

Meiring warned that urbanisation would place growing pressure on the infrastructure and the funds provided by local authorities. This, coupled with increasing levels of unemployment, would mean that large-scale poverty would remain a way of life for many people.

Squatting would increase and government institutions would experience growing pressure for the provision of serviced sites for informal settlement.

It was therefore of the utmost importance that deregulation occurred at all levels to encourage the informal sector to create more jobs.

...evenings our houses will be gone." ...we come home

Hout Bay squatter talks 'will continue'

Cape Times 19/9/90 (307

Municipal Reporter

CAPTAIN Tony Snelgar, leader of the Property Rights Association group which took over the Hout Bay Ratepayers' executive in an election this week, said yesterday that all-party negotiations on the squatter issue would continue.

Captain Snelgar, who pilots Boeing 747 jets, said yesterday that he would not be standing for election as the new ratepayers' chairman. Any of the 13 newly elected committee members, not necessarily one of the nine Property Rights Association members, could be chosen as chairman, he said.

He did not wish Ratepayers' Association issues to be confused with those of the Property Rights Association, as they were different organisations with different goals, he said.

The new ratepayers' executive committee intended to be pro-active on all issues, he said — development, conservation, encouraging tourism, extending the bird sanctuary and running the ratepayers' association "on proper management lines".

On the squatter issue, he said that in the past the Ratepayers' Association had taken a stand against the Property Rights Association during negotiations.

"That will no longer take place. We will speak with one voice," he said.

The Property Rights Association had initiated the talks with the government and the squatters, and it had also initiated the appointment of the planners.

"We will continue with the process, more strongly than ever."

The new ratepayers' executive wanted to build bridges in the valley between people of all races and place an open agenda on the table "to lay down the ground rules for multi-racial or non-racial government for Hout Bay", said Captain Snelgar.

CM-
Times
19/9/90

Squatter site 'far from finalised'

Municipal Reporter

NOORDHOEK squatters said yesterday that they believed they were going to be granted land near Imhoff's Gift, just north of the Kommetjie Road beside a new factory site and a sewage works.

But according to ministerial representative Mr Jimmy Otto, who had a meeting with squatters and other interested parties yesterday, a site for the squatters was "far from finalised".

Several squatters interviewed yesterday by the Cape Times said they understood it was likely they would move only a few hundred metres from their present site towards Ocean View.

Ms Sandra Liebenberg, an attorney acting for the squatters, said she was unable to comment, but an announcement was expected within the next two weeks.

Anger after police raid squatter camp

307

South 20/9 - 26/9/90

THE Grabouw Community Organisation (Gro) has called for an urgent meeting with the local municipality to discuss a police raid on squatters on Wednesday morning.

Police arrested seven squatters with two babies after they moved onto a vacant plot on Gaffly Street in the Boland town.

The squatters moved onto the plot two weeks ago after a member of their community died in the muddy field where they were living in Russel Street.

"After Mrs Dinah Williams died in July, we informed the municipality that we were moving the squatters into Gaffly Street," said Gro secretary, Mr I Kortje.

"Although the autopsy showed that she had died of natural causes, we knew the conditions in the Russel Street camp contributed to her death.

"We want the municipality to give the squatters permission to live in Gaffly Street before more of them die," he said.

The squatters have been warned to appear in court on October 17.

Judgment reserved on plea to eject squatters

Supreme Court Reporter

JUDGMENT by a Full Bench of the Supreme Court was reserved yesterday in an application by the owners of the Hout Bay property on which the Princess Bush squatter community is established.

Mr Justice D M Williamson, Mr Justice A M van Niekerk and Mr Justice J G Foxcroft heard argument in support of and against an application for the ejectment of the squatters from the land owned by Mr Andries Wessels Beyers, Mr Willem Pretorius and Mr Jan Schuurmans-Stekhoven.

They claimed in papers that the land, worth about R3 million and situated in the heart of the Hout Bay residential area, extended from Princess Street down to the sea.

Mr Beyers blamed the squatters for causing extensive pollution in the area, tresspassing, theft and threats to personal safety and said the majority were hostile to the owners, who had in the process been deprived of possession of the land.

The squatters opposed the application and attacked the question of urgency. Negotiations were under way with the relevant authorities for them to be housed on an alternative site, they said.

Mr David Knight SC, for the squatters, said that if any order for ejectment was made it should be made operative only from a date six months from the court order.

Immediate ejectment would leave the owners with a heap of empty sand while they awaited developments elsewhere, while the squatter community would be scattered and homeless just when they appeared to be "within sight of a place of their own".

Mr Knight was assisted by Mr John Whitehead, instructed by the Legal Resources Centre. Mr Charles Louw, instructed by Mr Adrie Brandt of De Klerk and Van Gend, appeared for the owners.

GM Trib 21/9/90 307

Cap

Crossroads violence flares after talks

By CHRIS BATEMAN

VIOLENCE flared in Old Crossroads yesterday only hours after a police-arranged peace meeting between arch-rivals Mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and breakaway headman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe had degenerated into a slanging match.

Sources at the camp's town committee offices said Mr Nongwe had stormed into the offices demanding "the reason" for an alleged stoning of vehicles used by him and his committee near Mr Ngxobongwana's Section One stronghold.

Earlier the rival committees and their respective leaders had met behind closed doors at the request of and under the chairmanship of Brigadier Frik Kellerman, Western Cape Operational Unit chief.

At media question time, after Brigadier Kellerman had told the assembled reporters that both leaders had "reached a peace agreement", they each launched into a verbal attack on the other.

Mr Ngxobongwana accused a community-based mediation committee, consisting of ANC-linked organisations, of bias.

The committee was set up by Western Cape Hostel Dwellers' Association chairman Mr Johnson Mpukumpa, after both sides had met the Minister of Provincial Affairs and Planning, Mr Hernus Kriel, on July 10.

Mr Nongwe said he did not see how police could act as mediators and asked why Mr Ngxobongwana had not reported back to Mr Kriel that the community mediation had gone awry.

Brigadier Kellerman intervened several times to restore order before telling reporters: "Our only function now is to keep these two groups apart — we are just concerned about law and order, we don't know about other peace committees."

He said more policemen would be sent in to reinforce army troops guarding a recently completed Old Crossroads housing complex.

Mr Nongwe afterwards declined an invitation by Brigadier Kellerman to be photographed shaking hands or standing with Mr Ngxobongwana.

● Mr Nongwe, the former chief headman of Old Crossroads, broke away from Mr Ngxobongwana's ruling committee over 18 months ago, taking 14 of 19 other headmen with him and alleging gross mismanagement of community housing funds.

A lengthy police investigation failed to result in prosecution of Mr Ngxobongwana but he was warned by the Attorney General to exercise care in future community fund-raising.

Ongoing battles since then have resulted in the death of scores of people, the burning of hundreds of shacks, predominantly in Mr Ngxobongwana's territory, and in hundreds of people seeking refuge in other townships.

Running battle in Old Crossroads

Cape Times 27/9/90 307

Staff Reporter

TROOPS and police intervened to stop a running battle over housing between residents of Phase Two, Old Crossroads and nearby "Boys Town" this week.

Old Crossroads Town Secretary Mr Ricky Schelhase said yesterday that Tuesday's violence was the result of long-standing resentment by "Boys Town" residents of occupants of the recently built 874-house Phase Two scheme.

The "Boys Town" residents formerly lived on the land now occupied by the housing scheme and felt that they had first option of being resettled there.

However, most of them were unable to produce rent cards, identity documents or proof of paid-up service charges which were the Town Committee's "only preconditions" for occupation of the new homes, Mr Schelhase said.

"We are quite prepared to give them time to pay arrears so they can move in but they seldom take advantage of this offer."

Mr Schelhase said a "running battle" in which bottles, stones and bricks were hurled, erupted on Tuesday. Nobody was hurt.

Police said they fired teargas when two rival groups "threw stones and bottles" at each other. The crowd then dispersed.

On Tuesday two women and a man were burnt when a petrol bomb was thrown into a tent near the scene of the fighting.

Mr Schelhase said 152 of the Phase Two houses on the border with the "Boys Town" area were severely damaged and repairmen were now refusing to risk working there.

● "Boys Town" is a popular township term for the Old Crossroads suburb reported on here and does not in any way implicate the actual Boys' Town home from which it gets its name.

Reward offers for Crossroads killers

By CHRIS BATEMAN

POLICE have offered a total of R16 000 for information leading to the conviction of culprits responsible for a rampage of nine murders, four attempted murders and arson committed in Old Crossroads since March this year.

Most of the unsolved crimes are directly connected to the ongoing internecine violence between supporters of Old Crossroads arch-rivals, Mr Jeffrey Nongwe and the mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana.

Some of the crimes were:

● On March 22 at 8pm three shotgun rounds were fired from a slow-moving white Chevrolet 4,1-litre car, killing Ngxobongwana supporters Mr Elliot Longo, 40, and Mr Xanxasholo Twana, 30, and leaving Mr Alport Singqotho, 40, in a coma. Reward: R2 000.

● On March 29 at 9.30pm the Phase Two Old Crossroads home of Ngxobongwana supporters Ms Nondzame Kota, 29, and Mr Wellington Tyateka, 34, was attacked with petrol bombs and guns. Ms Kota died of her wounds in Groote Schuur Hospital five days later and Mr Tyateka was discharged from the same hospital after treatment for cheek and shoulder gunshot wounds. Reward: R2 000.

● On April 10 at 7am the bullet-ridden bodies of Nongwe supporters Mr Lungisile Dyan, 40, Mr Nodali Sibunzi, 25, and Ms Nodelo Mirriam Tase, 40, were found in B Street, Old Crossroads. All had been shot in the head. Police believe the same people were responsible for all three murders. Reward: R6 000.

● On June 8 at 9pm Ms Ethel Notshili Maqoqwane, 23, was fatally wounded in the head by a 9mm bullet as she sat in her bedroom of her Phase Two home. Reward R2 000.

Anyone with information can contact Captain Des Segal 6914880/1 (office).

SQUATTING — 1 FM 28/9/90

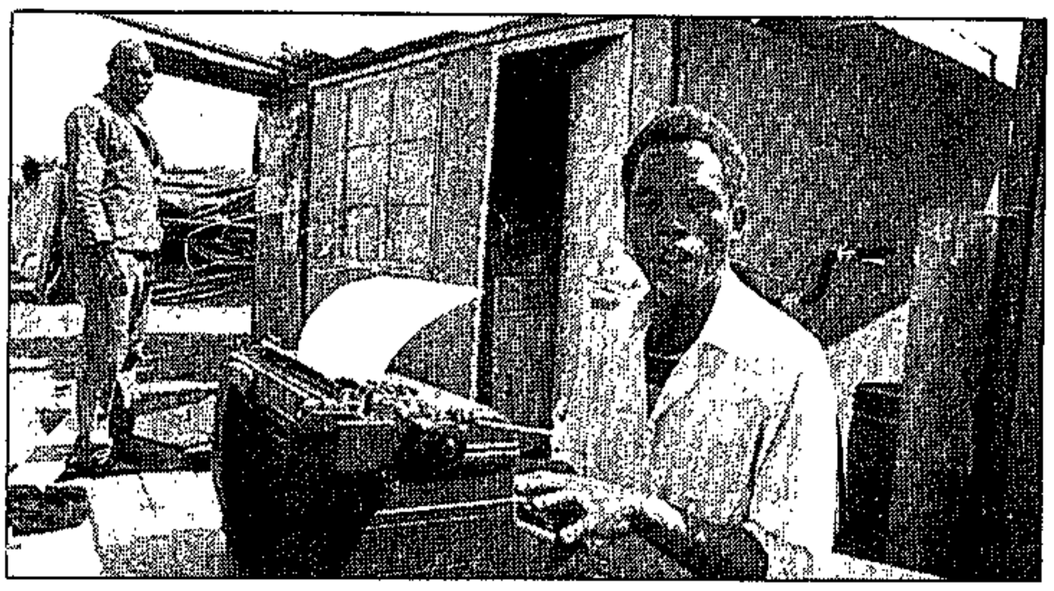
THE RIGHT TO OWN (307)

Urban planners would do well to focus attention on efforts to resolve the "squatter problem" in Hout Bay near Cape Town. It's undoubtedly a foretaste of what's to come throughout the country.

The Hout Bay experience is different in that, as far as is known, a significant number of "landless" people have for the first time occupied prime residential property in the heart of a "white" area. (See *Always With Us*).

About 1 500 squatters are camping on at least six different pieces of privately owned land in the Hout Bay valley — including an area known as Princess Bush, adjacent to Hout Bay beach and immediately in front of some of the most expensive and sought-after residential properties in the village.

The owners of the land are involved in a court action to have the squatters evicted. They claim their property is worth about R3m and that they intend to develop it as an upmarket residential area. Judgment in the matter was reserved in the Cape Town Supreme Court last week.



Midrand squatters ... *no magic ward*

The land comprises mainly scrub-covered sand dunes with the Disa River running through it. It is considered to be ecologically sensitive and the relatively primitive squatter settlement is seen as both a health and ecological threat.

Government's attitude seems ambivalent. While maintaining that uncontrolled squatting won't be permitted, no action has been taken to remove the squatters or provide them with basic facilities. Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel has promised the squatters land somewhere in Hout Bay, but it hasn't been identified. Negotiations with interested parties are said to be continuing.

The reaction of most of the white community has been to form the Property Rights Association (PRA) which is now spearheading a campaign to force the squatters out of Hout Bay. The PRA claims to represent about 4 500 residents. In an election earlier this month, PRA candidates won nine of the 13 seats on the executive of the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association.

PRA chairman Tony Snelgar rejects charges that the organisation is racist. He says it favours the scrapping of the Group Areas Act and the establishment of a non-racial local authority for Hout Bay. All it asks is that residents pay rates or rent and respect one another's property rights.

"We believe the problems of the past must be addressed, but squatting on private land is not the way to do it. We are prepared to negotiate with anyone in an effort to resolve these problems, but the law against squatting is non-negotiable."

Snelgar maintains that anti-squatting laws have nothing to do with apartheid. They are enforced in all civilised Western countries to protect private property rights. He says it's bizarre that the squatters are being portrayed as the "victims" instead of the landowners whose rights and freedoms are being ignored.

He likens the squatter influx to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and believes it is definitely politically motivated. Some of the squatters apparently come from the eastern Cape and Namibia. There is very little employment in the valley and Hout Bay has virtually no industrial base, so there is no obvious attraction for squatters.

For these reasons, Snelgar believes the influx is part of the UDF's strategy of "occupying" vacant land in particular areas. His opinion is underscored by the sight of ANC and SACP flags fluttering above the Princess Bush squatter camp.

The PRA regards government's response to the crisis as appalling. Kriel's "unilateral" statement on making land in the valley available for "legal" squatting exacerbated the problem by attracting even more squatters into the area. "It was a very serious error of judgment and if we could sue him for making that statement we would."

Snelgar says the influx of squatters is also threatening the valley's economy by depressing property prices, damaging the tourist industry through negative publicity, flooding the job market and increasing petty crime.

"We believe that if government doesn't act soon to deal effectively with this issue, the once-harmonious Hout Bay community will erupt into violence."

There are already ominous rumblings. In August, after police anti-crime action at Princess Bush, two petrol bombs were thrown at passing white motorists from within the camp. Two weeks later, the Conservative Party held a small but enthusiastically supported public meeting and called for tough action to halt the influx. ■

Squatter violence grows in Crossroads

By CHRIS BATEMAN

POLICE fired birdshot and teargas for the second day running in Old Crossroads yesterday as youths from the "Boys Town" squatter camp again attacked residents of the newly built Phase Two housing scheme in Old Klipfontein Road.

About 16 homes have been damaged in the two-day skirmishes as "Boys Town" youths hurled petrol bombs, bricks and bottles at the homes which they are demanding for themselves.

Occupants of the homes are "standing fast" by boarding up windows and locking doors of their newly acquired homes.

Police said they were unaware of any injuries.

The "Boys Town" residents, who were moved from the land on which the homes now stand, allege that they were promised the houses. However, they are reportedly unable to provide the mandatory proof of paid-up service charges to support their housing applications.

In Millers Camp near Old Crossroads squatter leaders gathered yesterday to discuss inviting homeland tribal chiefs to intercede in local violence.

● Sapa reports from Pretoria that three people were arrested, two were injured and several vehicles set alight in isolated incidents of unrest on Thursday night in Soweto and on the East Rand.

Squatters can rebuild

Staff Reporter

FISH HOEK Municipality has allowed three squatter families to re-erect their shacks bordering the Clovelly Golf Course after their homes were demolished by Fish Hoek Municipal Police and the SAP on Thursday morning.

Ms Sandy Liebenberg of the law firm Bernard, Vukic and Potash, acting on behalf of the squatters, said yesterday that negotiations had been held with the municipality.

But the squatters will still appear in Simon's Town Magistrate's Court next Friday, as charges under the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act had been laid against them by the municipality.

The squatters were charged on Thursday morning. They then appeared in Simon's Town Court.

All the squatters' possessions were impounded after the demolitions.

The families were sheltered last night in a garage at the home of Noordhoek resident Mrs Sandy Dowling.

Ms Liebenberg said the squatters' possesssions would be returned to them.

Homes torched: New tensions in Crossroads

CMM Trips 9/10/90 307

By CHRIS BATEMAN

NEW tensions have surfaced in Old Crossroads after eight homes were razed at the weekend, two of which belonged to supporters of the Western Cape United Civic Association and two to supporters of the Old Crossroads ANC chairman.

The homes were torched in retaliatory raids.

The Old Crossroads branch of the "civic" has strong ANC ties and the ANC's recently-formed regional peace committee was yesterday trying to intervene to prevent a potential ANC wrangle at grassroots level.

The squatter violence centres in a long-standing housing dispute.

The weekend upsurge began when two shacks in the territory of breakaway headman and Old Crossroads ANC chairman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe were burnt out, allegedly by youths from the controversial Phase Two housing scheme.

Nongwe supporters then allegedly retaliated by stoning and burning two permanent brick homes in which Phase Two youths had sought shelter.

The nearby Phase Two government housing scheme is the centre of a bitter dispute over who takes occupancy. Newly established residents have been under constant attack from squatters who were moved off the land on which the scheme now stands.

CAPT
Tvip
9/10/90

Xroads boss acquitted

Court Reporter 307

OLD CROSSROADS leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe was acquitted in the Wynberg Regional Court yesterday on seven counts of arson and malicious damage to property amounting to about R26 000.

It was alleged that in March Mr Nongwe fired several shots from his combi and led a group of about 100 people that burnt down houses in Section Four.

Evidence was that Mr Nongwe's combi was parked in the car shelter all night, and the court found that the state had not been able to prove his involvement in the petrol-bombings.

CAPT Trust 9/10/90

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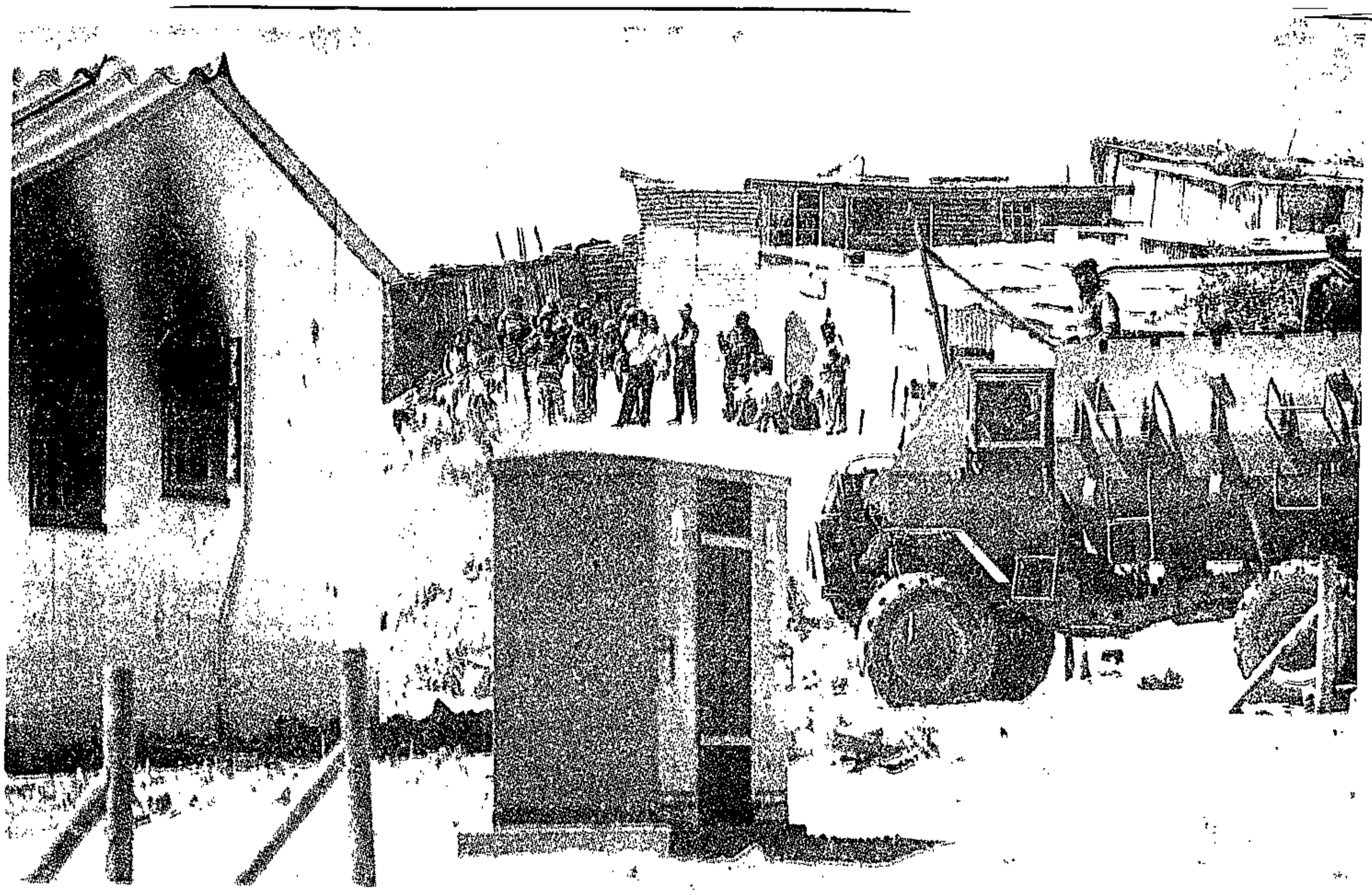


Picture: WILLIE de KLERK, The Argus.'

ON GUARD: Soldiers in a troop carrier stand guard in the "no man's land" between the shacks and brick houses in Crossroads.

Crossroads squatters retreat

ARGUS 10/10/90

307

By VUSI KAMA
Staff Reporter

CROSSROADS residents who are supporters of its controversial mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, have given up their battle to remain in the squatter camp and are moving out.

After more than a year of fighting between Mr Ngxobongwana's and Mr Jeffrey Nongwe's factions for control of the camp, scores of people have died and hundreds of shacks and houses destroyed.

The residents have opened a new camp in a botanical nature reserve along the Faure road about half a kilometre from Site C, Khayelitsha.

Many sleep in bushes as they do not have building material. They say that although the new area has no water and they are struggling to get building material, they had no alternative but to leave Crossroads.

NOWHERE TO STAY

Their only source of water is in the Site C section of Khayelitsha, across the N2 and Faure Road. They also have serious problems with transport to work.

But many more households are expected to settle in the new area, as some of those who lost their property and houses were now temporarily settled in Site C and in army tents near the municipal offices in Crossroads.

"Many have nowhere to stay, so we are expecting more people to join us in the next few days," a squatter said.

Municipal trucks and vans hired by the squatters carried furniture, army tents and building material to the area throughout yesterday afternoon.

Asked if they were prepared to return to Crossroads when Mr Ngxobongwana had built the brick houses he promised them, the squatters said they would refuse as their security was not guaranteed in the territory.

"The fact that Mr Nongwe's people managed to burn the Phase One brick houses means that we would not be safe either," they said.

REFUGEE SHELTER

The latest spate of violence in Crossroads came to a head in August when Mr Ngxobongwana's brick house was torched along with the surrounding shacks in Section One while he was in the Ciskei.

Noxolo Primary School, in the middle of the razed Section One, was turned into a refugee shelter.

Further violence came after a dispute about the allocation of new houses in the Phase One section of Crossroads. The old residents of Crossroads claimed that the houses were allocated by Mr Ngxobongwana to outsiders who them became his supporters.

Fighting broke out between the occupants of the Phase One houses and the shack dwellers. Most of the new houses were badly damaged and many shacks destroyed. Most of the Phase One houses are deserted.

Mr Ngxobongwana could not be reached for comment.

Mr Jan Van Eck, MP for Democratic Party, said: "This also shows it is impossible to govern people who reject you. Mr Ngxobongwana has been an absentee mayor for long a time."

● **Not enough money to house all squatters, page 2.**

Children's stoning war in Crossroads

By VUYO BAVUMA
Staff Reporter

VIOLENCE in Crossroads has taken a new turn with children of between 10 and 15 fighting one another.

Yesterday troops fired teargas to quell sporadic fighting between children supporting mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and those favouring his rival, ANC area chairman Jeffrey Nongwe.

The involvement of large numbers of children was a new development in the 13-month feud. Adults from both sides shouted occasional warnings but did not take part in the fighting.

No one was seriously injured in the clashes sparked off when the supporters of Mr Ngxobongwana allegedly tried to torch houses in Section Two and brick houses in Phase One.

About 1pm yesterday children from the pro-Ngxobongwana faction, some with homemade swords, advanced on Mr Nongwe's territory where mostly children and women stood guard. They exchanged insults and threw stones

Screaming women, many carrying babies and belongings, fled amid a hail of stones.

TEARGAS

Defence Force troops in two Buffels fired teargas to disperse the warring factions.

The pro-Ngxobongwana supporters again advanced towards Mr Nongwe's traditional area and more stones were thrown, halting traffic.

Troops again fired teargas and the factions dispersed.

Angry women complained to troops that the teargas affected their children.

Later police reinforcements arrived. They held discussions with the pro-Ngxobongwana group and an uneasy calm returned to the camp.

● On Tuesday many pro-Ngxobongwana squatters left Crossroads to start a new squatter camp on the Faure Road near Khayelitsha.

CLASH: Child supporters of controversial Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana throwing stones at supporters of rival leader Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

Pictures: WILLIE DE KLERK, The Argus.

MEDIATING: Troops move in to quell the running street battles between children.

Petrol price set to increase again

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Another increase in the price of petrol will have to be introduced "at some or other time", a National Energy Council spokesman said today.

The spokesman was reacting to the latest rise in crude oil prices, which saw spot Brent Blend crude — the world benchmark — trading at $38,50 a barrel today after touching $42 a barrel, a 10-year high, on Tuesday.

Although the Energy Council spokesman was not prepared to comment about when an increase was likely, he admitted that a recommendation about the petrol price had not yet been submitted to the Cabinet.

Sapa-Reuter reports that Brent crude leapt $1 a barrel in Singapore today, trading at around $38,50 after Israeli troops were reported to have wounded 16 Palestinians in a second day of violence, fanning fears of a Middle East war.

● See page 3.

RS: *They pay a million rand to live here and what do they see? Me...'*

Picture: PHILLIP LITTLETON

The squatter with a view most tourists would like to have ... but first they would have to evict him

The squatters with a sea view no amount of money can buy

W/E mail 12/10 – 18/10/90 (307)

A few years ago, the residents of Hout Bay decided to have no more to do with the rest of us and declared independence. But alas, they could no more secede from South Africa than remain aloof from the country's problems, like squatters, for example.

ANDREW DONALDSON *visited the "free republic"*

THE Republic of Hout Bay lies in a valley most residents "truly believe to be the most beautiful, unique, and fun-loving piece of country in the whole wide world". So says the Hout Bay passport, a novelty item sold in tourist shops.

I got mine (along with a really neat clip-on necktie that looked like a mackerel) at a curio shop in the harbour. The shop had stamped it with a "visa", entitling me to take part in "elections for High Office, cast opinions of the State of the Nation, engage in daring gambling pastimes such as Snakes and Ladders, enter competitions, attend festivals, and generally enjoy good-hearted fun".

The place boasts of a unique chumminess. Housewives gossip at the local museum. The horsey set have hillbilly hoedowns in the stables. People joke about the "hackers" — those who take to the hills from time to time, chopping down Port Jackson trees and other alien vegetation.

Hell, they have their own beer: Sentinel Lager. (At "four percent vol alcohol", it's quite wimpy; drinking four of them's like three Black Labels.)

It's not the sleepy hollow it used to be. There's construction work. A R46-million harbour redevelopment has been announced. The Hout Bay Hotel — the second-oldest in the country — is closing for an R8-million refurbishment.

I'd often been there before: once, dead seals were found washed up on the beach. Nan Rice, of the Dolphin and Whale Protection Group, said I should start my inquiries with local fishermen. At the harbour, I found one mending his nets. What, I asked, did he know about killing seals?

"The best way," he replied, "is hit them over the head with an iron bar ... I do it all the time."

I explained this was illegal. He said he was mending nets because they had been destroyed by seals who were after his catch. He also asked me to leave in very colourful language.

In those days, about five years ago, there wasn't a squatter problem. There were squatters, but as the Republic's president, Len Pothier, has pointed out, they weren't a problem: they were moved quite happily by the then divisional council to a site-and-service camp at Brown's Farm, near Phillipi.

Of course, Hout Bay is not a country and Pothier is not its president.

With its "declaration of independence" in 1987 it could no more secede from South Africa than it could remain untouched by the problems the rest of the country faced.

The re-emergence of squatters there — and the reaction to their presence — serves as a reminder of that: The Nimbys ("not in my back yard") are out in force.

Of the five squatter communities, it seems Princess Bush is the most threatened. The 170-odd families there are waiting for Supreme Court judgment on their immediate future. The two land owners who want them evicted claim they're hampering the sale of land worth R3-million for property development. In turn, the squatters have claimed they'll be out by the time development starts.

This followed two petrol-bomb attacks on motorists after two Princess Bush men were shot in a police narcotics raid.

The camp is an obvious focus of white resentment: it's not so much in back yards as in front gardens — spoiling sea views, nestling in dunes between the ocean and luxury beachfront homes.

The flags of the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party flutter above the settlement as freely as the national flags of Europe at a nearby restaurant and curio shop on the main thoroughfare.

An estate agent's window nearby gives an idea of what living in the area can cost. A 6 000m square plot was going for R340 000. The units in Jamaica Beach, a complex of 10 two- and three-bedroomed apartments "just 50 short metres from the beachfront", started at R350 000.

Princess Bush is just 50m from the beachfront. Many whites believe squatters there were sold sites in the Ciskei for R100 apiece.

If this were the case — and, let's pretend, the sales were legal — it could prove a headache for the Hout Bay Property Rights Association, a hardline group of white residents headed by Tony Snelgar.

They've vowed to evict the squatters before the holidays.

In recent developments:

- They've taken over the Hout Bay Rate Payers' Association. (They took nine of the 13 seats in last month's elections; the old executive negotiated a stand-off with squatters until an equitable solution could be found.)
- They've voted to withold regional services council rates until the "current situation" has been resolved. (They've since suspended this action.)
- They've rejected the siting of a transition camp on state land in the area.
- They've barred the press from their meetings.
- They've elected not to employ "new squatters" and have set up an influx monitoring committee to this effect. (This smacks of the renegade action taken by residents against Noordhoek squatters a few years ago, in a "denial of economic opportunity" operation there, bakkie-loads of men patrolled the area, kicking over or confiscating piles of firewood that squatters sold on the roadside.)

Snelgar, now on the RPA executive, has also expressed support for a recent referendum, among mainly white residents, in favour of a non-racial municipality (about 90 percent pro): "I am confident that with the talent and leaders of all race groups in this community, the Hout Bay valley can become a model for the new South Africa."

Black residents aren't so confident. As one said: "The whites far outnumber the other home owners in the area and thus will always have the majority on any decision."

Local Government Steering Committee chairman John Grierson put it thus: "While squatters remain squatters, living illegally on land to which they have no claim, they will not be contributing to the income of the municipality, and they will not be entitled to vote. That is the law of the land."

The far right has also moved in. An unidentified group of residents have applied to the Department of Local Government — in spite of the referendum's results — to be a whites-only local council and rumours are circulating about an Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging-type element visiting white residents to see if they have licences for firearms. The group, it's believed, have the application forms with them and will undertake to help unarmed residents acquire weapons.

Armed with my passport, I wandered into the camp looking for the man with the "best view". (Local pressmen had often spoken of this squatter and how he had boasted of the magnificent all-round sea and mountain vistas: "The people in those houses? They pay a million rand to live there and what do they see when they look out their windows? Me.")

Instead, I found a shack which had a wall consisting mainly of a billboard. It read: "Another exciting new beachfront development comprising of seven fully-enclosed, free-standing contemporary homes! You set the pace! We structure the finance!"

Other shacks were daubed with Pan Africanist Congress and Azapo slogans.

I also found Charlemane Mquga, a church worker, Princess Bush community leader and member of the Hout Bay squatter communities' co-ordinating committee. He said the people in his camp were mainly domestic workers and their families, and relatives of fishermen housed in the harbour's singles' hostels: "These people want to exist as families. The story about buying plots in the Ciskei is rubbish. We don't want to live here; we work here. That's why we must live here — there is nowhere else to go."

It's hard imagining people wanting to live there; the camp has no services whatsoever. Some church groups have made life a little easier, in an effort to win squatters' trust, they staged a "clean-up" operation recently, removing garbage from the camp. They've also undertaken to provide proper toilet facilities at a later stage.

There are two schools in the area but the lack of transport has ruled out the possibility of education — if parents could afford school fees, Mquga said.

Princess Bush does enjoy one advantage over other camps; they don't pay for their water. "The Anglican lady across the road gives it to us for free."

It's a small blessing. Another is the fact that other local civic and community organisations are keeping a close eye on developments.

Still, the holidays approach and with it the threat of eviction by the RPA.

Ironically, tourist shops have stocked up for the season with little bottles of sand, labelled "valuable Hout Bay beachfront property". Sold for R1,95 plus GST, the bottles come with a title deed: "Anybody can now own a piece of valuable Hout Bay real estate without having to worry about issues (such) as ... the squatter problem."

People at Princess Bush think this is as funny as the passports.

Govt marks land for Crossroads refugees

By ANDRE KOOPMAN

LAND has been earmarked for the refugees who settled in the Driftsands nature reserve after fleeing from Old Crossroads during fierce fighting last week.

This was said yesterday in a statement by the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring.

However, a spokesman for Mr Meiring, Mr Van Heerden Heunis, would not reveal the site of the "identified land".

The refugees, loyal to Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, were told that squatting in the ecologically sensitive reserve was unacceptable and were asked to return to Crossroads.

When the squatters refused, land was "urgently identified" for the establishment of an emergency camp, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the police have stepped up their presence in Old Crossroads and yesterday urged Mr Ngxonbongwana's supporters, whose Section Two homes were torched, to return to the area.

Brigadier Frik Kellerman, the head of the operational branch, said residents would be protected.

In pamphlets distributed door-to-door, police said they would ensure that law and order was maintained.

More policemen would be deployed in the area, but this would exclude special constables who have been accused by residents of taking sides in the feud between squatter leaders Mr Ngxobongwana and Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, Brigadier Kellerman said.

He said police would provide escorts for people returning to the township but would not be able to transport their goods.

"We are trying to end the burning and the damage to new houses in Crossroads. Basically it's an attempt to restore confidence in the police," he said.

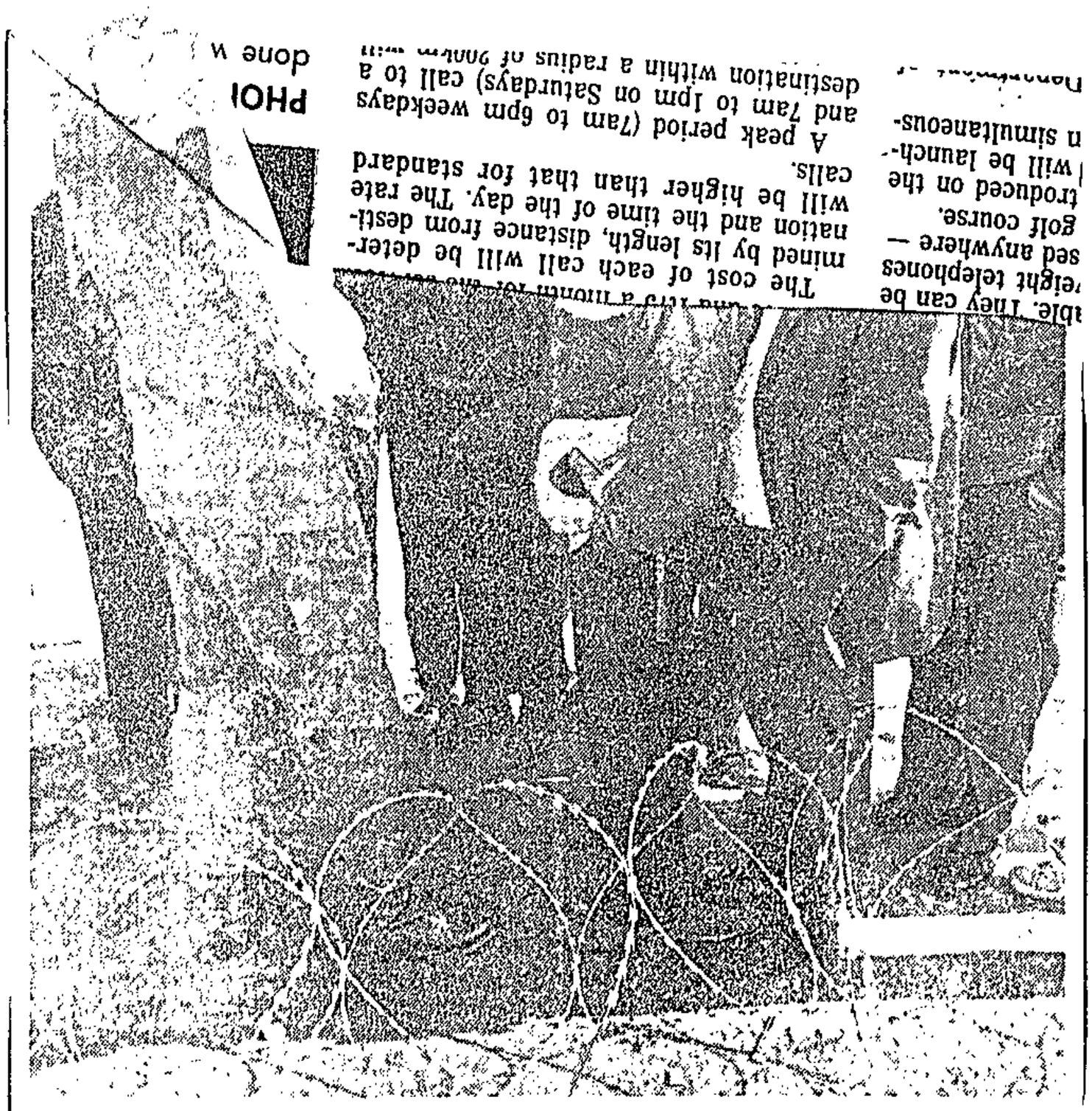
Meanwhile, despite the increased security measures there were four unrest incidents in Old Crossroads on Thursday, police said in their unrest report.

A house was torched in Section Two but police put out the fire before serious damage was done.

"Two groups of youths were fighting near the community centre. Police fired a shot in the air and the youths ran off.

"A police patrol van investigating a fire was attacked with stones and police used teargas to disperse the crowd. No arrests were made."

Police chased youths, apparently armed with handguns, and fired birdshot, but the youths got away.



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

STAND OFF: Crosssroads residents crowd around a senior SADF officer and argue about fencing off part of Section One. People were unhappy that they had not been told about today's operation, although the Cape Provincial Administration said the plan had been discussed with their leaders.

Police baton charge Crossroads crowd

By HENRI du PLESSIS
Staff Reporter

BETWEEN 400 and 500 Crossroads residents were baton charged today when they refused to disperse during a police and defence force operation in the township.

Security forces flooded into the township early today to search for weapons and "stabilise" the area after a long period of fighting.

Pamphlets were handed out and troops and policemen patrolled the township before converging on the corner and Stock and Lansdowne roads to fence off an area of Section One with razor wire.

PROTECTION

According to police liaison officer Captain Attie Laubscher the aim was to protect private sector developers preparing to build new houses in Section One.

The upgrading, initiated by the Cape Provincial Administration, was to have started with the breaking down of uninhabited shacks in this section.

At the weekend CPA officials had talks with community leaders who were to tell residents what was to happen today.

This didn't appear to have been done because as soon as defence force members started erecting the wire fence, a group of 25 men and a few women walked up to the soldiers and argued with them. They claimed they had not been told and had nowhere to go if their shacks were demolished.

Their numbers swelled steadily and later a large crowd from a neighbouring area arrived.

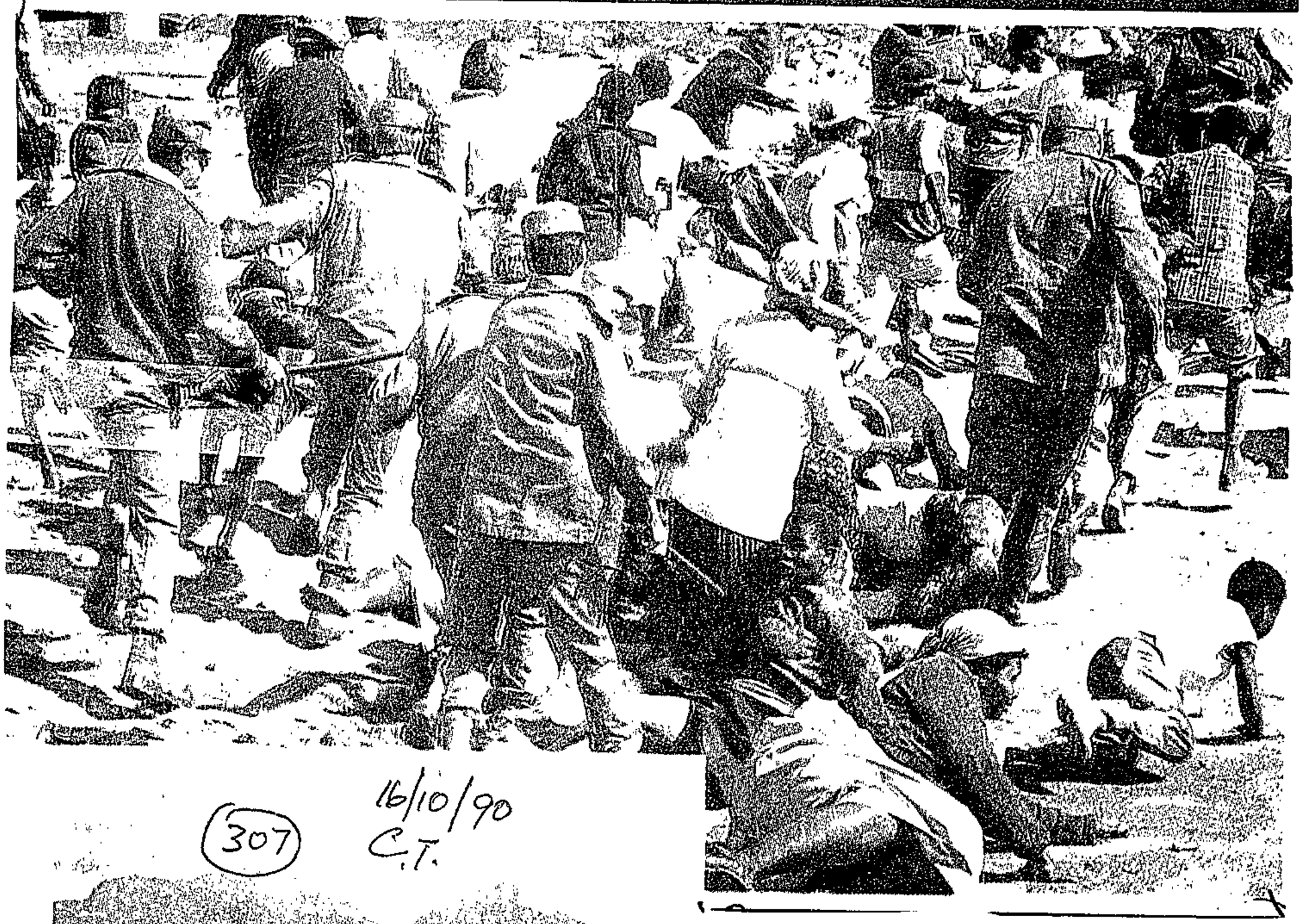
One man, speaking to police, said: "We can't do anything because we haven't got the ability to fight, but where do we go? Our leaders did not tell us anything about this — when (Jeffrey) Nongwe wants to tell us something he calls us together and talks to us, but this has not happened yet. How can the police claim they spoke to him?"

The emotional crowd started toyi-toying and chased four council bulldozers out of the area.

"They are going to shoot at us here," a council official said as he led the bulldozers across Lansdowne road to an open field.

Reinforcements arrived and a senior policeman gave the crowd a warning to disperse. When they failed to do so, about 20 policemen charged the crowd with batons and they scattered in all directions.

New camp divides Crossroads



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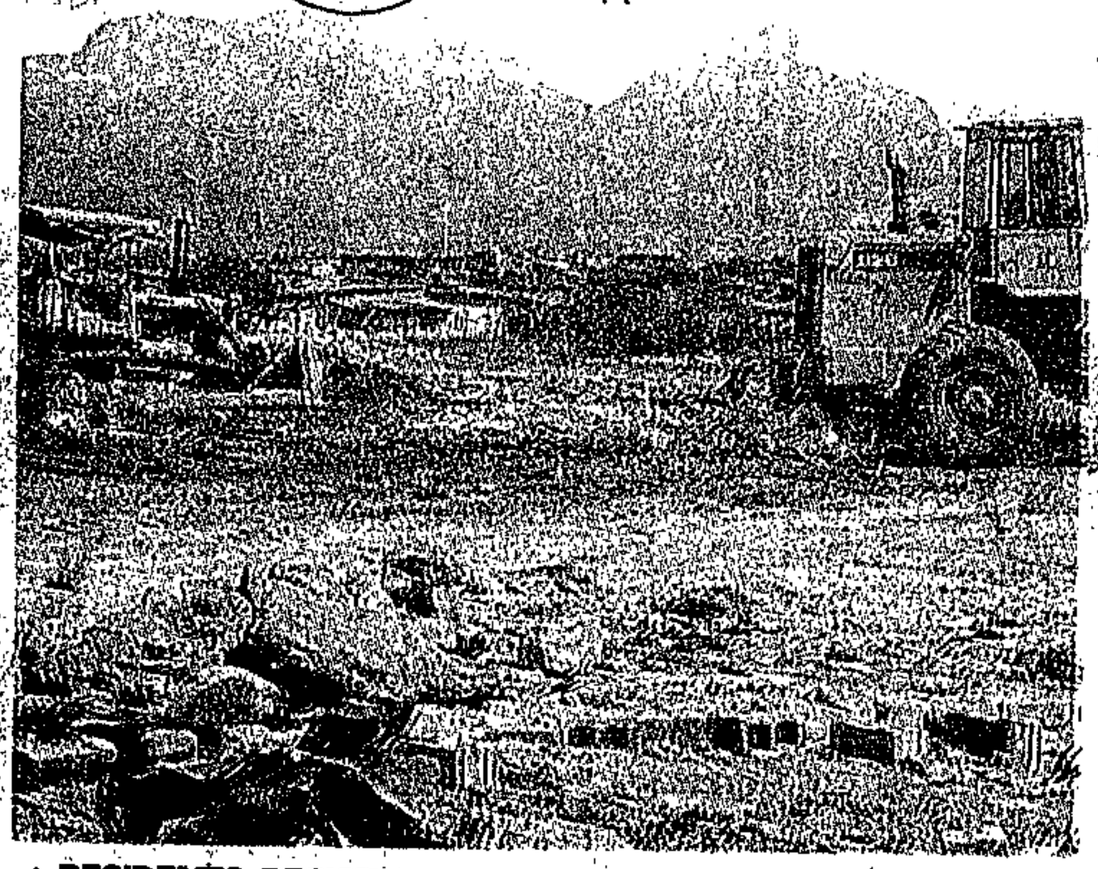

RESIDENTS RESIST ... Police **(top picture)** yesterday baton-charged Old Crossroads residents who refused to disperse after protesting against a government decision to clear and level Section 1 of the township. But, with Table Mountain forming a backdrop, heavy earth-moving machinery make quick work of clearing the rubble from burnt-out shacks at Section 1. **Report — Page 2.**

Pictures: BENNY GOOL

Hospital theft

CAPE TIMES 16/10/70 307

CAPE TIMES 16/10/70

Linen turns up overseas

THIEVES are plundering Groote Schuur Hospital — right under the noses of security guards.

Yesterday a hospital spokesman disclosed that the thieves had stolen:

- Linen worth R250 000, taken over a period of three years.
- Medicines and medical equipment, including expensive catheters and syringes.
- Lavatory seats, door handles and fold-down lift seats which have disappeared during the past six months.
- Telephones, which now have to be locked up during tea breaks.

Two weeks ago thieves stealing computer equipment worth R20 000 were chased by security guards. The thieves abandoned the computers on the sidewalk and escaped.

Thefts of cars belonging to staff and visitors from parking bays outside the hospital have also become a "big headache" for security staff, the hospital spokesman said.

He said the thieves had sold the stolen goods on the black market in Cape Town, and even overseas.

Linen stolen from the hospital has recently been found on sale in Amsterdam and Rotterdam flea markets in Holland, he said.

A shop in Rondebosch was found to be selling linen with the Groote Schuur Hospital emblem, he said. The shop owners claimed to be selling surplus linen bought from manufacturers.

The thieves have slipped through a net of 77 full-time security guards. They have also evaded bag checks at the exits.

Hospital notices placed on walls to deter the thieves appear to have little effect. Notices like "Who robs the hospital, robs the people" and "This is your hospital" have been ignored by looters.

Routine investigations by security staff have not established the presence of a syndicate, said the spokesman. At least 15 000 people, including staff and visitors, walk through the hospital every day, he said.

The hospital has asked the public to co-operate with the overworked security staff when asked for identification at the hospital entrances.

RAINY DAY FROLICS: Two children enjoy the wet and play carelessly in the road after another rainy day in Crossroads. During the rainy season many of the fragile, makeshift shacks are submerged in water. Reside place beds on bricks and walk about from one 'stepping stone' to another.

Agus (307) 16/9/90

Peace evades life in Crossroads

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

CONTINUOUS clashes between various factions in Cape Town's most violent black township, Crossroads, are having a negative effect on attempts to provide proper housing in the squalid shack settlement.

The township, run by a six member committee elected "unopposed" in the 1988 municipal elections is well-known internationally for resistance against the government during the days of influx control.

One of the councillors, deputy mayor Mr Alfred Geli was recently killed in a car smash in the Karoo, however.

Subsequent government plans to resettle the community to Khayelitsha in 1984 culminated in what became known as "Witdoeke war" of 1985-1986 in which scores of people were killed and property worth thousands of rands destroyed.

Since then there has never been peace in the camp as some headmen who had been allied to the Crossroads strongman, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, fell out after accusing him of fraudelant practices and running the township with an iron hand.

The powerful committee, whose influence is said to stretch even to educational institutions, was accused of barring children from areas under the influence of the brakaway headmen from attending a school early this year.

The move to resettle Crossroads in Khayelitsha have since been dropped and plans to upgrade the area started.

In order to build core houses residents who had been staying in tents were moved elsewhere in the township and promised that the houses would be given to them on completion.

However, no sooner had the houses been completed than numerous complaints about the new occupants surfaced.

Residents maintained that the Crossroads Town committee, which was responsible for allocations was giving the houses to "outsiders" and not the original tent occupants.

Violent confrontation between residents of the shanty town and the new occupants of the rented houses have since claimed many lives.

Most of the four-roomed houses have been torched, some of the occupants killed, leading many to leave the properties.

The houses have now become a no-go area and the badly damaged properties now stand empty and building seems to have been halted.

Attempts to get details about developments in the township have been fruitless.

Most of the press-shy councillors and officials have been reported to be either in "meetings" or unavailable.

Crossroads, once described as a symbol of provocation by a government official, sprung up in 1978 after desperate job-seekers from the poverty-stricken "homelands" came to look for work in Cape Town.

A series of raids and endless demolition of their ramshackle shacks during influx control days became a feature of life in the township.

However, the people of Crossroads stood their ground and the harrassments, inclu ing deportations to the hom lands, failed to dampen the spirits.

The Cape Provincial A ministration (CPA) estimat Crossroads' population 67 814 with 1 669 form houses and 2 075 service sites.

There is one secondar school with 1 134 enrolme and two primary schools wi 2 589 pupils.

The bucket system is in us while water is obtained fro communal taps.

No 1.

TOWNSHIP LIFE

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Argus
10/9/90

Picture by
LEON MULLER,
The Argus

Hospital theft

Cape Times 16/10/80 307

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Protests, but Crossroads shacks flattened

By DANIEL SIMON

A CONTROVERSIAL decision to level out Section 1 in Old Crossroads went ahead yesterday morning — despite strong opposition from numerous angry residents who were twice scattered by baton-charging police overseeing the operation.

Twenty-six people were injured in the confrontations.

Most of Section 1 was razed last month in a territorial dispute which saw fierce fighting between supporters of refugee mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his arch-rival Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

Set up home

Hundreds of supporters of Mr Ngxobongwana, whose home was also razed during the fighting, have since set up home on Mfuleni Road near Khayelitsha.

A scattering of Mr Nongwe's supporters had re-established themselves in Section 1.

Yesterday dozens of security force members sealed off the area before Cape Provincial Administration workers moved in with bulldozers, front-end loaders and earth-removal trucks to clear the area.

Trouble started when SADF members started erecting a razor-wire fence around the section.

About 20 angry supporters of Mr Nongwe initially confronted the police, claiming they had not been notified of any decision to clear the land.

Police warned the growing crowd to disperse before scattering them with two baton charges. They then "held" Section 1 while the bulldozers and front-end loaders started clearing the area.

'Irresponsible'

DP MP for Claremont Mr Jan van Eck, who later arrived at the scene, said the government's decision to send in the police to sort out the housing crisis and land dispute at Old Crossroads was "highly irresponsible".

● During the day, security force members also conducted house-to-house searches in Sections 3 and 4 of Old Crossroads and confiscated a large assortment of homemade weapons.

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Fears of further Crossroads violence

16/10/90 307

By VUYO BAVUMA
Staff Reporter

FEARS of a fresh outbreak of violence in the battle-torn Old Crossroads have been expressed following government action to level an area formerly occupied by Mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his supporters.

Mr Gladstone Ntamo of the Western Cape United Squatter Association yesterday told Town Clerk Mr Ricky Schelhase that residents were angry because they had not been consulted about the clearing-up of Section One.

It was first levelled by bulldozers and then police and soldiers fenced it off with razor wire.

26 injured

Earlier, 26 people were injured when security forces baton-charged residents who objected to their homes being demolished.

Mr Ntamo said the State should not have started with the clearing-up operation until the crisis in the camp had been solved.

"The people are saying that if the levelled area is upgraded another conflict is bound to break out. In fact, this will also jeopardise the ongoing talks to solve the problem," he said.

Mr Schelhase promised to convey the residents' fears to higher authorities.

He said he did not believe the cleared area would be upgraded without consultation.

"Originally I suggested that the rubble should be cleared up on psychological and health grounds. I also said the residents should be consulted beforehand about the move.

Meeting

"But I was not part of the group which decided to move into the camp with the equipment and the soldiers," Mr Schelhase said.

Residents later mandated Democratic Party MP Mr Jan van Eck to organise a meeting with Mr Fanie Naude, regional director of the Cape Provincial Associations' Community Services, and Mr Hernus Kriel, Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs.

Pictures: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

DOOR-TO-DOOR: A policeman takes away a bundle of sticks from a shack in Old Crossroads. Bulldozers levelled part of Section One in the camp and security forces fenced it off with razor wire.

DISARMED: A policeman confiscates a stick from a Crossroads resident during yesterday's operation to "stabilise" the troubled camp.

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Crossroad residents form own ANC branch

By VUYO BAVUMA
Staff Reporter

DISENCHANTED ANC members in Crossroads have formed their own branch after accusing Crossroads ANC chairman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe of organising children to attack and loot their houses.

The residents in the Unathi section claimed Mr Nongwe wanted to force them to leave the camp.

They were also adamant that they did not want to be controlled by Mr Nongwe, who would "bully" them.

COLLECTIONS

Others claimed Mr Nongwe's headmen collect money from the residents' in areas under his rule.

These alleged collections include "lawyers' fees" and for funerals for Mr Nongwe's supporters.

The residents said they were upset because although they all belonged to the ANC, Mr Nongwe attacked them.

But Mr Nongwe denied the allegations.

He said: "I am not aware of any money being collected from the people. I also reject that the people had been threatened in way."

A mother of six said:"Mr Nongwe's henchmen harass us and loot our houses.

"We don't want to be involved in the squabbles of power-hungry people."

Another resident said: "In August we went to see the ANC after some of our houses were attacked by Mr Nongwe's supporters.

"The ANC officials promised to approach Mr Nongwe but the attacks on us continued.

"We heard that we should leave the area because we were occupying it unlawfully. We refused to leave because we were paying rent and we were not breaking any law."

ANC publicity secretary Mr Trevor Manuel said the bone of contention in Old Crossroads was the scarcity of houses.

(307) 16/11 - 22/11/90

COMMUNITIES IN CONFLICT: *Noordhoek squatters are happy, white residents horrified*

A squatter's lot ... Esther Ramose outside her rudimentary shack in Site 5, Noordhoek this week.

Picture: MIKE HUTCHINGS

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A problem with squatters: They laugh too much

w/Mail 16/11/-22/11/90

The squatters of Noordhoek are celebrating the granting of land to them for the first time. Their white neighbours are up in arms. **GLENDA DANIELS** reports from Cape Town

ESTHER Ramose pointed at her back, showing a huge, hard — and painful — lump. It was, she said, one of the scars from having carried 25 litres of water on her back for several kilometres every day for eight years, as there were no water facilities at the Noordhoek squatter camp where she had made her home.

"We steal water from the caravan park because there is no other way," the 37-year-old woman said this week, as she limped into her corrugated iron shack.

Not far away stand the homes of Noordhoek's white community: quiet, pretty, middle-class suburbia overlooking rolling hills, mountains and valleys. Neat lawns, hedges and colourful flowers surround spacious houses.

For the first time, the Cape Provincial Administration has granted land to the squatters of Noordhoek, Site 5 — a total of 40 hectares. But the squatters are filled with apprehension, because this could be the beginning of a protracted legal battle between property owners, white residents and the CPA.

There are about 2 000 squatters in Noordhoek — at Site 5, 300 people are presently squatting on private land that the government is in the process of buying.

The site is right in the middle of two white areas, Sunnydale and Noordhoek.

Ramose, tiny and haggard, left the Orange Free State in 1973 and worked in Fish Hoek as a domestic worker for eight years. Then she "had an argument with the madam over my income and left".

The squatters, including Ramose, said they were "very happy about land being granted to them". But many of them echoed her fears: "I'm not sure that I should be happy, they might take the land back. There is no proof that we can stay. Nothing is certain."

As she spoke, she constantly glanced around her dark shack, consisting of two rooms a few metres wide, with no ventilation. It was decorated with a few items of shabby furniture and reeked of alcohol.

She was worried that her child, who was at school in Kalk Bay, would not be able to go to another school if they were evicted again. Ramose had lost count of the number of times she had been forcibly removed.

Ramose's husband, Johannes Malonde, also the chairman of the Site 5 squatter committee, said: "We want to fight with all our might for this land. We will not move again. There is nowhere else to go."

Malonde said their biggest problem was the white residents who were strongly opposed to them living in Noordhoek. "They complain that we make a noise. We talk, we laugh, and they hate this. They want us to be silent."

About 10m away from the Site 5 settlement stands the Noordhof Nursery and Tea House. It has been reported that the owner, Janine Mayes, is planning to sue the previous owner, who sold her the business last month without telling her about the squatter settlement, for misrepresentation.

Mayes' daughter Shelli Knox and her son Norman Knox, who manage the shop, said they were concerned about their investment and the value of their property, and the fact that squatters were stealing.

"We have to stay and do what we can considering the circumstances," said Shelli Knox. "It's such a beautiful place, it's unfortunate about the squatters. All the residents here are pretty disturbed and perturbed about the situation. In fact they are horrified."

She added that so far the only trouble they had was "them making a noise, laughing too much and generally disturbing the peace".

"Sometimes it sounds like they're killing each other, there is so much shouting and partying going on," said Norman Knox, a Cape Town trendy with two earrings in one ear, wearing a purple jacket and with long blond hair tied in a ponytail. "Other residents' chickens have been stolen. Many have had to remove their taps because water is being stolen."

He added plaintively: "It's the first time in my life that I feel threatened. It's like psychological warfare, where it now becomes necessary to protect oneself. We have to start thinking of protecting the property, get alarm systems and incur expenses like that.

"I know it may sound as if we are racist but we are not. We are a very liberal family. I think it is the left that is using this issue as a tool and the government was pressurised into making this decision, so we have to say goodbye to our rights as a citizen. It's like being without an arm. It's very difficult not to get angry."

Knox repeated that he was not racist and related how he would sit at The Base nightclub and "sing Nkosi Sikelela with many mixed people, but now I feel very threatened".

He said he feared the major problem would be a lack of control of the squatters, and that more would come into the area.

The Sunnydale Ratepayers Association is also up in arms about the decision and plans to get an urgent interdict against the decision. According to Koos Albertyn, ministerial representative of the Western Cape, "they just don't want the squatters there but the courts are reasonable and we must prove that our claim is reasonable. I can't see that the courts will make an order against the squatters".

The chairman of the Sunnydale Ratepayers Association, Johan Brits, said: "You can't have low-income earners and sub-economic housing next to expensive property. Government control is not very good. Look at Crossroads and Khayelitsha.

"The government is not above the law, they have to go through the necessary procedures."

This week a helicopter circled the squatters' site. A squatter said: "That is probably the city council seeing if more squatters are moving in."

A few minutes later a jeep went by slowly with four uniformed men. They introduced themselves as "members of the House of Assembly" and asked if there were any problems. One of them said: "We are controlling the area — to see that no more squatters come in."

Albertyn said: "When you declare an area, normally there is an influx into the area. We hope the squatters will cooperate and stop influxing. We have to stop this, there is not enough room to accommodate them all."

At the Noordhoek squatter site proper a few metres away from Site 5, a delegation of squatters and members of the Noordhoek Squatters Committee sat together in their "community hall", actually a plastic room, to relate their mixed feelings about the issue of granting land.

John Gquzo (43) said: "We can't live like this, three families in one space. The city council is not happy about the situation but we are not happy either. They are patrolling the area to make sure there are no extensions to the shacks. Some of us have six children — where can they go?" he asked.

The Surplus Peoples Project's Josette Cole said the squatter issue was going to be a countrywide struggle between the government and private property owners.

She added: "The main problem is that the whites are unhappy because they are racist and they are also worried about the value of their land dropping. This squatter land is in the middle of a white area."

Cole said: "If De Klerk is serious about reforms in a new SA, then the government has got to take bold steps. It has to take a position."

Sue Manchit from the Development Action Group, involved in assisting squatter communities, said: "In order to repair the wrongs of apartheid land has to be expropriated. These communities have the right of access to land."

Squatter camp misery . . . A policeman beats a resident to the ground during a baton charge to disperse protesters at Crossroads yesterday. About 26 people were injured when they attempted to prevent bulldozers, backed by units of the army and police, from clearing land vacated in recent violence. ● Picture by Associated Press.

Shacks flattened after residents flee baton charge

CAPE TOWN — A controversial decision to level out Section 1 in Old Crossroads outside Cape Town went ahead yesterday morning — despite strong opposition from numerous angry residents who were twice scattered by baton-charging police overseeing the operation.

Twenty-six people were injured.

Most of Section 1 was razed in fierce fighting between supporters of refugee mayor Johnson Ngxobongwana and his arch-rival Jeffrey Nongwe in a territorial dispute last month.

Hundreds of supporters of Mr Ngxobongwana, whose home was also destroyed during the fighting, have since set up home on Mfuleni Road near Khayelitsha.

Demanded

A scattering of Mr Nongwe's supporters had re-established themselves in Section 1.

Yesterday dozens of security force members sealed off the area before Cape Provincial Administration workers moved in with bulldozers, frontend loaders and earth-removal trucks to clear the area.

Trouble started when SA Defence Force members started erecting a razor wire fence around the section.

About 20 angry supporters of Mr Nongwe initially confronted the police and demanded to know who had authorised the operation.

They claimed they had not been notified of any decision to clear the land, even after recently turning down a proposal from Old Crossroads town clerk Ricky Schelhase that the land be cleared of the burnt-out shacks.

The residents complained the operation was part of a set-up to resettle Mr Ngxobongwana's supporters, which would spark renewed fighting in the area.

Police warned the growing crowd to disperse before scattering them with two baton charges. Officers then "held" Section 1 while the bulldozers and frontend loaders started clearing the area.

Democratic Party MP Mr Jan van Eck, who later arrived at the scene, said the Government's decision to send in the police to sort out the housing crisis and land dispute at Old Crossroads was highly irresponsible.

"The police should only be there to maintain law and order while the Government and community leaders sort out the land dispute."

Mr van Eck said the police action had to be deplored as the operation went ahead without the community or its leaders being informed. The hostility created by the action could jeopardise the fragile peace process presently taking place, he said.

● During the course of the day, security force members conducted house-to-house searches in Sections 3 and 4 of Old Crossroads and confiscated a large assortment of home-made weapons.

Pamphlets were also handed out by police calling for an end to the violence.

● Mr Nongwe was absent as he had earlier been arrested. He appeared in the Belville Magistrate's Court on a charge of driving a vehicle without the owner's permission. He was later released on a warning. — Sapa.

South NEWS SOUTH, Octobe

Talks fail to resolve Crossroads crisis

South 18/10 – 24/10/90

By MPUMELELO KIVA

FEARS of a major confrontation between Old Crossroads residents and police are mounting as police and the SADF maintain a heavy presence in the area since the start of a "clean-up campaign" on Monday.

A meeting between the Cape Provincial Administration's regional director, Mr Fanie Naude, and a delegation of Crossroads residents in Goodwood on Thursday failed to resolve the conflict.

Western Cape United Squatters Association (Wecusa) spokesperson Mr Gladstone Ntamo confirmed that his office received numerous complaints from residents about the police presence in Crossroads Sections 3 and 4.

"These fears were made worse on Thursday when Naude refused to take cognisance of the frustrations of the people," said Mr Stef Snel of the Unrest Monitoring Action Committee who attended the meeting.

Hundreds of police moved into the squatter camp on Monday, marking the beginning of the controversial "clean-up campaign". Police vans and hippos surrounded the area as police moved into houses.

The campaign, initiated by the CPA, was opposed by the residents on the grounds that they were not consulted.

Traditional weapons were confiscated from houses during the door-to-door raid by police and a barbed-wire cordon was set up around the area.

Injured

In another incident, police baton-charged Section 1 residents while they were meeting, injuring several people, including children.

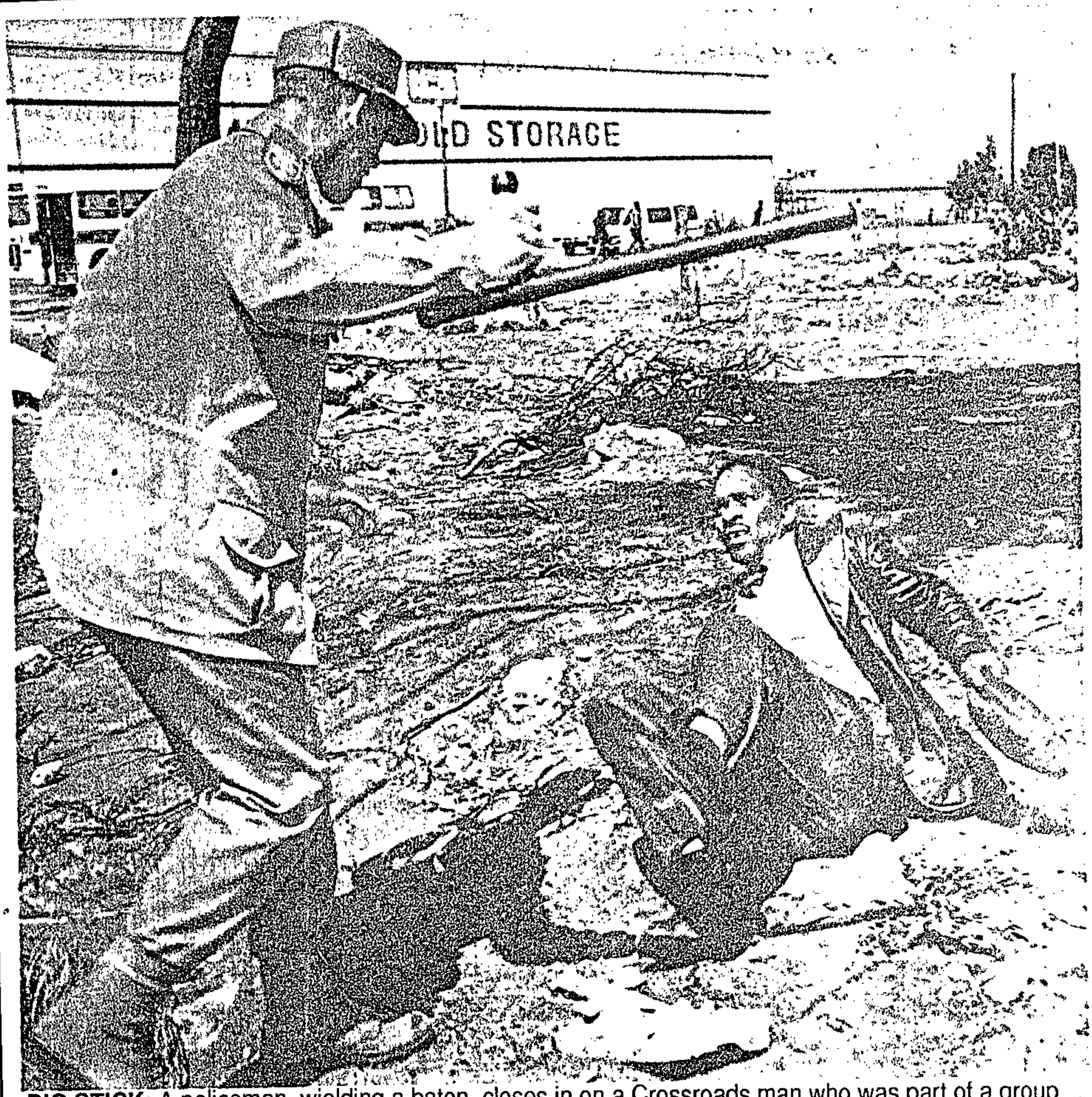
Residents claimed police were worsening the situation which promised to return to normal.

They also complained that the raid left them without any weapons to defend themselves should they be attacked by the rival faction.

"They are disarming us so that our enemies can freely attack us," said one resident.

307

Residents said they could not understand why the barbed wire was set up near the houses.



BIG STICK: A policeman, wielding a baton, closes in on a Crossroads man who was part of a group who protested against the clearing of land at the squatter camp by the authorities this week.

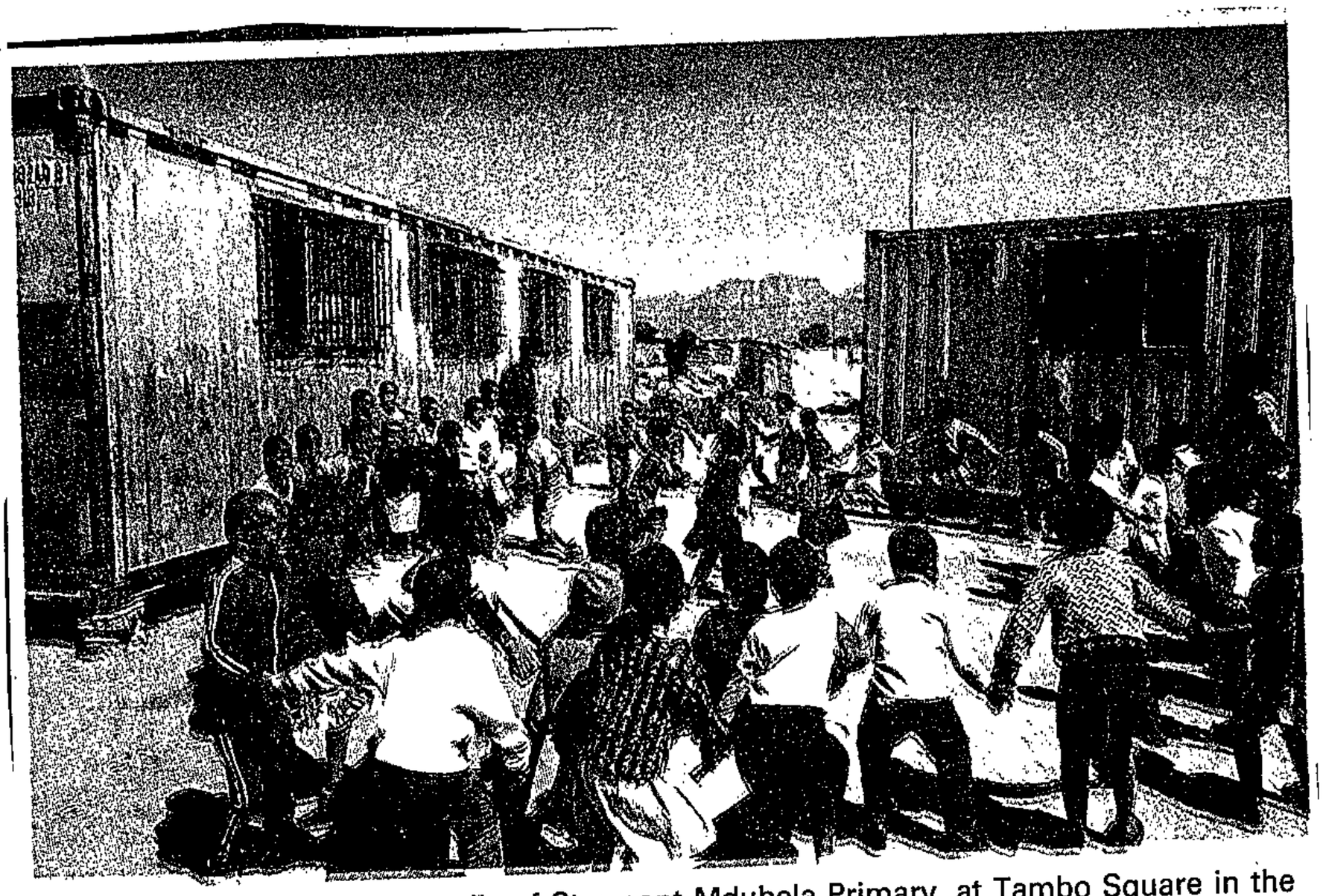
South 18/10 - 24/10/90

See full report — Page 3

(307)

PIC: MIKE HUTCHINGS

hit on SA sport — See page 24



CONTAINER SCHOOL . . . Pupils of Stormont Mdubela Primary, at Tambo Square in the KTC sqautter camp, play outside their school — a collection of five shipping containers.
Picture: STEWART COLMAN

CAT - Times 17/6/98 307

Containers for classrooms

Staff Reporter

FREIGHT containers donated by the British embassy are being used as classrooms for children of the KTC squatter camp where there are no Department of Education and Training (DET) schools.

The general neglect at black schools was revealed yesterday on a press tour led by Mr Shepherd Mdladlana, the president of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu), and Ms Dene Smuts, acting DP spokeswoman on education.

Mr Mdladlana said money set aside by the government to upgrade black schools had not filtered through to those schools which "desperately needed to be maintained".

There are 4 000 primary school pupils living in the strife-torn KTC camp, but only 310 pupils and 12 teachers can be accommodated in the five containers which make up the Stormont Madubela Primary School, according to principal Mr Wellington Nophoto.

The pupils have no textbooks and only receive some library books.

At the Andile Primary School in New Crossroads, which has 960 pupils and 27 teachers, children sit on iron rods because of a shortage of 415 chairs.

The Mkhanyiseli Lower Primary in Nyanga has 12 classrooms, three of which are in states of disrepair.

The school has turned away more than 200 children due to lack of space.

The Cape Times faxed a list of questions to the DET yesterday and the answers are expected today.

CAPE TIMES
Tuesday, October 23 1990

Crossroads mayor offered new site

By CHRIS BATEMAN

REFUGEES from Old Crossroads and supporters of its mayor, Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana, will be encouraged to move from the ecologically sensitive Driftsands nature reserve near Khayelitsha to a site in Philippi.

This emerged after a tour of Old Crossroads and the refugee camp yesterday by Mr Adriaan Vlok, Minister of Law and Order, and Mr Kobus Meiring, Cape Administrator, following more arson attacks in Old Crossroads on Sunday.

Mr Vlok promised Mr Ngxobongwana that police would probe allegations of murder, torchings and beatings by special constables.

Police confirmed that the home Mr Klaas Ndengani was shot at and burnt down at 3am on Sunday while 20 minutes earlier the home of Mr Addition Mnotoza, a supporter of breakaway chief headman and Old Crossroads ANC chairman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe, was petrol-bombed.

Both men escaped injury.

Mr Vlok and Mr Meiring listened patiently to allegations by Mr Ngxobongwana at the 2 000-strong new refugee camp opposite Site C, Khayelitsha, which is also the site of a planned floodwater dam.

Mr Ngxobongwana said that while he personally had no problem with moving to the 20-hectare Philippi South site a few kilometres from his burnt-out former headquarters, he would have to be "led by my people's wishes".

Mr Vlok told the community that police would do everything in their power to ensure their safety and to reduce the level of violence.

Rudimentary services have already been prepared at the Philippi site.

● Tensions in Khayelitsha remained high. A vehicle was petrol-bombed and police assigned a bodyguard to town clerk Mr Graham Lawrence who has received death threats over the telephone.

Mr Lawrence said he would make concessions on recently introduced and backdated service charges if the Western Cape Civic Association (WCCA) agreed to dialogue.

The WCCA believes Mr Lawrence's councillors are behind last week's fatal attack on the home of their chairman Mr Michael Mapongwana. Mr Mapongwana was injured and his wife Nomsa died instantly in a hail of bullets.

Her funeral will be held in Khayelitsha on Saturday.

Mr Lawrence said 200 residents had paid service charges since they were introduced at the beginning of the month.

● Khayelitsha's administrators face a R3,5-million operating deficit.

ARGUS 24/10/90 (307)

CITY NATIONAL

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

SQUATTER SUMMIT: Administrator of the Cape Mr Kobus Meiring greets Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana at a meeting about squatter refugees.

Bush refugees: Meiring rules out bulldozers

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE, Staff Reporter

ADMINISTRATOR of the Cape Mr Kobus Meiring has ruled out using bulldozers to force squatter refugees from Crossroads to move.

He said that the provincial administration would not force them to leave the bush near Khayelitsha against their will and consultations about their plight would continue.

"Bulldozers are not for me," he said.

After a two-hour meeting with people from both sides in the Crossroads saga yesterday, Mr Meiring said the refugees were unwilling to return to the squatter camp or to move to a suggested site in Philippi.

This was in spite of assurances given to the refugees by Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok on Monday, according to Mr Meiring who yesterday met Crossroads Mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana.

Shacks were torched

Also at yesterday's two-hour meeting were Lingelethu Town Council Mayor Mr Mali Hoza, community councillors, senior police officers and Lingelethu and Crossroads town clerks Mr Graham Lawrence and Mr Ricky Schelhase.

The talks were held as a direct result of a visit by Mr Vlok and Mr Meiring to refugees on Monday, according to CPA spokesman Mr Van Heerden Heunis.

The talks also focused on the security situation in Khayelitsha, he said.

More than 100 families, all supporters of Mr Ngxobongwana, fled Driftsands last month after their shacks were torched in the continuing power struggle in the shantytown.

On Monday, they ruled out a return to Crossroads because they said they feared for their safety.

An alternative site to be levelled and provided with taps and toilets in Philippi was proposed. Mr Ngxobongwana was asked to convey the suggestion to the refugees, who apparently declined the offer.

They said they would leave the area only after their complaints about special constables had been fully investigated. Mr Meiring said

Barbed wire in Crossroads

CAPE TIMES 26/10/90

BY MONICA GRAAFF
Crime Reporter

CROSSROADS is to see the withdrawal of controversial special constables and the erection of barbed-wire barricades around Section Two as part of a new police effort to stabilise the violence-battered township.

General Flip Fourie, the regional commissioner of police, announced these moves yesterday.

Defusing and stabilising the situation in all black areas in the Western Cape had become a top police priority, he said.

Police would step up patrols with immediate effect and remove "undesirable special constables" — who allegedly took sides in the faction fighting — from the area.

The barbed-wire barricades would allow controlled access only.

A special police squad had been appointed to investigate claims that certain "specials" were biased towards the ANC and that they allegedly launched attacks on Crossroads residents.

"It is necessary that any incidents of arson, vandalism and violent intimidation of the residents of the Phase Two development area of Crossroads be fully curbed," he said.

Extensive damage had been caused in the area, Geneeral Fourie said.

Noordhoek squatters need separate body

CAPE TIMES 30/10/90 (307)

Municipal Reporter

A PLANNERS' study, leaked to the Cape Times, recommends the establishment of a Valley Authority in Noordhoek to overcome the lack of consensus over a suitable site for squatters.

Landowners and squatters would have to be represented on the body, which should have political power "to govern its own destiny".

The study, by town planners and surveyors Van der Merwe Duxbury and Dunn, was commissioned by the Cape Provincial Administration's community services branch in an effort to identify a site for the Noordhoek squatter community and assess its effect on the valley.

Eight sites were considered in the study, but the planners failed to make a final choice between Site Five — identified in the Cape Times last week as the most likely area, south of a proposed marina — and Site Eight next to Capri Village. The firm reported its findings to the CPA at the end of June, but until now these have not been made public.

The study concludes that "the assessment of inputs from interest groups, public bodies and landowners reflects no consensus as to which site is considered to be socially optimum".

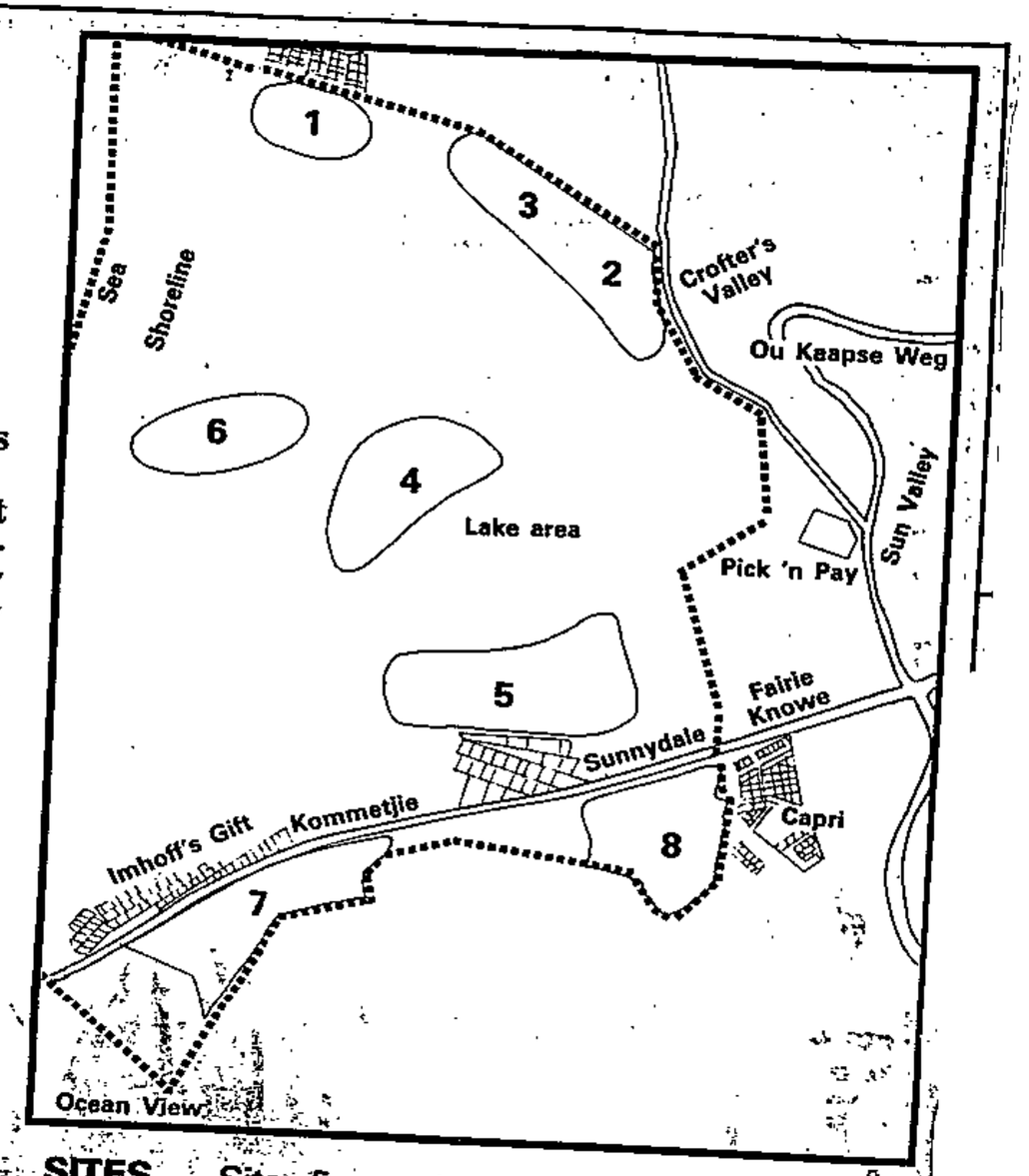
Landowners and interest groups on the Kommetjie and Ocean View side of the valley prefer the sites close to Noordhoek, and vice versa. At the time of the study, the squatters preferred Site Seven — near Imhoff's Gift on a R2-billion kaolin deposit, where the land, even without mineral rights, is worth R120 000 a hectare — and Site Eight.

The information on the kaolin deposit became available only after it was initially identified as a possible squatter site.

However, the study notes that Site Five meets most of the squatters' criteria. It has subsequently been reported that they now favour Site Five.

"It is seriously contended that before a final site location is made the matter be discussed with the squatter and local communities. The goodwill engendered by this action will "greatly reduce the overall impact on the valley". Between 30 and 40 hectares was sought, to provide for the growth of "only the Noordhoek squatter population" up to the year 2010, when there would be 500 families.

Many landowners see it not as a racial issue but "as a socio-economic fact that diametrically opposing income levels are not normally located adjacent to each other".



SITES . . . Sites five and eight are identified suitable for squatter settlement. Since this map was drawn, site five has been reduced in area.

Crossroads mayor says he wants to join Nats

Argus 23/10/90 307

Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

MEETING THE PEOPLE: Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok in Crossroads yesterday.

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

CONTROVERSIAL Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana wants to join the National Party because black political organisations are "rotten".

He made this announcement yesterday at a meeting held in the bush at Faure where more than 100 of his supporters have taken refuge.

Minister of Law and Order Mr Adriaan Vlok and the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring, also attended the meeting.

'Never join ANC'

Mr Ngxobongwana drew loud applause from white officials and Khayelitsha town councillors when he announced his intentions.

He said: "Today I want to tell you something for the first time: I will never join the ANC because they are killers. There's only one party I want to join and that is the National Party. I will ask Mr Vlok to send me a membership card."

Claiming that the Pan Africanist Congress was "better" because it was doing its utmost to end the violence in Crossroads, Mr Ngxobongwana lashed out at the ANC which he alleged was "rotten".

He said white policemen operating in Crossroads had never been seen attacking people and did not take sides.

Mr Ngxobongwana said he would never return to Crossroads.

"I'll be mayor right here in the bush," he said to applause.

Because the people did not want to return to Crossroads, an area could be found for them in Philippi, Mr Vlok said.

Mr Ngxobongwana will convey this offer to the refugees.

Defiant Crossroads group refuses to leave shacks

307

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE and JOHN YELD
Staff Reporters

Argus 18/10/90

SECURITY forces overseeing the levelling of Section One in Crossroads have ordered the 36 families still inside the fenced area to leave and if they refuse, their shacks would be bulldozed, the families claimed.

Section One was vacated by the controversial Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and his supporters after his house and their shacks were torched in continuing leadership squabbles in the shanty town last month.

The families then moved into the area and rebuilt their shacks.

Speaking from African National Congress (ANC) branch chairman Mr Jeffrey Nongwe's house yesterday, the defiant squatters said they were not prepared to move and were prepared to appeal to "the highest men in the land" to intervene.

They said members of the SADF and the security forces gave them the ultimatum on Tuesday to leave the enclosed area.

The security forces were serious, they said, because taps in the vicinity had been turned off and five gates in the razor wire fencing were closed.

Yesterday a large police and army presence was still in evidence as fencing and clearing of the area continued.

Conflict 'worsened'

The Administrator of the Cape Mr Kobus Meiring said in a statement yesterday that Mr Ngxobongwana and his rival Mr Nongwe had been informed of the decision to clear Section One.

He said, in response to violence in the area this week, that conflict between the two leaders had "worsened considerably" since August.

During the violence structures on Section One, which comprises 20 ha of land, were burned down and residents fled to the Driftsands nature reserve where they were squatting.

The fencing of the area, which began on Monday, was to prevent any new structures being erected while clearing-up took place.

"The piece of land will be levelled and all refuse will be removed. Water holes, which cause floods in winter, will be filled and the area stabilised and compacted.

"No upgrading of the area is at present being contemplated, as the authorities wish to confer with the community before any decision is taken.

"For this reason too, an urgent call is made on people not to occupy the site until finality has been reached about the matter."

The protagonists of Crossroads

A notable feature of Mr Jeffrey Nongwe's war against Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana is that he is able to wage it from inside the sprawling camp.

Unlike his predecessors who were forced out of the area the moment there was any sign of dissension, Mr Nongwe, a former lieutenant of the mayor, has stood his ground.

In 1983, Oliver Memani left Crossroads to set up the KTC squatter camp after an unsuccessful rebellion. Four years later, Mr Prince Gobingca moved to Khayelitsha after a similar attempt to overthrow Mr Ngxobongwana.

Last week, events in the battle-scarred camp seemed to tilt in Mr Nongwe's favour as some of the mayor's supporters moved out of the camp.

Slipping

The roots of the current conflict can be found in a dispute over housing funds which made Mr Nongwe and 13 other headmen part company with Mr Ngxobongwana.

They accused Mr Ngxobongwana of misusing the funds, but a subsequent government investigation failed to find any substance in their allegations.

But Mr Nongwe's actions resulted in the once-mighty Mr Ngxobongwana slowly slipping from grace among the people who adored him.

His militant speeches used to draw drowning applause from his followers in t[illegible]r-

Johnson Ngxobongwana

Controversial Crossroads mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana is no stranger to opposition to his iron-fist rule. In fact, he has survived at least two major attempts to oust him, but recent events in the area seem to suggest that this time, he may be on the losing side. Staff Reporter VUYO BAVUMA examines the background of Mr Ngxobongwana's reign.

ly 80s when he was president of the Western Cape Civic Association and he proved to be an asset in the struggle against the notorious Piet Koornhof Bills which planned to curtail the movement of people in the so-called "white" urban areas.

Impregnable

In these stormy times, the Crossroads leader was detained and once stood trial for public violence.

But in the later half of 1984, Mr Ngxobongwana drifted away from the progressive political organisations.

The two so-called "witdoeke" wars in 1985 and 1986, which led to many people being killed and their houses torched, sealed the division between him and the local political activists.

Subsequent opposition to Mr Ngxobongwana's rule in the camp was successfully suppressed. In 1987 dissenter Mr Gobingca was forced to leave the camp after being shot and injured by unknown men.

In fact, Mr Ngxobongwana's rule seemed impregnable.

But Mr Nongwe's opposition altered the course of events.

The first cracks in the Ngxobongwana empire appeared when his councillors were removed from the committee of a local high school, now known as Mandela High School.

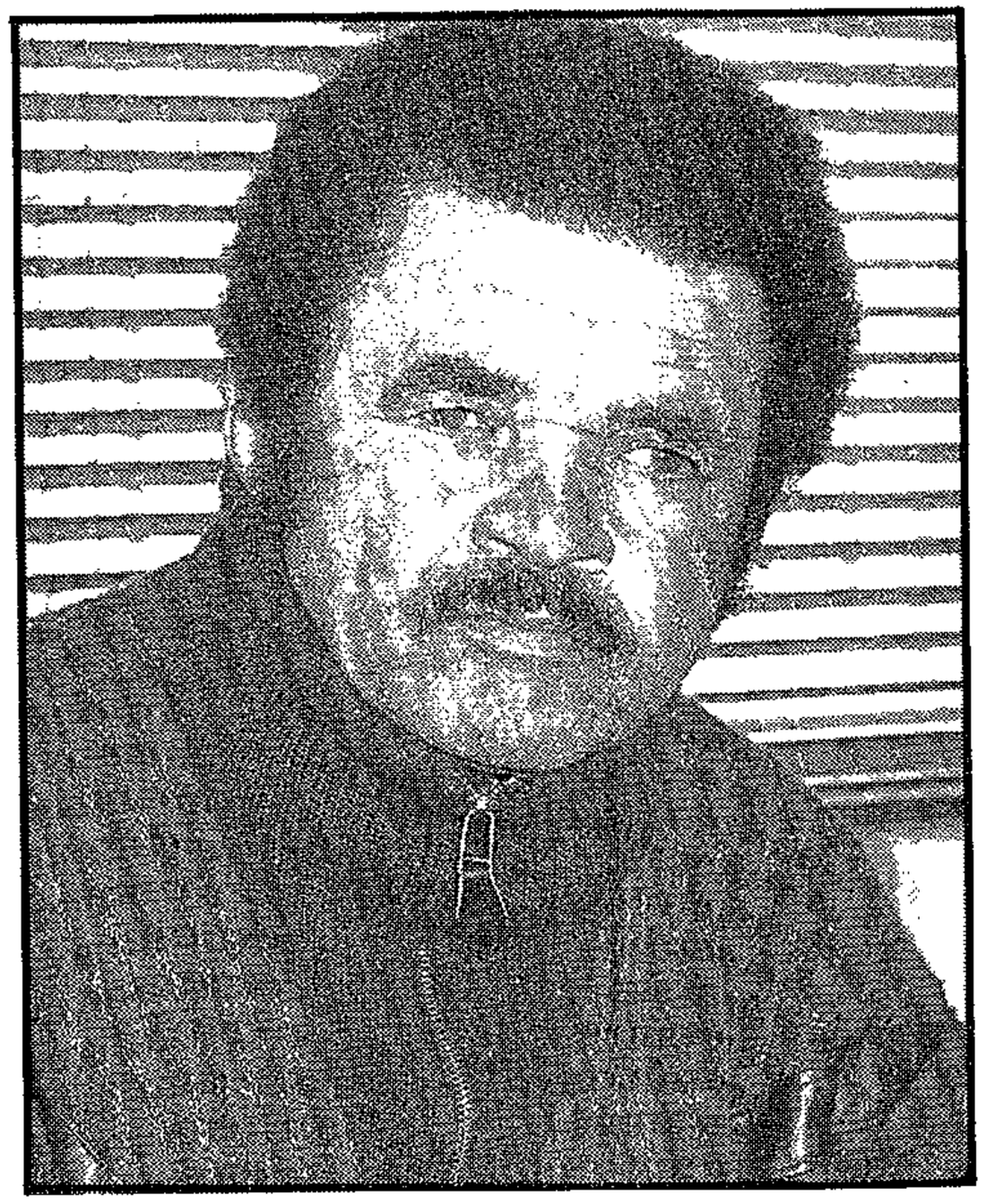
This was after the councillors allegedly tried to refuse the pupils under the control of Mr Nongwe access to the school.

The move was followed by the "expulsion" of 14 white teachers from the school. A parents-teachers-students association which included UDF and National Education Coordinating Comiitee members was formed.

For the first time since the early 80s, anti-government politics returned to Crossroads and were not suppressed by the Ngxobongwana rule.

But the killings and burning of shacks by the warring factions continued unabated.

In August houses of Mr Ngxobongwana's supporters in their traditional stronghold, Section One, were razed.



Johnson Ngxobongwana

Later Noxolo Higher Primary School — where Mr Ngxobongwana used to host government officials — was damaged in arson attacks.

On August 24, the Pan Africanist Congress stepped into the area and vowed to protect its members — most of whom were pro-Ngxobongwana supporters.

Four days earlier Mr Nongwe was elected as a chairman of the ANC Crossroads branch.

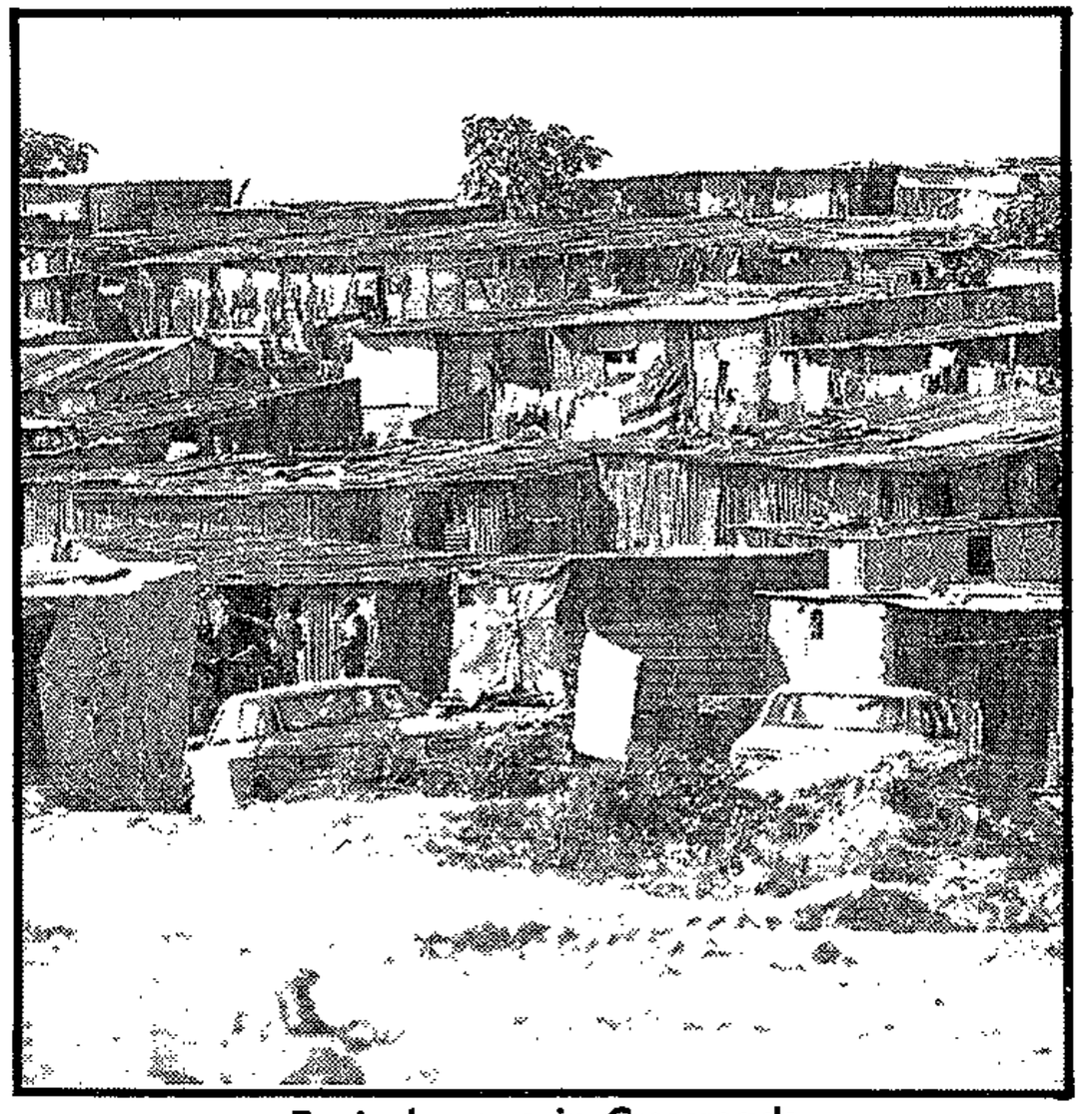
But despite these political developments, some residents in the camp disagreed that the conflict was between "the ANC and the PAC members."

They said it followed large scale corruption, allegedly on the part of the mayor.

In September matters came to a head when Mr Ngxobongwana's brick house was looted and burnt to the ground by youths.

Significantly, for the better part of the year, Mr Ngxobongwana spent time in Ciskei away from his people. Even now, he does not live among them.

As the violence continued, some of Mr Ngxobongwana's supporters — apparently tired of the 13-month feud — moved out of the camp.



Typical scene in Crossroads

Last week hundreds move[illegible] to a botanical nature reserv[illegible] along Faure road, half a kilo[illegible] metre outside Khayelitsha.

Some residents of the new brick houses have left th[illegible] camp as the violence agains[illegible] them continues.

Recent peace initiatives b[illegible] police have failed as the tid[illegible] turns against Mr Ngxobong[illegible] wana's rule.

Last week disenchante[illegible] ANC members in Unathi sec[illegible] tion formed their own branc[illegible] after they accused M[illegible] Nongwe of using children t[illegible] attack and loot their houses.

Once they were colleagues . . . now bitter enemies

19/10/90 (307)

Jeffrey Nongwe

Through the "witdoeke" wars in 1985 and 1986 Mr Jeffrey Nongwe was one of his Johnson Ngxobongwana's councillors. But in August last year he challenged his authority in Crossroads. Staff Reporter VUYO BAVUMA examines his career.

BEFORE Mr Jeffrey Nongwe challenged Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana's authority, he was one of the mayor's loyal lieutenants.

Through the "witdoeke" wars in 1985 and 1986, Mr Nongwe was one of the councillors, but in August last year, Mr Nongwe stood up against his former colleague.

His main objection was that the mayor had allegedly misappropriated funds earmarked for housing funds.

One of the trump cards held by Mr Nongwe was that he was always among his power-base in Crossroads — unlike his rival who spent long spells in Ciskei.

Power base

Like the previous adversaries of Mr Ngxobongwana, Mr Nongwe forged alliances with local political organisations with ANC-leanings.

In certain quarters, scepticism was expressed about Mr Nongwe's "past" but many felt he was an important ally to have, when his power base is considered.

Months after the liberation movements were unbanned, Mr Nongwe hoisted a ANC flag on a pole near his house. It was then that Mr Nongwe began to intensify his fight against Mr Ngoxobongwana and his supporters.

On August 19 he sealed his political ties when he was elected chairman of the ANC's Old Crossroads branch at an enthusiatic meeting of 3 000 residents.

His marriage with the political organisation flourished as Mr Nongwe was elected to serve on several structures including a funeral committee of the slain senior ANC official, Mr Trevor Vilakazi.

The target of his initial focus during the 14-month feud was the attack on pro-Ngxobongwana's supporters, mainly in the Section One area.

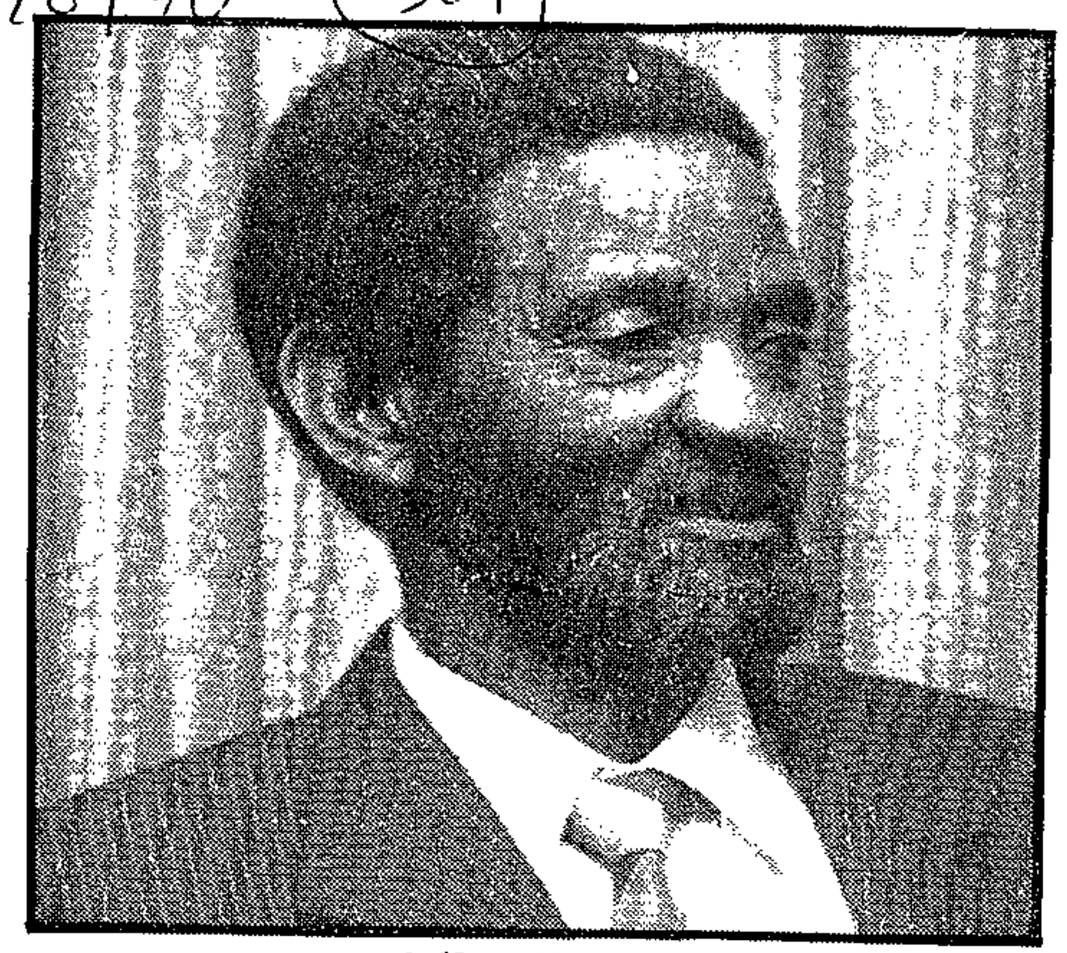
The houses of the latter group were torched and many of their supporters killed. Most gave up the struggle and fled to Faure.

Amid the battle, rumours — reminiscent of the Ngxobongwana's heyday — emerged from the Unathi section who also belonged to the ANC.

The crux of the allegations of the disgruntled members was that Mr Nongwe's "henchmen" looted and set their opponents' houses on fire.

The residents also claimed that, as under Ngxobongwana's reign, they were being forced by Mr Nongwe's followers to pay for alleged funeral and lawyers' fees.

To them, the ex-lieutenant of the "ousted" Mr Ngxobongwana faction was acting no differently to his former colleague.



Jeffrey Nongwe

They also claimed on two occassions that Mr Nongwe sent anonymous letters which threatened them with harm if they did not leave the area.

The "rationale" behind the attacks on their houses was that they had been "allocated houses unfairly during the Ngxobongwana rule."

Most of them stood their ground in Unathi as they believed they were "lawful occupants" of their houses. They also indicated they paid monthly rentals of R55.

Matters came to a head when the residents formed their own new branch which they said had more than 300 members. They are now planning to launch the new branch at the end October.

In August the members of the branch met the local ANC executive about Mr Nongwe's conduct in a bid to solve the conflict.

Solved

In his house, with the ANC's flag flutterring on a pole, Mr Nongwe dismissed all the allegations of the Unathi Section.

He said the conflict in the area would be solved when the residents moved to the Section One, the territory formerly occupied by Mr Ngxobongwana supporters.

"We believe that the residents' adjacent to Boys' Town be accommodated first. This is because they stay in a waterlogged area."

"It is the kids of those people who are throw stones at us. We no longer use that route."

Mr Nongwe had been trying to arrange meetings with the residents' representives, but none arrived.

"We are having problems in Old Crossroads but we are working on them organisationally. We had a choice of writing off Mr Nongwe's supporters but we'll take them on." — Trevor Manuel publicity secretary of the ANC.

The publicity secretary of the ANC, Mr Trevor Manuel said there was no doubt that Mr Nongwe had popular support, but this did not mean he was faultless.

"We are having problems in Old Crossroads but we are working on them organisationally. We had a choice of writing off Mr Nongwe's supporters but we'll take them on."

● Early this month Mr Nongwe was acquitted on seven charges of arson and malicious damage to property amounting to R26 000. The charges arose from the violence in the camp. ●

PROPERTY

B IDM 31/10/90

Shack dwellers rally in move to become home owners

SA's scattered shack-dwelling community is forming itself into a representative and non-political body in order to exchange information between its members and lobby government.

A large proportion of SA's black urban population lives in shacks. A recent Bureau of Market Research (BMR) report says there are nearly 100 000 shacks in Soweto alone.

In May last year, after a number of shacks were demolished in the PWV area, the Vulindela United Community of SA (Vucosa) was formed by shack dwellers who were determined to help themselves, chairman Eric Ntshiqela says.

Ntshiqela lives in a shack in Katlehong.

"Our first priority was a channel for communication so that when shacks were demolished the whole shack-dweller community would know about it instead of reading about it later in the newspapers," he says.

"Shack dwellers have had their mouths closed by the government or the land owners, who either move them on, ask for huge sums of money or refuse to allow them to use the facilities that do exist.

"We believe we should put pressure on housing organisations as well as on the government, and should also have our own programme.

"We have to be involved in whatever government's plans are, and not have solutions imposed on us."

Ntshiqela has already held discussions with De Kock Lombard consulting engineer Gerrit Lombard, who is working on a report which will address housing policy.

This report will be submitted to government and could contribute towards formulating a new housing policy for SA.

Vucosa is planning to put up two show houses in Palm Springs near Evaton for different organisations to look at, and is trying to get funds for these and to build more homes. It is also looking for assistance with administration costs.

Ntshiqela says most people live in shacks not because they lack the money for something better but because there is no permanent site available. Although there are poor and unemployed shack dwellers, many are earning good salaries.

"The shack dwellers want to own property rather than rent it (many are paying rent at the moment) because they want the right to occupation," he says.

"It is also the status. You don't want to be called a shack dweller but want to be the owner of something."

He says that when shack dwellers move to a township with available land it often takes them extra time and money to travel to work. For instance, the train journey from Johannesburg station to Stretford Station, Orange Farm, takes an hour.

But people have no alternative if they are to get full occupation rights.

Some choose not to move because they want to be in Soweto or Alexandra for social reasons, he adds.

Vucosa is holding a conference on Saturday and Sunday. At least 90 delegations are expected to attend, to discuss common needs.

Hopes dashed for Noordhoek squatter crisis

CPA Times 7/11/90

By PETER DENNEHY

THE Surplus People Project (SPP), an organisation assisting the Noordhoek squatters, accused the CPA and government departments on Monday of "blatant breach of promise".

A year ago, SPP said, on November 4, 1989 in Ocean View, Mr Koos Theron of the CPA executive committee had promised land to squatter communities in the Fish Hoek and Noordhoek areas.

But now "the hope of a permanent solution to the housing crisis lies in tatters".

Fish Hoek squatters had been arrested and charged, some in Noordhoek had received eviction notices, and others in Kommetjie were being "harassed", the SPP said.

A month ago, at a meeting with Mr Jimmy Otto, ministerial representative for the area, the SPP had been assured that a piece of land, known as site five, was being bought in the Noordhoek/Kommetjie area for permanent settlement of squatters.

However, no public announcement had been made about the land purchase. A week later, Mr Otto stepped down from his post.

On October 23 — the day the Cape Times identified site five as the most likely one for squatter settlement — squatters living there had been given seven-day eviction notices.

Mr Jannie Momberg, MP for the area, said he had a meeting tomorrow with Mr Koos Albertyn, the new ministerial representative.

Govt names squatter site

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

A 40-HECTARE site in the Noordhoek area — known as Site Five — had been identified for the settlement of squatters in the area, the government announced yesterday.

The site is between the up-market marina development and the main road to Kommetjie.

Funds had been made available and urgent steps were being taken to acquire the land and provide services, the government said in a statement.

The announcement follows a statement this week by the Surplus Peoples Project (SPP) accusing the government and the Cape Provincial Administration of "blatant breach of promise" about the Noordhoek squatters.

Yesterday squatters said in a statement, issued by Ms Tina May of Ocean View, that they had applied for permission for a two-hour march in the Noordhoek area today to protest against the delay in identifying land for their settlement.

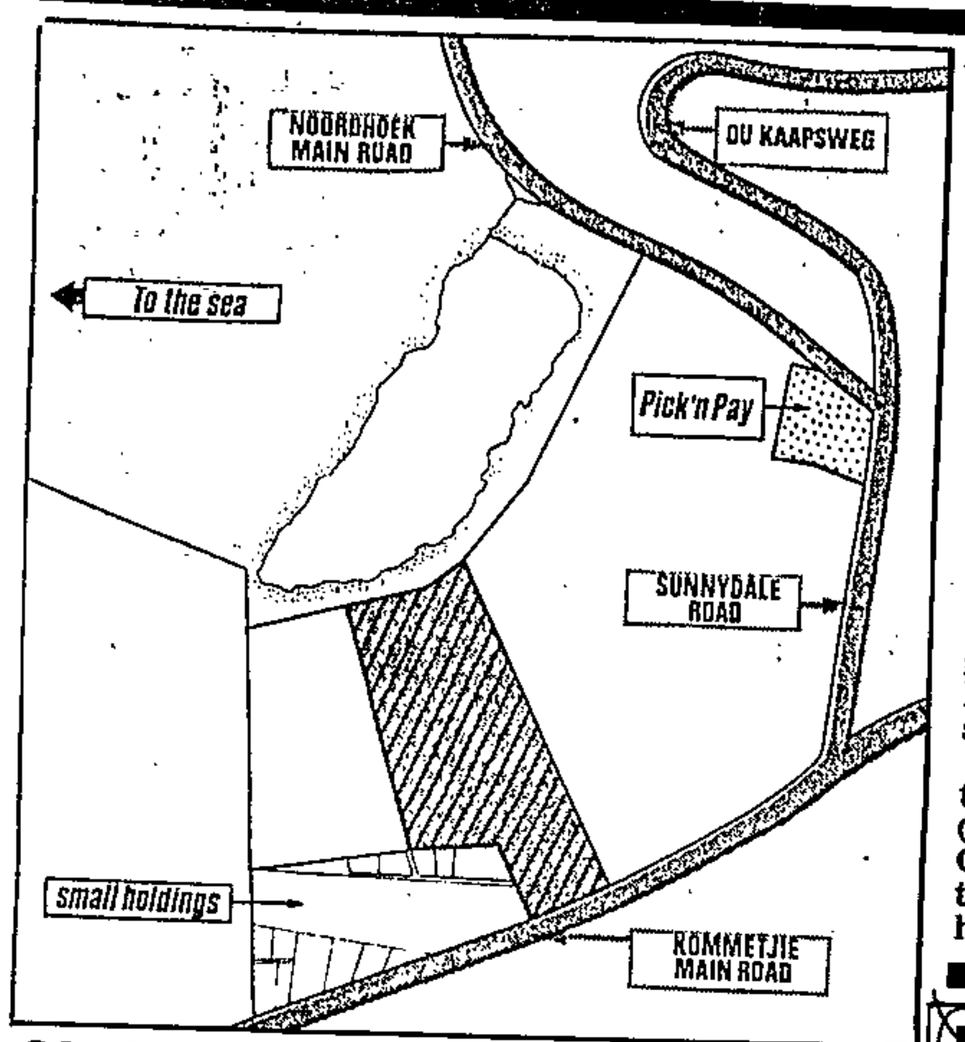
The government announcement was made in a joint statement by the Minister of Budget and Local Government in the House of Assembly, Mr Amie Venter; the Minister of Housing in the House of Representatives, Mr David Curry; the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel; the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring; a member of the Cape executive committee, Mr Koos Theron; and the ministerial representative, Mr Koos Albertyn.

In the statement, Mr Venter announced that in consultation with Mr Kriel, Mr Curry, Mr Meiring and the other parties involved, his department was taking urgent steps to acquire suitable land and to provide services for the permanent settlement of the Noordhoek squatters.

"After thorough consideration of all the relevant factors Site No 5, consisting of erven 945, 945/12 and 945/25 Noordhoek, was identified for permanent settlement of the squatters," the statement said.

The government also said in the statement that the identification of a site for squatters in Hout Bay was at an advanced stage and was receiving urgent attention.

"It is the sincere desire of the government to find permanent solutions to the problem of settlement of squatters and these steps are a further manifestation of the government's quest for a solution," the statement said.



SQUATTER LAND . . . The shaded section is Cape Farm 945, which the Cape Times correctly identified last month as the most likely site for the squatters. However, the squatter site will not extend all the way to the road. Also, part of the farm to the left of the shaded section and a sliver of land above the smallholdings have been earmarked as squatter land as well.

Squatter plan sparks row

Cape Times 9/11/90

By PETER DENNEHY 307

SUNNYDALE smallholders are so upset by the prospect of having "thousands" of Noordhoek squatters as neighbours that some will move, while others will stay and fight the government's land allocation — or fight among themselves.

On Tuesday the government announced that the 40ha "Site Five" at the top of Chasmay Road had been chosen as the most suitable area for squatters in the Noordhoek valley, and money had been set aside to buy it for them.

Yesterday squatters from the 39 dwellings already on the site were delighted by the news. But their wealthier neighbours were anything but pleased.

Smallholders have already put up a barbed-wire fence between them and the squatters. Some have altered their taps to stop squatters helping themselves to their water.

Squatter Mrs Esther Ramose said she now had to walk a kilometre for water.

Some smallholders have brought charges against the present owner of the squatter land, Mrs S A Pfeiffer, of Constantia, to force her to eject the squatters. A huge "No trespassing" signboard stands at the entrance to her land.

Mrs Janine Mayes of Johannesburg, owner of Noordhof Nurseries and Shelli's Country Tea Garden, said she would sue Mr Gerry Noordhof, from whom she bought the two-hectare property earlier this year.

She claimed yesterday that Mr Noordhof "was aware of this problem" (the presence of the squatters) before the sale went through.

Mr Noordhof, secretary of the Sunnydale Ratepayers' Association, said the lawsuit against him could well be the first of many, as the entire area had been marketed as "the new Constantia", but was actually becoming a new Khayelitsha.

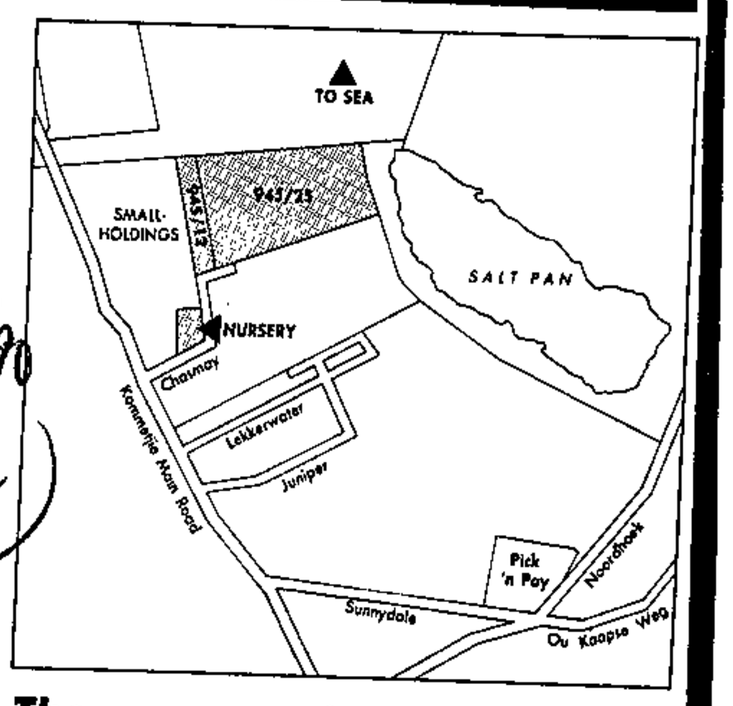
Mrs Mayes said: "I am very sorry for the people (the squatters), but I am more sorry for myself, if I may say so. Our life's savings and everything we have ever worked for have gone into this."

Mrs Deirdre Wynne, who has been on a smallholding owned by her mother for eight years, said she was going to leave.

Mr Malcolm Gutteridge of Sunnydale predicted that there would be "a hell of a fight" about the government's choice of land.

Noordhoek row over squatters

Concern over slump in property prices



The grey area in the map is the site earmarked for squatters in Noordhoek.

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Weekend Argus Reporter

STAND on Mr Don Henderson's balcony and you can see forever, as they say, and feel the tranquillity.

But Noordhoek was far from tranquil this week as residents digested the news that squatters are to be settled permanently in part of the suburb.

Worries that squatters would cause property prices to plunge and the crime rate to escalate were expressed often during a random survey by Weekend Argus.

Mr Gerry Noordhof, secretary of the Sunnydale Ratepayers' Association, who has sold his nursery and tearoom close to Site Five where the squatters are being settled, is being sued by the buyers.

'Two value systems'

The buyers say they are not racists but don't believe putting two "value systems" next to each other can work. They say Mr Noordhof did not tell them that squatters were living nearby and about plans to settle them in the area.

"It cannot work. It's like taking Constantia and putting it next to Bellville," said new owner Mrs Janine Mayes.

Mr Noordhof said the ratepayers' association would take the matter further. "We're not taking this lying down and will take it to the highest court in the land."

He said he sold his business "for health reasons" long before this week's announcement. But he has strong views on the proposed settlement.

"I feel most awful about it. This area has been marketed in the past few years as the new Constantia, where our children would be safe, but now it is becoming the new Khayelitsha."

Having a squatter settlement in their midst would make it difficult for most residents to sell their homes, he said.

"Lots of property sales took place here recently and all those buyers must be upset."

He said he had changed the tops of taps at the nursery when about 150 squatters settled nearby. 'This was done because we were the nearest source of water."

He said Site Five was ecologically sensitive. "It's very wet in winter when it's not possible to live there and squatters will be forced to move to Capri Village."

Mrs Mayes confirmed that she and her husband Barry were suing Mr Noordhof.

'Paid substantial amount'

"We've paid a substantial amount of money for the business, but it is worthless now. Nobody will buy it."

She and her husband had liquidated all their assets because they wanted to give their children a better quality of life.

"We love this place and the people here. But Mr Noordhof did not think it important to tell us that squatters were living nearby and about plans to settle them in the area permanently.

"We have nothing left except to fight Mr Noordhof. We've paid him two thirds of the purchase price and will continue paying until the court decides."

She did not want her opposition to the squatter settlement to be seen as being racist.

"Squatters can't be left homeless. There is a certain responsibility to them, but by the same token it cannot work to put different value systems next to each other. It cannot work. It's like taking Constantia and putting it next to Bellville."

She realised squatters needed homes, but the "bad" decision would cause a lot of friction on both sides.

In Capri Village, Mr Henderson slammed plans to develop Site Five as a squatter settlement as a "terrible misfortune".

Residents of the village, he said, had formed a sub-committee of the Sunnydale Ratepayers' Association and were "totally against putting squatters in as distinct from our own bergies".

He said squatters appeared to be above the law. "They just move in and take over. This business of dumping them in plastic shacks is no good. There's no work for them in the area. All the work here goes to our friends and folks in Ocean View. There's no way in which the squatters will survive except by theft."

Pointing to the woods, he said: "They'll destroy the woodlands. This is supposed to be a prime visiting area for tourists, but who will come after squatters move in?"

Mr Henderson said he was not against squatters. "It's not a question of racism because squatters can be people of any colour. It's not fair to expect them to cope here. They must be helped."

'Increase in crime'

The arrival of squatters would also lead to an increase in crime, he said.

His neighbour's house had been burgled at least three times and many others in the neighbourhood had been broken into.

Just five minutes away from his impressive double-storey house, which he thinks is worth R400 000, a resident who asked to remain anonymous said she believed squatters should be given "a place to live. But this must be controlled".

In Sunnydale, Mr Frank Bowker said: "We have a social responsibility. I don't believe you can pick people up at night and dump them in the bush. These people are our neighbours and we have a duty towards them." He wanted housing for squatters to be planned and executed with a minimum of bureaucracy.

Squatters stole my water — pensioner

S J Times-Ad 11/11/90

By EUGENE ABRAHAMS

A PENSIONER who owes a municipality R1 700 for water he claims squatters used while he was away on holiday has decided to defend himself in court.

Said a defiant Geoffrey Burger, 65, of Kraaifontein in the Cape: "I'll fight the municipality through the courts rather than pay the account.

"I'll only pay them R50, which is the amount I normally pay."

The decision to force Mr Burger to pay the water bill was taken at a council meeting this week. Mr Burger wrote a letter to councillors explaining he had not used the water and did not believe he was responsible for the bill.

According to Mr Burger, the Kraaifontein police had found out that squatters from the Bloekombos camp — across the road from Mr Burger's house — had used the tap on his smallholding while he was away in Johannesburg on holiday.

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Precedent

However, municipal officials are unsympathetic to Mr Burger's plight.

"Mr Burger's water account is like any other municipal account," said town clerk W M Conradie.

"It reflects the water used from his tap and he is responsible for paying the bill.

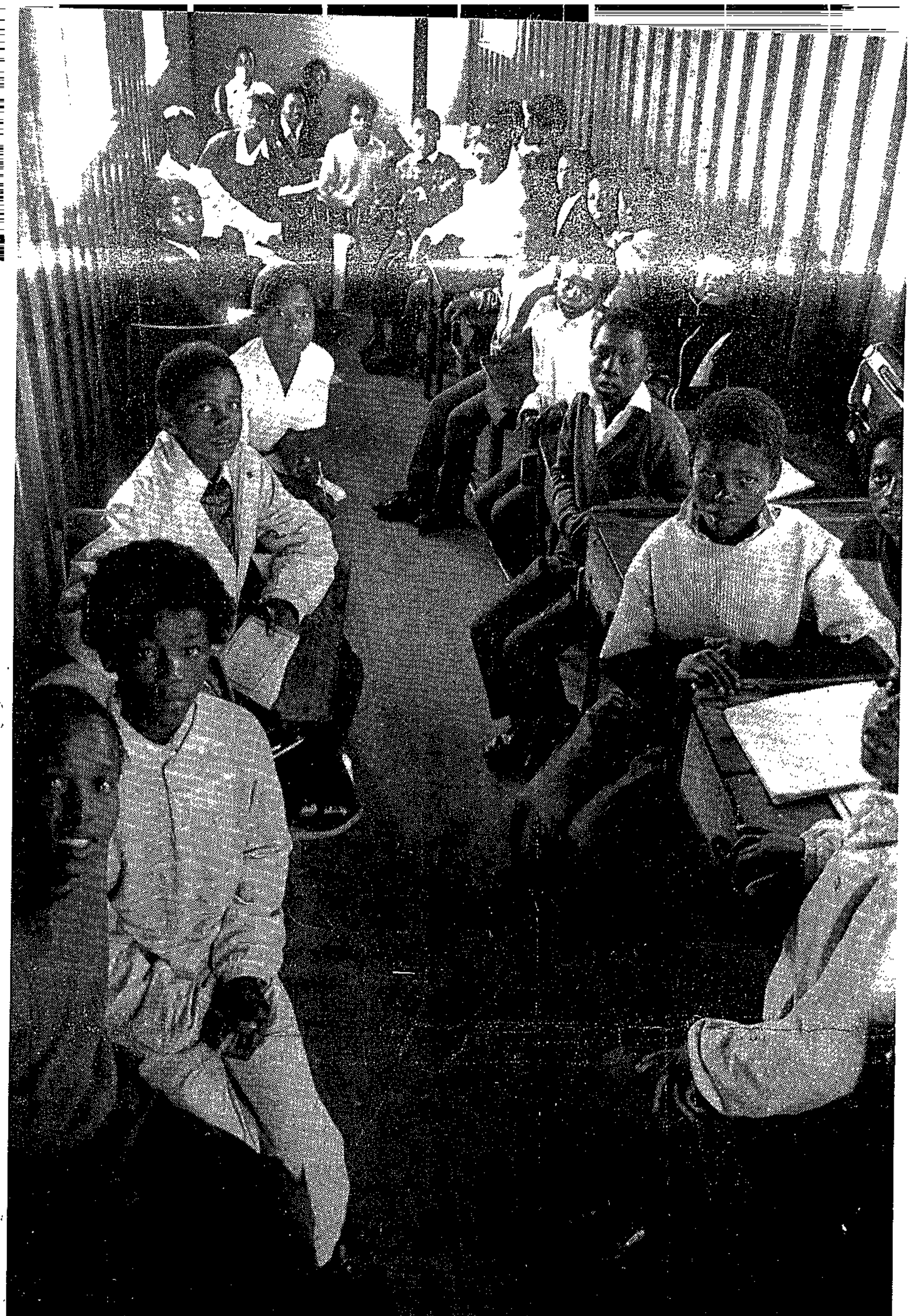
"As much as we would like to help him, I'm afraid we can't — it might set a precedent. The only assistance we can provide is to allow him to pay the account in instalments."

Since the "theft", Cape provincial administration officials have laid on a water supply for the squatters who settled on the municipal property 10 years ago.

Before selling his smallholding to live in Betty's Bay, Mr Burger repeatedly warned the municipality about the squatters and the threat they posed to local residents.

Said Mr Burger: "The municipality assured me it would demolish the shacks, but nothing happened."

Mr Conradie said the council was not planning to take any action against the squatters. "Their possible removal is up to the Cape provincial administration," he said.



It's hardly Hilton but Stormont Primary in KTC is a private school

Pictures: PAUL GRENDON, Afrapix

Squatter camp kids who go to school in a box

By AYESHA ISMAIL: Cape Town

CHILDREN in a Cape Town township are using shipping containers as classrooms.

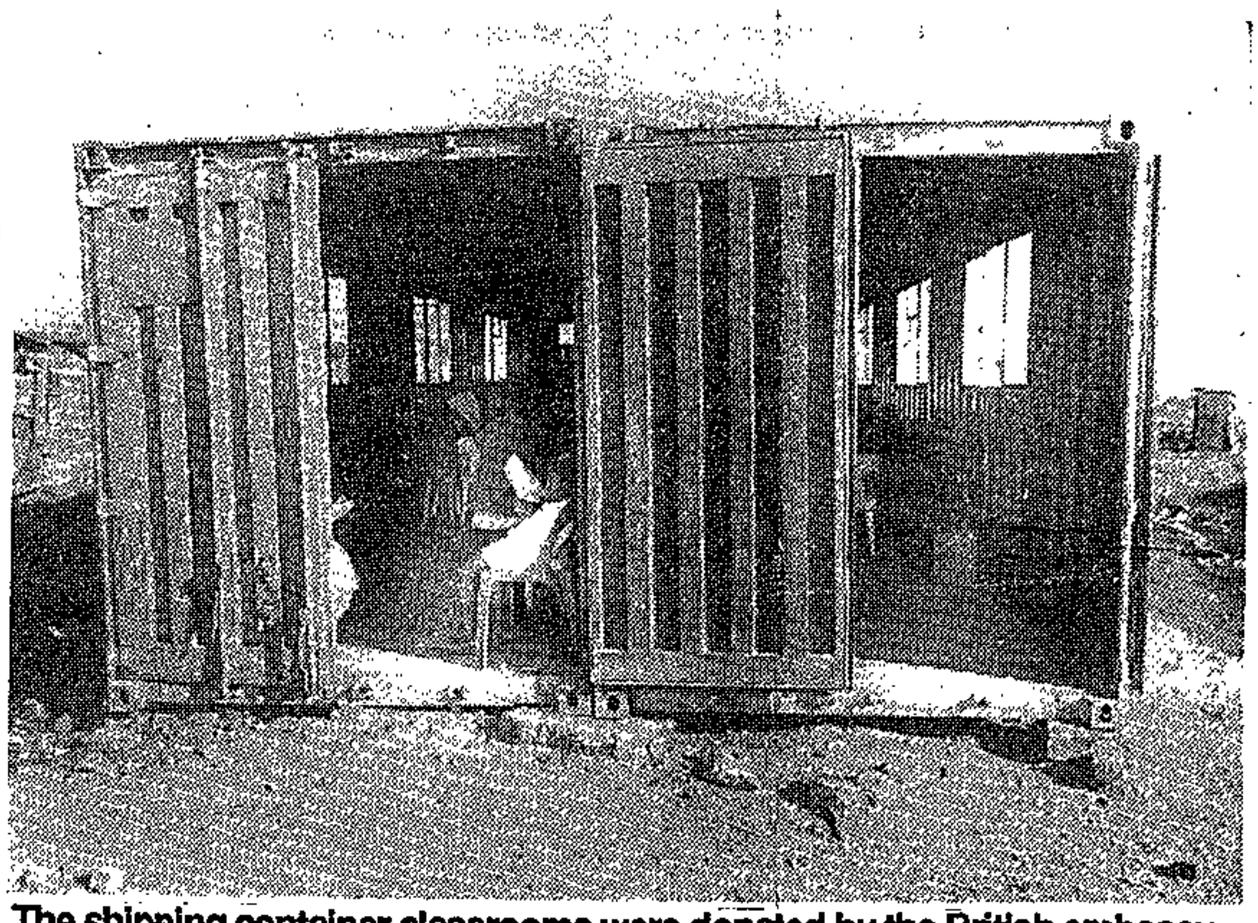
The Stormont Primary School in KTC squatter camp — attended by more than 300 pupils — was started by the squatter community.

It has been registered as a private school which means the Department of Education and Training does not assume any financial responsibility for the school.

The five containers used by the pupils were donated by the British embassy.

National chairman of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union, Shepherd Mdladlana, said the DET had ignored several requests by the community to build more schools.

Stormont Primary's headmaster, Wellington Nophoto said: "Children do not have any textbooks or desks to write on, and receive writing books, library books and stationery from the University of Cape Town and READ (a literacy organisation).



The shipping container classrooms were donated by the British embassy

"We have 12 teachers and do not earn a salary — we rely on donations. I am a qualified teacher but cannot find work at the DET schools because there are more than 100 teachers on their waiting list."

Cape Times 23/10/90 307

New deal to buy land for squatters

By PETER DENNEHY

SECRET negotiations are under way to buy a stretch of land in Noordhoek for the squatter community — and the most likely site has now been identified.

Mrs S A Pfeiffer of Constantia, who controls the company that owns the most likely site, confirmed yesterday that an approach had been made to buy the land from her.

However, she would not say from whom the approach had come, nor could she say for certain that squatters would be settled there.

"There are people who say that squatters will be settled there, but others say they will not . . . I don't know what the government's plans are.

"We have squatters on the land already. They are squatting all over the place."

She hoped the sale would go through, she said, but she was not at liberty to speak freely about it at this stage.

Her agent, a Mr Tescar of S R E Real Estate in Fish Hoek, said he could not speak freely either as he had to protect his client.

However, he subsequently said that the squatters would not be visible from Kommetjie Main Road because the first 50 metres of Port Jackson bushes would be left intact.

The Cape Times was unable to gain official confirmation yesterday that Mrs Pfeiffer's land is indeed the area in which the squatters may be resettled.

All parties involved in the negotiations have been keeping resolutely silent on the matter for weeks.

However, landowners who declined to be named directed the Cape Times to Mrs Pfeiffer. When she was initially telephoned, someone else who answered the telephone at her house confirmed that her land was to be bought for the squatters.

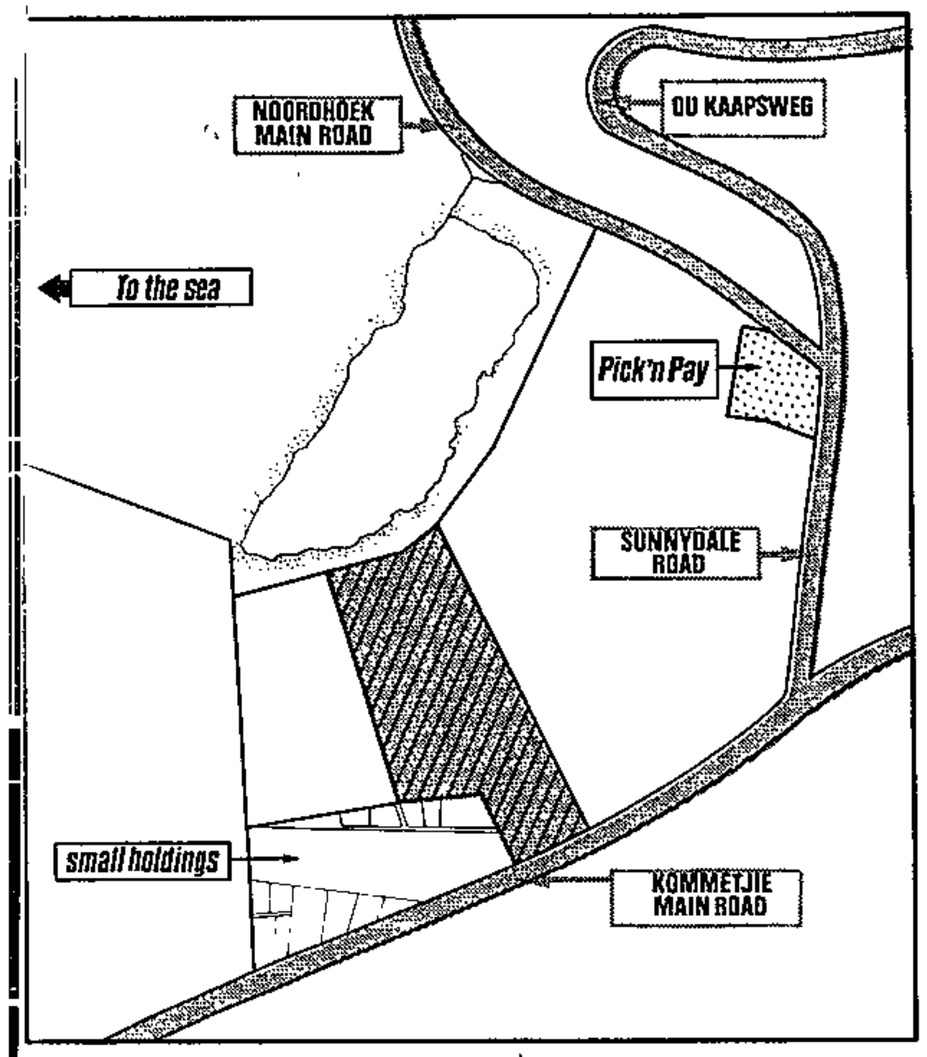
Her land is in the middle of "area five", one of eight possible sites for the squatters identified by the planning firm Van der Merwe, Duxbury and Kirkwood.

According to Mr John Cannan, chairman of the Noordhoek District and Civic Association, the choice had subsequently been narrowed down to four of the original eight. Site five was among these.

It is understood that site five was the one the squatters eventually decided upon as their best option.

Ministerial representative Mr Koos Albertyn declined on Friday to answer questions about Noordhoek, as negotiations were still in progress.

Neighbouring developer Mr Tony Marsh has also declined to disclose which land the squatters may get. Lawyers for the squatters are similarly tight-lipped.



SQUATTER SITE? . . . The shaded section of the map is the 88ha Cape Farm 945, owned by Entabeni Estates which is controlled by Mrs S A Pfeiffer of Constantia. Negotiations are apparently under way to buy the land for the Noordhoek squatters. The stretch of land above it is Cape Farm 949, owned by the Great Lake Development Corporation, and earmarked for an up-market marina development. Most of the squatters are now just above Cape Farm 949.

Squatters left homeless as Fish Hoek officials tear down shacks

CAPE TIMES 15/11/90

307

by CLAUDIA KING

TWO squatter families — one with a one-year-old baby — were left homeless in pouring rain and wind after Fish Hoek municipal officials flattened their shacks on Monday.

Ms Ria Moses said the officials arrived in the morning and after a brief altercation demolished her two-roomed dwelling, crushing the entire contents and killing a pet kitten.

Six weeks ago the squatters were ordered to move their shacks closer to 17 other dwellings behind the Clovelly Country Club near the Silvermine river. This they did although they finally settled a slight distance away from the others, closer to the Fish Hoek residential area.

'Tow the line'

Last week they were approached by law enforcement officers and instructed to move again, but resisted the order.

Mr Andy Faltein, who has a steady job in Fish Hoek, said the law enforcement officer had produced a gun and pointed it at him before ordering a municipal driver to pull down his shack. Mr Hendrik May said the officer slapped him and hit him with a stick. The squatters said they had all lived in the area for longer than two years — one had been squatting on the site for the past five, she said.

The Town Clerk of Fish Hoek, Mr Doug Smit, confirmed that the shacks had been demolished but said the squatters were given ample warning.

"They must tow the line now — we're not walking on eggs as far as they're concerned. Their shacks are too near the houses," he said, adding that he knew nothing about the squatters being threatened with a firearm.

'Action legal'

He said the squatters were living in the area until they could be relocated to the new area in Sunnydale.

Democratic Party MP for Simon's Town, Mr Jannie Momberg, said he did not doubt the legality of the municipality's action but found the manner in which it was done regrettable.

He said: "The new South Africa has provided many examples where negotiation is better than force — I'll be prepared to act as an intermediatory if necessary."

GUTTED . . . This R300 000 truck, involved in the razing of part of Old Crossroads, was petrol-bombed yesterday. The driver was not hurt.

Picture: BENNY GOOL

Xroads razing: Bomb thrown into truck's cab

By CLAUDIA KING

A 46-year-old truck driver involved in the controversial operation to level out Section 1 in Crossroads narrowly escaped death yesterday when three youths tossed a petrol bomb into the cab of his truck.

Driver Mr Jan Tjabalala was forced from the cab and fled for his life seconds before the bomb was thrown in. The R300 000 truck owned by Connie Slabbert Transport was completely gutted in the ensuing blaze.

After the incident, which took place at 2pm, drivers of other trucks, bulldozers and tractors withdrew from the area and refused to continue with clearing work. Most of the area was razed last month during fierce fighting between mayor Mr Johnson Ngxobongwana and rival Mr Jeffrey Nongwe.

When police reinforcements were brought in later in the day, the drivers returned to work.

A police spokesman told the Cape Times that police foot and vehicle patrols in the area had been stepped up since the incident.

Police and army patrols have been overseeing the operation since they began yesterday amid angry opposition from residents.

Milnerton acts on squatter settlement

By JOHAN SCHRONEN
Staff Reporter

THE Milnerton Town Council has proclaimed the squatter settlement in its area an official temporary transit space for the housing of homeless people until alternative housing can be found.

Reassuring Milnerton ratepayers that no stone was left unturned to find a more acceptable solution, the Town Clerk, Mr Pieter Gerber, said the council made this decision after no other immediate permanent housing could be found in or outside the municipal area for the squatters.

A town planning consultant was appointed by the council to recommend alternative areas where informal housing could be established.

PAY FOR SERVICES

Meanwhile, more than eight hectares of the present site, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications, was proclaimed a temporary transit area provided that all costs relating to the proclamation, including that of basic infrastructure, were met by the Provincial Administration and that people in the transit area paid for services such as water, refuse removal and sanitation at cost.

Mr Gerber said it was expected that the transit area would be used for about 18 months, but it would depend on the availability of alternative sites and how soon basic services could be provided.

FINANCIAL LOSSES

The municipality has also made it clear to all parties which it had identified as contributors to squatting in the area that they would be held responsible for any financial losses that the council might incur in the servicing and administration of the transit area.

Mr Gerber has reassured Milnerton ratepayers that safeguards have been built into the conditions negotiated for the transit area to protect residents but says that some flexibility will be expected from the community.

He has appealed to the Milnerton community for patience and understanding.

Milnerton squatters may get council OK

CAPE TIMES 16/11/90 (307)

Staff Reporter

THE Marconi Beam squatters in Milnerton, who have been living under threat of eviction, may be granted permission to stay on "temporarily", according to Milnerton mayor Mr Willem van Staden.

Mr Van Staden told a town council meeting the council would declare the area a "temporary squatter transition area" on condition that the provincial administration accept "all costs" such as the fencing off of the area and the provision of "basic services".

His statement follows the chainsaw demolition of about 14 shacks, located in Port Jackson bush opposite the racing stables in Koeberg Road in September.

At the time, Mr Van Staden said there were many hundreds of people in the bush who were the womenfolk of about 400 stablehands. Milnerton town clerk Mr Peter Gerber said the municipality had served notice on the landowner, the Post Office, to get rid of the "unauthorised structures".

The demolitions were suspended after an attorney intervened on behalf of the squatters.

Shack demolition stopped

Staff Reporter

A NOORDHOEK landowner agreed to stop the demolition of squatter shacks on land being purchased by the government for them after the squatters threatened Supreme Court action against her.

Yesterday morning, the landowner had her workers demolish 11 plastic and wooden shacks at Site Five while police monitored the situation, said Mrs Sheila Koma, a squatter.

City lawyer Ms Sandy Liebenberg, who is acting on behalf of the squatters, said urgent proceedings were about to be brought when landowner Mrs S A Pfeiffer of Constantia agreed to allow the squatters back on to the land and to re-erect their shacks.

Some 39 squatter families already live at 40a Chasmay Road. The government announced last Tuesday that it was about to buy the site for the squatters.

Mrs Pfeiffer could not be contacted last night.

Squatters ill as water tanks stand empty

W1 Mail 30/11 - 6/12/90 (307)

By CLAIRE KEETON: East London

THE Vale's Farm squatter community in Gonubie, near East London, is still fighting for clean water while four water tanks arranged for the community stand empty.

Local authorities initially refused to provide the squatters with clean water in an apparent attempt to force them to move. Black Sash fieldworker Larry Field described the water available to the squatters as "heavily polluted. The community has been forced to beg, borrow or steal water from the residents".

Two weeks ago the MEC for Housing in the Cape Province, Koos Theron, said the squatters would receive water within a few days. But Gonubie town clerk KB Levey said the municipality would only provide water after it had been paid for.

Levey said that they were charging the "normal rates" for residents in Gonubie. However, white residents do not have their water provided from tanks at a delivery rate of R40,50 an hour.

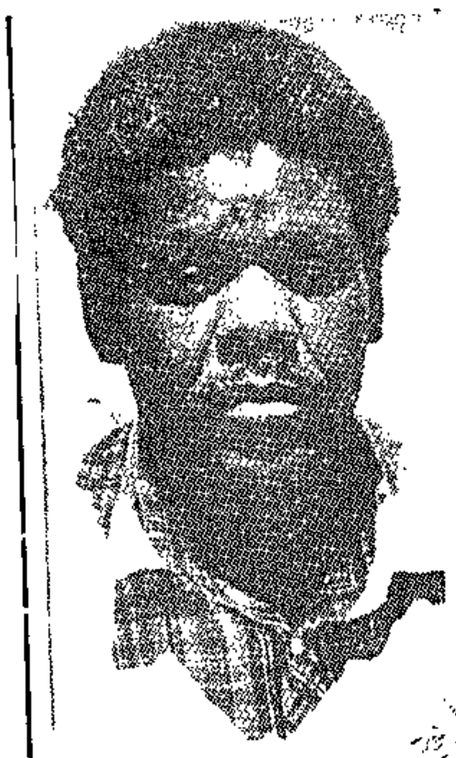
Water was only delivered to three of the four tanks last Friday and it was insufficient. The supply was finished within a day and despite requests from the community the tanks have not been refilled.

Already many of the squatters, particularly the children, are sick from the dirty water they have been obliged to drink.

The squatters are determined to maintain their living standards despite the unhygienic conditions surrounding their present site. — elnews

2 KTC leaders' homes attacked

By CHRIS BATEMAN



Mr Kenneth Tsamana

THE homes of the chairman of the Western Cape United Squatters' Association (Wecusa), Mr Kenneth Tsamana, and Mr Enoch Hewu, chief headman of the ruling Masincedane Committee in KTC, were petrol-bombed and seriously damaged early yesterday.

The attack is the first known violent attack in the KTC squatter settlement for nearly two years, and was tentatively blamed on a "paid gangster element" by the Masincedane Committee yesterday.

Mr Tsamana's two daughters, Zoleka, 15, and Fezeka, 8, escaped serious injury by leaping out of window of the burning home during the 2.30am attack. Mr Tsamana was not home at the time.

A car belonging to Mr Hewu parked outside Mr Tsamana's home was also petrol-bombed and gutted.

The attack on Mr Hewu's nearby home, in which nobody was injured, came 30 minutes later.

Mr Tsamana and Masincedane media spokesman Mr Gladstone Ntamo were questioned by police in an early-morning KTC raid last week, and Mr Ntamo was arrested and charged with illegal possession of a firearm.

Mr Tsamana said yesterday that it was a priority for community organisations to meet and discuss township gangsterism.

"We feel that somebody with a political motivation has used the gangsters to carry out these attacks," he added.

Both men said the last recorded violence in KTC was in 1988 between themselves and the then newly formed adjoining camp, Thambo Square.

However, these problems were solved and peace had reigned.

● Five of the six high-mast lights in Site B, Khayelitsha, were sabotaged early on Wednesday morning. Town clerk Mr Graham Lawrence said the compartments housing the switching gear had been forced open and damaged.

Police said they had not made any arrests by late yesterday.

'Witdoek' violence: Fund to pay claims

By GAYE DAVIS: Cape Town

FORMER residents of Old Crossroads and KTC squatter settlements whose homes were torched by "witdoek" vigilantes more than four years ago can expect to be compensated for their losses by March next year.

More than 3 300 families lodged formal claims against the state in the wake of the attacks, but anyone who lost possessions is entitled to claim against the KTC Relief Fund, according to co-ordinator Hugh Jagoe.

The fund was set up in terms of the settlement which brought to an end the KTC trial, which tried to prove police complicity in the attacks which left an estimated 60 000 people homeless.

Without admitting liability, Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok agreed to pay R1,5-million into the fund, and to match on a rand-for-rand basis a further R500 000 to be raised by the fund itself.

The fund is interviewing claimants at offices in the Joseph Stone theatre in Athlone.

Squatters, farm pair make peace

Star 1/12/90 (307)

One day farming couple Alf and Koekie Hall suddenly found themselves with thousands of neighbours. A squatter camp had mushroomed alongside their farm. But instead of fighting, the Halls tackled the problem in a practical — and peaceable — way. MANDY OHLSSEN reports.

THE first sign that something extraordinary was happening was the arrival of the graders in the veld.

The mechanical monsters made short shrift of the land alongside Alf and Koekie Hall's farm near Klip River, between Johannesburg and Vereeniging, uprooting trees and bushes, flattening the bush into a dustbowl.

The Halls' foreboding turned to horror. Truck after truck pulled up in clouds of red, smothering Transvaal dust, to offload more than 7 000 people and their meagre possessions in what had previously been virgin bush.

By dusk that night the first rickety, rusted shanties had been hammered together and Zonziniwe had been born.

In the space of a day, a squatter camp had sprung up.

Problem

Television news recently featured the South African squatting problem. It showed how squatters at Orange Farm near Vereeniging broke down structures on nearby smallholdings and carted away the bricks, doors, window frames and roofing sheets, until all that remained were the foundations.

Ratepayers in picturesque Hout Bay in the Cape are incensed at the casual settlement of squatters among their houses, changing the face and the character of the coastal village.

Faced with the problem, most people take one of two options: fight the squatters or flee. The Halls chose to try good neighbourliness.

Now a few months later, squatters and original settlers are living virtually side by side in apparent contentment.

"I was a bit apprehensive at first," admits Koekie, a petite mother of three boys. "But I wasn't against anybody. Where were these poor people supposed to go? We just had to make the best of a bad thing."

PATRON: Koekie and the Happy Stars soccer team with the trophy she donated.

Being of farming stock, Koekie took a practical approach to the problem. The squatters, she realised, would have to buy food and the nearest shop at Klip River was about 10 km away.

But her farm stall was right across the main road from Zonziniwe.

At first they came one at a time. Then the trickle became a stream. What they wanted most was mealie meal and paraffin.

The bond between the Halls and their thousands of neighbours was strengthened when bouts of unrest prevented supplies from getting through to the squatters.

"Their leader asked me not to shut my shop. I didn't, and they have been very friendly towards me since then. And I'm no longer scared of them."

It wasn't long before Koekie had to enlarge her shop. She has her 2 400-litre paraffin tank refilled each week, sells 200 loaves of bread a day and a staggering eight tons of mealie meal every week.

The shop is also a collection point for a laundry and serves as the local post office, with all the inhabitants of the squatters' camp claiming the right to use the Halls' phone.

But Koekie's ingenuity doesn't end with the shop. "I feel I am helping to create the new South Africa. We must treat one another as human beings," she maintains.

To this end she wants to erect an outbuilding for a herbalist who can treat the camp's minor medical ailments. And she has offered to help the women with lessons.

The Halls' gardener and tractor driver are lay preachers who hold Bible study classes attended by about 30 people.

At weekends Alf gives the squatters the use of his huge barn as a cinema. The farm foreman Johannes Nkosi and the leader of the quatters operate the projectors and share the entrance fee of 50c a head. There are about 300 regular moviegoers.

But Koekie's greatest triumph is her soccer team. She has turned an open expanse of veld near the shop into the home ground of the Happy Stars. There are two Happy Stars teams, comprising farm labourers and squatters, as well as six other teams from the ranks of Zonziniwe.

Interest is so great that the sport is played year round.

Koekie sponsors the Happy Stars. "It cost me R1 500 to buy their outfits and I donated a trophy. Johannes is the team organiser," she says.

The Halls recently erected an electrified fence around their house and the shop "not because we're scared, but because there are times when Alf is away and every community has its criminals".

Unrest

"We have had very few problems with the squatters: in the beginning the odd chicken or sheep went missing."

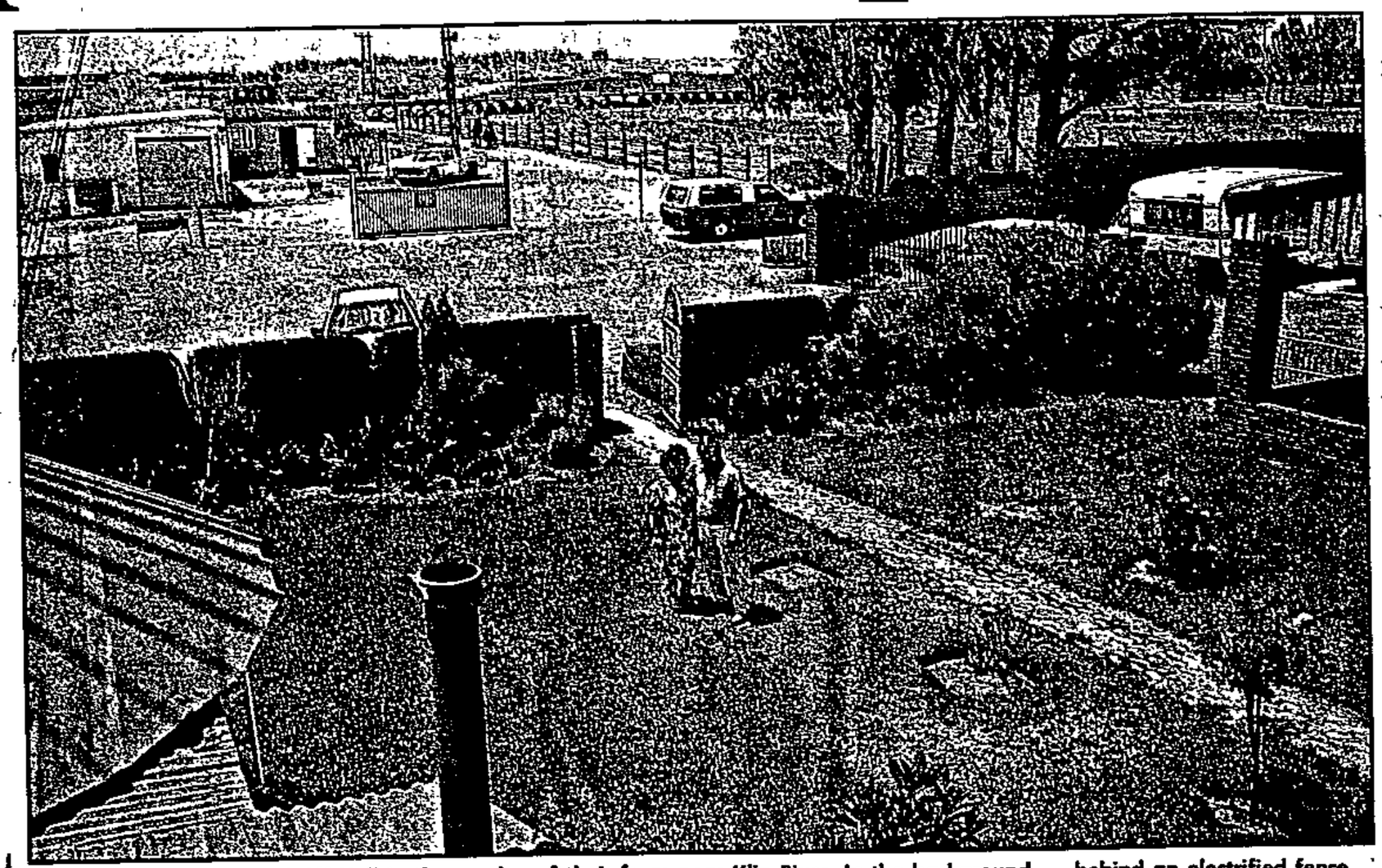
While I was visiting the farm helicopters were circling above the squatter camp and the police stopped by to see whether everything was all right. "There is unrest again today," says Koekie calmly.

"Many people have been here to telephone their employers that they won't be coming to work. I had to lay in extra bread because the delivery vans won't go there today."

But inside the shop it's a picture of peace ... toddlers clamber on the counter, saying thankyou for the lollipops Koekie hands out. She knows them all by name.

"They're here so often that they've become a part of the farm," she says.

● *This article appears courtesy of Huisgenoot.*



CONTENTED: Koekie and Alf Hall in the garden of their farm near Klip River. In the background — behind an electrified fence — the squatter camp can be seen.

● Photographs courtesy of Huisgenoot.

Apartheid in reverse as Group Areas withers

Star 1/12/90

FRANK JEANS

THE gradual demise of the controversial Group Areas Act is becoming more and more evident in South Africa's major centres and in the Cape.

Contrary to any "white flight" situation developing, there is a touch of apartheid in reverse!

According to one leading estate agent, whites are reported to be buying into upper market coloured areas, mainly because they can secure property at vastly discounted prices.

Scott McRae, managing director of Camdon's Nationwide, says: "Another encouraging factor is the reaction so far from whites to people of other groups moving into their areas. This is clearly one of acceptance compared with the overseas experience which caused enormous problems resulting in the so-called white flight."

Mr McRae believes that Group Areas has "all but gone already" and is being ignored in the metropolitan areas.

Commenting on the greater mobility of non-whites in the residential property market, he says that in the past it had not been possible for coloured people and Indians to move house as frequently as whites.

"Now, however, as Group Areas is virtually gone and there is more movement in the market place, this must be a pointer for a stable future in terms of race relations."

Overseas interest in the South African residential market also appears to be mounting, with a Tawainese investor securing a Houghton, Johannesburg home for R1,2 million.

Says Mr McRae: "At least 50 more Taiwanese families are due in South Africa soon and relatively low property prices, because of favourable exchange rates, are a big attraction for them."

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Sunnydale squatter proposal rejected

Staff Reporter

THE proposal to create a squatter camp at Sunnydale, near Fish Hoek, was "totally unacceptable" because the homeless people of the area would be condemned to a squatter existence without an opportunity of upgrading their status, Sunnydale Ratepayers' Association said in a statement issued during a placard demonstration on Saturday.

The association said the Cape Peninsula was a major tourist attraction and recreational area and thus it was of fundamental importance that it be preserved and not become over-populated or poorly planned.

"In essence we advocate negotiation, consultation, communication, participation and consideration of all the peoples in our community affected by the government's decision," the statement said.

NO TO SQUATTERS.... Members of the Sunnydale Ratepayers Association protesting at government approval of establishing a squatter camp in the area. Picture: ALAN TAYLOR

Transit camps for squatters

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

TRANSIT camps for squatters at Grabouw and Zwelihle in Hermanus are to be established at a cost of R480 000, the chairman of the Overberg Regional Services Council's priorities committee, Dr John Widdowson, said yesterday.

A further R20 000 had been set aside for the provision of water to the Tesselaarsdal area in the Caledon district.

This was the first action of this kind by the Overberg RSC and although he considered the amount allocated "painfully inadequate", it would solve some of the problems of the people in those areas, Dr Widdowson said.

The R240 000 allocated to the transit camp at Zwelihle would be used to provide water, sewerage and other basic services for about 150 houses in the area where squatter problems had reached crisis proportions.

"In Hermanus, the health authorities have warned of the possibility of a typhoid outbreak as a result of the deteriorating situation."

The committee also found that squatters had settled in four areas in the Grabouw region, but two were illegal, undesirable and extremely unhygenic.

The R240 000 grant would be used to provide 104 new sites at the Rooidakke transit camp so that the illegal squatters could be moved there.

Dr Widdowson praised the initiative of the Grabouw Town Council to build wooden houses in the area but said employers should be involved in the housing of their workers.

Residents plan court action on squatter camp

ARGUS 11/12/90 (307)

By JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Staff Reporter

THE Milnerton Ratepayers' Association is planning Supreme Court action against the town council to stop it establishing a transit camp for squatters and has appealed to residents to contribute towards legal costs.

An open letter by the chairman of the association, Mr Klaus Borgelt, to the mayor, Mr Willie van Staden, accuses the council of wanting to change Milnerton into a "Third World township".

Mr Borgelt said it appeared the council was creating a "soft target" for an "orchestrated political ploy by the ANC and UDF in terms of a published policy whereby every available vacant land will be occupied in defiance of the government".

The town clerk, Mr Pieter Gerber, has appealed to residents for tolerance and understanding. The council had considered every conceivable option before unanimously but reluctantly agreeing to advice from the Provincial Administration to proclaim a transit area.

Schools concern

"We have built as much protection for our residents as possible into conditions negotiated for the transit area," Mr Gerber said.

Some people got up on a stage and used all their energy to point fingers at the council rather than help to produce an effective and constructive solution.

The association says the proposed transit area is 10 times too small for the present number of squatters.

It has also expressed concern over the availability of schools for children in the settlement, which has grown to a claimed population of 1 500 and is expanding at a rate of up to 50 a day.

The association has called a public meeting for Thursday at 8pm in the Milnerton Town Hall. Councillors have been invited to attend.

Health care should be for all, says human rights activist

South 6/12/-12/12/90

By CHIARA CARTER

PRIMARY health care should be made available to a much greater range of people in South Africa.

This view was expressed by Ms Mary Burton, the newly-appointed commissioner for Human Rights in the Western Cape, at a graduation ceremony for the Medical and Music schools at the UCT campus this week.

Burton said it gave her "special satisfaction" to be part of the ceremony at which UCT's first black women doctors graduated and at which the first Master of Science Nursing degree was conferred.

Disadvantaged

"I hope the time will come when there will be no reason for special comment on the achievements of people who are female or black," Burton said.

"For the present, however, their success offers encouragement to the many others, also disadvantaged by gender or racial classification, who will follow them."

Burton said the provision of health care was becoming prohibitively expensive and this was aggravated by the trend towards privatisation.

Fund may provide loan relief for needy students

South 13/12 - 17/12/90

CASH-STRAPPED black students may receive relief from the high cost of tertiary education if plans to implement a national loan scheme are successful next year.

The Independent Development Trust (IDT), administered by Mr Jan Steyn to allocate R2bn set aside for urban development, has approved several innovative projects in education, health and housing that will cost more than R160m.

The IDT is examining the possibility of a national loan scheme for funding tertiary education, specially for the most disadvantaged students who are unable to find support for their studies.

Leading educators from all over South Africa assisted in determining the IDT's priorities during September and October this year.

Specific areas in which the trust could perform a catalytic function and develop role models for broader replications were then canvassed and investigated in the field, throughout South Africa.

They want to give greater access through investment to educational opportunities for disadvantaged students.

Technikons

The IDT has allocated R495 000 to the Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa) for an academic development programme in natural sciences and R500 000 to UWC to support their academic development programme.

Technikons admitting black students, like the Mangosuthu Technikon and Wits Technikon, have received R2m.

The IDT has allocated R600 000 to the Education Foundation for the establishment of a national clearing house for educational data in the country.

JAN STEYN
Fund administrator

ANC provides homes for backyard

South 6/12 - 12/12/90

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THE Mossel Bay branch of the African National Congress and the local civic organisation have decided to provide shelter for the thousands of homeless in the South Cape town.

Since November 28, more than 300 shacks have been erected in the Kwanonqaba township under the supervision of the two organisations.

"We drew up a list of all the homeless people, which totalled 3 800," said Mossel Bay Advice Office worker Mr Johannes Yantolo.

"Some of the people were sleeping in the bushes or in the backyards of people's homes in the township."

The organisations met with the Cape Provincial Administration on November 26 to tell them of their plans.

They were told the land belonged to Eskom and that permission could not be granted for the construction of dwellings.

A second meeting will take place on January 30 next year.

"The police have visited the shack area to ask who was responsible for building them," said Yantolo.

"The residents told them they had decided they could no longer wait for the CPA to implement its promise to provide land.

"Since then, police have been tried a few times to find out who is responsible, but no

Candlelight vigil in memory of pioneer squatter

Staff Reporter

A CANDLELIGHT vigil has been held at Hout Bay's Disa River squatter camp in memory of Mrs Lilian Anthony, one of the valley's pioneer squatters.

Mrs Anthony, 75, who died in Groote Schuur Hospital on Monday, spent the last 30 years of her life in an unrelenting battle for the right to live legally in the area.

About 50 people last night gathered on the steep hillside among the ramshackle huts to pay tribute to the woman known affectionately in the community as "Ouma".

Mrs Anthony raised 10 children.

Court orders squatters off Hout Bay land

Argus 13/12/90
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By JOHN VILJOEN
Supreme Court Reporter

THE Supreme Court has ordered more than 100 Hout Bay squatters at the Princess Bush camp to vacate the land they are on.

Mr Justice D M Williamson, with Mr Justice A M Van Niekerk and Mr J G Foxcroft concurring, yesterday confirmed an interim interdict granted in August.

In the judgment, alleged police reluctance to act on complaints of trespassing and breaches of the Squatting Act were described as "cause for grave concern".

PAY COSTS

The ruling followed an application brought by property owners Mr Andries Wessels Beyers, Mr Willem Pretorius and Mr Jan Schuurmans-Stekhoven.

The squatters have been ordered to pay the costs of the application.

The fate of a further 13 squatters will be decided after the court hears evidence at a date to be determined.

It was clear the squatters were in unlawful occupation of the land and made no claim of right to be there, Mr Justice Williamson said.

He described as "a cause for grave concern" an incident in which police allegedly refused to act against squatters on his land.

Mr Beyers said in an affidavit that after discovering about five squatter shacks on his property he asked Hout Bay ploice to remove them.

POLICE ORDERS

The station commander refused, saying superiors had ordered police not to interfere in disputes between land owners and squatters.

Assuming this to be true "a most serious state of affairs is revealed", Mr Justice Williamson said.

"The police are there to maintain law and order and if they refuse to do so we have anarchy and a serious threat to the very foundation of an ordered society."

"What is the unfortunate victim to do if the very organs of society which are there to protect his rights refuse to do so?

"This is a recipe for anarchy," he said.

He ordered that copies of his judgment be sent to the commissioner of police and the Minister of Law and Order.

Mr C Louw, instructed by De Klerk and Van Gend, appeared for the applicants. Mr D Knight, SC, assisted by Mr J Whitehead, instructed by the Legal Resources Centre, appeared for the squatters.

Squatters ordered out

CAPE TIMES 8/12/90 (307)

By RONNIE MORRIS

A FULL BENCH of the Supreme Court yesterday ordered the ejection of 109 squatters, all members of the controversial Princess Bush squatter community in Hout Bay, from land valued at R3 million.

A refusal by Hout Bay police to intervene, apparently on instructions by superiors, was "a recipe for anarchy and forceful self-help", said Mr Justice D M Williamson.

The court viewed this so seriously that it ordered that copies of the judgment be sent to the Commissioner of Police and the Minister of Law and Order.

An application had been brought by the owners of the land, Mr Andries Wessels Beyers, Mr Willem Petrus Malherbe and Mr Jan Schuurmans-Stekhoven against Mr Mfundisi Mlamjeni and 158 others.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Williamson, with Mr Justice A M van Niekerk and Mr Justice J G Foxcroft concurring, said he had come to the conclusion that the various defences raised by the squatters were "nothing more than grasping at straws".

The judges also criticised the Hout Bay police who, when asked by Mr Beyers for assistance, said they had been given instructions not to interfere or participate in matters relating to disputes between land-owners or occupiers and squatters.

"What is the unfortunate victim to do if the very organs of society which are there to protect his rights refuse to do so? This is a recipe for anarchy and forceful self-help, with potential results that are frightening to contemplate."

Mr Justice Williamson said that it was "fundamental to the peace and good order of our society that affairs be conducted according to law."

"The police are there to maintain law and order, and if they refuse to do so we have anarchy and a serious threat to the very foundation of an ordered society."

Owners warned

The contention that the ejectment was not urgent because an application had been made for the rezoning of the property for a housing development was irrelevant to what had to be considered.

The owners had been warned by the authorities that action was being contemplated against them and they had also been threatened with legal action by the Hout Bay Property Rights Association.

"One naturally has sympathy with people in the position of the respondents, but this should not blind one to the fact that the applicants have rights of ownership which have simply been ignored by the respondents.

"As far back as June this year the respondents were given notice to vacate . . . yet they continue to disregard the applicant's rights."

Mr Justice Williamson said he could appreciate that where the original occupation of property was lawful a court might exercise a discretion in giving time to a wrongful occupier to vacate. It seemed, however, where the original occupation was unlawful, very different considerations applied.

"I very much doubt that a court in such a situation has the right to say to an owner that he can't have his property back yet, because it is inconvenient for the person who has unlawfully appropriated that property to vacate it.

"Even if the court had a discretion, it seems to me that this is not a proper case in which to exercise such a discretion. It is now December and the respondents have had notice since June that they are required to leave," Mr Justice Williamson said.

CAT AND DOG . . . This bull terrier's motherly instincts allow an adopted kitten to suckle its milk. Susan the dog, who lives with Miss Jenny McLeary in Table View, treats kitten Nonsense with great affection. The animals owner was stunned when it discovered Susan's affection for the kitten and the two are now inseparable. Picture: ANNE LAING

Rare SA cycads to be 'bugged'

CAPE TIMES 13/12/90

By BARRY STREEK

A REVOLUTIONARY plan to use microchips and scanners to nip cycad thieves in the bud is being considered by the Cape Provincial Administration's nature conservation directorate.

This was disclosed yesterday at a press conference by the chief director of Nature and Environmental Conservation, Dr Johan Neethling.

The chips would be shot into cycads which were endangered and growing on site in their natural habitat.

The cycads could then be traced by the scanners and this would help to track down thieves of the rare plants, which can fetch up to $40 000 (about R100 000) on international markets.

Dr Neethling said the scheme was fairly expensive and it was hoped it could be financed by a levy on cycads cultivated and sold by nurseries.

Both Dr Neethling and the administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, stressed at the press conference, called in response to the Van Zyl Commission's findings on the export of cycads, that they believed a distinction should be drawn between endangered cycad species in their natural environment, and those that were growing in gardens as well as those being cultivated in nurseries.

Mr Meiring said the chief directorate "finds it difficult to accept that the export of plants which occurs in garden collections, which were therefore no longer in their natural state and have lost their ecological value, could be 'disastrous' for the continued existence of endangered species".

WP in cricket drama

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Transvaal beat WP at the Wanderers last night in a night cricket match filled with drama.

Milnerton residents heckle councillors on squatter issue

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Argus 14/12/90

By JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Staff Reporter

TIGHT-LIPPED Milnerton town councillors were loudly booed and ragged by more than 800 residents who packed the townhall to hear the council's answers to questions on the squatter problem.

The residents' association recently threatened the council with Supreme Court action in a bid to stop the proclamation of an 8,2 hectare site in Milnerton as a temporary transit area for homeless people.

Last night Milnerton Mayor Mr Willie van Staden said the association had "shot itself in the foot" by its threat of legal action. Acting on legal advice, he was not prepared to enter into any discussions unless the association was prepared to lift the threat and guarantee no legal steps against the council.

"Under these circumstances we can only attend this meeting as observers and not discuss the issue," Mr Van Staden said.

The proclamation was labelled by the association a "soft target" for an "orchestrated political ploy by the ANC and UDF to occupy all vacant land in defiance of the government and the law".

But according to the Town Clerk, Mr Pieter Gerber, the council did everything possible when the settlement was still small, to force the Department of Post and Telecommunications which owns a large portion of the land, to evict the squatters.

A spokesman for the Department of Post and Telecommunication told the meeting that it was a misunderstanding that nothing had been done about the illegal squatting. They had removed shacks on at least three previous occasions.

ACTION COMMITTEE

An action commitee was elected by the association to investigate counter measures against the proclamation.

Emotional residents cheered suggestions to channel all rate payments into a trust account which could be used towards legal costs.

A vote of no confidence in the council and demands of their immediate resignation were loudly supported by residents.

Some residents suggested that the ratepayers' association buy the property and evict the squatters.

A ratepayer at the meeting said that a new South Africa must not be created at the expense of the residents. "Favourable consideration is necessary for those who contribute to the community" he said.

A petition on the squatter issue to the State President, Mr F W De Klerk, was signed by ratepayers at the meeting.

Open cities on the

Argus 14/12/90

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Hout Bay squatters: 'Who can we trust?'

ARGUS 14/12/90

By ESANN van RENSBURG
Staff Reporter

THE Princess Bush squatter community in Hout Bay has appealed to the government to stop the eviction order by the Supreme Court against more than 109 people in the camp.

"It seems we have been wasting our time in negotiations because we cannot trust or depend on all the parties involved in the process," squatter leader Mr Charlmane Nguga said at a Press conference at the squatter camp yesterday.

He said the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association and the Property Rights Association had insisted on action against the squatters.

The Western Cape Civic Association said at the conference that the court order showed the courts were determined to uphold legislation which not even the government was enforcing.

"We blame the government for dragging their heels in the process of finding land for the squatters."

The squatters were not on the Princess Street land because they wanted to be there, but because they had no choice, a spokesman for the association said.

"We call on the land owners not to implement this court order."

Mr Nguga said: "The Princess Street squatters are very upset about the eviction order by the Supreme Court.

"Where can people find a new place to live at this time of year? It comes at a bad time when some people have already made plans and have been preparing to go on holiday."

United Democratic Front spokesman Mr Willie Hofmeyr said the UDF stood by the squatters and "will support them in whatever action they decide on to resist the court order.

"The UDF finds it problematic that the courts appear not to recognise the developments that are taking place in our country," Mr Hofmeyr said.

"While the government and the authorities in Hout Bay have seen the need to negotiate, the judges enforce apartheid laws and they criticise the police for not intervening in the squatter problems."

The UDF called on the government to speed up the process to find land for the Hout Bay squatters.

"It is because the process was allowed to drag on that we are where we are today," he said. "We in the UDF will see to it that the people in Princess Street are not removed from this land, whatever the cost may be."

Mr Nguga said the squatters would definately consider futher negotiations.

Milnerton move to combat squatting

Appt Tights 14/12/90 (307)

By BRONWYN DAVIDS

MORE THAN 1 000 Milnerton residents decided at an emotionally charged, unruly meeting last night to form an action committee to deal with the squatter problem.

Residents in the overflowing hall repeatedly jeered at the mayor, Mr Willem van Staden, and two councillors, and demanded their "immediate resignation".

It was also decided to send a petition to President F W de Klerk.

Mr Van Staden, the councillors and representatives of the Department of Posts and Telecommunication on whose land the squatters are living were invited by the Milnerton Ratepayers' Association to answer residents' queries.

At the start of the meeting Mr Van Staden said that on the advice of their lawyers he and the councillors were not prepared to speak because the ratepayers' association had earlier threatened legal action against the council.

"Squatting is spreading unabated and residents are fearing for their homes and lives," said ratepayers' chairman Mr Klaus Borgelt.

After nearly two hours of angry comments, chants and booing at the councillors, the action committee was formed. It is to report back to residents by next week.

The committee will look at all suggestions made at the meeting, which include: Not paying water and electricity bills, placing rate payments in a trust fund and gaining a working knowledge of what the officials intend doing about the squatters.

A Post Office representative said the land was being fenced off in an attempt to keep the squatters off it.

CAPE Times

lay, December 14 1990 ★

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Owner delays Hout Bay eviction

By CHRIS BATEMAN

HOUT BAY's 109 squatters, who have been legally evicted from Princess Bush, heaved a cautious sigh of relief yesterday as a landowner promised to talk before exercising the property rights he won in the Cape Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The promise by Mr Willem Malherbe, one of the three joint owners of the squatter-occupied property, drew immediate approval from all parties.

And the police, who were severely criticised by Mr Justice D M Williamson for their refusal to intervene in ejecting the squatters, said they would carefully study a transcript of the judgement before commenting.

Mr Justice Williamson, with two other judges concurring, said the refusal by Hout Bay police to intervene was "a recipe for anarchy and forceful self-help".

He instructed that copies of his judgment be forwarded to the Commissioner of Police and the Minister of Law and Order.

Mr Charlmane Mguga, chairman of the Princess Bush community, yesterday welcomed Mr Malherbe's statement and said any evictions would harm the "spirit of negotiations".

"The state must come up with a solution quickly. The court has not caught up with the new era in the country. It must be there to protect the people's right and not to give the police more power to harass," he said.

His people had decision they were "prepared to die in that land unless there's a solution".

The squatters' lawyer, Ms Angela Andrews, said she hoped the court decision would not be construed by police as compelling them to act. This would prejudice negotiation which was at "a very delicate and advanced stage".

Mr Rob de Vos, chairman of the Hout Bay Ratepayers' Association, welcomed the judges' decision and Mr Malherbe's reaction and cautioned that any evictions now would "cause great turmoil".

The MP for Sea Point (which covers Hout Bay), Mr Colin Eglin, said the court had declared the rights of the landowner in "clear and unambigious terms".

However, he also welcomed Mr Malherbe's reaction and appealed to him to "hold back" until alternative site planning was complete.

He warned that summary eviction might impel the government to clear Hout Bay land to house squatters temporarily. In view of the advanced planning this would be "highly undesirable".

Hout Bay evictions halted by minister

Star Tuesday 16/2/90

By KURT SWART and GLENDA NEVILL

DEPUTY Minister of Law and Order Johan Scheepers yesterday temporarily halted the eviction of a group of squatters from prime land at Hout Bay, near Cape Town.

His dramatic intervention came days after a landmark judgment which sharply criticised the police for not acting against squatters.

Mr Scheepers successfully mediated between the two parties and a meeting will be held this week to enable a successful move to other land.

On Wednesday, a judge ordered the eviction of 109 squatters and criticised police for not taking action against them earlier this year.

The judgment is set to have a far-reaching impact on squatter communities throughout South Africa.

The decision, by a full bench of the Supreme Court, was described as "heartless" by the Princess Bush squatter community, but as "wonderful news" by some Hout Bay residents.

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Praise

But after meeting squatters, members of the UDF, the ANC and ratepayers in the seaside fishing village yesterday, Mr Scheepers said a senior official from the Department of Planning and Provincial Affairs would arrange a meeting with the ratepayers' association and government departments on the availability of alternative land for the squatters.

He said the meeting would take place before December 21 and representatives of the squatter community would hold meetings with government officials on the same day.

Mr Scheepers also cast aside Supreme Court criticism of Hout Bay police by praising policemen for the manner in which they handled the law and order aspect of the squatter controversy in Hout Bay.

Yesterday's talks got off to a bad start when members of the squatter community, Willie Hofmeyr of the UDF and Angela Fortune of the Legal Resources Centre walked out of the meeting after the ratepayers' association refused to withdraw a statement saying it welcomed the Supreme Court ruling.

SAP officer appointed to look at squatter problem

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Argus 17/12/96

Staff Reporter

A POLICE officer has been appointed to deal with grievances of people living in Hout Bay.

Major Paul du Toit of the Wynberg district commissioner's office will start work in Hout Bay today.

Police spokesman Captain Craig Kotze said the major was appointed at the request of the Deputy Minister of Law and Order Mr Johan Scheepers.

Mr Scheepers visited Hout Bay on Saturday and held discussions with various government departments, squatters from Princess Bush and other groups.

"Any complaints from the residents of Hout Bay or the squatters will be looked into with the necessary speed," said Captain Kotze.

15 Hout Bay squatters in court

Staff Reporter

FIFTEEN Hout Bay squatters and hostel dwellers arrested on Monday in Victoria Road in connection with loitering charges appeared in Wynberg Magistrate's Court yesterday.

No charges were put to them and they were warned to appear on January 11 next year.

According to their attorney, Ms Angela Andrews of the Legal Resources Centre, 11 of the accused are from the Princess Bush squatter camp and four from local hostels.

A 'colour blind' law that affects millions of blacks

Wmail 20/12/90 - 10/1/91

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THE HOMELESS

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

IT is not quite clear where the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act ranks in the order of priorities in removing "repressive legislation" to clear the way to constitutional negotiations.

Because it parades as a colour blind piece of legislation — unlike the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act, which define the right to land ownership in relation to race — the Squatting Act is tarred with a lighter brush than the racial land laws.

So the government's transition agenda includes the scrapping of the Land Act early next year (with the consent of the majority of white farmers, but the bitter opposition of a minority), the search for a "non-discriminatory" law to replace the Group Areas Act ... and? The retention of the Squatting Act?

In a situation where there is a housing surplus for whites and a shortage of more than two million units for blacks, it is not hard to figure that the implementation of the Squatting Act has been — and will continue to be — directed specifically against black citizens, making it every bit as discriminatory as the Land and Group Areas Acts.

It's also twice as easy to utilise, since it defines the act of squatting particularly widely, places the onus of proof of innocence on the accused and removes the defence that the owner of the property concerned had permitted its occupation.

It is also a particularly punitive law, allowing the courts no option but to order the demolition of the home of anyone convicted of squatting and providing for heavy fines or jail terms.

In addition, it is a law that ensures control by proxy. If owners do not act to evict squatters, they too are liable for heavy penalties. If local authorities fail to demolish where demolition is due, the province can simply do it on their behalf and bill them for the costs.

1990 saw an increasing challenge by squatters for land in affluent "white" areas — the Midrand area north of Johannesburg, for instance, and the scenic Hout Bay area in the Cape Peninsula. Authorities and land owners in the areas concerned certainly did not take a tolerant view.

In Midrand, the local council and the owner of the property in question, the Sanlam group, resorted to the provisions of the Squatting Act to lawfully smash hundreds of homes with bulldozers.

Midrand mayor Alan Dawson later reflected that "there is no dignity in demolishing a home" — but added that his first responsibility was to his propertied constituents.

He added that the council — after demolishing the shacks of the same families half a dozen times or more — was searching for appropriate land to resettle the shack dwellers permanently. This land would, said Dawson, be chosen in accordance with a "good town planning point of view".

He added: "Town planning is not a class trick. It is there to ensure that clashes do not take place or are limited."

In Cape Town last week, the supreme court empowered landowners in the Hout Bay area to evict the squatter community there. Adele Wildschut, coordinator of the Surplus Peoples' Project, expressed the fear that the judgment represented the thin edge of the wedge in allowing private interests a role in controlling shack development.

Although the Hout Bay land owners are holding off on demolition until negotiations for alternative housing have been pursued, they have the weapon firmly in their clutches.

1990 was also the year in which organised land invasions by shack dwellers accounted for the establishment of numerous permanent settlements. There are those who might argue that this points to the "positive" features of the Squatting Act, others who would argue that it is a triumph for the organising capacity of civic associations.

In all, however, there remains at grassroots level a contest for residential land in which the propertied have the law on their side and the homeless only have only the weight of their numbers. It is a situation in which homelessness becomes, almost inexorably, a criminal act. Can the Squatting Act avoid the tag of "repressive legislation"?

Women held for 'stealing water'

W\Mail 20/12/90 - 10/1/91 307

By LOUISE FLANAGAN: East London

RESIDENTS from a squatter camp in an upmarket East London suburb are being charged with stealing water.

The seven women from the Gonubie squatter camp were arrested at the weekend after trying to collect water from taps outside the local municipal offices. Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) said police had confirmed that the women would be charged with stealing water.

Members of the Gonubie Residents' Association (GRA) said residents were told by the police that the seven would not appear in court. Instead, police allegedly told them that the matter would be sorted out at the station.

"On Sunday they (the police) said they were not going to take them to court, they were just going to solve the problem at the police station," said a representative of the GRA.

"How can they solve the problem there? They're supposed to take them to the court."

"It's not addressing any problem. If people don't have water they're going to look for it," said LHR spokesman Thomas Smit. "Police shouldn't waste their time arresting and detaining people for such trivial offences. Actions like this cause further suffering instead of addressing the problem."

Police have not yet responded to requests for comment.

The squatters have been fighting a long battle for the right to have water.

A few weeks ago four water tanks were finally put in the area. However, the GRA said that only two of the four tanks were filled and they have not been replenished. Since then the squatters have again been relying on local residents in the white area for water.

The community is also suspicious of the water in the tanks. The GRA said they would rather have taps — "even if it's two taps" — than the tanks.

"We don't need those tanks, they can even put poison in them and we wouldn't know," said a member of the GRA.

The Gonubie municipality announced earlier that the squatters would be expected to pay for water.

The GRA said the community would be happy to pay for the water, but there is nothing in the tanks and the municipality has still not told them how much to pay.

Gonubie town clerk KB Levey said he knew nothing of the arrests.

Levey said that all four tanks had been filled up when they were first taken to the community, but not since. He said that the municipality was still negotiating with the community about payment for the water.

The water will cost the squatters half a cent per litre, which will also include the cost of transporting it to the camp.

Levey said that the municipality would not allow squatters to take water from its offices in the meantime. — elnews

RSC men demolish 8 Hout Bay shacks

Capt Tufts 21/12/90 307

By CHRIS BATEMAN

REGIONAL Services Council officials, guarded by armed police, yesterday demolished eight extension structures and two skeleton frames belonging to absent owners of the Princess Bush squatter community in Hout Bay.

The demolitions come within eight days of a Full Bench of the Supreme Court ordering the ejection of 109 squatter members of the 1 100-strong Hout Bay community and severely criticising the police for not intervening earlier.

A spokesman for the landowners on whose property the community is squatting has, however, said he will negotiate and not take arbitrary action.

An angry chairman of the Princess Bush community, Mr Nkosinati Mguga, said yesterday's demolitions were "not in the spirit of current negotiations" and caused hardship for squatters who had built extensions.

RSC officials used petrol-driven power saws to cut down poles of the structures.

Mr Mguga said two of the frames cut down had deteriorated in the absence of their owners who had been at sea for several months. However, the extensions had all been in "full use" by present occupants.

"This makes my heart heavy at prospects for future negotiations with officials and local well-meaning people," he said.

Meanwhile Mr C C Reynecke, head of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Works, Adminstration, House of Assembly, said "urgent steps" were being taken to identify a suitable site to which the squatters could move.

While he did not say when this site would be serviced and ready, it was reliably learnt that this would be within two months and that only negotiation over a purchase price by the government was delaying matters.

Mr Reynecke said negotiations with the owners of the occupied squatter site were being conducted to "synchronise" their move with the implementation of the Supreme Court order.

A police spokesman confirmed that police had played a "supportive role" and that eight new extensions and two structures had been demolished by RSC workers.

SQUATTERS

PRIVATE RIGHTS

There is no legal dispute over the Cape Supreme Court order last week ejecting 159 Hout Bay squatters from private land near the beachfront. But the decision may have done irreparable harm to delicate negotiations that were in progress to resolve the issue peacefully.

The decision by a full bench followed an application by the owners of the land (said to be valued at R3m). The judgment was highly critical of the squatters' actions and the police for not enforcing anti-squatting and trespass laws.

The Hout Bay squatter problem has been simmering for months (*Current Affairs* September 28). There are about 1 500 squatters in six communities in the valley. Those whose ejection has been ordered are known as the Princess Bush squatters and regarded by some local residents as the most militant.

At a meeting with the squatters and government officials at the weekend, the landowners agreed to delay enforcing the court order until the end of this week to give authorities an opportunity to speed up the process of making other, already identified, land available.

UDF western Cape secretary and legal adviser to the squatters, Willie Hofmeyr, says the tragedy of the court judgment is that during earlier negotiations the community had agreed to move as soon as land became available.

He adds it's very worrying that at the weekend meeting landowners were not prepared to commit themselves to a negotiated solution and wanted to keep open the option to evict people. He believes the judgment may have a ripple effect because police and conservative local authorities may now feel pressured into acting against squatter communities.

Tony Snelgar, of Hout Bay Property Rights Association, which claims to represent about 4 500 residents in the valley, says the judgment vindicates his organisation's view that authorities had to be pressured into taking urgent steps to resolve the squatter problem.

He adds the association sympathises with the squatters and has urged government to make alternative land and housing available to them. However, the priority must be to house homeless black and coloured Hout Bay residents. This means not all the squatters will be accommodated in the area.

Snelgar argues that many squatters — including 100 from Ovambo who have no right to be in SA — have simply climbed on the political bandwagon and now expect special treatment before the local homeless whose profile has not been elevated by the media.

He adds the property rights upheld by the court have nothing to do with apartheid and it's unfortunate and unfair that the owners are often portrayed as villains and the squatters as victims when, in fact, it's the other way round.

He says the association believes the court order must be enforced, and government must provide land for the community, but not necessarily all of it in Hout Bay.

"We were hoping government would provide land both inside and outside Hout Bay before evictions became necessary, but it did not.

This doesn't mean the evictions must be delayed, that would defeat the point of the judgment."

Government has identified land for squatter resettlement both inside and outside Hout Bay but the legal and technical process in acquiring and servicing it is slow. ■

Hout Bay squatters march for taps, toilets

By CHRIS BATEMAN

ABOUT 80 squatters of the controversial Princess Bush community in Hout Bay yesterday marched with ANC flags to the local Regional Services Council offices to demand that water taps and toilets be installed.

Confrontation with police was avoided as they returned when the officer in charge, Major Raymond Dowd, allowed them some 15 minutes beyond the legally agreed-to deadline to disperse.

A contingent of police with shotguns and teargas-launchers blocked the road as Major Dowd told the singing and chanting squatters that their protest had exceeded the magisterial time limit.

He gave them five minutes to disperse in small groups but then extended this.

The lunch-time march prompted one driver of a Cape Town-registered vehicle to shout at police to "shoot them", and the entire kitchen staff of the Kronendal Restaurant excitedly downed tools to join the singing crowd.

Kronendal Restaurant co-owner Ms Patti Ovenstone, who extricated her staff from the crowd with good-natured pleas and cajoling, later said they "couldn't help getting caught up in it".

"We're all exhibitionists at heart — they just happen to have a cause," she added.

Squatter leader Mr Nkosinati Mguga delivered the demands, for which he requested "action within seven days", to the assistant chief traffic officer for the Regional Services Council, Mr George Bernado.

● It was inadvertently stated in a report yesterday that the sawing down of 10 squatter shacks at the Princess Bush community was done by RSC officials. This was based on information supplied by a police liaison officer. The demolition was carried out by officials of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Works (House of Assembly), Mr Chris van Niekerk, acting regional head of the department, confirmed.

PROTEST .. Hout Bay squatters march up the main road to local RSC offices yesterday.

Squatters to get new home

ST Times 23/12/90.

By KURT SWART (307)

THE government has earmarked an alternative site for the beleaguered Hout Bay squatters who were ordered off privately-owned land by the Cape supreme court last week.

House of Assembly local government department head, C Reynecke, said urgent steps had been taken to identify a suitable area of land to resettle the squatters. Negotiations were held with property owners to synchronise the move off the present site in Princess Bush and on to the new site, which would be provided with the necessary services, he added.

Mr Reynecke declined to identify the site.

Last week a full bench of the supreme court upheld the application by three property owners and ordered the ejection of 109 squatters and their families. UDF representative and civil rights lawyer, Willie Hofmeyr, has expressed concern at the court's criticism of police action.

Police had deliberately acted in a low-key manner because they were aware of negotiations in progress between the authorities, ratepayers and the squatters, he said.

"Now the court has practically ordered the police to take action," he said.

Heartache in Hout Bay as fire destroys 151 homes

307

Argus 27/12/90

By ESANN van RENSBURG
Staff Reporter

HOUT Bay residents opened their hearts and pockets to the plight of the 600 homeless squatters after the nightmare fire which roared through the Sea Products squatter camp and killed four people.

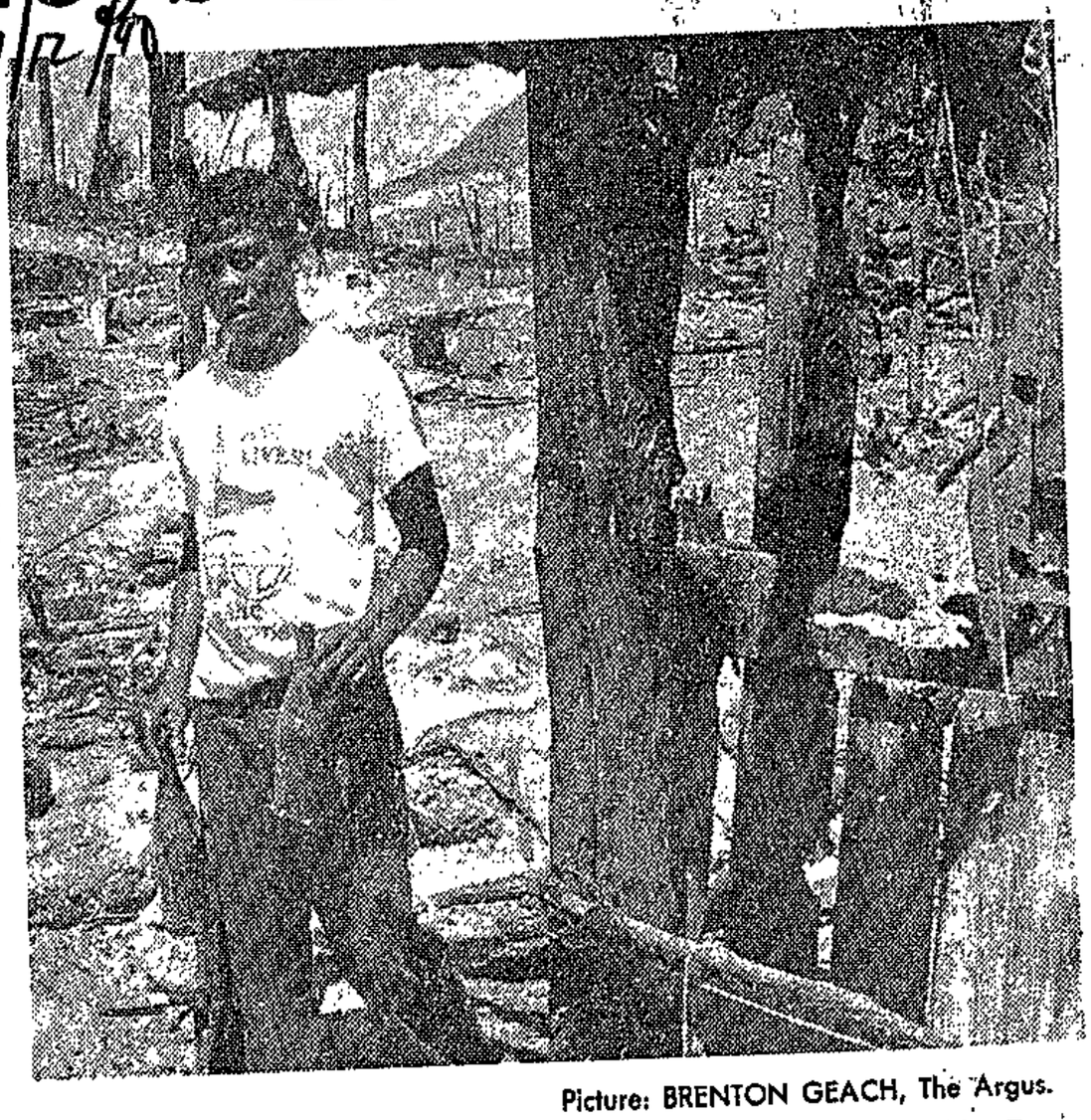
Relief work got under way not long after the heartbreak Family Day fire in which 151 homes were destroyed.

Squatters told of how sympathetic white neighbours came to the camp with food, blankets and money.

Other Hout Bay residents walked through the ashes later in the morning and produced R20 notes to help with food and blankets.

Up-country cars stopped along the road and offered help — an elderly woman gave her telephone number to a churchman — offering help in the form on cash and clothes. .

Squatters said the fire started about 2.30am yesterday and within 20 minutes there was little left but smouldering ashes.



Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

NOTHING LEFT: One of the Hout Bay squatters, Mr Petros Lamani, stands among the burnt shacks and shows the extent of the devastation. ● **More pictures on page 19.**

CHARRED BODIES

The charred bodies recovered were of four adult men, believed to be Mr Wiseman Sonqenqo, Mr Thando Inkwani, Mr Mayhase Schoeman and Mr Pataneni Leonardi.

Police liaison officer Major Jan Calitz said it was not clear how the fire started.

According to community worker Mrs Shantaal Meter, one man said he saw a flare being shot into the squatter camp. Others said they saw sparks at an empty hut from which the fire later spread.

There was no time to save possessions. Even pets perished in the blaze.

Mr Philip Xesha, 48, was burned on his arms and back escaping the flames in his shack.

Late yesterday morning, shocked and tearful residents scraped around for coins on the smouldering sites where their houses once stood.

Some, who had left to visit their families in the Transkei and Ciskei, will return to find their homes and possessions gone.

Squatters dismissed as "nonsense" media reports which said firemen had difficulty getting to the camp because residents pelted them with stones.

"These are sand dunes. There are no stones here," one resident said.

"The reason the firemen didn't come in before about 5.30, is that they couldn't find the hydrant," Mrs Meter said.

Miss Vanessa Matthews, a member of the Squatter Co-ordinating Committee, said the Hout Bay squatter communities had always been threatened.

The Cape Town Supreme Court recently ordered the squatters evicted.

Argus. (307) 27/12/90.

Fire havoc

By ESANN van RENSBURG, Staff Reporter

HOUT Bay's Sea Products squatter camp looked like a war zone after the devastating fire which largely destroyed the camp and left its 600 residents homeless.

Burnt out frames that once outlined the homes of families swung lopsidedly over the smouldering contents of what was once a bedroom, a kitchen, a living area.

Tearful, shocked residents scraped around for whatever they could find — most had to contend with tins full of coins.

Little groups of people sought shelter under trees and sat, staring blankly at the scorched earth around them.

Dogs snuggled up to their owners as, in the background near the river, families mourned the loss of their dead.

Relief workers, members of Hout Bay's Squatter Coordinating Committee, churchmen and sympathetic white residents walked through the camp — supporting and comforting wherever they could.

There was talk of rebuilding the shacks, but the eyes and hearts of the squatters spoke of disbelief and tiredness. –

● Hundreds of campers had to flee from the Sonesta holiday resort near Hawston, Hermanus, when four caravans were destroyed by fire, reports GLYNNIS VAN ROOYEN.

The fire was brought under control by fire-fighting teams from Caledon and Hermanus.

Pictures: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus

HOMELESS AND TIRED: (Right) One of the Hout Bay squatters, Mr Robert Mambalu, sits in the burnt out Hout Bay squatter camp that was devastated by fire. Mr Mambalu is holding his last remaining possession, a can of money.

Pictures: GLYNIS VAN ROOYEN

REMAINS: (Below) Only the burnt out chassis of this caravan remains after the devastating fire in the Sonesta holiday resort.

BURNT OUT: (Below right). Part of the Sonesta hiliday camp at Hawston with a fire service vehicle in the foreground.

Hout Bay fire horror

CNA Times 27/12/90

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DESOLATION ... Stunned squatters wander through the ashes of their former homes and possessions in Hout Bay yesterday. Four people died in the fire which swept through the Sea Products squatter camp. The camp is across the road from the Princess Bush squatter camp.

Picture: RICHARD BELL

By CHRIS BATEMAN and DANIEL SIMON

POLICE were patrolling a Hout Bay squatter camp early today for trespassers following the massive fire which razed the site on Christmas night, killing four people.

Police spokesman Major Jan Calitz last night confirmed that the owner of the property, Mr Mel Richter, had laid a complaint of trespassing following the destruction of 100 squatter shacks at Sea Products squatter camp.

The site is opposite the controversial Princess Bush camp where squatters were ordered by the Supreme Court earlier this month to vacate the land.

Major Calitz said police would act against any people who returned to the Sea Products property and tried to rebuild their homes.

"If the people come back on the land they are trespassing. If they trespass, we will arrest them."

He added that police would patrol the area to make sure squatters did not try to build new homes.

A policeman stationed at Hout Bay police station last night said police were patrolling the disaster site following a complaint of trespassing laid by Mr Richter. He added that no arrests had been made.

Mr Richter was not available for comment last night.

One of those killed in the Christmas night fire died when a gas bottle exploded as he ducked back into his mother's flaming dwelling to retrieve his bank book.

Mr Thando Ngwane, 23, who was from Tarkastad, near Queenstown, died instantly, his sobbing mother, Mrs Rebecca Ngwane of the 500-strong Sea Products Bush community, said yesterday.

He was due to leave for their family home in Tarkastad yesterday and was anxious not to lose the "travel

To page 2

P.T.O.

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27/12/90

Four die in Cape squatter camp blaze

CAPE TOWN — At least four people died in a fire which swept through part of the Hout Bay squatter settlement yesterday.

The fire started about 3am and soon about 150 plastic, wood, and iron shacks were destroyed. Charred corpses lay in the smouldering ash. B1 pay 27/12/90

People stood around in debris on the duneside. Very little was saved.

Firemen from the Western Cape Regional Services Council, who arrived with two fire engines, and firemen from the Forestry Department, tried to extinguish the blaze but could do very little. At one stage they were forced to withdraw as residents became excited and pelted them with stones.

This section of the Hout Bay squatter camp, which locals call Sea Products, was erected in the midst of affluent residential housing. The squatter settlement at Hout Bay is a subject of controversy, with a Supreme Court order pending to evict the residents of approximately 550 squatter shacks in the community. — Sapa.

Shack fire kills four in Cape

307
Somalia
27/12/90

AT least four people died in a big fire which swept through a section of the Hout Bay squatter settlement.

SABC radio news reports the fire started at about 3am yesterday and burned out 150 plastic wood-and-iron shacks.

Firemen from the Western Cape Regional Services Council and firemen from the Forestry Department tried to extinguish the blaze. At one stage they were forced to withdraw as residents became excited and pelted them with stones.

This section of the Hout Bay squatter camp, which locals call Sea Products, was erected in the midst of affluent residential housing. The settlement is a subject of controversy at present, with a Supreme Court order pending to evict the residents of approximately 550 squatter shacks.

Squatters return to camp — trespass complaint withdrawn

ARGUS 28/12/90

Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

STAND-OFF: Squatters face police at the burnt-out section of the Hout Bay squatter camp before the owner of the land relented and allowed them to return.

By VUSI KAMA
Staff Reporter

SQUATTERS from Hout Bay's Sea Products squatter camp toyi-toyed back to the area in jubilation after being told that a complaint of trespassing against them had been withdrawn.

Although they all returned to the camp after a meeting at St Peter's Church, only men were to sleep there as many shacks were razed on Christmas Day, leaving four dead and 600 homeless.

Women and children were to be housed at the church.

Delegation

Police liaison officer Captain Jan Calitz confirmed that Mr Mel Richter, the owner of the land the squatters are using, had withdrawn the complaint.

The complaint had led to police preventing squatters from rebuilding in the burnt area.

A delegation, who had visited the Hout Bay police station, told the meeting at the church that an agreement had been reached with the police that the squatters could return in an

place later, with both partie agreeing that the squatter could return to the camp in a "orderly manner".

The delegation said it woul take up the matter of the co tract with Mr Richter, who on holiday.

Members of the Red Cros Society and the Child Welfar Organisation provided food a the church while the delegatio was meeting the police.

By late yesterday afternoo clothes and money were stil pouring in from Hout Bay resi dents and others.

Earlier in the day two prom inent members of the squatte community, Mr Dick Mete and Mr Moegsien Ismail, wer released after hours in deter tion after intervention by law yers.

The Wynberg branch of th ANC expressed solidarity wit the squatters and "all peopl struggling for decent housing for all".

Food and clothes

● The government has made R100 000 available for relie aid to Hout Bay squatters.

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Argus 28/12/90

"orderly manner".

The delegation comprised ANC regional chairman Mr Christmas Tinto, advocate Mr Dullah Omar, Anglican priest Father John Frye, attorney for the squatters Angelo Andrews and five squatter representatives.

They told police that the squatters had an agreement with Mr Richter that they could use the land until they could find alternative land.

They accused Mr Richter of being in breach of the terms of the contract he had entered into with the squatters.

Initially the commander at the police station, Colonel J Grundling, refused to receive the delegation unless Mr Omar, Mr Tinto and all other "unaffected people" were removed from it.

A heated argument between Mr Omar and Colonel Grundling then followed, with the former threatening to withdraw the delegation.

Colonel Grundling told the delegation to "march out" if it did not remove those "unaffected" by the Hout Bay incident.

However, the meeting took

The Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, Mr Hernus Kriel, said in a statement that the money would be used mainly for clothing and essential food for those affected.

He expressed his sympathy to the families of the dead and to those who had lost all their belongings.

For information regarding relief contributions, readers can phone St Peter's Church — 790 1929. Financial contributions can be deposited into the Wynberg branch of the Standard Bank, account number 278 595 170.

● Money for the Hout Bay squatters was collected at the Labour Party's meeting in the Cape Town City Hall last night.

The party leader, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, expressed sympathy for those who had lost their belongings in the fire and urged members of the audience to give generously as they left the hall.

He said the money would be given to church organisations for distribution among the squatters.

(307)

Squatters can stay, says Hout Bay owner

FINE COMBING . . . Top forensic consultant Dr David Klatzow yesterday sifted through the debris of the shack where the devastating Christmas Day blaze began in Hout Bay, in search of clues as to how it began.

Picture: BERNARD PEREZ

By CHRIS BATEMAN

HOUT BAY's beleaguered Sea Products Bush squatter community was yesterday given a stay of eviction after frantic behind-the-scenes activity by their lawyers and the MP for Sea Point, Mr Colin Eglin.

And the government made R100 000 available for relief aid to the squatters as they began moving back late yesterday to the burnt-out squatter site from which police had kept them for most of the day.

The Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, Mr Hernus Kriel, said the R100 000 would be used mainly for clothing and "essential foodstuffs".

The owner of the land on which the 500 squatters live, property developer Mr Mel Richter, made a dramatic turnaround hours after saying only those whose homes had escaped the devastating Christmas night fire could remain temporarily.

Four people died and two were seriously injured in the blaze, which gutted 100 homes in the early hours of Wednesday morning. Only 10 homes remain.

Mr Richter, who is also chairman of the Camps Bay Ratepayers' Association, said he intends to start a town house development on the burnt-out site next month.

He later added that he had decided to allow all squatters to remain on his land temporarily and then only in tents until the end of February.

This would be "ample time" because government officials had assured him that alternative land for the squatters would have been "sorted out" by then.

He said he had done this "as a humanitarian gesture" and that he would allow only tents for those whose homes had been destroyed because if other structures were erected they would soon have to be removed again.

Police liaison officer Major Jan Calitz said last night that Mr Richter had withdrawn charges of trespassing against the squatters and that police would no longer act against them.

Emergency?

Hout Bay police said the complaint of trespassing against the squatters was laid on Wednesday by Mr Tony Snelgar, chairman of the Hout Bay Property Rights Association, on behalf of Mr Richter.

The Hout Bay ANC interim committee and the squatter co-ordinating committee issued a statement slating Mr Snelgar's actions, saying this "clearly shows how much hatred there is in his association".

It was learnt from impeccable sources yesterday that the government is contemplating declaring the community an emergency squatter camp. This would allow officials to supply squatters with tents and rudimentary services until an alternative Hout Bay site is purchased and prepared.

This emerged from sources close to yesterday's talks between squatter representatives and junic officials of the CPA, the Department of Plannir and Administration, the House of Assembly and th Regional Services Council.

Mr Eglin said he had been in direct contact wit Mr Richter at his Langebaan holiday home.

"All official departments and Mr Richter hav taken a positive approach. Mr Richter is running th risk of jeopardising his interests and has allowe humane considerations to dominate — the commu ity should be grateful," he said.

A lawyer for the squatters, Mr Mathew Walto yesterday called in one of the country's top forensi experts, Dr David Klatzow, after two squatters re ported having seen "flaming green projectiles" ar ing into the camp within seconds of the blaze begi ning.

Dr Klatzow assembled teams of squatters to si through the grass around the camp from where the claimed the projectiles had come and took so samples from the debris of the shack where th blaze began.

Mr Walton said there was not yet any "hard ev dence of arson one way or another" and that D Kaltzow's assistance was a "precautionary mea sure".

Two Hout Bay Advice Office workers, Mr Dic Metre and Mr Moegsien Ishmail, were arrested b police and held for nearly three hours yesterda before being charged with trespassing on the squa ter land. They were released on warning.

R100 000 aid for Hout Bay squatters

OAT Times B 28/12/90

Staff Reporter

THE government has made R100 000 available for relief aid to Hout Bay squatters whose homes were destroyed in the Christmas night fire which killed four people.

The money would be used mainly for clothing and "essential foodstuffs" for those affected, the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, Mr Hernus Kriel, said yesterday.

He expressed his sympathy to the next of kin of the dead and the hundreds among the Sea Products Bush squatter community who lost all their belongings in the blaze.

Meanwhile, the homeless squatters were yesterday given a stay of eviction and began returning to the burnt-out squatter site from which police had kept them for most of the day.

This follows a turnabout by property developer Mr Mel Richter, the owner of the land on which some 500 squatters live, hours after saying that only those whose homes had escaped the devastation could remain temporarily.

● Full report — Page 2

Anger over squatter resettlement

Carl Tenis 28/12/90 (30)

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON. — Squatters from Gonubie are to be resettled near a white suburban area, angering the local ratepayers.

The ratepayers of Eastwood Ho said yesterday they intended raising the issue with Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring.

The decision to settle the squatters in the area was taken by Cape Provincial Administration MEC for housing Mr Koos Theron.

The chairman of the ratepayers' association, Mr R J Kelly, said the first notification residents had of the decision to resettle the squatters in "area A" was a news report in the Daily Dispatch.

They had received no reply to, nor an acknowledgement of, a letter they had sent to Mr Theron setting out reasons for their opposition to the choice of "area A", which was on valuable land in an ecological sensitive area.

Mr Kelly said it was not known why the area, "which was thrown out in May or June as a suitable site", was suddenly chosen, as Mr Theron has given no reasons for his decision.

He said they would be sending a fax to Mr Theron yesterday, in which they expressed the view that "things were badly handled from day one", and in which they would ask him to give reasons why "site A" was chosen.

An environmental scientist, Mr Andy Gubb, earlier urged the CPA not to choose "area A" for resettlement, and pointed out potential ecological damage should such a decision be made.

Moreover, the soil was unstable for informal housing and the area was prone to winter flooding.

R100 000 aid for Hout Bay squatters

Staff Reporter

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This follows a turnabout by property developer Mr Mel Richter, the owner of the land on which some 500 squatters live, hours after saying that only those whose homes had escaped the devastation could remain temporarily.

● Full report — Page 2

Big crackdown on crime

POLICE are planning a huge crime crackdown after a surge of murders over Christmas.

The plan comes a day after the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, expressed his concern about the rise in crime.

This year's Christmas has been one of the bloodiest in South Africa with 22 deaths and more than 750 injuries from murders and assaults.

Yesterday a police officer said: "We've just reached the end of our tether, we're going to do all we can to end this rampant violence."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Law and Order said the police plan would address the whole spectrum of crime — "every angle, every possibility, every facet".

According to government sources in Pretoria, methods of financing anti-crime measures are being investigated as a matter of urgency and a tax on tourism was one of the avenues under investigation.

● Full report — Page 3

'Mom's taxi' is booming business

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The phenomenal growth of the black taxi industry inspired Bryanston housewife Mrs Julia Brown to expand her one-woman schoolchildren ferrying service into a venture that could become a major business.

Mrs Brown was struck by the potential of running a Teen Taxi service last year while transporting her two sons from school, clubs and other functions in her minibus.

"While studying for an MBA degree, we examined Sabta and I was amazed at the way the taxi industry grew. That's what inspired me to start a Teen Taxi service," she said yesterday.

The children are picked up from school and taken home, to sports practices, ballet or to the dentist, etc.

The service also carries retire-me :t-village residents to and from functions, tiny tots from nursery school and sports club members to competitions.

"Then there are the commuters who shuttle to their offices in Wynberg or Rivonia from Sandton City," said Mrs Brown.

She said members could make from R4 000 to R9 000 a month, depending on how hard they worked.

"I had calls from as far afield as Cape Town asking if Teen Taxi operated there, and I thought of making it national," Mrs Brown said.

Squatters given 60-day reprieve

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Hout Bay's beleaguered Sea Products squatter community was given a stay of eviction yesterday after behind-the-scenes negotiations by their lawyers and Sea Point MP Colin Eglin.

And government made R100 000 available for relief aid to the squatters as they began moving back late yesterday to the burnt-out squatter site from which police had barred them for most of the day.

Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing Minister Hernus Kriel said the R100 000 would be used mainly for clothing and "essential foodstuffs".

The owner of the land on which the 500 squatters live, property developer Mel Richter, reconsidered his decision that only those whose homes had escaped the Christmas day fire could remain temporarily.

Four people died and two were seriously injured in the blaze which gutted 100 homes in the early hours of Wednesday morning. Only 10 homes remain.

Richter, who is also chairman of the Camps Bay Ratepayers Association, said he intended to start a townhouse development on the burnt-out site next month.

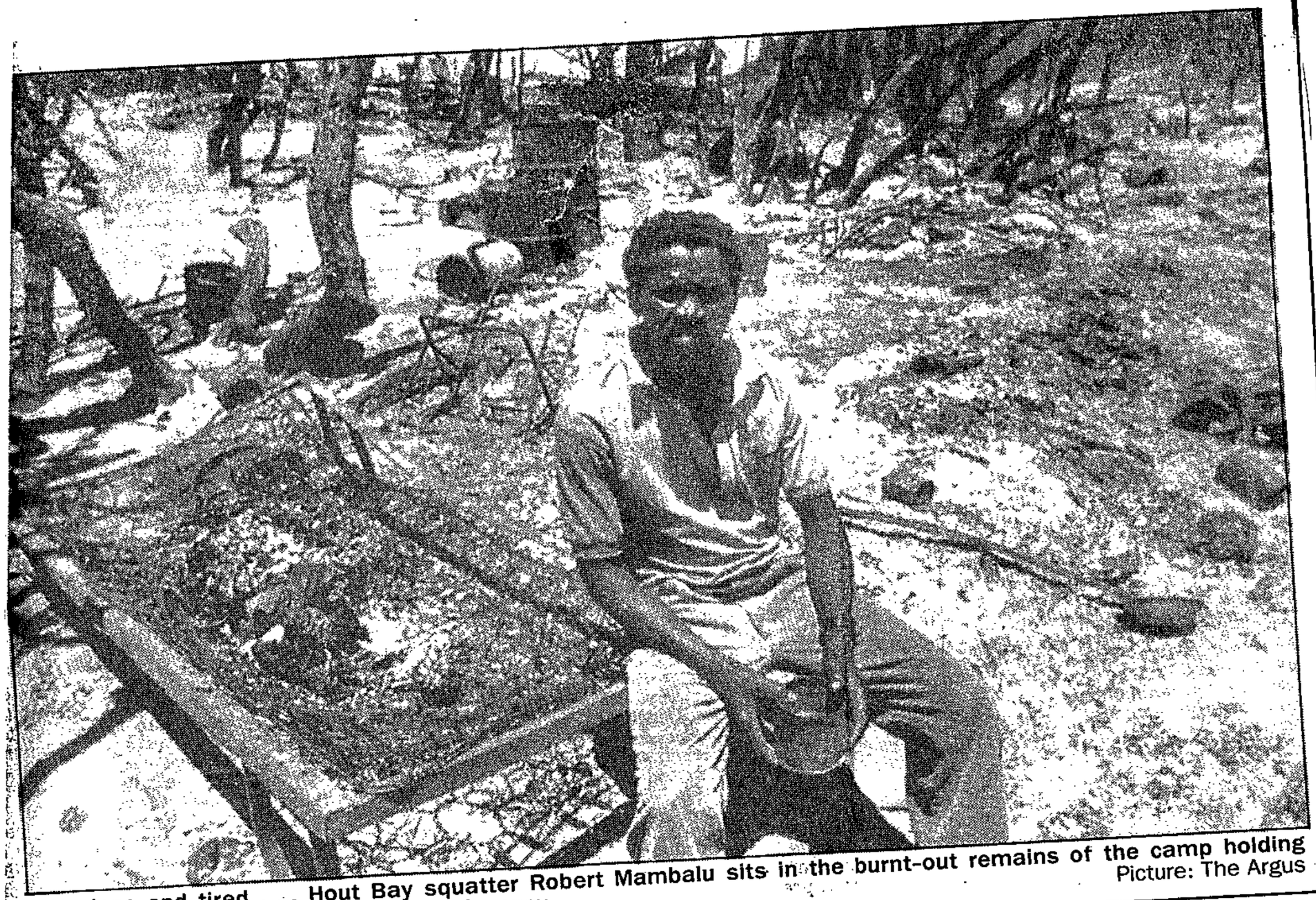
He said later he had decided to allow the squatters to return to his land temporarily, but to live only in tents, until the end of February.

Government officials had assured him that alternative land for the squatters would have been "sorted out" by then.

STAR.

(307)

28/12/90



Homeless and tired . . . Hout Bay squatter Robert Mambalu sits in the burnt-out remains of the camp holding his last remaining possession — a can of money.

Picture: The Argus

We won't quit fire area, vow squatters

307

Star 28/12/90

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Hout Bay squatters whose shacks were burnt down on Christmas Day are packing their belongings, but have vowed not to move an inch from the area. Police said they had stopped a number from rebuilding shacks.

However, the Government has promised R100 000 for relief aid to squatters whose homes were destroyed.

Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing Hernus Kriel yesterday said the money would be used mainly for clothing and essential foodstuffs.

SAP spokesman Major Gys Bonzaair has said police were working on a complaint lodged by plot owner Mel Richter.

A number of police vans have parked at the squatter camp, and the fire area has been declared a no-go area.

Angry squatter representatives said they had demanded to see Mr Richter as he had given them permission to stay on the land.

The squatters also demanded to conduct their own investigation into the fire's cause.

Meanwhile, Hout Bay residents have opened their hearts and pockets to the plight of the 600 homeless squatters after the fire roared through the camp and killed four people.

Squatters told of how sympathetic white neighbours had come to the camp with food, blankets and money.

Charred bodies

They said the fire started at about 2.30 am, and within 20 minutes there was little left but smouldering ashes.

The charred bodies recovered were of four adult men, believed to be Wiseman Sonqenqo, Thando Inkwani, Mayhase Schoeman and Pataneni Leonardi.

Police liaison officer Major Jan Calitz said it was not clear how the fire started.

According to community worker Shantaal Meter, a man saw a flare being shot into the squatter camp.

Others said they saw sparks at an empty hut from which the fire later spread.

Philip Xesha (48) was burnt on his arms and back escaping the flames in his shack.

Some residents, who had left to visit their families in Transkei and Ciskei, will return to find their homes and possessions gone.

Squatters dismissed as "nonsense" media reports which said firemen had difficulty getting to the camp because residents pelted them with stones.

"These are sand dunes. There are no stones here," one said.

"The reason the firemen didn't come in before about 5.30 was that they couldn't find the hydrant," said Mrs Meter.

The Cape Town Supreme Court recently ordered the squatters to be evicted.

Tent town first step in relief plan for squatters

By CHRIS BATEMAN

THE Hout Bay squatter relief operation got into full swing yesterday with the arrival of the first 30 of 140 tents at the fire-devastated site, narrowly averting the erection of wood-and-iron structures.

Landowner and property developer Mr Mel Richter has said the squatters can stay on until the end of February — provided they live in tents and do not re-erect wood-and-iron shelters.

The tents arrived soon after the resolution of divisions in the squatter community over whether to accept government-donated tents or to erect their own structures with privately donated building materials.

Top-level meetings between local government officials, the police and the Red Cross Society yesterday ended in agreement that the Red Cross would distribute the government's R100 000 emergency aid.

Hout Bay priest and relief co-ordinator the Rev John Frye said the Regional Services Council had undertaken to begin clearing the debris of 150 gutted shacks today. A town planner would help lay out a "tent town".

Four squatters were burnt to death and two seriously injured in the wind-swept Christmas night fire which destroyed the camp, igniting dozens of gas bottles.

All but eight families lost everything they owned in the blaze.

Mealie meal

Another relief co-ordinator, Hout Bay businessman Mr Ian Paterson, said a priority would be to use privately donated cash and cheques to create "survival packs" of cookers and utensils for the 600 squatters.

Details of all squatters and their families were being computerised, leading to a revised estimate of the number of victims. The aid would then be distributed "carefully and fairly", he said.

Mr Paterson said it was a sign of the "independence" of the wider Hout Bay community that its residents had responded so quickly and willingly.

A Johannesburg-based company had promised a shipment of half a ton of mealie meal but the bulk of aid so far had come from the local community.

Mr Frye rejected right-wing claims that the squatters were being "flooded" with aid, saying it cost about R3 000 to "set up" each family, while the privately donated R9 000 had "all but gone" on blankets, toilets, petrol and telephone bills. Funeral expenses would amount to over R10 000, he said.

However, a more sinister side to the controversy emerged yesterday with a telephonic death threat made to Mr Frye.

Mr Frye appealed to the white community to "show moral support" for the bereaved families for whom a funeral service will be held at St Peter's Anglican Church in Hout Bay tomorrow afternoon.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Combined Churches Emergency Fund can deposit money or cheques at the Standard Bank, Wynberg, account number 278595170.

Minister Hernus Kriel . . . R100 000 for food and clothing for burnt-out Hout Bay squatters.

Stay for Hout Bay squatters

HOUT Bay's beleaguered Sea Products bush squatter community was given a stay of eviction on Thursday after frantic behind-the-scenes activity by their lawyers and MP for Sea Point Colin Eglin.

Four people died and two were seriously injured in a blaze that gutted 100 shacks in the early hours of Wednesday. Only 10 homes remain.

And the government made R100 000 available for relief aid to the squatters as they began moving back late on Thursday.

Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, Hernus Kriel, said the money would be used mainly for clothing and essential foodstuffs.

Last week, the Cape Town Supreme Court ordered the 500 squatters off the land, but in a dramatic turnaround the landowner, property developer Mel Richter, said after the fire the squatters could stay at the site until the end of February. (307)

He said he had done this "as a humanitarian gesture".

This would be "ample time" because government officials had assured him that alternative land for the squatters would have been "sorted out" by then.

Richter, who is also chairman of the Camps Bay Ratepayers Association, said he intends to start a townhouse development on the burnt-out site next month.

Eglin said he had been in direct contact with Richter.

"All official departments and Richter have taken a positive approach. Richter is running the risk of jeopardising his interests and has allowed humane considerations to dominate – the community should be grateful," he said.

A lawyer for the squatters, Mathew Walton, on Thursday called in one of the country's top forensic experts, Dr David Klatzow, after two squatters reported having seen "flaming green projectiles" flying into the camp within seconds of the blaze beginning.

Walton said there was not yet any "hard evidence of arson one way or another".

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'Police may not demolish shacks'

By JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Staff Reporter

POLICE do not have the power to demolish squatter dwellings, even if on private property, a senior policeman has announced.

Major-General P C Fourie said he had issued a statement on police powers relating to squatters in an effort to correct a public misconception that police could and did demolish squatter dwellings.

While police could investigate the erection of illegal dwellings and pass the case on to the State prosecutor or the Attorney-General for prosecution, they were never empowered to demolish the dwellings.

Illegal structures could be demolished by the authority of a valid court order obtained as requested by the owner of the land or empowered institutions in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

This demolition would have to be carried out by the landowers or their employees.

In a case like this police would offer protection to the authorised people who might face violent resistance when demolishing shacks.

Major-General Fourie said when police become aware of squatters, they would inform the respective landowners, local authorities and state departments that they could lodge a complaint of trespass in terms of the Illegal Squatting Act.

Police would then investigate the complaint, he said.